

DIGM Newsletter September 2025

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Message from the President

Greeting and introduction of a new board member of the German-Indonesian Society for Medicine (DIGM)

Greeting from the President



Dear members, dear friends of the German-Indonesian Society for Medicine (DIGM),

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the third edition of our newsletter. Our Society continues to grow and flourish, bringing together outstanding personalities who share our mission of fostering dialogue and cooperation between Germany and Indonesia.



I am especially delighted to introduce **Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Annalen Bleckmann** as an assessor of our Board. Prof. Bleckmann is Pro-Dean for Research and Young Academics and Deputy Dean of the Medical Faculty of Münster University. In addition, she is Head of the Department of Medical Oncology and Director of the West German Cancer Center (WTZ) Münster. She is a specialist in Internal Medicine, Hematology, and Medical Oncology. Her research focuses on tumor progression and metastasis, the tumor microenvironment, as well as novel diagnostic and therapeutic approaches in oncology. Moreover, she contributes significantly to German cancer research through her leading roles within the German Cancer Society.

We are truly honored and proud to have gained such an excellent scientist as Prof. Bleckmann for our Society. Her expertise, experience, and international network will provide new impulses for DIGM and will further strengthen our role as a bridge between Germany and Indonesia.

I am also very pleased to announce that our esteemed Vice President, **Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Antoinette am-Zehnhoff-Dinnesen**, has been especially honored at the 2025 Annual Meeting of the German Society of Phoniatics and Pediatric Audiology (DGPP) by the Medal of Merit. Her outstanding contributions to the field, shaped in many ways through her leading roles in both DGPP and Union of European Phoniaticians (UEP), make this recognition more than well deserved. It is therefore a particular joy for me to extend, also on behalf of DIGM, our warmest congratulations to Prof. am-Zehnhoff-Dinnesen on this distinction.



Univ.-Prof. Dr. med. Antoinette am
Zehnhoff-Dinnesen and Laudator Univ.-
Prof. Dr. med. Dirk Mürbe, Berlin

Another highlight this autumn will be the visit of **Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dra. Asmarinah, MS**, President of the Consortium for Biomedical Sciences in Indonesia (KIBI). On October 13th, 2025, together with KIBI Treasurer **Dr. Siti Khaerunnisa**, Medical Biochemist, she will join us in Münster for the **signing of a Memorandum of Understanding** between DIGM and KIBI. This agreement opens up new opportunities for scientific collaboration, particularly in the field of biomedical research and education. We are grateful that DIGM was able to facilitate this important cooperation and we look forward to the upcoming joint projects with great confidence.

May this newsletter give you an impression of the diversity and dynamics with which our Society is evolving. I warmly invite you to continue shaping this path together with us – through your ideas, your engagement, and your personal support.

With warm regards,

*Priv.-Doz. Dr. med. Prof. (PL) Matthias Prinz zu Schwarzburg
President of the German-Indonesian Society for Medicine (DIGM)*

Report of the Treasurer of DIGM

Change in Membership Fee Payment Method to Direct Debit

Dear German Members and Friends of the DIGM,

The board of the DIGM would like to change the procedure for paying the membership fee. The current method, by which you initiate a bank transfer yourself, has disadvantages for both you and the association: You must remember to initiate the payment, and the DIGM must continuously check whether the amount has been received. It is sometimes unclear whether a payment is a membership fee or a donation, and this leads to many follow-up questions. All of this creates unnecessary additional work for everyone involved. With the direct debit method, you also have the right to dispute a withdrawal within eight weeks of the transaction.

The direct debit procedure is easier for everyone involved. For this reason, we kindly ask for your consent to this change.

If you are already a member of the DIGM, please fill out the **attached form "A-Amendment Request"**. If you wish to newly join the DIGM, please fill out the **attached form "B-Membership Application"**.

Please send the completed and signed form by post or by email to:

Dr. rer. medic. Michael Osada, Treasurer of DIGM, Beethovenstr. 3, 48301 Nottuln; m.osada@gmx.de

Here are some technical details regarding the direct debit procedure:

- Approximately two weeks before the debit, you will be informed by email about the planned transaction.
- The bank statement of a debit will include the following information:
 - the person paying the membership fee;
 - DIGM as the recipient of the payment;
 - the membership year to which the fee applies;
 - the **Gläubiger-Identifikationsnummer** (DE97ZZZ00002800747), which identifies DIGM as the initiator of the debit;
 - the **Mandatsreferenz**, a systematic identifier of the individual from whose account the amount is debited. The member's date of birth in the format DD.MM.YYYY is used as the mandate reference; in case of ambiguity, the initials of the person will be added.
- The **Gläubiger-Identifikationsnummer** together with the **Mandatsreferenz** uniquely identifies this transaction within Germany.

We again kindly ask for your understanding regarding this change and for your consent.

With best regards,

Dr. rer. nat. Michael Osada, Treasurer

Introduction of 2nd Webmaster of DIGM

Thankfully, we have a very competent webmaster now in addition to Stefan Peuckert who faithfully helped DIGM for many, many years. Thanks to Baris Cuhadar, we could start to update the DIGM website.

Hi, my name is Baris Cuhadar.

After a 25-year career in IT management, I founded my own consulting firm. My company currently delivers expert consultancy on a range of topics, including project management, artificial intelligence integration, and website management and optimization. Furthermore, I work with my business partners to provide specialized consulting services focused on enhancing production and operational efficiency and delivering effective reporting solutions.

Baris Cuhadar, Webmaster of DIGM



INDONESIAN SECTION

Empowering Through Innovation & Knowledge

Message from the President of the Indonesian Section

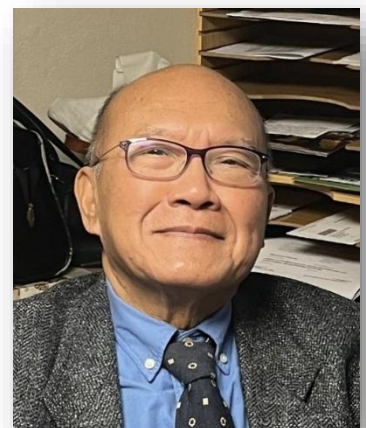
Greeting from the President

Knowledge in Action

We are excited to share the latest updates and activities from **DIGM** this month.

