

In October 2006 I travelled to Trondheim for two weeks – that was also my first visit to Norway. I am interested in ultrasound and Foetal Medicine Unit (FMU) of Trondheim was recommended by my colleagues as a highly esteemed unit of foetal ultrasound examinations. The relations between my own unit and FMU in Trondheim have been very warm, and I was welcomed by prof Sturla Eik-Nes. During my visit I wanted to focus mainly to the foetal screening system in their unit.

My accommodation and other daily routines were kindly arranged by Eva Tegnander, to whom I'm very grateful. Her motherly way to introduce me the unit and the personnel was nice and made me feel welcome.

During the first days I followed the foetal screening by trained midwives. They did the routine scans usually at 18 gestational weeks, and the follow up of foetal growth and basic Doppler examinations were also mostly performed by them. They were just learning to do also the first trimester screenings, which had been previously performed by physicians.

After that I spent most of my time with physicians by following some invasive procedures and other foetal examinations. I had also opportunity to see some infrequent malformations, which cases are mainly centralized to this National Center for Fetal Medicine. Those cases were discussed daily in the morning meetings, which were kindly held in English during my visit. I was impressed of the universal “thirst for knowledge” in those meetings – besides ultrasound findings also the reasons and consequences of those malformations were discussed. I also got an idea of their huge archive of US data, which has been the basis for their famous and high-quality research work. The weekly meetings with pediatricians were also interesting and educational. The close co-operation with technical university was also seen in daily work – e.g. a unique system for midwives to practice transvaginal ultrasound and to measure foetal nuchal thickness was introduced during my visit.

It was stimulating to see different ways to do and organize daily routines and to see real experts working. In my daily work ultrasound is only one, though important tool and this visit stimulated me to exploit it more– e.g. it is possible to see quite a lot already during the first trimester screening. I will also remember that warm feeling and togetherness of the unit!

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