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 are able to investigate 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, senior researcher (Co-PI)  
Björg Helgadóttir, PhD, Postdoc  
Lisa Mather, PhD, Postdoc  
Mo Wang, PhD, Postdoc  
Linnea Kjeldgård, statistician  
Kerstin Nilsson, statistician  
Annina Ropponen, PhD, associate professor, Finnish Institute of Occupational Health, Helsinki, FI  
Gunnar Bergström, PhD, associate professor, Institute of Environmental Medicine (IMM), KI & professor at University of Gävle  
Victoria Blom, PhD, associate professor, KI & GIH

Previous project group members:  
Åsa Samuelsson (PhD student 2008-2013)  
Paul Lichtenstein, professor, MEB, KI  
Emma Björkenstam, PhD  
Kristina Alexanderson, professor
Ongoing sub-studies:

1) Mental health in childhood and adolescence and the association to future sickness absence (PI: Narusyte; Funding: Forte);

2) Sickness absence due to mental disorders: risk factors and consequences (PI: Svedberg; Funding: KID, AFA Insurance).

3) 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)

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).

Funding
VR 2017-2020(Svedberg); AFA Insurance 2016-2019(Svedberg); The Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte) 2008-2009(Svedberg) and 2013-2015(Narusyte); The Ministry of Health and Social Affairs; The Swedish Research Council Council (VR) 2009-2011(Svedberg); the Swedish Society of Medicine(Svedberg, Narusyte); Magnus Bergvalls foundation; Karolinska Institutet: Center for Health Care Sciences, Karolinska Institutet Doctoral student funding (KID), and from the Strategic programs in Public and International Health, and Epidemiology.

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Publications

Thesis


Peer-reviewed articles in international scientific journals based on STODS

2) Svedberg P, Mather L, Bergström G, Lindfors P, Blom V. Time pressure and sleep problems due to thoughts about work as risk factors for future sickness absence. *International Archives Occupational Environmental Health*. First Online: 20 August 2018. [Epub].


**Reports (In Swedish)**


Exam/master student thesis


Peer-reviewed abstracts for scientific conferences


27. Svedberg P, Narusyte J, Alexanderson K, Ropponen A. A prospective cohort study of stability and change in health behaviors as risk factors for disability pension due to