The launch of our **Ruang Kesehatan** (details, see News: Projects and Activities) fills me with particular gratefulness and pride. For public audience, monthly, 2nd Friday at 2 pm, **Health Information Sessions** are given by our representatives of the different medical specialties and disciplines.

By insightful seminars and international collaborations, the last months have been full of growth and meaningful progress.



We remain committed to **sharing medical knowledge** in a way that is **clear and accessible** to everyone, including the general public. By doing so, we hope to raise awareness of healthy living and disease prevention.

We believe that knowledge brings the greatest benefit when it is shared. Through seminars, discussions, and community outreach, DIGM strives to make health information more understandable and impactful for society.

Our future activities will also comprise **Podcasts on Medical Topics** – for as much knowledge transfer as possible.

Thank you to all members, volunteers, and supporters for your dedication. May our collective efforts bring meaningful change and better health to the communities we serve.

*Prof. Dr. med. dr. Rasjid Soeparwata, President of the Indonesian Section of DIGM,
Yogyakarta/Münster*

Former Visiting Professor Medical School University of Indonesia Jakarta, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta, Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta, Former Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon University Hospital Münster, Germany

SECRETARIAT: Ayla Putri Zahari and colleagues, Jl. Senen Raya No.135-137, RW.2, Senen, Kec. Senen, Kota Jakarta Pusat, Daerah Khusus Ibukota Jakarta 10410
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NEWS: Cooperation

ADIMAN Association of Indonesian-German Doctors



Introduction by the President of ADIMAN, Prasti Pomarius:

◆ About ADIMAN

ADIMAN — the Association of Indonesian-German Doctors — was founded on a simple yet powerful vision: to build bridges.

Bridges between nations, between health professionals, and above all, between knowledge and service.

Our members are Indonesian or German physicians who hold the German Approbation — the official medical license to practice in Germany. Many of us work across both Germany and Indonesia, while others have returned home permanently.

Together, we are building a strong and supportive community — one that grows together and gives back, both in Indonesia and abroad.

◆ The Journey of ADIMAN

Our journey began in 2019, when we were still part of the Medical Division of IASI Germany.

From 2019 to 2021, our focus was on reconnecting, organizing ourselves, and launching impactful initiatives for the Indonesian-German medical community.

This period, as we all remember, was defined by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

Like many of you, we felt a profound responsibility — not only as physicians but as a united community — to respond.

We initiated dialogue with government representatives in Germany and launched a series of webinars, reaching both the Indonesian diaspora and medical professionals in Indonesia. These sessions

became a platform for sharing the latest COVID-19 treatment strategies from both countries — a real-life example of international collaboration in a time of crisis.

From 2021 to 2023, our division experienced significant growth.

This momentum aligned with the Indonesian Ministry of Health's national initiative, "Indonesia Memanggil Anak Bangsa", which called on health professionals from the diaspora to contribute to the nation's healthcare system.

During this time, IASI Germany served as a vital bridge — facilitating the adaptation process for returning doctors and assisting communication between the Bundesärztekammer (German Medical Association) and Indonesia's Ministry of Health.

One of the challenges we helped address was the difference in medical specialization systems:

- In Germany, medical specialist training is hospital-based,
- In Indonesia, it is university-based.

Despite such differences, this period was one of remarkable development — in numbers, in trust, and in shared purpose.

◆ Our Signature Initiative: The International Webinar Series

It was during this time that we launched a flagship initiative:

"Sharing Session of International Indonesian Doctors."

This webinar series created a platform for Indonesian doctors worldwide to share strategies and experiences in treating various diseases.

Our inaugural session focused on Diabetes Mellitus, with speakers from Germany, Singapore, the United Kingdom, and Indonesia.

This initiative was proudly supported by the Ministry of Health, especially through the Directorate General of Communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases, under the leadership of Dr. Maxi Rein Rondonuwu at that time.

The goal was to provide strategic insights and global best practices for the Ministry of Health.

To date, we have successfully conducted four editions of this international webinar series.

We worked in collaboration with DINDA UK, PDITT (Middle East Indonesian Doctors Association), and IDI (Indonesian Medical Association).

Unfortunately, our partnership with IDI was short-lived due to internal challenges in Indonesia.

However, I do not wish to dwell on that matter further.

◆ The Birth of ADIMAN

A pivotal moment arrived in 2024.

Encouraged by H.E. Mr. Arif Havas Oegroseno — then Indonesian Ambassador to Germany, now Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and also serving as our Advisor — and with the full support of Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin, we took a decisive step forward.

We officially established ADIMAN as an independent organization.

ADIMAN was inaugurated on September 28, 2024, in Berlin, in the presence of Minister Budi Gunadi Sadikin and Ambassador Arif Havas Oegroseno.

It was a proud and historic moment for all of us.

ADIMAN was born out of a shared mission: to create a dedicated platform for Indonesian doctors who trained in Germany — regardless of where they are currently based, whether still in Germany or already back in Indonesia.

Before this transition, we held respectful discussions with IASI Germany's leadership.

After careful consideration, we all agreed that forming an independent body would offer greater flexibility in meeting the evolving needs of our members, while maintaining a strong and collaborative partnership with IASI Germany.

◆ Recent Activities

We have proudly supported various programs by the Ministry of Health — including assisting in the dissemination of strategic health initiatives to Indonesian health professionals in Germany and beyond.



◆ Upcoming Activities

1. Medical Seminar with CME Points

- A professional seminar designed to help our colleagues stay updated on the latest therapies, in alignment with German Leitlinien (clinical guidelines).
- This will contribute to continuous professional development for both diaspora doctors and those returning to Indonesia.

2. Community Service Program in 3T Areas (Remote, Frontier, and Disadvantaged Regions) • In collaboration with the Ministry of Health and local institutions in Indonesia.

- A team of diaspora doctors will receive temporary STR (medical practice permits) to provide services in underserved regions.
- This effort aims to deliver direct medical care while promoting knowledge exchange with local healthcare providers.

◆ Looking Ahead

Today, we stand on a foundation built through years of collaboration, commitment, and shared purpose.

With ADIMAN, we renew our commitment:
To serve,

To connect,
And to contribute — for the betterment of both Indonesia and Germany.

Prasti Pomarius
President of ADIMAN

The board of DIGM is very pleased that the ADIMAN President will prepare a Memorandum of Understanding between DIGM and ADIMAN to be signed end of 2025 or beginning of 2026.

