

The NFOG Fund generously supported part of my two month clinical stay at Kings College Hospital, London, UK. The stay was a part of my expert education in Fetal Medicine.

The Fetal Medicine Unit at Kings College Hospital is well known worldwide. Professor Kypros Nicolaides is the founder of "The Fetal Medicine Foundation", which provides educational programs online and certificates of competence in different aspects of fetal medicine. In Denmark the antenatal healthcare is based on principles outline by The Fetal Medicine Foundation. All doctors in fetal medicine and all sonographers are certified in the 12 week and 20 week scan by the Fetal Medicine Foundation.

During my stay I had the opportunity to observe a great variety of fetal abnormalities as well as interventions such as pleura-amniotic shunting in cases of fetal pleural effusions, endoscopic laser coagulation of the placenta in cases of twin-to-twin transfusion and endoscopic endotracheal placement of a ballon in fetuses with diaphragmatic hernia. I spent several days in the cardiac suite, and I was taught how to do a detail fetal eccocardiography including biometries and Doppler flow measurements. And I was surprised how many fetal abnormalities they were able to detect already at the 12 week scan – especially in the fetal heart.

Furthermore, I had interesting discussions with colleges from all over the world who were visiting Kings College Hospital during my stay. I realized how privileged we are in Denmark, in regards to having a national uniform antenatal healthcare system. Another interesting discussion was in regards to the termination of pregnancy. In many countries, including UK, termination of pregnancy is allowed on indications at any gestational age. In Denmark terminate pregnancy after gestational week 22 is only very seldom allo, and this makes certain limitations in regards to the diagnosis of fetal abnormalities especially of the central nervous system which is still immature at that time. On the other hand, late termination after 22 gestational weeks certainly raises other ethical dilemmas.

I really enjoyed my stay at Kings College hospital. I have seen a great variety of fetal abnormalities and interventions and I have become friends with colleges from all over the world.

I thank the NFOG Fund for making this stay possible.

Anne Sørensen, Aalborg University Hospital, July 2015.

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