



CharitéCentrum für Neurologie, Neurochirurgie und Psychiatrie

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Dear Tobias,

I would be very much interested in collaborating with you and DZKJ in establishing a birth cohort to assess the role of the physical, social and individual environment on brain development and mental as well as physical health, and investigate the role of (epi-)genomic moderators. While globally several deep-phenotyping cohorts that include detailed neuroimaging, behavioural, cognitive and environmental assessments of young people have been established recently, there remains a gap in our understanding of biological mechanisms underlying early trajectories of (mental) ill health in young children. Also, there is a need to better understand the relation of mental and physical health by analysing cohort data where both aspects of healthy development receive equal attention.

It is an intriguing opportunity to develop a cohort design that enables comparative analyses with existing datasets, such as (but not limited) to the IMAGEN, cVEDA and STRATIFY cohorts of young people, which I coordinate, as well as on a global level, the planned National Developmental Study of 30.000 Children of the Chinese Brain Project and the American ABCD study that relate to IMAGEN and cVEDA and who are among partner institutions that have agreed to collaborative partnerships with a DZPG/DZKJ cohort.

For these reasons I would be delighted to support the formation of a German national birth cohort with all means at my disposal. I sincerely wish for this plan to be approved and to work for us as a team for its successful implementation.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be 'G. Schumann'.

Professor Gunter Schumann, MD, PhD