Department of Clinical Neuroscience  
Division of Insurance Medicine

**Research project**

**Multiple Sclerosis and Sickness Absence**

We, since many years, run an interdisciplinary research project on MS and sickness absence.

There are today around 18 000 individuals in Sweden diagnosed with multiple sclerosis (MS). MS is the most common degenerative neurological disease among young adults and usually debuts between the age of 20 and 40; age periods when the activities in working life often are high. For many MS-patients the disease means a significant, but varied, disability with a decreased work capacity. MS is a very heterogenic disease and affects individuals in varying degree and with vastly different patterns and progression. At current date the knowledge on MS patient’s sickness absence and which factors that affect their sickness absences is very limited. The overall aim of the project is to, among people with MS, a) map the patterns of sickness absence b) identify risk factors for sickness absence and c) increase the knowledge on the situation when on sick leave or disability pension, to get a knowledgebase for interventions. Several different studies are ongoing in the project.

**Project members**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kristina Alexanderson</td>
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Financial support has been received from Biogen and the Swedish Research Council on Health, Working Life and Welfare.

**Publications**

**Articles in international peer reviewed scientific journals**


**Articles in Swedish scientific journals**


**Abstracts accepted for publication at scientific conferences**


disability pension; a register study with matched controls. 23rd European Congress of Psychiatry, Vienna, Austria, 28-31 March 2015.


11. Wiberg M, Friberg E, Palmer E, Tinghög P, Alexanderson K, Stenbeck M. Earnings among multiple sclerosis patients compared to individuals without MS, in total and for different educational levels and types of occupations - a longitudinal population-based cohort study. ECTRIMS Meeting; Barcelona, Spain, 7-10 October, 2015.


