



Dr. Alvydas Pauliukevicius
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Didlaukio g. 86E
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Lithuania

Re: The development of forensic medicine in Lithuania.

24 November 2009

Dear Alvydas.

Thank you for introducing me to forensic medicine in Lithuania. It was a pleasure to see the facilities in the new institute building, which has a high standard.



As agreed during our meeting, I shall approach colleagues in Denmark and other European countries concerning the forensic genetic research projects that we discussed. I will also send invitations concerning the educational collaboration between our institutes.

Our institute will be happy to help with advice in the process of accreditation of your institute.

Please allow me to comment on your plans of transferring forensic medicine from the university to the Ministry of Justice in Lithuania. I do not know all the details and maybe you find the transfer beneficial to your institute. However, I will not hesitate to remind you about the importance of (1) independence, which is generally guaranteed by independent universities (and not necessarily by e.g. ministries or police organisations), and (2) the need for continuous improvements of methods and skills of all co-workers – specially the academic staff through research and development projects. If you allow the institute to stay in the university, you will be able to guarantee independent, research based service in forensic medicine in the future.

Please forgive me for the comments on your ideas of the future organisation of forensic medicine in Lithuania. The present structure of forensic medicine is sound, and I do not understand why you want to change the structure.

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Yours sincerely,

Niels Morling, MD DMSc
Professor, Director