



## SERBIAN LEAGUE AGAINST EPILEPSY

### Report from observership at UMC Utrecht

During my 3 months stay at UMC Utrecht at Wilhelmina Children's Hospital (WKZ) I had opportunity to observe and participate in everyday activities of Department of pediatric neurology with Prof Kees Braun as the Head of Department, together with his associates, Ass Prof dr Floor Jansen and other colleagues. Their special interests and expertise include rare and complex forms of epilepsy in children and possible therapeutic approaches, thus have been endorsed by the Netherlands Federation of University Medical Centres (NFU) and Orphanet as the Center for Refractory Pediatric Epilepsy.

In the UMC Utrecht approximately 55 children and 25 adults with epilepsy are surgically treated per year, and major reason of my visit was to learn about epilepsy surgery program in children. Close cooperation with Academisch Ziekenhuis Utrecht (AZU) Departments of Neurology, Neurophysiology, Neurosurgery and Neuroradiology, gave me opportunity to follow up patients from outpatient Clinic in WKZ, through pre-surgical evaluation which included video EEG telemetry, MRI, PET, SPECT/ iSPECT, SISCOM, EEG Source Imaging evaluation, WADA test, fTCD, SEEG and grid implantation, all the way to operation theater where most of the operations were tailored with ECoG. Neurophysiology team, Frans Leijten, Cyrille Ferrier, Sandra van Der Salm, Nicole van Klink, Tineke Gebunk and other, enriched my understanding of epilepsy surgery. I attended local and national epilepsy surgery meetings, and actively participated in discussions.



UMC is also a center that encourages epilepsy research and during my stay I was introduced with the research of neurologist Maeike Zijlmans, high frequency oscillations (HFOs) measurement with the aim to develop a device for precise localizing of epileptogenic zone.

Also, I had an opportunity with dr F. Jansen, who's field of expertise is Tuberculous Sclerosis Complex and is actively involved in EPISTOP- International consortium study which are evaluating clinical and molecular biomarkers of epileptogenesis in TSC patients and status epilepticus during sleep (ESES) as a major part of EpiCARE network interests, to examine patients and discuss the latest therapeutical approaches.

Beside that, I visited two Clinics for epilepsy patients, Stichting Epilepsie Instellingen Nederland (SEIN) at Zwolle and Heemstede, where dr Bourez-Swart and dr Zwemmer walk me through and explained the organization of their video EEG telemetry departments. Also I had an opportunity to meet Prof Ley Sander, the ES Professor of Neurology and Clinical Epilepsy at the Department of Clinical and Experimental Epilepsy, Institute of Neurology of University College London and dr T.D.Thijs the Head of research at SEIN Heemstede, who gave me very useful advices and offered help for establishing epilepsy surgery program for children in Serbia.



Apart from the medical point of view, from the very beginning of my stay at UMC Utrecht, I felt very welcomed and as a part of the team. I hope that I will continue my co-operation with these wonderful people and astonishing experts.

At last, but definitely not least, I am truly grateful to Serbian League Against Epilepsy, Prof dr D Sokic and Ass Prof dr A. Ristic, for giving me this opportunity, which hopefully would be of very helpful in my further work.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Galina Stevanovic'.

Galina Stevanovic  
Child neurologist

Clinic of Neurology and Psychiatry for Children and Youth,  
Belgrade