



Annual Report 2023

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Annual Report 2023

Department of Epidemiology and Global Health

Umeå International School of Public Health (UISPH)

Prologue

To all staff, students, collaborators and other colleagues,

In today's interconnected world, we face multiple simultaneous crises affecting health, human rights and the environment, with the impact of war further exacerbating these challenges. Our commitment to meaningful research and strong partnerships is more important than ever. While some question the value of research and education, we remain convinced that free and critical thinking is the foundation of a democratic society that embraces diversity as a strength, not a threat.

This year has been a mixture of great successes and significant challenges. One major setback was the Swedish government's decision to halve research funding administered by SIDA. This drastic cut affects our partnerships in Tanzania, Bolivia and Mozambique. In addition, the sudden cancellation of funding for "development research" administered by the Swedish Research Council in June sparked widespread protests among researchers and practitioners.

Despite these setbacks, our department has shown resilience and creativity. We've made progress in research and education, and this report details some of the key highlights. One notable example is our enduring collaboration with the Bassett Research Institute in upstate New York, which continues to provide valuable insights into cardiovascular disease prevention and health promotion. This 30-year partnership underscores our commitment and the value we place on long-term relationships. Similarly, our work with Sami communities is deepening our understanding of Indigenous health issues, reflecting the importance of sustained and respectful collaboration.

This report aims to capture our collective efforts to improve global health through dedicated research and training. We are driven by our mission, uplifted by our partnerships, and motivated by the real-world impact of our work. Thank you to our faculty, staff, students and partners around the world.

We thank Karin Johansson, Susanne Walther and Miguel San Sebastián for their support and work with this year's Annual Report.

ANNA-KARIN HURTIG
Head of Department

PER E GUSTAFSSON
Deputy Head of Department

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Organisational setting

Organisation, Leadership and Staff

The Department of Epidemiology and Global Health (EpiGH) is shaped by a set of key values that are central to the way in which we conduct our work, research, education and engagement with society. These efforts are underpinned by our ambition which is to contribute to equitable and sustainable improvements in health and welfare across the globe. We work with a broader definition of global health including public health issues in Sweden, as well as in the rest of the world. Our mission, vision, and values are presented on page 24.

EpiGH is a multidisciplinary research, education and teaching environment. At EpiGH we host Umeå International School of Public Health with Masters Programmes' in Public Health (MPH) and an extensive doctoral programme (PhD). Additionally, since 2020 we also have the responsibility for coordinating the one-year Master's programme in Working life and Health (ALOHA).

A guiding principle of our organization is to ensure that each member of the staff has the possibility to contribute, as far as possible, to our collective work, both in the short- and long-term. Our Research Strategic Group and the Educational Strategic Group have key responsibilities to facilitate and guide future developments in this regard. The Midpoint Researchers' Group includes post-docs and others at the beginning of their research careers. The Academic Dialogue Spaces having emerged from bottom-up initiatives encourage increased scientific dialogue and promote the development of cutting-edge expertise. Our research and education operate under three research profiles: 1) *Emerging Global Health Challenges*, 2) *Health Systems and Policy*, and 3) *Northern Sweden Health and Welfare*, which are consolidating and strengthening every year. (see page 32).

The Extended Leadership Group, which meets once a month, comprised the following members in 2023:

Anna-Karin Hurtig	Head of Department
Per Gustafsson	Deputy Head of Department
Marie Lindkvist	Study Director, MPH
Karin Johansson	Administrative Coordinator
Sara Forsberg	Finance Coordinator
Isabel Goicolea	Study Director, Research education
Helene Johansson	Study Director, ALOHA
Anneli Ivarsson	Rep. Research Strategic Group
Isabel Goicolea	Rep. Research Strategic Group
Cartrine Anyango-Odhiambo,	Rep. Doctoral Students
Petter Stoor & Ida Linander	Rep. Midpoint Group
Fredrik Norström	Rep. Working Environment
Raman Preet	Rep. Equal Opportunities

EpiGH has about 60 employed staff and additionally approximately 60 affiliated researchers and doctoral students. We benefit from wide ranging prior education and experience in our membership. This includes physicians, nurses, psychologists, economists, social workers, dentists, statisticians, physiotherapists, and nutritionists. This broad mix of experience - across clinical medicine and the social sciences - greatly enriches our multidisciplinary research and teaching environment.

All staff are encouraged to participate in our monthly staff meetings (PUMP) and the Department Days that are held each semester.

Staff



Camilla Andersson. Doctoral student in public health, MA in media and communication, journalist. Research interests are in climate change, mitigation, adaptation, sustainable communication and health aspects. The thesis project focuses on the potential contribution of households to climate change mitigation and whether health aspects, as eg gains from mitigating activities, can be used as triggers when communicating needs for low carbon pathways



Cartrine Nancy Anyango. Doctoral student in Public Health Science at the Department of Epidemiology and Global health with an affiliation at Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research (CEDAR), master's in Public Health (MPH), and an undergraduate background in sociology. Her doctoral research thesis focuses on Intimate Partner Violence service provision to women with disabilities and how the current services address women with disabilities needs. Her research interests include gender-based violence, sexual and reproductive health, and rights and health systems



Cynthia Anticon. Postdoctoral fellow also affiliated to the Dept. of Odontology at Umeå University. Dentist with training in epidemiology & public health (MSc & PhD). Currently working in a project focused on social inequities in oral health and care affecting the Swedish adult population. Research interests involve social inequities in health and health care with focus on intersectional perspectives, health systems with focus on policy and implementation.



Mazen Baroudi. Research fellow oriented toward health system research at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health in Umeå University in Sweden and affiliated as a postdoctoral fellow at the Department of Social Welfare in Bukkyo University in Japan. Interested in health system research, migration health and sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Ellacarin Blind. Project assistant (20%) in the project: Healthy ageing for Indigenous communities in India and Sweden with focus on nutrition and culturally adequate food provision



Hanna Blåhed. Doctoral student focusing on the ongoing reform of the Swedish primary health care system, from the perspective of rural communities in Västerbotten/Norrbottn.



Jennie Brandén. Post-doctoral Fellow with a PhD in Political Science. Part of the research group *Lávuvuo* at EpiGH focusing on Sámi health. Currently works with a research project funded by the Sámi parliament focusing on the issue of violence against Sámi women in Sweden from a mixed methods approach. Research interests also involve critical studies of the politics of public safety and gender equality, and more broadly feminist and postcolonial perspectives on politics and the political.



Hanna Bäckström Olofsson. Research fellow with a PhD in Gender Studies. My research mainly centers on social work in civil society and gendered violence. Currently conducting research on public and civic counter-segregation efforts, the young women's shelter movement in Sweden, and the social services' responses to gender-based violence.



Dean Carson. PhD MSc MA. Guest Professor in Cultural Geography. Interested in who lives in, works in and visits sparsely populated areas. Key projects include examining the relationships between urban and rural areas in sparsely populated areas, prospects for local-led innovation in health and care systems, and new approaches to service delivery. Leads partnerships with universities in Australia, Canada and Austria.



