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Dr. Christine Klein, MD

Q&A With Dr. Christine Klein

Q: This review article is a unique initiative that must have taken major effort. How and why did it come about?

A: Given the rapid advances in the genetics of movement disorders — perhaps the most quickly developing field in recent years — we felt that a revision of its "nomenclature and classification" (essentially a simple numbering system in chronological order of first description fraught with errors) was greatly needed.

Q: It is now almost a year since the article was published. What is your perception about the impact of the article in the field?

A: Although we also face some criticism, many colleagues have told us that they like the new system, and, fortunately, many have started using it. Perhaps the most exciting and also sustainable new development is that of MDSGene (www.mdsgene.org), which is sponsored by the society. This tool is based on our review and provides access to comprehensive and carefully curated phenotypic and genotypic information at a click.

Q: Will this classification be generally used among neurologists dedicated to movement disorders?

A: We certainly hope so... We have of course started promoting it wherever possible (in other review articles, book chapters, GeneReviews, etc.). The good news is that more and more colleagues, especially at the fellow and young faculty level, are now joining the (MDSGene) effort. We are optimistic that by reaching out to this important and international group of young colleagues, we will greatly enhance the chances of the new nomenclature and classification catching on.

Q: Do you think similar approaches should be followed for other movement disorders with a strong genetic basis? Which ones?

A: Absolutely. We hope to extend this to all movement disorders with a genetic background and currently actively working on myoclonus and recessive ataxias.

Q: What do you like reading the most in *Movement Disorders*?

A: Everything! It is a very good mix of original articles, review and opinion pieces, and other interesting

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features. The quality of the journal has been steadily increasing over the years, and it is a great honor and privilege to try to contribute to the journal's success.

Dr. Christine Klein is a Professor of Neurology and Neurogenetics. She studied medicine in Hamburg, Heidelberg, Luebeck (1988-1994), and London (with Dr. N.P. Quinn in 1994/1995). She moved to Boston from 1997-1999 for a fellowship in Molecular Neurogenetics under the mentorship of Dr. X.O. Breakefield. Dr. Klein completed her neurology training at Luebeck University with Dr. D. Koempf in 2004, followed by a series of summer sabbaticals in movement disorders with Dr. A.E. Lang in Toronto, Canada in 2004-2015. She was appointed Lichtenberg Professor at the Department of Neurology of Luebeck University in 2005, where her research has focused on the clinical and molecular genetics of movement disorders and its functional consequences. In 2009, Dr. Klein has been awarded a Schilling Section of Clinical and Molecular Neurogenetics at the University of Luebeck and has become Director of the newly founded Institute of Neurogenetics in 2013.

Dr. Klein has published over 400 scientific papers and is the 2008 recipient of the Derek Denny-Brown Award of the American Neurological Association. She is an Associate Editor of 'Annals of Neurology' and of 'Movement Disorders' and a member of the editorial board of 'Neurology'. She is head of the Neurogenetics Working Group of the German Neurological Society and has been a member of the standing committee of the Neuroscience Study Section of the German Research Foundation and of the Wellcome Trust's Molecular Neurobiology Expert Review Group, as well as chair of the Congress Scientific Program Committee of the 2016/2017 Annual Congresses of the International Parkinson and Movement Disorder Society, and President-Elect of the German Neurological Society.

The Institute of Neurogenetics at the University of Luebeck has state-of-the-art know-how with neuroepidemiology, clinical, electrophysiological, and multimodal neuroimaging techniques. The Institute's molecular laboratory focuses on the genetics of movement disorders and the biological consequences of mutations and risk variants in human cellular and, more recently, drosophila models of inherited movement disorders with a focus on Parkinson's disease.