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We are happy to present an interview with Hilde Løland von Volkmann in the present issue. You may also find it interesting to read updates from the recent Nordic Health Research and Innovation Networks (NRI) Conference that took place in Bergen. Finally, we also give you Elin Eikefjord's inner thoughts about the process from quality assurance to scientific radiography publishing.

Interview with Hilde Løland von Volkmann

Background

Hilde was born in Bergen, studied abroad and came back to work at Haukeland University Hospital. - My goal has always been to study medicine. Therefore I also chose German language at high school. Then I continued to study for Medical Doctor (MD) in Düsseldorf in Germany at Heinrich Heine University in the period 1985-1991. Düsseldorf is actually not a typical student city, although known for its beautiful "Altstadt", having a rich business life and nice and expensive shopping areas. The study was quite theoretical and less practical compared to the medical study in Norway, and had implemented multiple choice questionnaires on almost all written exams, plus oral examination. There were 1500 new medical students each year in Düsseldorf, compared to only 300 per year in Norway in total at the same time. I also met my husband in Düsseldorf when I was about to finish my studies. Richard is also MD and is now working at Åsane Øyeklinikk. He is originally from the city of Wuppertal and got his family name from his great, great, great-grandfather Richard von Volkmann who was knighted in 1885 by Kaiser Willhelm the 1st due to his excellent work as surgeon. So, there are some funny coincidences, Hilde says. Read the interview.

MD Hilde Løland von Volkmann
at Gastroenterological Section, Medical Dept., Haukeland University Hospital.

From quality assurance to scientific radiography publishing

Eli Eikefjord from Department of Radiology at HUS and from the Radiography education program at Bergen University College (HiB) gave an internal presentation "From quality assurance to scientific radiography publishing" on the 16th of April.

Most radiographers work within quality assurance, based on evidence based practice and systematic documentation as method. This is partly in contrast to the more generalizing research focus based on scientific methods. However, there exists a huge grey zone between the quality assurance and the scientific approaches, in terms of publishable results, Eli pointed out. This is because several quality assurance projects also might lead to results that can be published in both level 2 (Radiotherapy and Oncology) and level 1 (Radiography ) international journals. Many good ideas and data from Bachelor and Master theses might be published, e.g. from optimizing new equipment and technology, given that you get support from the local management and that you have access to scientific supervision on the way.

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“Will publishing of the quality assurance aspects have any value or impact in the health care society?” Eli asked the audience. “Yes,” she answered, “publishing of these kinds of data might challenge the current practice, contribute to improve technical quality, diagnostic quality and increase therapeutic impact for the patients, and also lead to more socio-economic benefits in the health care institutions”, referring to [1, 2], (Figure 1).

![Figure 1. Thornbury and Fryback's hierarchy model of efficacy in radiology.](image)

**Nordic Health Research and Innovation (NRI) Networks Conference in Bergen**

NRI-Networks is an independent, non-profit organisation working to promote health research and innovation in the Nordic region. NRI is based on partnership where the partners are university hospitals, universities and other research organisations, the pharmaceutical industry, the medical technical industry, governmental bodies and patient organisations.

The annual and 10th NRI Conference was arranged at Scandic Ørnen Hotel on May 4-5. The NRI Conference is the primary arena for the Nordic health research community for exchange of knowledge and transfer of competency from one country to another. The Conference was opened by the Norwegian Minister of Health and Care Services Bent Høie (H) who pointed out that the Nordic co-operation ensures common access to more patient data that can improve our research. He also highlighted the need for a long-term strategy for running clinical trials. According to Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Innovation and Corporate Alliances Alexander von Gabain at Karolinska Institutet, Sweden, excellent science and research are necessary, yet not sufficient ingredients for innovation. He defined innovation as “making changes with societal impact based on discoveries and/or invention” (Invention = creating or designing something not existing before). Of particular interest for MedViz he pointed out that the Nordic hospitals should overcome the silo mentality of the players in research and innovation. -We need to create innovative ecosystems with global impact, targeting societal challenges, he said. Innovation and commercialization is 1 of 10 priority areas from The Norwegian Ministry of Health and Care Services, according to Assistant Director General Maiken Engelstad. Director of International Affairs Jørgen Larsson at Karolinska predicted that consumer devices and technology in other areas will have stronger influence on the development of the future healthcare system than today. He also concluded that advanced home care will be more common, eventually by internet, adding that the patients and their families will be more involved in the future. Head of Department Anders Geertsen from the Secretariat for the Nordic Council of Ministers for Health and Social Affairs (Copenhagen) presented “The Könberg report”, which deals with 14 different suggestions on how to improve the future health co-operation in the Nordic countries. The 2nd day of the conference was also dealing with network discussions and we joined the activities in the Nordic Innovation Network. MedViz has concluded that we will contribute with a workshop on Nordic co-operation within medical imaging and visualization during the next NIR Conference in May 2016. This initiative was supported by our colleagues in Aalborg, Denmark.

**Upcoming events and deadlines**

- May 18: MedViz Walk & Talk including bird observations-> Isdalen, Vidden and Ulriken (new date!)
- May 19-20: 3rd CCBIO Symposium at Solstrand, Os
- May 29: MedViz Seminar: Elastography by Dr. Roald Flesland Havre and Dr. Jérémie Fromageau, Joint Department of Physics, The Institute of Cancer Research, London
- June 15-16: MedViz Conference 2015, arranged together with MIC, UiB and the PET Center, HUH

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