



UNIVERSITÄT ZU LÜBECK
STIFTUNGSUNIVERSITÄT
SEIT 2015

Universität zu Lübeck · Ratzeburger Allee 160 · 23538 Lübeck

Prof. Dr. Christoph Härtel
Head, Department of Pediatrics
University of Würzburg Hospital
Josef-Schneider-Straße 2
97080 Würzburg

Klinik für Kinder- u. Jugendmedizin

Direktor
Prof. Dr. med. Egbert Herting

The German Neonatal Network
Leitung: Prof. Dr. med. Wolfgang Göpel

Universität zu Lübeck
Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein
Ratzeburger Allee 160
23538 Lübeck

Tel. +49 451 500 42800/42812

Fax +49 451 500 42804

e-mail: Wolfgang.Goepel@uksh.de

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Re: Letter of support, *ChildHealth* Consortium – German Center of Child and Adolescent Health

Dear Christoph, dear coordinators of the *ChildHealth* initiative,

based on our long standing collaboration and common track record as investigators within the German Neonatal Network (GNN) we hereby strongly support your research agenda of the *ChildHealth* initiative.

The GNN is a population-based study of preterm infants with a birth weight < 1500g born in 68 sites in Germany which aims to characterize genetic and environmental risk profiles and to prevent adverse long-term outcomes after preterm delivery.

The *ChildHealth* initiative addresses a very important gap in knowledge – common developmental mechanisms of somatic and mental health impairments. In addition, *ChildHealth* has a unique expertise to disentangle the role of complex preventive measures such as breastfeeding for the physical and neurobehavioural development of vulnerable infants (e.g. our recent publication: Härtel et al., *Nutrients* 2020; 12: 3278. doi: 10.3390/nu12113278). Apart from the GNN, the *ChildHealth* consortium can rely on the integration of highly interesting population-based cohorts of preterm infants such as PRIMAL and IRoN which will significantly advance our recent understanding of the soma-psyche interplay from the beginning of life, e.g. investigation of the gut-immune-brain axis.

We look very much forward to extend our intense collaborations and support you with full access to the GNN database including genotypic profiles of preterm infants.

With best regards,

Prof. Dr. med. Egbert Herting

Prof. Dr. Wolfgang Göpel