

March 16th, 2010

To Whom It May Concern:

I have had the pleasure of working with Dr. Frederik Buchvald who is a pediatric pulmonologist and Dr. Bodil Laub Petersen who is a pathologist in your country. Both of these physicians work at Copenhagen University Hospital” / Rigshospitalet and have expertise in children with interstitial lung disease (ILD). They recently traveled to Denver, Colorado in the USA to participate in our international collaborative for children with ILD and the collaborative reviewed over 70 Denmark cases that they had collected, which will soon be published. I consider both Dr Buchvald and Dr. Petersen experts in this area.

As the Director of the Children’s Interstitial Lung Disease Research Network in North America we are in the final stages of launching an international registry for children with these disorders. We are working with centers of excellence in North America and around the world to improve the care and research for children with these rare diseases. With the ability to capture clinic features and determine genetic and protein biomarkers, we are very hopeful that breakthroughs can be achieved for these children and their families. I anticipate open label clinical trials in the near future.

Having an experienced center like Copenhagen University Hospital” / Rigshospitalet with a concentrated expertise for children with these rare lung disorders is extremely valuable to improve efficiencies for data collection and participation in international collaboration. Diluting this experience in rare disease in your small country will likely not provide optimal expertise and will make participation in data collection and studies less appealing for an international collaborative. I would strongly encourage consideration for maintaining a center of excellence approach with rare pediatric lung disease.

Respectfully,



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