Department of Clinical Neuroscience  
Division of Insurance Medicine

STODS: the Swedish Twin project Of Disability pension and Sickness absence

The overall objective of the STODS (Swedish Twin project of Disability pension and Sickness absence) is to investigate the importance of genetic and environmental/psychosocial factors for sickness absence and for disability pension in a nationwide, population-based twin sample. Special focus is on sickness absence and disability pensions due to musculoskeletal and mental diagnoses, which accounts for approximately 70% of all sickness absence. In this project we are able to study both environmental and genetic factors using data from the Swedish Twin Registry in a large prospective research project. Register as well as questionnaire data have been obtained covering different socio-demographic and health aspects. By combining twin methodology and sickness insurance research methods, a unique possibility is given to adjust for and examine genetic and environmental factors of importance for sickness absence and disability pension.

Project group
Pia Svedberg, PhD, associate professor (Principal Investigator)  
Jurgita Narusyte, PhD, post-doctoral fellow (Co-PI)  
Annina Ropponen, PhD, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, FI  
Kristina Alexanderson, professor  
Lisa Mather, PhD-student 2013-  
Emma Björkenstam, PhD  
Linnea Kjeldgård, statistician  
Kerstin Nilsson, statistician

Previous group members:  
Åsa Samuelsson (PhD student 2008-2013)  
Paul Lichtenstein, professor, MEB, KI (2008-2013)

Ongoing sub-studies:
1) Childbirth, hospitalization and sickness absence (PI: Svedberg, Co-PI: Alexanderson);
2) Mental health in childhood and adolescence and the association to future sickness absence (PI: Narusyte; Funding: Forte);
3) Stress-related sickness absence: risk factors and consequences (PI: Svedberg; Funding: KID, Magnus Bergvalls foundation).
Nordic Collaboration
We collaborate since 2008 with researchers from Finland at the Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki & Finnish Institute of Occupational Health. Similar work on disability pension is carried out using the Finnish Twin Cohort, and we have since 2012 an established network including also Denmark and Norway focusing on sickness absence research using Nordic twin settings (NorTwinDiSA).

Funding
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Publications

Thesis
http://publications.ki.se/thesis-Samuelsson

Peer-reviewed articles in international scientific journals


**Reports (In Swedish)**


**Exam/master student thesis**


**Peer-reviewed abstracts for scientific conferences**


5) Svedberg P, Alexanderson K, Ropponen A. Are part-time work or social benefits predictors for disability pension? A prospective Swedish twin cohort study. WWW:


Epidemiology (NAPE). 13th International congress of the IFPE, Kaohsiung Taiwan 2011.
