

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. We study risk factors as well as adverse outcomes. 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 can investigate the importance of both environmental and genetic factors using data from the Swedish Twin Registry in a large prospective research project. Register as well as survey 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 (PI)

Jurgita Narusyte, PhD, researcher (Co-PI)

Annina Ropponen, PhD, research professor at Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, FI & principal researcher at KI, associate professor

Mo Wang, PhD, research specialist

Iman Alaie, PhD, postdoc

Vera Atarodi, PhD-student

Emma Pettersson, statistician/PhD student 50%

Pontus Josefsson, statistician

Jakob Bergström, statistician

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Auriba Raza, PhD, postdoc, Stockholm university

Sanna Kärkkäinen, PhD, postdoc, Kuopio, Finland

Karri Silventoinen, professor, Helsinki university, Helsinki, Finland

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Ongoing sub-studies:

- 1) Youth psychiatric disorders and the risk of labour market marginalisation (PI: Alaie; Funding VR).
- 2) The role of mental health disorders during childhood and adolescence for adverse outcomes in working life (Doctoral student project (Atarodi). PI/main supervisor: Narusyte; Partly funded by Research School in Health Science, KI))
- 3) SustWork: Sustainable working life: early determinants and later predictors – a longitudinal twin study (PI: Ropponen; Funding: Forte).
- 4) Sickness absence due to mental disorders: risk factors and consequences (PI: Svedberg; Funding: KID, AFA Insurance, Forte-postdoc(Alaie)).
- 5) Chronic pain, common mental disorders, and work incapacity: the importance of genetics, environment, and comorbidity on the progression from disorder to sick leave and disability pension (PI: Svedberg; Funding: VR, KI).
- 6) Mental health in childhood and adolescence and the association to future sickness absence (PI: Narusyte; Funding: VR, AFA).

Nordic Collaboration

We collaborate with researchers from Finland at the Department of Public Health, University of Helsinki & Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, and from Oslo, Norwegian Institute of Public Health. Similar work on sickness absence/disability pension is carried out using the Finnish and Norwegian twin cohorts, and we have since 2012 an established network including also Denmark focusing on sickness absence research using Nordic twin settings (NorTwinDiSa).

Current and Previous Funding

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Interested in collaboration, thesis work, or to perform a sub-study based on STODS data? Contact Pia Svedberg, PI (e-mail: pia.svedberg@ki.se), or Jurgita Narusyte, Co-PI (e-mail: jurgita.narusyte@ki.se).