

## Travel report to Gabrielsson's fond from the 26 th Scandinavian Meeting on Children's Malformations in Hamburg 2023-08-25,

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### **Introduction:**

The Scandinavian Meeting on Children's Malformations (also called Scandinavian Workgroup for Congenital Hand Anomalies SWCHA) was held at the Children's Hospital Wilhelmstift in Hamburg. The meeting aimed to discuss various topics related to children's malformations and provide updates on research and case studies in the field.

The meeting is held annually, and the host rotates. Last year the meeting was held in Smygehuk in Sweden. This year the meeting was held in Hamburg because Wiebke Hülsemann intends to retire. Wiebke continued Rolf Habenicht's work after he retired, and for many years she has contributed a great deal of knowledge and experience that has benefited the participants in the group. We hope that she will continue to participate, but the Hamburg group will continue to be led by Darja Sippel (the organizer of the meeting) and two other colleagues. There was a good turnout, and it is always as nice to meet your national and international colleagues in an informal way.

Hamburg presented itself from its very best side with sun and warmth. The last part of August was not so warm in Sweden, so being able to come to the summer again was much needed. I found a very nice hotel quite close to the big Alster lake, which is said to be swimmable (I didn't test). The hotel consisted of five personal and charming rooms, a separate kitchen and a fantastic garden, completely silent except for birdsong in the middle of Hamburg. If you want tips, get in touch.

The meetings usually begin with a dinner at the home of the host for the meeting, which is usually a good opening. Everyone talks to each other and gets to know each other before the meeting. You also get a more personal relationship with the colleagues. This time Wiebke invited to dinner, and her husband had prepared a very good buffet. The apartment was in a rather gray block but turned out to be a penthouse so when you looked out, everything was green among the treetops. Nice accommodation in the middle of a big city.

Day two the meeting starts, which usually includes an invited guest and then various lectures and case discussions. Below follows the program and short explanations.

### **Program:**

**Topic:** Gigantism – Vascular Malformation, PROS and cases 8.15 - 9.45

- **Prof. Höger** presented on the drug therapy of vascular malformations. He discussed the current treatment options and advancements in drug therapy for managing vascular malformations.

- **Wiebke Hülsemann** presented cases of PROS (PIK3CA-Related Overgrowth Spectrum). She discussed the challenges in treating patients with PROS and explored the potential of drug therapy as an option for managing the condition.

- **Tobias Laurell** shared a Swedish case study highlighting the difficulties in treating a woman with a vascular malformation. He discussed the unique challenges faced in this particular case and the lessons learned from it.

**Topic: Genetics: Synpolydactyly and cases 10.15 - 12.30**

- **MA Mensah** presented online on GLI3 and HOXD13, providing an update on the genotype-phenotype correlations of congenital limb malformations. The presentation focused on the latest research findings in this area.

- **Max Mann** discussed the phenotype of central synpolydactyly. He presented the characteristics and clinical features of this specific malformation, highlighting the importance of accurate diagnosis and management.

- **Ulla Molin** presented a case of complicated syndactyly with complicated parents. She discussed the challenges faced in managing this condition and the role of genetic counseling in such cases.

- **Kai Zilliacus** provided an update on syndactyly separation techniques using straight mid-line incisions and web reconstruction with a hexagonal dorsal flap. He discussed the advantages and outcomes of this surgical approach.

- **Mona Winge** presented a case of EEC Syndrome, discussing the clinical features and management strategies for this rare genetic disorder.

- **Karina Hansen** shared a case study of a 12-year-old with bilateral club hands. She discussed the challenges faced in managing this condition and the importance of early intervention.

- **Ida Sletten** presented three cases that were difficult to classify. She discussed the diagnostic challenges and the need for further research in these cases.

- **Line Lied** presented a case of a 2.5-year-old boy with metacarpal synostosis. She discussed the management strategies and outcomes of surgical intervention in this case.

- **Tiril Carlsson** presented a case of a 14-year-old boy with an acquired deformity of the wrist after a serious infection with multi-organ failure at the age of 4 months. She discussed the long-term effects and management of this condition.

- **Tiril Carlsson** also presented two cases with multiple osteochondromata in the forearm. She discussed the challenges in managing these cases and the potential complications associated with osteochondromata.

- **M. Schäfer** presented the FIRST prosthesis, a supporting tool for toddlers with limb malformations. He discussed the design and benefits of this innovative prosthesis.

- **Ida Sletten** introduced the T-GAP test kit, a diagnostic tool for identifying genetic abnormalities associated with limb malformations as thumb hypoplasia. She discussed the utility and accuracy of this test kit.

I also had a case on the program about thumb hypoplasia Blauth 2B that was discussed. I was a little afraid that it would be too “simple”, but it turned out very well because Ida Sletten held her lecture about the T-GAP test kit shortly afterwards and my case provided a basis for a good discussion about

- **Wiebke Hülsemann** concluded the meeting with closing remarks, summarizing the key points discussed during the meeting and emphasizing the importance of continued research and collaboration in the field of children's malformations in the Nordic countries.

**After the meeting**, a shuttle bus was provided to transport attendees to the Italian restaurant Al lido near the Elphi where we got Italian specialties (not pizza).

The evening concluded with a performance by the Scottish Chamber Orchestra at the Elphi and most of the participants visited the concert hall. Unfortunately, I missed the concert.

### **Summary comments**

The Scandinavian Meeting on Children's Malformations in Hamburg provides a platform for researchers and experts to share their knowledge and insights on various malformations affecting children. The presentations and case studies highlighted the challenges faced in diagnosis, management, and treatment of these unusual conditions. The meeting emphasized the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration and ongoing research to improve outcomes for children with malformations.

Networking with your peers nationally and internationally is enriching in so many ways and I am already looking forward to the next meeting which will be held in Helsinki.

Finally, I would like to thank Gabrielsson's fond, which contributed financially to enable me to participate in the meeting. Thanks!

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