Maria Emmelin. Professor of Global Health at Department of Clinical Sciences, Social Medicine and Global Health, Lund University. She has a special interest in public health evaluation and the social determinants of health. Her research has focussed on self-rated health and the social aspects of cardiovascular disease prevention in northern Sweden. She has worked with the HIV/AIDS epidemic in Tanzania, smoking cessation in South Africa, reproductive health in Ethiopia, and violence against women (and children) in Ethiopia, Tanzania and Indonesia. She is co-editor with Global Health Action



Inna Feldman. Associate professor and Docent in health economics. Research and teaching on health economics, Theoretical and empirical health-economics evaluations



Osvaldo Fonseca. Senior Research Assistant, holds a Ph.D. in Veterinary Science. He is also affiliated with the Department of Clinical Microbiology at Umeå University and actively participates in various research projects related to "Complications following COVID-19 – register studies."



Sara Forsberg. Financial coordinator. Responsible for budgeting, economic planning and accounting.



Isabel Goicolea. MD, Professor. Her research interests are in gender relations, men's violence against women, young people's health and sexual and reproductive rights. Currently involved in research on youth health in Sweden, India and Zambia, and gender-based violence in Sweden and Spain.



Anne Gotfredsen. PhD, post doc fellow. Research interests include youth mental health, gender, and leisure. Currently involved in research projects on the Swedish youth clinics, and on initiatives for young people who are neither in education, training, or employment. Does research and teaching within qualitative methods, focusing on visual methods.



Per Gustafsson. PhD in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Associate Professor of Epidemiology, and Docent of Public Health. Deputy and Assistant Head of Department, and Chair of the Program Council for our Master's Programs. Research in social epidemiology, with my main area of interest being a various aspects of social inequities in health and care, particularly from an intersectional perspective.



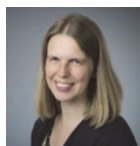
Isa Norvell Gustavsson. Postdoctoral Fellow with a PhD in Medical Science (Public Health). Currently working in a project focusing on initiatives for young people who are nether in employment, education or training (NEETs). Research interests involve how people relate to work and the welfare system in relation to work, unemployment and sickness absence. Of particular interest are social norms in relation to work and its influence on individuals' actions and mindset.



Ulrika Harju. PhD research administrator and administrator for Masterprogram in working life and health, ALOHA.



Henrik Holmberg. Associate professor with a PhD in statistics. For the last ten years I have been working as a consultant statistician in many different projects with medical applications. Studies on Hernia surgery and the Swedish hernia registry has timewise been my largest area of work. The last years I have focused more on adherence to medication and been studying that as a member of VIPVIZAs medication group.



Anna-Karin Hurtig, MD, Dr PH, DTM&H, MSc. Professor in public health. Head of the Department. Main areas of interest: international health policy and systems research, community-based health systems and primary health care, and migrant health. Capacity building.



Elisabet Höög, MD in Public Health. Research fellow. MA in work- and organizational psychology. Research focus on facilitation of and support structures for change and development in welfare organizations. Research coordinator at FoU Socialtjänst, Region Västerbotten.



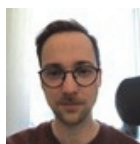
Ulf Högberg, MD, Professor emeritus in obstetrics and gynecology. Research in global reproductive health, clinical and perinatal epidemiology.



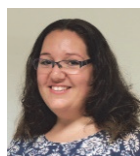
Anneli Ivarsson, Professor in Epidemiology and Public Health Sciences. MD with specialist training in Paediatrics and a PhD in Paediatrics. Consultant at the Public Health Unit, Strategic Management Office of Region Västerbotten. Within the Medical Programme leading the development of a strand of Community Medicine throughout the 6-year educational programme. Nationally and internationally known for decades of coeliac disease research. Scientific leader of the Salut Child-Health Intervention Programme in Västerbotten.



Urban Janlert, MD, Professor emeritus in Public Health, specialist in Social Medicine. Research in social epidemiology (unemployment, social deprivation).



Albert Brunet Johansson, Project assistant with a background in sociology. Involved in research concerning access to sexual and reproductive health and rights for young migrants, as well as food resilience and community services in rural regions.



Angelica Johansson, Programme Administrator of the Public Health Programmes. Secretary for the Programme council for master programmes in public health (PRPH) and responsible for the administration in Selma. Also working with student support and course administration



Helene Johansson, PhD in Public Health. Research fellow. Director of studies for the Master's programme in Working life and Health. Research areas: risk communication, community health promotion, prevention, implementation, collaboration/integration. Teaching subjects: health, health promotion, prevention, working life and health, qualitative methodology. Supervision of students at the master's and PhD level.



Karin Johansson, Administrative coordinator. Responsible for departmental and staff administration.



Klara Johansson, PhD, research fellow in epidemiology and public health. Research on social inequalities of health, primarily child and adolescent health; currently working on how unemployment of parents is related to mental health of adolescents. In 2021 started a partnership with Region Västerbotten about evaluation of social differences in health in the region. Ended her employment Sept 30.



Frida Jonsson. Research fellow and Docent with a PhD in Public Health. Conducts research with a focus on theory driven evaluations of complex interventions that centres largely on how access to and experiences of health and social care can be improved for marginalised groups, especially youth and elderly.



Håkan Jonsson. Statistician, associate professor and docent in cancer epidemiology. Research areas are early cancer detection/screening and register based epidemiology. Principal investigator for projects related to mammography screening with focus on effectiveness, overdiagnosis, tumour characteristics and treatment.



Ulrika Järvalho. Department administrator. Working with web and communication, research courses, PhD administration and project administration. Ended her employment August 2023.



Evelina Liliequist. Senior research assistant with a phd in Ethnology. She is also an affiliated researcher at Humlab, Umeå University and affiliated researcher in the research cluster TechnAct, Gothenburg University. Currently works with a qualitative interview study, which is carried out on behalf of the Public Health Agency of Sweden. The aim of the report is to gain a deeper understanding of the health and living conditions of LGBTQ people over 65 years old. Other research interests revolves around digital ethnography, space and place, and qualitative methods and ethics. Ended her employment Feb 2023.



Anette Edin-Liljegren. Adjunct senior lecturer with a PhD in medicine. Her research is in nursing, public and rural health, more specifically about new models for access to health care with support from technology, from the perspectives of patients, next of kin and professionals'. She is also doing research about health and physical and psychosocial risk factors in the Reindeer herding Sami's working environment. Research strategist/coordinator, Centre for Rural Medicine, and R & E manager in Southern Lapland, Region Västerbotten.



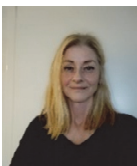
Ida Linander. PhD in public health, Docent and research fellow, MD. Does qualitative research about LGBTQ people's experiences of health and healthcare and also about broader issues of gender, sexual health and healthcare systems.



Lars Lindholm. Professor in Health economics. Studies on equity in health economic evaluation and the use of epidemiological data in the distribution of health care resources.



