

Title of Paper: How to build the world's best paediatric hospital without money or political support?

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Abstract:

The present Children's Hospital in Helsinki was built during the Second World War. Since then the paediatric medicine has changed a lot. Today we can save children with a birth weight under 500g, and children with multiple diagnosis and problems. The need for both personnel and technical equipment has increased. The old building can neither handle the air condition nor the need of storerooms. Already about twenty years ago, it was quite clear that the hospital was not suitable for modern paediatric care and that we needed a new hospital. But there was no political interest and never any money for this purpose.

The staff complained; not enough space to work in, bad indoor air, the corridors are full with beds and equipment. Parents complained in the media; the patient's rooms were too small, too cold or too warm and they had to sleep on the floor. In 2010 it was obvious that there was an urgent need for a solution, the new hospital had to be built before 2020. A petition in Facebook was started, at the same time our new energetic chief for the hospital started his work. He appointed a working group 2011 and invited politicians to visit the old hospital to see the misery with their own eyes, with no result.

On private initiative from members of the staff and patient organisations The Foundation for the New Children's Hospital 2017 and a Support Association were founded. The goal was set: Opening day at Finland's 100th birthday 6th December 2017 with a fixed budget of 160 million €. The financing model is unique; 30 mil from private donations, 40 mil from the Joint Authority for the Hospital District of Helsinki and Uusimaa, 40 mil from the Finnish government and 50 mil loan from the bank. The foundation will be the owner of the new hospital building.

The target for the planning is that the new hospital is to be the best in the world, following definitions by the EACH charter for Children in Hospital. The parents, the patients and the staff are asked for their opinions. The results will be presented.

At the moment we have a rough picture of a hospital in 8 floors. In the old hospital with surroundings there are 12 wards. In the new hospital there will be 4 big wards. The Kidney and Transplantation ward will be merged with the haematological wards. Two different cultures will meet, the two wards are already engaged, a marriage is set. Both parties have a lot of children!

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