

## Virtual Centre of Advanced Research (CAR) in Forest Pathology

PATHCAR is a Nordic and Baltic research network in forest pathology established by forest research institutes and universities in order to promote and co-ordinate collaboration among forest pathologists in order to make forest pathology more efficient and to enable the flow of methodological developments among Nordic and Baltic countries. As a result, the efficiency of forest pathology in the area is expected to increase; and provide us with more healthy forests.

The available Nordic/Baltic infrastructure was utilized to solve current technical problems in different research projects, as well as to distribute skills and information throughout the PATHCAR-area. For example an information sheet on ash dieback was prepared, and attempts to find this syndrome in Finland and Norway was made. Swedish and Danish researchers collaborated extensively on ash dieback. Serious pine pathogens *Mycosphaerella pini* (red band needle blight) and *Diplodia pini* (diplodia tip blight) were observed for the first time in Estonia.

The information flow within PATHCAR-area has increased considerably, and enables both usage of available infrastructure and skills in any of the institutes to be used on any research problem within the area. As a result, the quality of Nordic/Baltic research has increased, and our readiness to observe new pathogens has been elevated.

**Contacts:** Jarkko Hantula, Finnish Forest Research Institute, PO Box 18, 01301 Vantaa  
jarkko.hantula@metla.fi

**Budget:** SNS funding 2007: 50093,92 €; Total funding 2007: 130 000 €  
The whole project time 1.1.2006 - 31.12. 2010