Marie Lindkvist. Director of Studies at the Department. Associate professor and Docent in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, PhD in Statistics and B.Sc in Mathematics. Appointed as Distinguished teacher in Umeå University's pedagogical qualification model. Lecturer in biostatistics and statistical consultant. Responsible for statistical considerations and analyses in the Salut child health intervention programme in Västerbotten.



Maria Lindström. Associate professor, with a PhD in Occupational Therapy. My research mainly focuses on developing and evaluating complex intervention- and implementation programs, with health equity and intersectional foundations. PI of the Everyday Life Rehabilitation program targeting persons with serious mental illness living in supported housing accommodations; PI of the Unite Youths targeting university students' mental health; and connected researcher with KI involving the development of Narratively Engaged Care, in elderly care.



Kristina Lindvall. Dietitian, master in Food and Nutrition, PhD in Public Health. Associate Professor in Public health. Conducting research on Complex interventions and their implementation (in Västerbotten, Sweden and Upstate New York), Weight maintenance (in Västerbotten, Sweden and Upstate New York, US), Risk communication within CVD. Conducting research on how to improve the health system response to social-emotionally vulnerable preschool children in Västerbotten, Sweden. Also engaged in an interdisciplinary research program investigating the links between health, livestock-based livelihoods, human well-being, and land management and governance in Uganda and Kenya.



Wolfgang Lohr. Medical data manager, involved in different research projects.



Carina Lunther. Study administrator and student support. Administration of research courses, single courses and program courses.



Curt Löfgren. Associate professor (senior consultant). Lecturing and research in health economics. Presently involved in developing tools for the economic evaluation of interventions aiming at improving lives for socially disadvantaged children and adolescents.



Göran Lönnberg. Statistician, data scientist, research assistant, involved in different research projects.



Kaspar Meili. PhD student in health economics, working on CALY-SWE - Capability-Adjusted Life Years. CALY-SWE are based on Sen's capability approach and can be used in similarly to QALY, for example in economic evaluations. CALY-SWE aim to measure quality of life in terms of accessible capabilities, giving individuals freedom how to realize their lives according to their values.



Paola Mosquera Mendez. Psychologist, MSc, PhD. Researcher. Her research focuses on the evaluation of public health policies, the measurement and explanation of health inequalities and the application of an equity lens to public health interventions. She is currently leading a research project exploring how to apply a life course approach to analyze socio economic inequalities in cardiovascular health and another one evaluating the effects of the primary care choice reform on population health and socioeconomic inequalities in health in Sweden.



Anna Månsdotter. Associate professor in public health. Working at the Public Health Agency of Sweden (governmental assignments and scientific support). Research and teaching on public health, economics/ethics, and gender equality.



Fredinah Namatovu. Associate professor and Docent, PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health. Also affiliated with CEDAR (Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research) at Umeå University. Her main research focuses on gender-based violence, reproductive health, disability, and population ageing in Sweden and in Sub-Saharan Africa. She is the research leader for two ongoing research projects at Umeå University: i) the DIS-IPV project, studying how to strengthen service provision for people with disabilities that experience intimate-partner violence in Sweden, 2019-2024, funded by Forte; and ii) the RESPOND project – a project aimed at rethinking access and utilization of reproductive healthcare, and domestic violence services among women with disabilities in Uganda, funded by the Swedish research council, 2023-2026.



Nawi Ng. Visiting Professor of Epidemiology and Global Health. His research interests are ageing and disability, chronic non-communicable disease, behavioural change intervention and implementation research. Lead two research projects at UmU: (i) a multidisciplinary research programme on digital coaching for behaviour change in Västerbotten County (Forte Programme, 2018-2024); and (ii) implementation research for integrating tuberculosis, diabetes mellitus and smoking prevention programme in India and Indonesia (VR Research Link, 2019-2023).



Lena Maria Nilsson. Project coordinator with a PhD in Public Health. Part of the research group *Lávuvuo* at EpiGH focusing on Sámi health. Worked together with Petter Stoor and Miguel San Sebastian on the reporting of the Sámi Health on Equal Terms (SámiHET) survey – released in March 1st 2023. Is funded by Forte 2023 – 2025 for a project on traditional food in elderly care in Sápmi and India in a collaboration project with India and in collaboration with SLU Uppsala.



Maria Nilsson. Professor in public health; social scientist with a PhD in epidemiology and public health sciences. Her main focus is climate change and health, with specific interest in adaptation, policy, communication and vulnerable populations. She also has an interest in research on tobacco control and prevention. Affiliated to the Public health unit, Region Västerbotten.



Faustine Nkulu Kalengayi. MD, MPH, PhD. Senior Research Assistant. Research on Migrant health and access to health care services. Collaborative research with the Public Health Agency of Sweden on HIV/STIs and migrants' sexual and reproductive health and rights. I am also the university's contact person for Umeå University's part of the international Mukwege Chair network.



Margareta Norberg. Senior researcher and Docent, MD, PhD in Family Medicine and Epidemiology. Long term experience of population wide clinical prevention of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) within the Västerbotten Intervention Programme (VIP). Research focused on prevention of CVD, currently mainly in VIPVIZA, a pragmatic randomized controlled trial nested in the VIP, ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT 01849575. Affiliated also to the Dep of Public Health and Clinical Medicine.



Fredrik Norström. Docent in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Associate Professor in Health Economics. Recognized teacher at Umeå University. Principal investigator for the research projects Is better public health worth the price? - A health economic evaluation of increased staffing in home care and Covid-19 and home care: a high price for new lessons learned. Research interests are: i) health economic modelling, ii) unemployment and health, iii) work environment and health, iv) development of statistical methodology within epidemiology and public health, and v) celiac disease.



Lennarth Nyström. Associate professor and Docent in epidemiology, Senior consultant. Research focus on evaluation of the effectiveness of mammography screening in Sweden, effectiveness of treatment of hypertension in Västerbotten and efficacy of health coaching to promote healthier lifestyle among older people at moderate risk of cardiovascular disease, diabetes and depression in Sweden. Other research includes medical adherence to endocrine treatment for breast cancer in Sweden, epidemiological studies of hip fractures and hip arthroplasty in Umeå



Monica Nyström. Associate professor in Medical management, organisation, and innovation. Leads the FORTE project LST-STRATEGY – Strategies for large system transformations in a decentralized healthcare system and the Vinnova financed projects “Develop the developers of the future!”, “Innovative development in the North - New forms for supporting innovative development in large healthcare organizations”, and the SALAR funded “FK-Hälsa Works part time at Umeå University with her main employment at Medical Management Centre, Department LIME, at Karolinska Institutet where she is a research group leader for the SOLIID-group.



Solveig Petersen. PhD in Pediatrics, Associate professor and Docent in Epidemiology and Public Health. Ongoing research target: epidemiology, measurement methodology and prevention in the fields of mental health, health related quality of life, recurrent pain and overweight in children and adolescents. Principal investigator of the Study of Health in school-children from Umeå (the SISU project). Also holds an analyst position at the Public Health Agency of Sweden, unit of Mental Health and Suicide prevention. Honorary Associate Professor at Deakin University, Australia.



