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Universidade Federal de Santa Catarina
Centro de Ciências da Saúde - Departamento de Clínica Médica
Campus Universitário - Trindade - Florianópolis-SC

Florianópolis, 10 de outubro de 2011.

To:
The Danish Minister of Health, Ms Astrid Krag,
The Folketingets Sundhedsudvalg, Denmark

On behalf of the Neurology Section of the University Hospital, Federal University of Santa Catarina, Florianópolis, SC, Brazil, we are writing to you regarding the Epilepsy Hospital in Dianalund.

It is with great surprise and concern that we took knowledge that the Epilepsy Hospital in Dianalund is threatened due to reorganization of the Danish health care system. The Epilepsy Hospital in Dianalund is an outstanding epilepsy centre among others in the world and its activities have been influencing greatly to improve the quality of life of the people with epilepsy worldwide, promoting exchange of knowledge with developing countries such as Brazil. The treatment and care for the people affected by epilepsy can only be achieved successfully by a system comprehensively organized and coordinated by epilepsy centre(s). Dianalund Epilepsy Centre is the only centre providing comprehensive diagnostics, treatment and care for people with epilepsy in Denmark.

Dianalund is also an important centre for international epilepsy research. An international research consortium for the investigation of the provocative and inhibitory roles of sensory and cognitive stimuli in the development of epileptic seizures was initiated two years ago, led by the Danish Epilepsy Centre, and involved many researchers from various countries in the world, including us. As the first reports of this collaboration, four presentations at the International Epilepsy Congress in Rome this year, and the first results have already been submitted for publication and diverse sub-projects are being developed since then. The Danish Epilepsy Centre has a very important role in coordinating the various projects in this consortium and providing methodological advices. Without the continuous input from Dianalund this entire promising research initiative would fall apart.

Moreover, Prof. Dr. Peter Wolf is one of the most relevant scientists in the field of Epilepsy worldwide. He has made enormous contributions both in research and education, addressing epileptology at a level of excellence. Just as an example of his recognized activities, he has conducted the International League against Epilepsy as President during a recent and very fruitful period.

We therefore very kindly ask you in the interest of the people with epilepsy and important research activities in this field to take the necessary steps to save the existence of the Danish Epilepsy Centre as an irreplaceable epilepsy centre in Denmark.

Yours respectfully,

Katia Lin

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