European Academy of Phoniatics (EAP) (Founding Director: Professor Antoinette am Zehnhoff-Dinnesen)

On August 29–30, 2025, we made history for the field of
Phoniatics in Vienna, Austria.

For the very first time, the European Board Examination (EBE)
in Phoniatics was held, with the collaboration of distinguished
colleagues:

Dr. Barbara Arnold (Germany, Vice President of the EAP, Chairwoman of the German Professional Association for Phoniatics & Paediatric Audiology), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ana Đanić Hadžibegović (Croatia, General Secretary of the EAP), Assoc. Prof. Dr. Bengü Çobanoğlu (Türkiye), Prof. Dr. Tamer AbouElSaad (Egypt, President of the International Association of Communication Sciences and Disorders – IALP), Assoc. Prof. Dr. İlter Denizoğlu (Türkiye, Chair of the Committee of Phoniatics of the IALP) and Docent Dr. Matthias Leonhard (Austria, Vice President of the Austrian Society of Logopedics, Phoniatics and Pedaudiology).

The Board of the European Academy of Phoniatics (EAP) and the Union of European Phoniaticians (UEP) proudly announce their first fellows: Dr. Martin Kampmann (Germany) and Dr. Silvia Capobianco (Italy). Congratulations to both!

We are deeply grateful for the invaluable support of Prof. Dr. Cem Mecio, FEBORL-HNS, FEBORL-HNS (Hon.), Chair of the European Board Examination in ORL-HNS, and Prof. Dr. Marcus Neudert, FEBORL-HNS (Hon.), Director of Examinations and Lead, Quality Assurance Workgroup.

Looking ahead, the next preparation course for the EBE–Phoniatics will take place in Vienna, Austria, on February 12–14, 2026.

The second EBE–Phoniatics examination will be held on March 25, 2026, in Istanbul, Türkiye, just prior to the Pan European Voice Conference (PEVOC).

Prof. Dr. Berit Schneider-Stickler

President, European Academy of Phoniatics, Deputy Clinic Director Clinical Department Phoniatics-Logopedics ENT University Hospital Vienna, Austria, Working Group Neurolaryngology, Austrian Society of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery

Prof. Dr. Haldun Oğuz



President, Union of European Phoniaticians, President, Professional Voice Society, Turkiye, Chair, IFOS2026 Phoniatics Committee, Co-President, APLA2026 Congress, Associate Editor, Logopedics Phoniatics Vocology Journal, Co-President, Ankara Phoniatics Days
General Secretary, Otorhinolaryngology - Head and Neck Surgery Society, Turkiye
Department of Otolaryngology, Faculty of Medicine, Lokman Hekim University, Ankara, Turkiye, Director, Fonomer, Phoniatics, Audiology
& ENT Clinic, Ankara, Turkiye

NEWS: Projects and Activities

Proposal Interdisciplinary Cleft Treatment

The following **report about Interdisciplinary Cleft Treatment in Vietnam** by Prof. Dr. med. dent. Dr. med. Alexander Hemprich is published in the Newsletter of the International Cleft Palate Foundation on occasion of the 17th ICPF Congress in Frankfurt/Main, Germany, 4-6 September 2025.



A similar project could be established as a joint venture between German and Indonesian doctors in Indonesia if the need is seen there.

The following conditions should be met:

- a hospital that can take care of children from the age of 4-5 years on
- surgical facilities including the respective anaesthesia and sterilization equipment
- surgeons who have already some experience in facial/cleft surgery or are willing to be trained by DIGM specialists
- if possible an ENT specialist (mainly pedaudiologist)
- if possible a dentist and/or a specialist for jaw orthopedics
- a sponsor who can substantially contribute to the cost of the specialized equipment and the cost of travel of the teams

Prof. (em) Dr. Dr. Alexander Hemprich, University Hospital Leipzig, Germany, Vice President of DIGM



GERMAN-VIETNAMESE SOCIETY FOR FOSTERING OF MEDICINE IN VIETNAM

A Thirty Year Experience in Vietnam
Hemprich, Leipzig, Germany

Introduction

The society was initiated in 1995 by Dr. Khue Do Quan a Vietnamese maxillofacial surgeon permanently living in Germany. He had heard that there was a great number of unoperated cleft

children in Vietnam at that time but only three centers for CLP treatment in Hanoi, Hue, and Ho Chi Minh City. Thus it was decided that a group of several dedicated German MF surgeons and anaesthetists accompanied by some experienced nurses should travel to this country and start a project to help treating patients with facial malformations. They had to take along their specific instruments and some specific drugs for the anaesthesia of small children.

In the beginning it was not so easy to find the right place where the operations could be carried out. After sessions in Hanoi, Dong Hoi, and Hue our teams found a home in the Rehabilitation Hospital of DaNang where two missions have been carried out in spring and autumn every year since 2005. With the help of generous sponsors it was possible to install a sterilizer there and to buy some other equipment especially for anaesthesia. Fortunately DEVIEMED has a number of members born in Vietnam who were and are extremely helpful in overcoming language and cultural barriers.

In the first years the focus lay on the closure of unoperated clefts in babies (fig.1) and adults (fig. 2) and the secondary repair of insufficient results. Very often patients with so called “curtain operations“ of the lip without closure of the nasal layer over the cleft alveolous and an open cleft palate as well as with palatal fistulae were admitted (fig.3 a,b) .



(fig.1)



(fig.2)



(fig.3a)



(fig.3b)

Soon the colleagues found out that neither a hearing check nor a speech examination were available. Thus an ENT specialist was added to the team and a microscope brought in to enable middle ear inspections and the insertion of grommets (fig.4)



(fig. 4)

Fortunately a very dedicated German speech pathologist joined our missions and took care of basic speech training of our young and old patients. Finally the problem of dental treatment and prophylaxis had to be tackled as well as the establishment of orthodontic treatment.

In the end a true interdisciplinary CLP treatment could be established under close participation of German and Vietnamese doctors, dentists, speech pathologists, and nurses.

The Aims of DEVIEMED

The society wants to foster the *complete treatment of patients with facial malformations in Vietnam* but also makes it a point to help Vietnamese colleagues to help themselves. This principle applies to all fields: *Practical training* in the operating room in MF surgery, anaesthesiology, ENT procedures but also in speech training, jaw orthopedics and orthodontics , dental treatment. Ideally each operation should be carried out by a German specialist who is assisted by Vietnamese colleagues until those are able to completely take over.

