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Pre-submission inquiry

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Pre-submission inquiry

Dear Editors,

The Nordic countries have a long history of register-based research, with a substantial number of papers published in the *New England Journal of Medicine (NEJM)*¹⁻¹⁰. The basis of this research is the personal identity number^{11,12}, a unique number assigned to all residents, that allows for linkage of nationwide registers. The tax-funded public health care system allows for equal access to healthcare and minimizes selection bias¹³.

Several of the Nordic healthcare registers started already in the 1940s and 1950s. With prospectively collected data over long time, and virtually no loss of follow-up, researchers in the Nordic countries can assess prognosis and etiology of a range of conditions, including rare diseases. This has become even more important in postmarketing studies of prescribed drugs¹⁴. Further, as many important questions in medicine and disease etiology cannot be addressed through randomized clinical trials, the Nordic multigenerational registers with complete family links offer unique opportunities for conducting family-based studies, e.g. where rates of disease among individuals with a particular exposure is compared to their non-exposed siblings, which inherently controls for inheritance and shared early environmental factors¹⁵⁻¹⁷.

We have written a large number of register-based papers including several publications on nationwide registers and research infrastructure^{11,13,18-23}. We propose an article about registers in the Nordic countries and an overview of register-based research. Such a review article is lacking in major journals, and we believe it would be of substantial interest the readers of *NEJM*, and is likely to be highly cited. We look forward to hearing from you.

Best regards,

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