



MASSACHUSETTS  
GENERAL HOSPITAL



HARVARD MEDICAL  
SCHOOL

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Prof. Dr. med. Olaf Hiort,  
Hormonzentrum für Kinder und Jugendliche  
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Universität zu Lübeck  
Ratzeburger Allee 160  
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**Re: Letter of Support for University of Lübeck**

Dear Olaf,

I am extremely saddened by the news that the government of Schleswig-Holstein plans to close the Medical School at the University of Lübeck. I am disappointed by this proposed move since I have had very productive collaborations with your department that started more than 15 years ago when Prof. Dr. Kruse was still alive. In fact, through his truly outstanding clinical and laboratory evaluations of pediatric patients with various endocrine disorders affecting calcium and phosphate homeostasis, my group has been able to make significant contributions to endocrinology. These collaborative efforts resulted in publications in major international journals, including the *Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism*, *Science*, *Human Molecular Genetics*, and the *Journal of Clinical Investigation*. More recently, you were instrumental in expanding our collaboration by allowing Dr. Susanne Thiele to work my laboratory for several months to investigate novel mutations in the stimulatory G protein. I certainly realize that the fiscal situation is grave in Germany as it is around the world. But it would be a serious error to dismantle such a highly regarded medical school, and thus the collaborations and networks that were established over the years. Please, let me know if there is anything that I can do to help in this regard.

I hope that you will be able to reverse the decision by the government of Schleswig-Holstein.

Yours sincerely,

Harald Jüppner, MD