

National Epilepsy Center, Shizuoka Institute of Epilepsy and Neurological Disorders

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To:

The Folketingets Sundhedsudvalg, Denmark

Shizuoka, October 8, 2011

It is with great concern that we have heard that the Epilepsy Hospital in Dianalund is threatened by closure due to reorganizations in the Danish health care system.

The Epilepsy Hospital in Dianalund is one of the best epilepsy centres in the world and its activities have been influencing greatly to the movements to improve the quality of life of the people with epilepsy worldwide, even of the far east country Japan. 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, and is therefore irreplaceable.

In addition to the central role in the treatment and care for people with epilepsy in Denmark, Dianalund is also an important centre for international epilepsy research. We are investigating the provocative and inhibitory roles of sensory and cognitive stimuli in the development of epileptic seizures. This research was initiated two years ago from the Danish Epilepsy Centre, and involved many researchers from various countries in the world, including us. This international research consortium has already had four presentations of results of this project at the International Epilepsy Congress in Rome this year, and a first research publication has been submitted for publication. Several more sub-projects are being developed. 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.

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 and as an important contributor to international epilepsy research.

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