Raman Preet. BDS, MSc, MPH. Global Health Professional. Diverse experience as a clinical dentist, global health educator, and EU-funded scientific research project manager. Currently, working as coordinator of the EU Climate-Health Cluster (formed of six Horizon Europe projects) representing project IDAlert. Lecture in global health, SDGs, communication and collaboration. Supports the EpiGH leadership as its Equal Opportunity Officer.



Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström. Associate professor in health economics, Docent in global health. Research on multisectoral health promotion and prevention interventions from health economic and health equity perspectives. Project leader for KAMSO: decision support for interventions against social exclusion. Teaching health economic theory e.g., provider payment.



Karl-Erik Renhorn. Research coordinator. Provides information, advice and support in relation to external funding to the researchers at Epidemiology and Global Health. Also assists researchers in the development of grant proposals and the management of research projects. Teaches on and co-ordinates the postgraduate course “How to write grant applications”, and co-ordinates the thesis courses of our Master’s programmes. Also affiliated with Umeå University’s research Support Office.



Linda Richter Sundberg. Research fellow, Docent, PhD public health MSc Psychology. Health systems researcher with focus on policymaking and implementation processes in health systems. Ongoing research on e-health innovations for behavior change and accessibility of mental health services in the health system. Teaches evidence-based policymaking, evaluation in public health and qualitative research methods. Coordinator of the Network of implementation research and practice in health and social services. Ended her employment September 2023.



Arian Rostami. I am a doctoral student at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health. Also affiliated with the Police Education Unit and the Umeå Centre for Gender Studies (UCGS). My doctoral project is on work-related stress, gender-based and sexual harassment, and job satisfaction among police officers working in vulnerable areas in Stockholm. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches are applied to conduct this project. The focus of the quantitative phase is on work-related stress, gender-based and sexual harassment, and job satisfaction in police officers. In addition, in the qualitative phase, gender-based and sexual harassment is explored in police officers to depict a broader picture of the problem and deepen our obtained quantitative findings.



Klas-Göran Sahlén. R.N, PhD. Associate professor. Studies in the area of aging, prevention and health economics. Lecturer in health economics, ethics and qualitative methods. Responsible for the software Open Code. Research in Vietnam and Tanzania linked to PhD projects. Part of the Somali-Swedish network and course director for the training in Somalia. Coordinator for Nordplus project Nordic Network for Global Health.



Miguel San Sebastián. Professor in public health; Medical Doctor with a MSc degree in control of infectious diseases and a PhD degree in environmental epidemiology. He practiced public health during 12 years among indigenous communities of the Amazon basin of Ecuador. Currently working as Professor teaching different courses at Master and PhD level. His current research is focused on strengthening health systems in low income countries and social inequalities in health in the Swedish context.



Eva Selin. Education administrator and Program counsellor of the Public health programme. Working with student support, programme and course administration.



Julia Schröders. Postdoctoral fellow also affiliated to the Dept. of Sociology and CEDAR. Training in medical anthropology (MA) and epidemiology & public health (MSc & PhD). Interested in social network theory/analysis and the construction of social and health vulnerabilities across the adult life course in both Sweden/Europe and low- and middle-income countries with ongoing work in Indonesia, Nepal, and Somalia. Teaching basic and advanced methods in epidemiology and social theories for global health. Editor for Global Health Action; facilitator for the research space ‘Emerging Global Health Challenges’.



André Sjöberg. Doctoral Student at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health focusing on health economics and outcomes research. His doctoral thesis is based on a randomized controlled trial evaluating the effect, cost-effectiveness, and implementation of Everyday Life Rehabilitation (ELR), which is a recovery- and activity-oriented rehabilitation program for persons with extensive psychiatric disabilities living in supported housing facilities.



Jon Petter Stoor. Psychologist, PhD. FORTE-funded Postdoc at EpiGH focusing on health of Sámi youth. Collaborates extensively with Sámi NGOs and does commissioned research for the Sámi parliament and the Swedish Public Health Agency. Teaches mainly on Sámi and Indigenous health issues and coordinates the Sámi health research group *Lávvu*. Part time employed (20%) at the Centre for Sámi Health Research at UiT in Tromsø, Norway.



Sun Sun. Research Fellow, Docent, PhD in Health Economics. Member at EuroQol Group and ISPORE. Works in the field of health outcomes research and health economics, specialized in patient-reported outcomes and real-world evidence. Teaching and supervision for Master students and PhD students.



Moses Tetui. Associate professor at the department of Epidemiology and Global Health and a Postdoctoral researcher at the University of Waterloo, Canada. Moses is a Health Systems Scholar, his current research works include building confidence in Covid-19 vaccines in Canada by engaging with diverse stakeholders such as Public Health authorities, community members and a multidisciplinary research team. And examining the impact of COVID-19 on livelihoods of women living in urban informal settlements in Uganda. His other research works include, advancing community health systems, contraceptive use in urban informal settlements, access to maternal and neonatal health services, health managers capacity development and knowledge translation. He is motivated by a desire to make health systems Inclusive, Socially Accountable and Resilient.



Masoud Vaezghasemi. PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health. Current research focuses on social-emotional health among preschool children in Northern Sweden. His research interest lies within social and contextual determinants of health and health inequalities. Also interested in the double burden of malnutrition in Low- and Middle-Income Countries.



Stig Wall. Professor Emeritus of epidemiology and health care research. Epidemiologist with a social science background. Research on epidemiology and international health, environmental and social epidemiology, prevention and medical technology assessment.



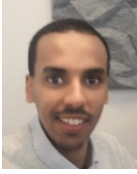
Susanne Walther. Financial administrator. Working with finance/budget and departmental administration. Also involved in the project on celiac disease.



Lars Weinehall. Senior Professor in Epidemiology and Family Medicine. Was 1985-2007 the coordinator of development and countrywide implementation of one of the world's largest ongoing population-based intervention program for the prevention of cardiovascular diseases (CVD) and diabetes, the Västerbotten Intervention Program (VIP). Research on analysis of the role of primary care in population-oriented prevention and supervised a number of PhD students both from Sweden, the US, Indonesia and Vietnam.



Anna Westerlund. Post doc. PhD. MSc in work- and organizational psychology. Currently her research is focused on knowledge governance and implementation processes in healthcare and social services.



Fethi Mohammed Yusuf Doctoral student at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health. Engaged in a project that emphasizes shifting the focus from group averages to individual heterogeneity to better understand the distribution of Body Mass Index (BMI) over time and across social and geographical contexts in Sweden.



Malin Öhrling Doctoral student, MSc in Public health and Nursing. Working in research project concerning work environment in home care, with special focus on possible effects of the covid-19 pandemic. Main research interests are occupational health and work environment.