Fostering of continuing education and academic research

Since 2016 DEVIEMED has started formal relationships with the Universities of DaNang and HUE (2023) (fig.5a,b) by offering lectures and seminars on cleft related topics in English held by our members (German professors and lecturers in maxillofacial and facial plastic surgery, anaesthesiology, ENT medicine , and speech pathology). Two Professors even give practical courses in jaw orthopedics and orthodontics very much supported by trained Vietnamese colleagues in both cities.



fig. 5a: Welcome by staff and students



fig. 5b: The orthodontic group in Hue

Results

- Treatment of more than 3600 cleft patients and 185 patients with other facial malformations since 1995
- Successful complete training of one anaesthesist in Germany who even achieved the title of “Doctor medicinae“ in Germany and is now department head in Hue and in DaNang (no more need to take along German anaesthesists to our missions)
- Successful complete training of a Vietnamese orthodontist in Germany who is now actively teaching Vietnamese colleagues and close cooperation with the directors of the departments of orthodontics in Hue and Danang
- Continuous training of young MF surgeons in cleft surgery from several cities in Vietnam in DaNang and Hue (difficult since they cannot practise regularly under supervision in their home units)
- Start of a close cooperation with DaNang University of Rehabilitation in speech pathology
- Development of a comprehensive cloud based database for documentation and the evaluation of long-term results.
- Launching of a genetic study with the departments of genetics of the Universities in Hue and Bonn (Germany)

Conclusion

After 35 years of cleft care in Vietnam it may be concluded that DEVIEMED has really been successful in helping many patients especially from poorer areas of Vietnam.

We were able to establish a comprehensive cleft center in DaNang and could successfully train some Vietnamese anaesthesists and orthodontists who can teach the next generation now.

Regarding our aim to “Help to help oneself“ we must admit that the training of the talented young Vietnamese surgeons has proved to be much more difficult because there is no full department of maxillofacial surgery in DaNang where they can operate regularly under supervision. Thus, we still encourage the colleagues from DaNang and Hue to expand their knowledge and skills whenever we are in Vietnam.

We hope to be able to invite one of them for a 2-3 year training in Germany.

Goals and wishes for the future

- Improved local network for patient acquisition and follow up in Vietnam
- More surgical training and further education of maxillofacial surgeons
- Network of local speech pathologists
- Network of experienced orthodontists

DEVIEMED is a NGO with currently about 300 active members in Germany and Vietnam (maxillofacial surgeons, anaesthesists, ENT doctors, speech pathologists, pediatricians, orthodontists, nurses), who bear the main load for each mission .

We owe a sincere thanks to our main supporters for their continuous generous contribution to our work:

URBAN-Foundation, Hannover

GROZ-BECKERT Company, Albstadt

AUMUND Foundation, Rheinberg

Prof. Dr. Dr. Alexander Hemprich

President of DEVIEMED

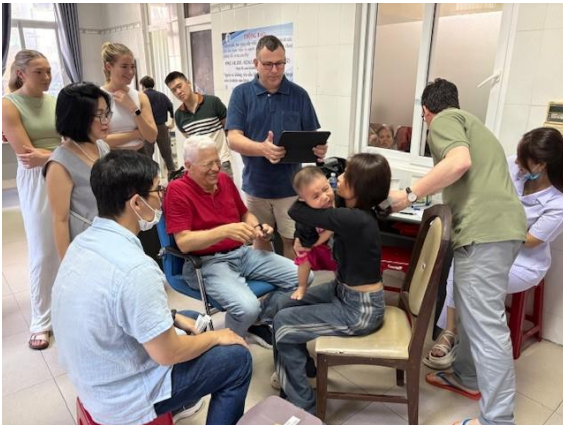
Some impressions of our work in Vietnam



preoperative



and one year later



Patient screening in DaNang 2024



operating room with two tables in DaNang



preoperative and one year later



Study Scan



From our Assessor Professor Thorsten Langer, Lübeck, University Hospital, Germany, Head of LESS:

Study Scan – the latest paper on the topic „**Childhood Cancer Survivorship Research**“ powered by the working group Late Effects Surveillance System (LESS) of the German Society of Pediatric Oncology and Hematology (GPOH). We hope you will find interesting **articles for your research activities in childhood cancer survivorship**. At 140 pages, this is the most comprehensive edition of Study Scan. Those show the hard work done by so many research groups focused on childhood cancer survivorship.

<https://www.nachsorge-ist-vorsorge.de/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/LESS-Publikationsnewsletter-15-002.pdf>

Prof. Dr. med. Thorsten Langer, Assessor of DIGM

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Autumn 2025

LESS⁺
LATE EFFECTS
SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

STUDY SCAN



Childhood Cancer Survivorship Research



Childhood Cancer
Survivorship Globally

Fear of Cancer
Recurrence

Diabetes Mellitus and
Neurocognition

Activities of the Ototoxicity Working Group of DIGM



Wake-up Paper

Our next plan is to internationally publish a **Wake-up Paper** concerning missing baseline/end of treatment audiograms and gaps in audiological monitoring, tracking and data management in case of ototoxic therapy with Cisplatin. First author of the first draft is Professor Kristy Knight, Audiology Training Coordinator, Oregon LEND Program, Institute on Development and Disability Doernbecher Children's Hospital, Oregon Health and Science University, Portland, USA.

The working title of the paper is: **Audiologic care for children treated with cisplatin: An urgent call to action.**

It was a great pleasure, to meet the Indonesian colleagues Prof. Nyilo Purnami, Universitas Airlangga, Surabaya and Prof. Balfas Helmi, Universitas Indonesia, Jakarta, on occasion of the 41st Congress of the German Society of Phoniatics and Pedaudiology in Münster, Germany on 27th September 2025. We are very happy that Prof. Nyilo Purnami will join the Ototoxicity Working Group. Her topics are: Ototoxicity

- after chemotherapy
- by aminoglycosides
- by local application of antibiotics in ear drops.



