

1996 Hans Sigrist Stipend

As a scholar of the University of Berne I have been intrigued by developing brain, which has constituted a major area of interest all through my Medical School training in my medical thesis and into my training as a pediatrician and neonatologist. With the emergence of a new imaging technique, Magnetic Resonance, introduced to Berne University Hospital in 1988 I have been able to start visualizing in vivo the events that characterize early human brain development. With the support of the Swiss Academy of Medical Science I was able to get first hand training in the research applications of Magnetic Resonance Imaging and Spectroscopy at Brigham and Women's Hospital in Boston from 1994 to 1997. Equipped with new advanced MRI techniques and ideas to study early human brain development it was the Hans Sigrist Scholarship that gave me the opportunity to return to the University of Berne in 1997 and to establish myself as a researcher in the field of Magnetic Resonance in which I have become a leading expert in the evaluation of the newborn brain. I have since directed several research projects funded by Swiss National Foundation aimed at the better



Petra Hüppi

understanding of early human brain development. In 1998 I was recruited to the University of Geneva where I obtained my Privatdocent in 1998 and was appointed full Professor of Pediatrics in 2003 leading the Child Development Unit and a active research group developing and applying adapted quantitative, volumetric MRI techniques and new diffusion imaging techniques in newborn infants to delineate anatomical and temporal characteristics of brain development in a time period of extreme relevance to brain injury in the premature and term infant.

Prof. Petra Hüppi is currently the director of the Child Development Unit at the University of Geneva and continues her research activities there as well as in collaboration with the Dept. of Neurology at Harvard Medical School in Boston where she is a visiting scientist.

Contact address:

Prof. Dr. Petra Hüppi, Hôpital des enfants, Unité de Développement, 6, rue Willy-Donzé, 1211 Genève 14, E-mail: petra.huppi@hcuge.ch