Finances

The total revenues for this year amounted to 61 MSEK, out of which approximately 68% originated from sources external to the University (Figure 1). Our main activities, i.e., education and research, are reflected in the budget. Both are key activities in our daily work, although research activities are the largest component (Table 1). This year both

revenues and costs were a bit higher than last year, and we ended up with a small deficit. We had planned for an overall deficit of -3.7 MSEK for using our regulatory capital, but most due to commissioned research having less activities, we ended up with a result with a net loss of -523 TSEK (Table 1).

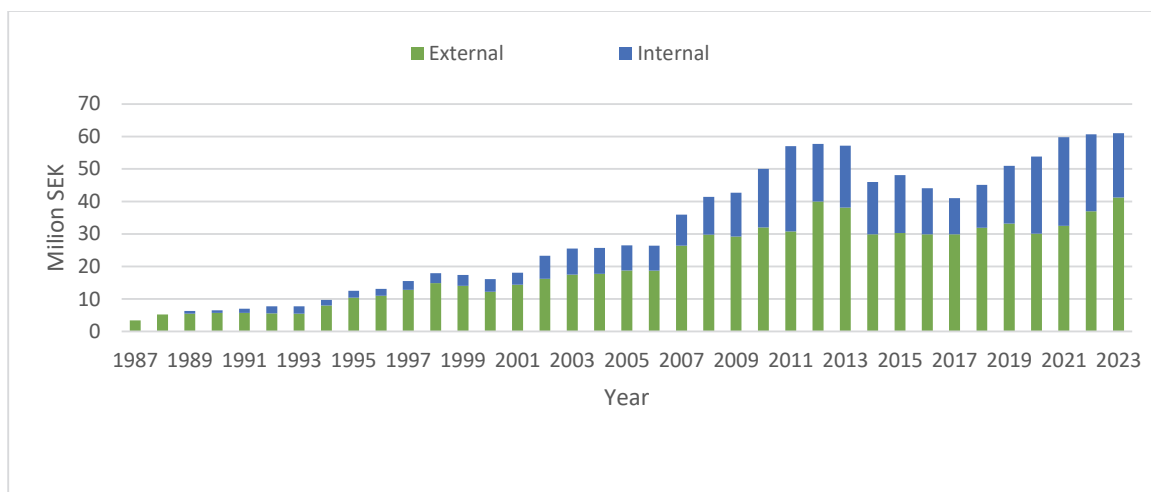


Figure 1. Annual income, EpiGH 1987-2023, showing internal and external funding.

Table 1. Revenues and costs 2023

Profit and Loss			
Medical Faculty			
3850 Epidemiologi och global hälsa			
	Department	Education	Research
	Outcome (tkr)	Outcome (tkr)	Outcome (tkr)
	2023-01	2023-01	2023-01
	- 2023-12	- 2023-12	- 2023-12
Revenues			
Government Grants	19 561	5 936	13 626
Co-financing	64	0	64
External Grants	23 780	497	23 282
Commissioned Grants/Student fees	11 072	4 535	6 537
Accrued external grants	-1 128	-403	-725
Sales Revenue	7 664	477	7 187
Other Revenues	9	0	9
Total	61 022	11 041	49 980
Verksamhetens kostnader			
Personnel costs	-41 820	-7 890	-33 930
Other personnel costs	-339	-37	-301
Premises costs	-791	-128	-663
Operating costs	-9 073	-1 913	-7 160
Overhead UGEM	-7 808	-1 959	-5 849
Overhead FGEM	-1 620	-509	-1 111
Overhead IGEM	0	0	0
Financial costs	-11	-1	-10
Depreciation	-83	0	-83
Funds for transfer	5 269	2 141	3 128
Funds for transfer	-5 269	-2 141	-3 128
Total	-61 545	-12 437	-49 108
Annual Result			
Result	-523	-1 395	872
Total	-523	-1 395	872

Our education income amounted to 11.0 MSEK, out of which 5.9 MSEK was support via governmental grants to our MPH programmes and now also for our ALOHA programme. The other dominating source was tuition fees (Table 1). A few students paid these out-of-pocket, but the majority were awarded scholarships from different sources: *Erling-Persson Foundation*, the

Swedish Institute, and *Umeå University Scholarship*. Figure 2 shows that EpiGH is continue having the highest number of student fees within the Medical Faculty but we are seeing a trend that we have less students especially with student that have student fees and we will in 2024 start working on marketing for countries in Europe and Sweden.

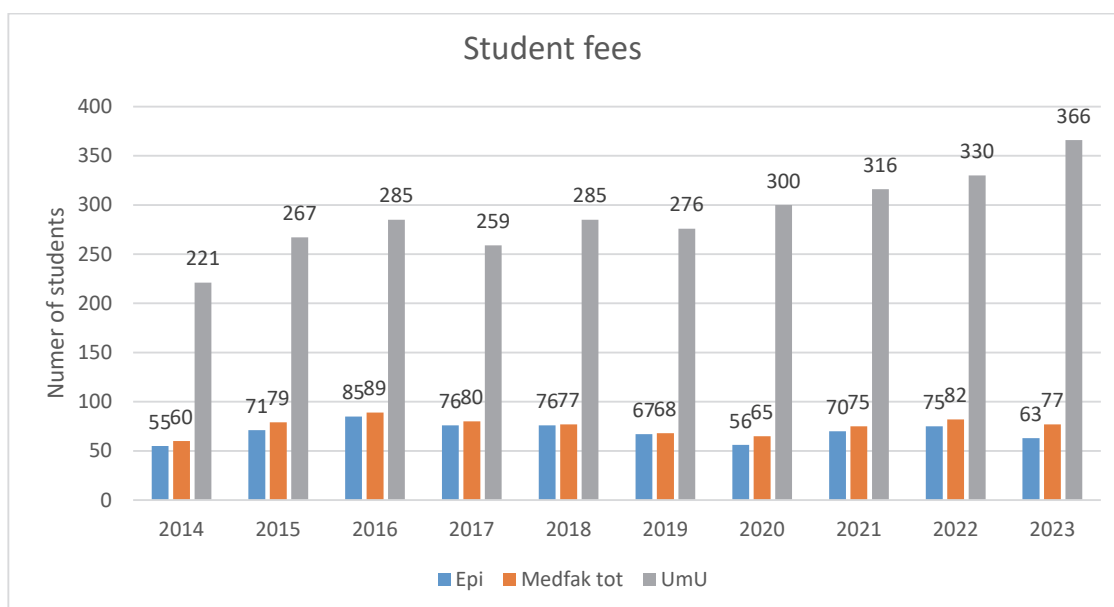


Figure 2. Fee paying students, EpiGH, Medical Faculty, University, 2014-2023.

However, as in previous years a major part of research funding 68% in 2023 was from external sources comprising both grants and contracts.

Our external revenues for commissioned research have been reduced this year after years with increasing, (Table 1). One significant reason for this is a reduction of the contracts we have with the Swedish Public Health Agency and the Sami Parliament of Sweden. The Largest contributor (67.2%) for external grants continues being FORTE-Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare. Other benefactors are the VR-

Swedish Research Council and SIDA-Swedish International Development Agency (see Figure 3).