From left to right: Prof. Nyilo Purnami, Prof. Antoinette am Zehnhoff-Dinnesen, Prof. Balfas Helmi

Offer to Cooperate in two Projects

Here are **two offers to cooperate in the following projects**. We would be very happy to find interested Indonesian colleagues. The projects will be presented by my esteemed colleague Prof. Dr. med. Anna-Katharina Rohlf, Otorhinolaryngologist, Phoniatrician and Pedaudiologist, Head of Section of Phoniatics and Pedaudiology, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, University Medical Center, Ulm, Germany; Child Protection Delegate of the German Society of Phoniatics and Pedaudiology and the German Society of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery.



Hearing in Focus: A German-Indonesian Research Network for Preterm Infants

Hearing disorders are among the most frequent long-term consequences in extremely preterm infants – yet they remain underrepresented in international research. In the current German S3 guideline on follow-up care for preterm infants, we were able to formulate recommendations on this issue, but no consensus. The reason lies not in a lack of clinical relevance, but in insufficient international evidence.

To address this gap, we developed and prioritized Population, Intervention, Control, Outcome (PICO) questions during the guideline process. Particularly noteworthy is the **PREM-HEAR** project on drug-induced ototoxicity, which was ranked 6th as a core research question. The **OME-FOLLOW** project, which investigates the impact of otitis media with effusion (OME) in preterm infants, was placed in the middle field (rank 11 of 24). It is striking that PREM-HEAR ranked so highly despite focusing on a seemingly small patient group – highlighting the particular relevance of this topic for the professional community.

OME-FOLLOW: Middle Ear Effusions, Early Ototoxic Exposure, and Therapeutic Effects

Introduction:

OME-FOLLOW investigates the impact of persistent otitis media with effusion (OME) on hearing and language development in preterm and term-born children, with particular focus on potential inner ear damage caused by inflammatory mediators, as described in animal and clinical studies. Preterm infants are at increased risk of developing and chronifying OME. The long-term effects on language development, school participation, and the effectiveness of different treatment strategies (conservative vs. surgical) have not yet been systematically evaluated. Evidence-based criteria for decision-making in the care of this risk group are lacking.

PICO structure:

- **Population:** Preterm infants (<28 and <32 weeks' gestation) with OME in early childhood; comparison group: term-born children with OME
- **Intervention:** Prospective randomized comparison of conservative management (e.g., watchful waiting) versus early surgical intervention (tympanostomy tubes, adenoidectomy), combined with interdisciplinary follow-up (pediatric audiology, speech therapy, developmental psychology)

- **Control:** Term-born children with OME; groups without structured follow-up
- **Outcome:** Language development, occurrence of conductive and sensorineural hearing loss, rate of re-interventions, auditory processing disorders (APD), need for educational support, school trajectory
- **Design:** Prospective randomized study with interdisciplinary monitoring, follow-up until 18 years of age

PREM-HEAR: Drug-Induced Ototoxicity in Preterm Infants

Introduction:

Despite mandatory newborn hearing screening (NHS), ototoxic medications are often administered to preterm infants in clinical practice before or independently of NHS. In critically ill children receiving intensive care, hearing often becomes a secondary concern. Nationwide German surveys further reveal a lack of standardization in screening before and after ototoxic exposure. As a result, ototoxic-induced hearing loss frequently remains undetected, and structured long-term follow-up has yet to be established.

PICO structure:

- **Population:** Newborns exposed to ototoxic drugs (aminoglycosides, vancomycin, diuretics); subgroup analysis: term-born infants (>36 weeks), extremely preterm (<28 weeks), very preterm (<32 weeks)
- **Intervention:** Long-term pediatric audiological follow-up until 10 years of age
- **Control:** Standard of care
- **Outcome:** Rate of sensorineural hearing loss, occurrence of auditory processing disorders (APD), language development, need for support at age 10
- **Design:** Prospective multidisciplinary cohort study, follow-up until 10 years, with adjustment for the effects of therapeutic drug monitoring (TDM)

The scientific foundation for these projects is our systematic review recently published in *Acta Paediatrica* (Röhrs, Rohlf et al. 2025). It demonstrates that preterm infants are at risk not only because of prematurity itself, but also because they are more frequently exposed to ototoxic drugs and additional risk factors in routine clinical practice. These insights feed directly into the research projects described above, which we intend to conduct in an international setting. Due to this accumulation of stressors – such as ECMO treatment, hyperbilirubinemia, or CMV infection – preterm infants face a significantly increased risk of developing hearing impairment and subsequent language delay. For this particularly vulnerable group, follow-up care also serves as preventive child protection.

A central role in this initiative is played by the **German-Indonesian Medical Society (DIGM)**. With around 600,000 preterm births annually (10–15% of all births), Indonesia has one of the highest prevalences worldwide (Rohsiswatmo et al. 2023). At the same time, it presents a wide range of clinical care conditions – from highly specialized centers to resource-limited settings. This diversity makes Indonesian data indispensable for international research: it enhances the generalizability of results, reveals systemic differences, and provides immediate impetus for improving local care.

Within the DIGM, the **Ototoxicity Working Group** is specifically dedicated to strengthening this field. It has unique expertise and well-established protocols in ototoxicity monitoring. This collaboration

allows us to integrate methodological standards and screening tools directly into our planned studies – thereby ensuring the quality and comparability of the data.

I would also like to highlight **Professor Antoinette am Zehnhoff-Dinnesen**, who, as chair of the DIGM, provides invaluable impulses through her empathetic and scientifically outstanding leadership. With her decades of expertise in phoniatics and pediatric audiology, she is a personal role model for me – and a daily source of motivation to continue this path with energy and enthusiasm. Her commitment uniquely combines science, intercultural dialogue, and human connection, and serves as a driving force for German-Indonesian collaboration.

At the same time, there are strong links in Germany. The **German Study Center for Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery (DSZ-HNO)** has already expressed interest in supporting PREM-HEAR and OME-FOLLOW. This provides the opportunity to combine clinical excellence in Germany with the needs and high relevance in Indonesia.

The combination of German guideline development, Indonesian clinical relevance, and international methodological expertise offers an ideal foundation for establishing a global consortium for prospective multicenter studies. Our goal is clear: to generate the evidence needed to detect, treat, and ultimately prevent hearing disorders in preterm infants at an early stage.

We warmly invite all members of the DIGM to join this initiative – whether through professional expertise, networking support, or concrete research collaboration. Together, we can help to sustainably improve care for this most vulnerable patient group while simultaneously strengthening the international visibility of German and Indonesian research.

