

Research Fellowship
Department of Fetal Medicine
Royal Prince Alfred Hospital
Sydney, Australia

The NFOG Fund generously supported part of a research stay at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital, Sydney, Australia. The stay was a follow-up after a previous 7 months stay also partly funded by the NFOG Fund.

Australia has a number of opportunities for Nordic doctors and researchers. Although the part of the hospital system is different from that of the Nordic countries with a stronger emphasis on private operators, many aspects of the system is very familiar and it is not difficult to feel at home professionally. There is a strong tradition for evidence-based care and for passionate discussions about the correct interpretations of the underlying research. Consensus is not always the aim and that can be liberating.

We continued to work on our study on fetal cardiac function and were able to include a few more patients in our study. Importantly, we started advancing a more comprehensive method to estimate heart function and will continue to collaborate on that in the coming years.

It is much easier to get permissions to do research in Australia. Still, if you want to participate in e.g. scanning patients you do need an Australian medical license and that is a long, quite difficult path (see the description from my previous stay in Australia at the NFOG Fund home page).

Lars Henning Pedersen