

**Mikk Pauklin, MD, PhD, FEBO**

**European Leadership Development Program Class of 2013-2015**

***Title of Project: Survey of Estonian ophthalmologists to determine their workload and working conditions.***

Introduction.

One hundred and forty two ophthalmologists have been registered in Estonia and all of them have joined the Estonian Ophthalmological Society. Ophthalmologist work in public and private clinics, small private practices and some in optical shops. Part-time employment under different employers is common especially amongst retired ophthalmologists. A number of ophthalmologist still registered in Estonia work almost entirely abroad. Waiting time in several outpatient clinics exceeds 4 month. The national Health Insurance Fund has suggested regulations to improve access to ophthalmological services. Despite the fact, that the National Institute of Health Development collects each year general information about the number, sex, age and main employer of physicians, more specific data is lacking.

Purpose of the project is to conduct a survey of all ophthalmologist registered in Estonia, to determine their workload and working conditions.

Methods

An online survey addressing general data (age, sex, and years in practice); number of employers, type of practice, weekly workload, type of surgery etc. will be distributed in March 2015. The survey will be distributed via an e-mail link to all Societies members. In case of no response, a reminder will be sent 2 weeks later. If no e-mail address is available, a paper copy will be sent per post or doctors will be contacted per phone.