Link and Literature

German Study Centre for Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery. <https://dsz-hno.hno.org/>

Roehrs P, Rohlf AK, Vonthein R, Simon C, Spiegler J. Risk Factors for Hearing Loss Are Comparable in Preterm Versus Term Children: A Systematic Review. *Acta Paediatr.* 2025 Jul 15. doi: 10.1111/apa.70222. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40662234.

Rohsiswatmo R, Hikmahrachim HG, Sjahrulla MAR, Marsubrin PMT, Kaban RK, Roeslani RD, Iskandar ATP, Sukarja D, Kautsar A, Urwah I, Gunardi H, Devaera Y. The Cohort of Indonesian Preterm Infants for Long-term Outcomes (CIPTO) study: a protocol. *BMC Pediatr.* 19 October 2023;23(1):518. doi: 10.1186/s12887-023-04263-z. PMID: 37853380; PMCID: PMC10585843.

Prof. Dr. med. Anna-Katharina Rohlf, Otorhinolaryngologist, Phoniatician and Pedaudiologist, Head of Section of Phoniatics and Pedaudiology, Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, University Medical Center, Ulm, Germany; Child Protection Delegate of the German Society of Phoniatics and Pedaudiology and the German Society of Otorhinolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery, Assessor of DIGM

Prof. Dr. med. Antoinette am Zehnhoff-Dinnesen, Vice-President of DIGM, Chair of Ototoxicity Working Group

Continuation of the Thalassemia Project



Meanwhile, Prof. Freisleben clarified the status of our thalassemia project in 2025, both with Prof. Asmarinah and Dr. Ari Estuningtyas. The project application was so far successful in achieving funding, e.g., through PUTI UI. The proposal for which Prof. Freisleben signed the cooperation in the name of DIGM e.V. was used for the grant application. Dr. Ari Estuningtyas is the principal investigator and responsible for this application. One of the prerequisites for the approval is the participation of a foreign collaborator.

Prof. Freisleben discussed the progress of the proposal and in particular methodology. In the research group, there is one Doctoral student in the “strata 3” (S3) Study Program Biomedical Sciences, Purnama Fajri, who already holds a Master in Biomedicine. In addition, there are two new Master students (S2), and three undergraduate students (S1), two from the national and one from the international course in Medicine.

The second track of the proposal is the application to the Study Program to get approval for the dissertation. It is the doctoral student who is responsible for this application. After approval, the promotor and two co-promotors will be determined. The students’ work in the project is supervised by a mentor (pembimbing) or several mentors who may then be appointed as promotors and co-promotors. Prof. Asmarinah told us that the application for approval of the research proposal by the Study Program has not yet been submitted. The domestic and foreign supervisors of the research team are still on the “mentor” level and not on the “promotor/co-promotor” level as yet.

In October, Prof. Freisleben will be in Indonesia, where several meetings are already scheduled 1) with this research team at the Study Program Biomedical Sciences FMUI, 2) with the colleagues of the Biomedicine Program UIN, with whom he conducted the webinar on the prevention of thalassemia, and 3) with Prof. dr. Dr. Puspita Amalia Wahidiyat, Head of the Thalassemia Ward at Dr. Cipto Mangunkusumo Hospital, to discuss the introduction of domestic phytotherapeutics into the iron-chelating therapy of thalassemia patients aiming to reduce the amount of expensive chemical iron-chelators needed and thus also the cost of therapeutic intervention. Moreover, domestic therapeutics ought to ameliorate the therapeutic outcome because of the limited availability of chemical medicines from abroad. The introduction into therapy in humans and prior clinical testing must be applied to BPOM Indonesia.

*Prof. Dr. rer. med. habil. Hans Joachim Freisleben, MPharm, Taunusstein-Hahn
Honorary President and Senior Advisor of DIGM*

Activities of the Indonesian Section of DIGM

The Opening of Ruang Kesehatan DIGM at Mitra Oasis Apartment, Central Jakarta

This September, DIGM Indonesia, we are proud to announce the opening of **Ruang Kesehatan Tower C** at apartment **Mitra Oasis, Jakarta**, a dedicated space for hosting **community health seminars**. These seminars aim to **educate the public with practical and reliable health information**, empowering them to take charge of their well-being.

With heartfelt gratitude, we extend our deepest thanks to the three esteemed Patrons of Ruang Kesehatan, Tower C, Mitra Oasis, Jakarta.



Lt Gen A. Y. Nasution



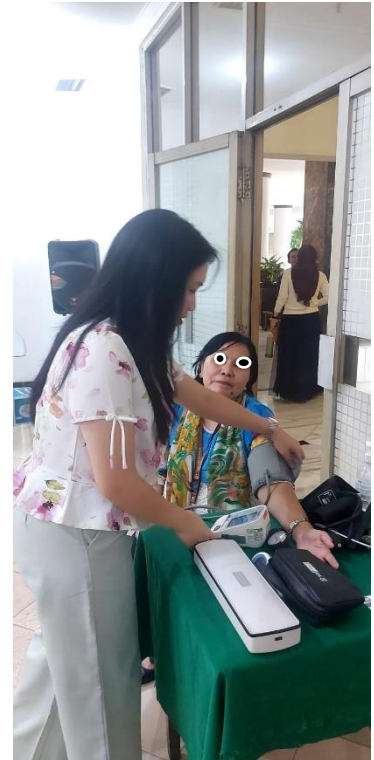
**Dr. Drs. H. Ishak Nawawi,
SH, MH, MM, QIA, CFr**



**Mr. Rifki Pangandaheng
S1 Economy Management**



In the future, **Ruang Kesehatan** will also function as a **Room for Preventive Health Care**, providing essential healthcare services to those in need.



We are very grateful to the members of the **Rotary Club Münster-Rüschhaus**, especially its President Thomas Fingerhut, for generously donating **€500** to finance a locker for medical tools and supplies for this space. Their support plays an important role in bringing our vision for *Ruang Kesehatan* to life.

*Dipl.- Ing. (FH) Thomas
Fingerhut, President of Rotary
Club Münster-Rüschhaus,
District 1870*



Community Health Seminars at Ruang Kesehatan DIGM

1st Community Health Seminar on Pharmacological Treatments for the Elderly by Assoc. Prof. Dr. Med. dr. Abraham Simatupang, M.