Our education outcome had a deficit of -1.395 TSEK this year, a much higher deficit than anticipated (Table 1). The result for research was 872 TSEK, next year our focus will be to have a deficit and not a profit. It is uncertain times, and it is key to have focus on our finance during coming years.

In the year 2023, our annual income has never been higher since 1987 the beginning of EpiGH (Figure 1). We saw this already in 2021 and are hopeful that this trend will continue in 2024.

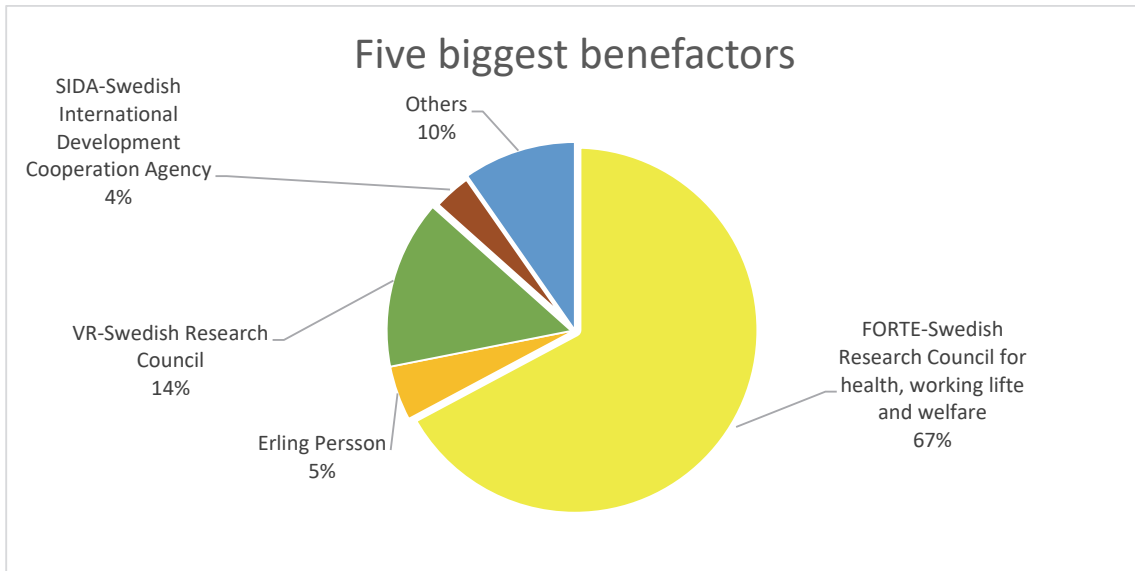


Figure 3. Main grant sources, EpiGH, 2023.

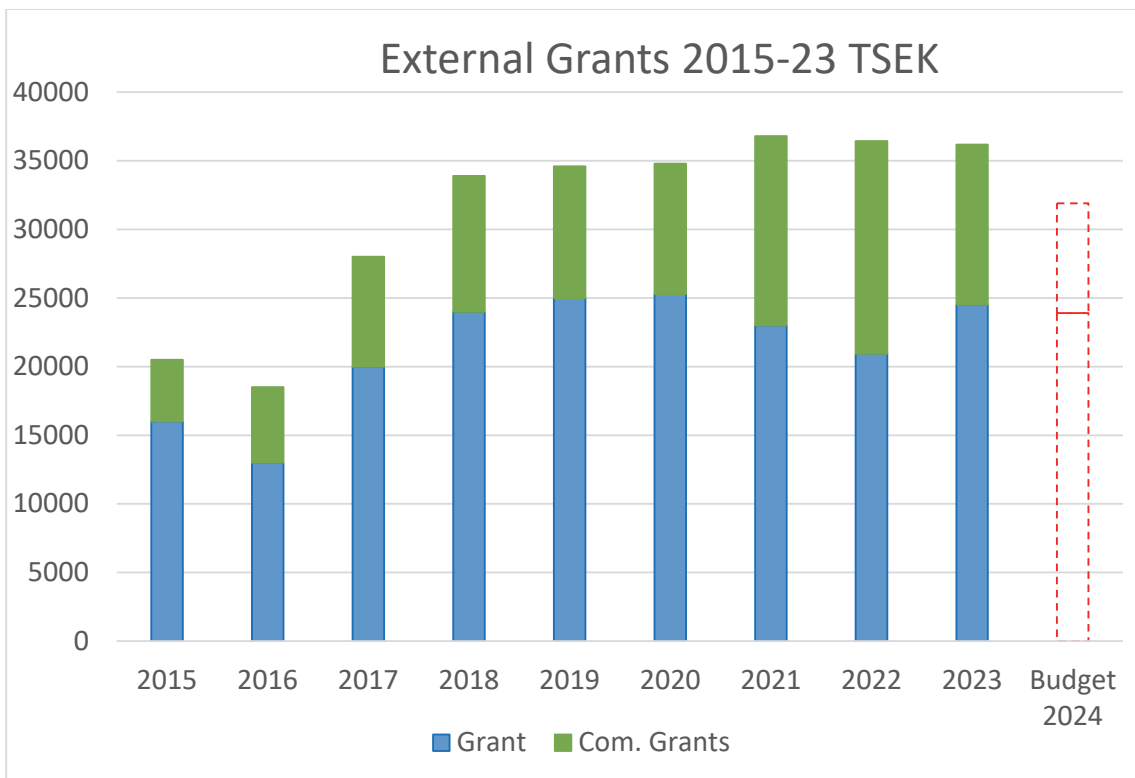


Figure 4. Incoming grants, EpiGH, 2015-2023.

Outputs

There are no measures that can fully evaluate our activities. However, one outcome criterion is the number of publications (Figure 5). The ups and downs of the curve result reflect the processes leading up to a publication, i.e. from a research idea over project planning, data collection, and analysis, and ultimately to the measurable outcome - the published paper.

In 2023 three PhD students successfully finalised their studies (Figure 6). At the end

of 2023, 38 PhD students were associated with our Department, including five new students registered during the year.

The Medical Faculty budget model uses three parameters for the assessment of productivity: publications, PhD exams, and external grants. Each department is given a budget, based partly on this assessment system. EpiGH has been increasingly competitive in this regard.

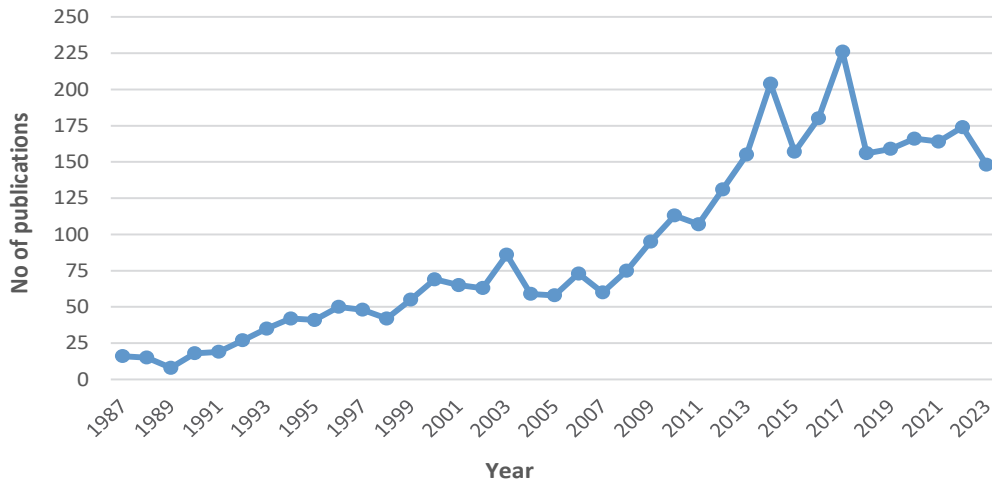


Figure 5. International peer reviewed publications by EpiGH members, 1986-2023 (registered in the publication database DiVA).

