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Kyowa Kirin Germany**Visiting Professorship Program: German-Japanese Networking in Pediatric Nephrology****Report 2024**

The aim of this visiting professorship program which was initiated in 2024 is to fundamentally deepen the cooperation between the two societies and to further expand the already existing close clinical and scientific exchange. The mid-term goal of this program is to expand the growing network to include the next generation of opinion leaders on both continents.

In the first round of this exchange program the presidents of the respective societies which is Prof. Koichi Nakanishi, the president of the Japanese Society for Pediatric Nephrology and Prof. Dieter Haffner, the president of the European Society for Pediatric Nephrology visited Europe/Germany and Japan respectively.

Prof. Nakanishi is professor and chairman of the department of child health and welfare at the Graduate School of Medicine, University of Ryukyus in Japan. Prof. Haffner is head of the department of Pediatric Kidney, Liver, Metabolic and Neurological Diseases at Hannover Medical School in Germany. Details of their career and clinical and research interests are given in the appendix.

In 2024, Prof. Haffner visited Japan from June 7 to June 12. He first attended the 59th Annual Meeting of the Japanese Society for Pediatric Nephrology taking place in Fukuoka. He gave an invited lecture entitled *"IPNA clinical practice recommendation for children with steroid-sensitive nephrotic syndrome"*. This session was well attended by almost 700 participants and there was a very fruitful discussion on this hot topic. Thereafter, Prof. Haffner met the executive councillors of the Japanese Society for Pediatric Nephrology and the local congress president and discussed potential future clinical and scientific collaboration between Europe and Japan. Thereafter Prof. Haffner had the privilege to be accompanied by Prof. Koichi Nakanishi to Naha located in Okinawa. There he gave a lecture in a seminar of the Department of Pediatrics which is headed by Prof. Nakanishi entitled *"Phosphate and cardiovascular health: implications for children with CKD"*. This lecture was well attended by more than 100 attendees online or on site.

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Thereafter Prof. Haffner met several working groups of the Department of Pediatrics and visited the outpatients and inpatients clinic of the head of Department of Pediatrics to get insights to the clinical management for children with kidney diseases in Japan and to discuss future collaborations with respect to research activities.

The next day on his way back to Europe Prof. Haffner visited in Tokyo to give an invited lecture entitled in the *“Early summer special seminar on pediatric nephrology”* entitled *“Phosphate and cardiovascular health: implications for children with CKD”*. This lecture was given at the Kitasato University Shirokane Campus in Tokyo and chaired by Prof. Kenji Ishikura who is head of Department of Pediatrics at this institution and treasurer of JSPN. The lecture was done in a hybrid setting with more than 80 participants. After his lecture, Prof. Haffner used the opportunity to discuss future collaboration with Japanese colleagues representing the major pediatric nephrology departments in the metropolitan area of Tokyo. The next day Prof. Haffner returned back to Europe.

Prof. Nakanishi visited Europe/Germany between September 25 and September 31 in 2024. First, he attended the 56th Annual Meeting of the European Society for Pediatric Nephrology which took place in Valencia in Spain. Here he gave an invited lecture entitled *“New aspects in Alport syndrome”*. This lecture was well attended by more than 300 participants and there was a very fruitful discussion about new treatment modalities in children with this rare and challenging kidney disease. The next day Prof. Nakanishi used the opportunity to meet the executive councilors of the European Society for Pediatric Nephrology and several opinion leaders of the ESPN to discuss future clinical and scientific collaborations. Thereafter, Prof. Nakanishi was accompanied by Prof. Haffner on his way to Hannover, Germany to visit Hannover Medical School. On the 14 September 2024 Prof. Nakanishi visited the research laboratory of the Department of Pediatric Nephrology at Hannover Medical School to discuss ongoing research projects and future collaborations. Thereafter Prof. Nakanishi used the opportunity to visit the inpatient and outpatient facilities of the University Children’s Hospital to discuss clinical practice and management of children with kidney diseases in Germany. In the afternoon, Prof. Nakanishi gave a lecture on *“IgA-nephropathy in children”* which was attended by more than 40 participants. Thereafter there was a fruitful discussion on the diagnosis and management of this rare and challenging kidney disease. On September 31, 2024 Prof. Nakanishi visited the University Children’s Hospital at Hamburg, Germany together with Prof. Haffner.

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The vice-president of the Department of Pediatrics – Prof. Jun Oh – who is also the treasurer of the ESPN gave them a journey through the newly established children’s hospital. This included also the outpatient setting, outpatient clinics as well as the dialysis unit. Thereafter, Prof. Nakanishi used the opportunity to discuss research opportunities with several members of the division of Pediatric Nephrology and Kidney Transplantation. Finally, there was a round-table discussion with the team of Kyowa Kirin Germany, which kindly came to Hamburg on this day. This included first of all the presentation of the activities of the exchange program in 2024 and the discussion on challenges in the management of children with rare kidney diseases in Europe and Japan. The next day, Prof. Nakanishi turned back to Japan.


We would like to thank Kyowa Kirin for supporting this fruitful and well-appreciated exchange program. Both colleagues from Japan and Germany/Europe are keen to move on with this program in 2025 and 2026.

A report of this exchange program is shown on the ESPN webpage and given in the ESPN newsletter.



Prof. Dieter Haffner

President of the ESPN



Prof. Jun Oh

Treasurer of the ESPN