DIGM successfully held its **first public health seminar** in July at *Ruang Kesehatan DIGM*. This event will be held every month as a part of our community programme. The first seminar was presented by **Assoc. Prof. Dr. Med. dr. Abraham Simatupang, M.Kes**, focusing on pharmacological treatments for the elderly.



The event was **opened by Jenderal Purnawirawan Nasution**, one of DIGM's esteemed assessors, and **Prof. Dr.rer.nat. Dra. Asmarinah, MS**, DIGM Vice President and **concluded by Dr. Drs. H. Ishak Nawawi, SH, MH, MM, QIA, CFrA**, DIGM's legal advisor. This seminar provided valuable insights into safe and effective medication management for older adults, empowering families and caregivers with the knowledge needed to ensure proper drug use and promote **healthy, active aging**.



Prof. Dr.rer. nat. Dra. Asmarinah, MS



Assoc. Prof. Dr. Med. dr. Abraham Simatupang, M.Kes



2nd Community Health Seminar on Heart Bypass Surgery by Dr. dr. Dudy Arman Hanafy, Sp.BTKV Subsp. JD(K), MARS, FIHA, FISA

In **August**, Dr. Dudy was also a speaker at **Ruang Kesehatan DIGM**, where he educated the general public about **heart bypass surgery**, raising awareness and improving understanding of this important procedure.

Kupas Tuntas Penyakit Jantung Koroner: Tidak Perlu Takut Operasi Bypass Jantung

14.00 WIB - SELESAI | JUMAT, 15 AGUSTUS 2025

Ruang Kesehatan Tower C, Apartemen Mitra Oasis

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Dr. dr. Dudy Arman Hanafy, Sp.BTKV Subsp.JD(K),MARS.

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Unveiling Coronary Artery Disease: No Need to Fear Heart Bypass Surgery

Coronary artery disease remains a frightening condition for many people. It commonly occurs when the heart's blood vessels become blocked by plaque buildup. As a result, the flow of oxygen-rich blood to the heart muscle is disrupted, leading to chest pain, shortness of breath, and even heart attacks. Global data in 2022 reported that more than 315 million people worldwide were affected by this disease.

The causes of coronary artery disease include high blood pressure, diabetes, smoking, obesity, sedentary lifestyle, and genetics. The good news is that the disease can be treated—and even prevented. Healthy habits such as quitting smoking, staying physically active, maintaining a healthy weight, and managing stress are proven to reduce the risk of heart disease. For those already affected, treatment options range from medications and stent placement (PCI) to coronary bypass surgery.



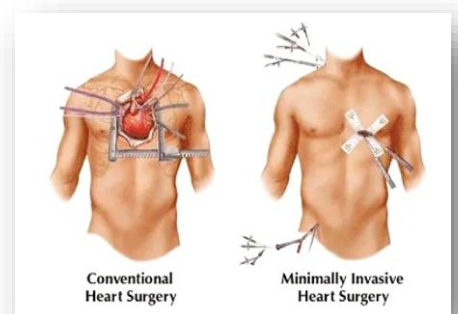
Bypass surgery, or Coronary Artery Bypass Graft (CABG), is often considered intimidating because people imagine a large incision in the chest. In reality, the procedure has been proven safe and has saved countless lives. In this surgery, doctors use a blood vessel from the leg or chest to create a new pathway so blood can bypass the blocked artery. This restores the heart's oxygen supply.



Large studies, such as the SYNTAX trial conducted in 17 countries, have shown that CABG is superior to PCI in patients with complex coronary artery disease. CABG reduces the risk of recurrent heart attacks, repeat interventions, and long-term mortality. Moreover, with advances in technology, bypass surgery no longer always requires a large chest incision. A modern approach called Minimally Invasive Cardiac Surgery (MICS) allows surgeons to operate through small cuts between the ribs,

avoiding the need to split the breastbone and without using the heart-lung machine. This leads to faster recovery, lower infection risk, less pain, smaller scars, and fewer complications including reduced mortality.

Another advancement is the use of robot-assisted cardiac surgery, which brings even greater precision and safety to bypass procedures. With robotic systems, surgeons can operate through very small incisions using high-definition, 3D visualization and instruments that mimic natural hand movements with enhanced accuracy. This technique minimizes trauma to the chest wall, reduces blood loss, and speeds up recovery. At the National Cardiovascular Center Harapan Kita in Jakarta, robot-assisted bypass surgery has already been successfully performed, marking an important milestone in delivering world-class cardiac care in Indonesia.



It is natural for patients to feel anxious when doctors recommend bypass surgery—heart surgery sounds overwhelming. Yet, many patients return to normal activities after surgery and recovery. With proper postoperative care and commitment to a healthy lifestyle, bypass surgery offers a new pathway to a longer and better quality of life.



3rd Community Health Seminar on Cervical Cancer Prevention by Dr. Widyorini Lestari Hanafi, SpOG(K) on September 26, 2025

We will delve into strategies for **preventing cervical cancer**, empowering communities with essential knowledge to support women's health.

Kanker Serviks Dapat Dicegah

Tempat
Ruang Kesehatan
Tower C, Apartemen
Mitra Oasis

dr. Widyorini Lestari Hanafi, Sp. OG(K)-Onk
RS Kanker Darmas

JUMAT | 26/09/2025 **PUKUL 14:00 - SELESAI**

www.digm.info.id +62 817-9235-909

Further Activities of the Members of the Indonesian Section



16th Annual Scientific PIT HBTkVI (Indonesian Association of Thoracic Cardiac and Vascular Surgeons – 5th Annual meetings AAPCHS (Asian Association for pediatric Congenital Heart Surgery))

We are proud to share that **Dr. Dudy**, one of our esteemed DIGM members, was invited as a **speaker** at the **16th Annual Scientific Meeting of HBTkVI (Indonesian Association of Thoracic, Cardiac, and Vascular Surgery)** and the **5th Annual Meeting of AAPCHS (Asian Association for Pediatric Congenital Heart Surgery)**.

