

CADUCEUS – Sydney placement

Kristoffer Hansen



Left: Ritu Mogra teaching 3D ultrasound techniques to Kristoffer Hansen; **Right:** Kristoffer Hansen with Caroline Hong at the ASUM office, Sydney.

I left cold and windy Copenhagen for sunny Sydney in February 2009 to learn something about fetal medicine and Doppler research. My Ph.D research at Rigshospitalet in Denmark has mainly been focusing on new Doppler methods and in connection with this research and as a result of the exchange program CADUCEUS between the Danish Society of Diagnostic Ultrasound and the Australasian Society for Ultrasound in Medicine, I was offered the opportunity to experience “down under”.

Dr Jon Hyett welcomed me at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital (RPAH). After a much needed coffee to cure some of the jetlag, he introduced me to the staff and showed me around. I even got my own quiet room as the director Andrew Child called it. And it was indeed needed as my Ph.D dissertation was to be handed in frighteningly soon. So in the following three weeks my time was divided between getting acquainted with fetal ultrasound and finalising my thesis.

In the department, I mostly followed Ritu Mogra around. She introduced me to the basics of obstetric ultrasound and I got to see a lot of the common examinations like nuchal and fetal anomaly scans, as well as the more specialised procedures such as CVS and amniocen-

tesis. Apart from the extremely interesting world of the obstetric ultrasound with mother and fetus as a combined patient, a completely new field in ultrasound for me, I realised how very different the Australian organisation is compared to the Danish.

The team of highly skilled sonographers really is exceptional, taking a huge workload from the medical doctors and speeding up the examination time. It has the obvious implication that a standardisation of the examination is required as all findings need to be documented. At my department in Denmark, only medical doctors perform the scans and only scan images of main findings are stored along with the description, which is dictated to a secretary, in the final report. In RPAH, the operator stores scanned images of all visualised organs and extremities whether pathology is found or not, and afterwards the reports are typed directly into the electronic medical records either by the reporting sonographer or doctor. Apart from being the bridge between sonographer and doctor, this system also serves as a quality control within the department and as proof of a correctly performed and interpreted examination, which is used in legal matters. I was truly impressed by the

teamwork, the effectiveness and the extensive use of PACS and electronic medical record system in RPAH.

I also got a very inspiring introduction to the research at RPAH. Jon Hyett, Robert Ogle and Annemarie Hennessy introduced me to the impressive research on preeclampsia and hypertension in pregnancy that has been carried out. Especially the research using Doppler ultrasound for placental blood perfusion caught my interest.

I have really enjoyed my stay at RPAH in the colourful Newtown of Sydney. Fortunately, not everything is work and I must admit that the white beaches, the excellent coffee and the beautiful harbourside also caught my attention. But most of all I was overwhelmed by the extremely friendly people to whom I became “Chris” faster than I could say “G’day Mate”. Thanks.

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