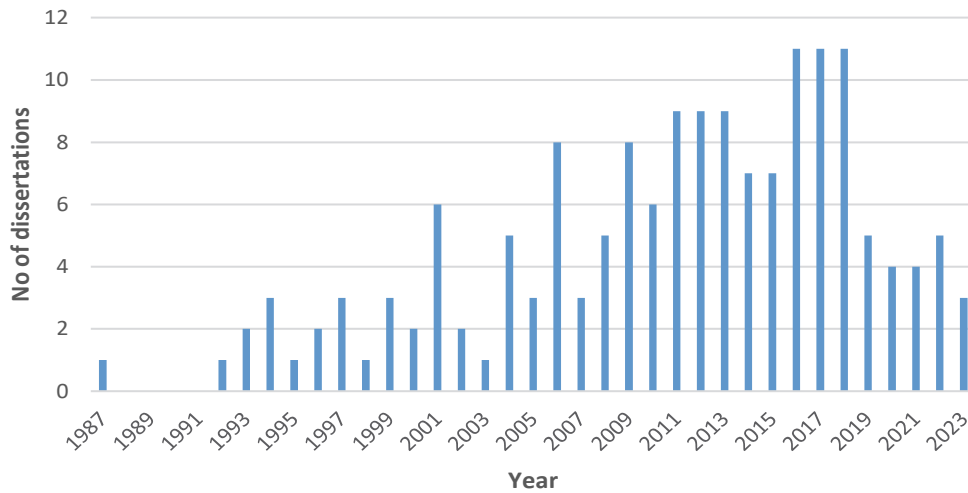


Figure 6. EpiGH, doctoral dissertations, 1987-2023.

Highlights of the year

Travels and meetings during the year

We present in this section some of the activities and visits carried out during the year. There were many more, equally important, but these will give you a flavour of our diversity in research interests and collaborations.

Travel to Cape Town to attend IHEA 2023 meeting

I was excited to present the CALY-SWE valuation study at the IHEA presentation 2023 in Cape town, South Africa. After working on this study for around two years, it was rewarding to present the work. Faces that I just knew as collections of black letters

on paper suddenly got a face attached, reminding me that researchers are people after all. With the acceptance of the paper two months after, it is now finally possible to conduct cost-effectiveness evaluations using CALY-SWE, read more on <https://www.caly.se>. Besides that, visiting Cape town with my dear colleagues Fredrik Norström and Panduleni Penipawa Shimanda was a very enjoyable experience on its own.

Kaspar Meili



Crafting narratives for change; meeting in Quito

May 2023 Isabel Goicolea and Hanna Bäckström travelled to Quito, Ecuador for the first meeting of the research project ‘Crafting narratives for change: building networks between feminist researchers and activists for advocacy for safe abortion in Latin America’. We met with colleagues from Ecuador and Bolivia in Quito. We had an intense week discussing the situation of abortion and the feminist movement in Ecuador, Bolivia and Sweden and the methodology of narrative production.



Isabel Goicolea and Hanna Bäckström

Mazen visiting Japan

As part of my postdoctoral affiliation funded by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), I had the opportunity to visit my host, Professor Hajime Takeuchi, at Bukkyo University in Kyoto, Japan. This visit was a valuable aspect of my professional journey. Over the course of one month, I engaged in academic and research activities at Bukkyo University and had the privilege of being invited to present parts of my research at Shiga University of Medical Science in Shiga, and at the National Center for Global Health and Medicine in Tokyo.

Mazen Baroudi



30 years of research collaboration with the Bassett Research Institute, Cooperstown, New York

In 2023, it was 30 years since the Swedish-American collaboration between the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health (EPIGH) at Umeå University and the Bassett Research Institute (BRI) in Cooperstown, Upstate New York, began. Therefore, four researchers, Lars Weinehall, Kristina Lindvall, Linda Sundberg, and Lars Jerdén, from EPIGH were invited to join BRI colleagues in summarizing the many years of experience and discussing the direction for future research collaborations.

The collaboration between EPIGH and BRI began in 1994, driven by a shared interest in developing local community intervention programs for the prevention of cardiovascular disease (CVD) in their respective regions. The first phase of collaboration resulted in a significant number of cross-country articles focusing on CVD prevention. The second phase focused on doctoral collaborations, with senior researchers from both parties jointly supervising doctoral candidates addressing chronic diseases, primary healthcare delivery, health behaviors, injury prevention, and program implementation.

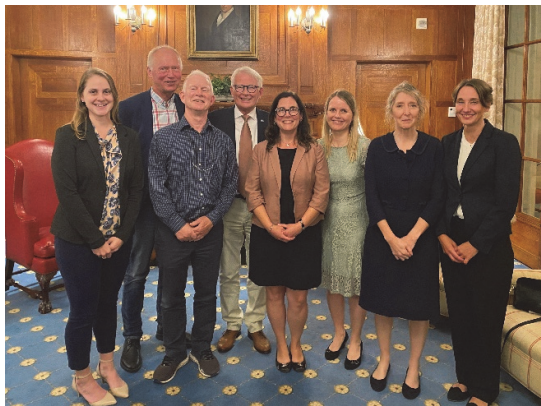
Over the thirty years, the partnership between BRI and EPIGH has led to a total of 37 joint scientific publications, several research grants for collaborative projects, and five PhD degrees – four from BRI (Anne Nafziger, PhD 2006, focused on heart disease and obesity patterns and prevention;

Julie Sorensen, PhD 2009, addressed injury prevention for farmers through promoting tractor rollover protective devices; Pam Milkovich, PhD 2019, illuminated the process from injury prevention research to practice; and Melissa Scribani, PhD 2023, focused on rural obesity and factors promoting weight stability) and one from EPIGH (Kristina Lindvall, PhD 2011, developed the concept of weight stability).

The collaboration's value for the Faculty of Medicine at Umeå University is highlighted by the appointment of two senior BRI researchers as honorary doctors of medicine at the university: Professors Thomas A. Pearson (2002) and Paul Jenkins (2017).

During the August week in 2023, the collaboration's results and experiences were presented at BRI's research seminar and the hospital's clinically scientific rounds. Future scientific collaborations were also discussed, including comparative research on the health of children and adolescents. Additionally, conditions for continued educational exchange between EPIGH and BRI through seminars, courses, joint publications, and support for new doctoral candidates were explored.