The event took place in **Bali** on **September 5–6, 2025**, bringing together

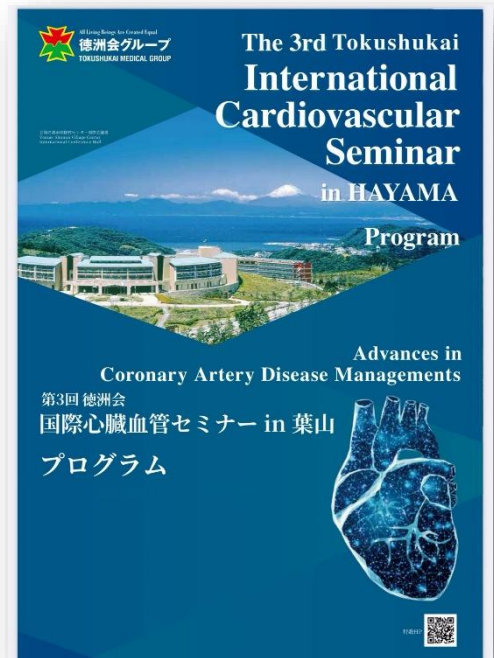
leading experts to discuss the latest advancements in thoracic, cardiac, and vascular surgery, as well as pediatric congenital heart surgery.

Dr. Dudy's participation reflects DIGM's ongoing commitment to contributing to national and **international knowledge exchange** and advancing medical expertise.

The 3rd Tokushukai International Cardiovascular Seminar (Advances in Coronary Artery Disease Managements) in Japan

Later in September, **Dr. Dudy** also participated as a speaker at the **3rd Tokushukai International Cardiovascular Seminar: *Advances in Coronary Artery Disease Management*** held in **Japan**.

This event brought together cardiovascular specialists from around the world to discuss **cutting-edge treatments and innovations** in coronary artery disease management.



National Online Seminar on *Evidence-Based Practice in Diabetic Wound Care for Optimal Clinical Practice*

Dr. Med. Nyityasmono Tri Nugroho, Sp.B.Subsp.BVE(K)



Evidence-Based Practice in Diabetic Wound Care

We are proud to share that **Dr. Med. Nyityasmono Tri Nugroho, Sp.B.Subsp.BVE(K)**, one of our esteemed DIGM members, was a speaker at the **National Online Seminar on Evidence-Based Practice in Diabetic Wound Care for Optimal Clinical Practice**, held **online on August 31, 2025**.

This virtual event brought together healthcare professionals from across the country to discuss the latest evidence-based strategies for diabetic wound management, aiming to improve patient outcomes and optimize clinical practice.

Dr. Nyityasmono's participation reflects DIGM's ongoing commitment to advancing medical knowledge and promoting high-quality, evidence-based care.

Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dra. Asmarinah, MS in national seminar: **Endometriosis in Focus: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Beyond**

The **Faculty of Medicine, Universitas Indonesia**, in collaboration with the **NICM Health Research Institute, Western Sydney University**, proudly presented a **webinar** titled “*Endometriosis in Focus: Diagnosis, Treatment, and Beyond*” on **September 8, 2025**, featuring **Prof. Dr. rer. nat. Dra. Asmarinah, MS**, a valued board member of **DIGM**.

This insightful session highlighted the latest advancements in endometriosis care, focusing on innovative approaches to diagnosis, treatment, and comprehensive management, with the goal of improving outcomes and enhancing the quality of life for women living with this condition.



Closing Statement – September Newsletter

As we wrap up inspiring time of learning and collaboration, DIGM extends its gratitude to all members, speakers, and participants who have contributed to our successful events throughout the last months. Your active involvement continues to drive our mission of advancing medical knowledge and improving healthcare practices.

Stay connected with DIGM as we continue to bring meaningful programs and opportunities for growth in the months ahead. Together, we strive for **better health, stronger communities, and a brighter future**.

Prof. Dr. med. dr. Rasjid Soeparwata, President of the Indonesian Section of DIGM, Yogyakarta

Former Visiting Professor Medical School University of Indonesia Jakarta, Muhammadiyah University of Yogyakarta, Universitas Gadjah Mada Yogyakarta, Former Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgeon University Hospital Münster, Germany

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EMAIL: ayla.putri@ui.ac.id/ayla.otien@gmail.com



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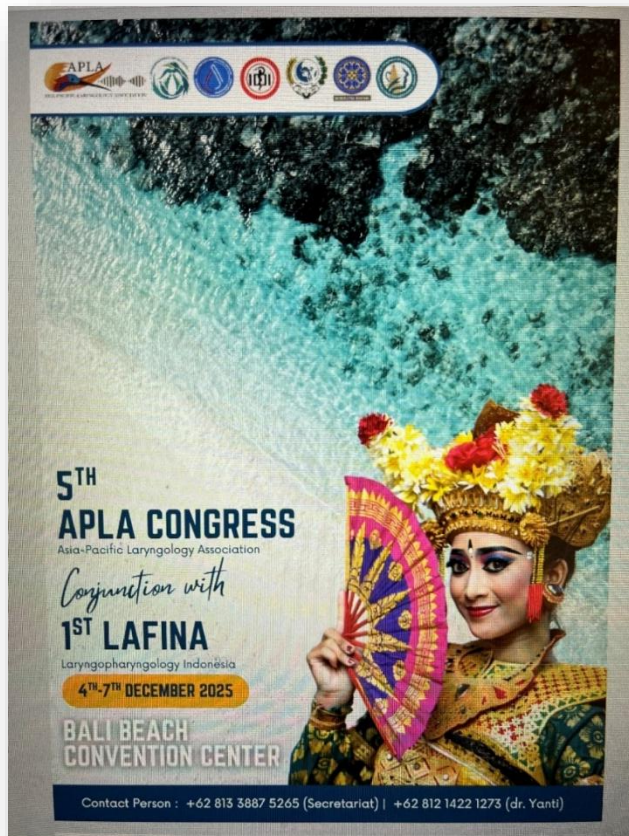
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Tiia Ojala, Finland

Teemu Kinnari, Finland

Elisabeth Sjögren, Netherlands

Kaarina Ruusuvirta, Finland

Ahmed Geneid, Finland

Guan-Min Ho, Austria/Taiwan

Topics:

- Diagnostics of UVFP (Unilateral Vocal Fold Paralysis)
- Interventions including augmentation, both in local and general anesthesia
- Thyroplasty using different available implants
- Laryngeal reinnervation
- Other new procedures coming up in the future
- A hands-on demonstration using available equipment and instruments

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