The jubilee concluded with an evening seminar gathering partners from Bassett's board, scientific council, colleagues, and researchers, hosted by Bassett Healthcare Network's president. The president expressed warm gratitude for the instrumental contributions of Umeå's EPIGH colleagues to education and research at the Bassett Research Institute over the past three decades and encouraged ongoing collaboration.





Report from the Lávvuo research group

Starting in March 2023, we have conducted group interviews with elderly Sami in Ubmeje (Umeå) within the project “Healthy ageing for Indigenous communities in India and Sweden with focus on nutritious and culturally adequate food provision”, resulting in a schedule suggesting eight Sámi seasonal servings of Sámi food within local elderly care and home assistance. Additionally, we have undertaken field trips to Málage (Malå), and visited local slaughterhouse and reindeer meat processing entrepreneurs in Árviesjávrrie (Arvidsjaur) and Southern Västerbotten. In Ubmeje, we interviewed those responsible for the municipality elderly care food services. We also participated in an elderly care conference in Árviesjávrrie arranged by the Sámi Parliament in Sweden.

Lena Maria Nilsson & Ellacarin Blind



Ildikó Asztalos Morell, project leader, SLU Uppsala, Ann Sparrock, Torsta AB, Lena Maria Nilsson and Ellacarin Blind (EpiGH).

Community Health Workers in Ecuador

I went to the Amazon region of Ecuador during November 2023 as part of the project “Can community health workers contribute to strengthen health systems in Latin America?”. I visited a specific Indigenous Community Health Workers (CHWs) Association called Sandi Yura. The Association includes 120 CHWs who work voluntarily in their communities in different preventive and health promotion activities. During the year, they participate in different capacity building workshops offered by the Ministry of Health in their different areas. At the end of each year, all CHWs come together to discuss organizational issues of the Association. I was one of the facilitators of this annual meeting where 95 CHWs were present (see pictures).

I had also the opportunity to interview some of the leaders of Sandi Yura to understand their current and future challenges. One of these interviews has been sent for journal publication. During the autumn, and as part of this project, a medical student from our university did her thesis on the integration of indigenous traditional birth attendants into the Western health care system in the same Amazon region.

In addition, I met in Quito the epidemiologist of the National Cancer Registry to discuss the structure of a forthcoming report on cancer in the Amazon basin of Ecuador to be published in 2024.

Miguel San Sebastian



Community Health Systems-Connect network meeting in Entebbe Uganda, Oct 1-7

The network partners comprise of researchers from the School of Public Health at the University of Zambia, the School of Public Health and Social Sciences, MUHAS, Tanzania, Makerere University School of Public Health, Uganda, the School of Public Health at the University of the Western Cape, South Africa and Dep of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University, Sweden. This year we had a smaller meeting in Entebbe Uganda where we also had the possibility to visit Makerere University to give a seminar. This visit included a meeting at Julius Nyerere Leadership Center.

Anna-Karin Hurtig



Strengthening Community Participation in Health Systems in Tanzania

In March we visited our colleagues at University of Dar es Salaam as part of the project [Strengthening social accountability for improving health system in Tanzania: how can health facility governing committees fulfil their role?](#). In addition to discuss potential manuscripts and the supervision of our PhD student Hussein Kapuya, we travelled to Handeni district, one of the places where the project is being implemented. A workshop with representatives of the Ministry of Health at district level and community members of the Health Facility Governing Committees (HFGC) was carried out. Following a participatory approach, the guidelines regarding the roles and functioning of the HFGCs were presented and the challenges they experience to develop their activities discussed.

The outcome of the workshop served to guide the formulation of the intervention that is planned to happen in spring 2024.

Miguel San Sebastián and Anna-Karin Hurtig



Administrator visit to ISGlobal Barcelona, Spain

The Department has a long-standing collaboration with ISGlobal through the tropEd network. Since 2022, this collaboration has deepened through shared online seminars and co-supervision of master theses. In the beginning of May, the study directors and administration group from the Department made a visit to ISGlobal. We discussed master education,

PhD education, Human resources, IT and communication. We felt very welcomed, and the visit gave us inspiration for our own work and thoughts for future collaboration.



Department days May 31 – June 1

The Department Day was organized by Karin Johansson, Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström and Albert B Johansson and had the overall theme of Education. It took place in the town of Örnsköldsvik, so the first day started with a 1.5h bus ride together. Upon arrival we started with a much-needed coffee break, to fuel up and land in the urban yet beautiful scenery with a stunning view of the pre-summer sea bay. Excitement was in the air.

The first day we had presentations and group and joint discussion sessions around the questions ‘What do we teach?’ and ‘How can we teach?’, grounded in our core values and focusing on, for example, prospects for new topics for courses and sustainable

development in our programs. In the evening we had an amazing dinner at a seaside restaurant. The second day started with administrative information (about procurement) and then we continued along the main theme through the question ‘For what and whom should we teach?’, with joint organizationally existential reflections on the unique international educational environment we are and the promises and challenges it entails.

The afternoon was dedicated to outside games in groups. There were no sore losers, and the bus ride home was marked by solemn contemplation after all impressions from the days.



Department day November 22

The second department day was arranged by Karin Johansson, Isa Norvell Gustafsson and Cytia Anticono, held in the more low-key, but convenient and completely functional, setting of downtown Umeå. The big question to discuss was a possible merge with another unit. This important issue we dedicated most of the morning to, with group and joint discussions about opportunities and threats.

Before lunch we held a sessions on ‘The who and why of data management’, as an overview of the purposes of the larger forces driving data management regulations. After

lunch we discussed a revitalization of the long-standing practical and conceptual aspects of Umeå International School of Public Health, as a unifying environment for our internationally oriented educations at different levels.

The day was sprinkled with challenging and engaging playful social activities, and we closed the day with reflections on the question ‘So, who are we?’.



Congratulations to Raman Preet

In 2023 Raman Preet was awarded the Medical Faculty prize for equal opportunities. This prize is an acknowledgment of Raman's continuous and enthusiastic work for the promotion of equal opportunities within the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health. The Committee that chosen Raman's nomination highlighted how Raman has worked with different groups in the Department, MPH

students and doctoral students and supervisors, staff through staff meetings, and advocacy of these questions within the leadership team. She has worked both promoting a climate that makes people feel valued, and also having a door open for those who have felt mistreated to felt listened, validated and taking action.



Raman Preet som får 2023 års Lika villkor pris vid Medicinska fakulteten, uppvaktas av Anders Eklund, Lika villkor ansvarig i Fakultetsnämnden och Isabel Goicolea, Lika villkor ansvarig i Rådet för utbildning på forskarnivå. **Bild:** Mattias Pettersson

Congratulations to our new Docents



Ida Linander



Frida Jonsson



Linda Sundberg



Sun Sun



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

EPIDEMIOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH



Our **VISION** is to be an international, collaborative and diverse academic environment committed to social change for equitable health and welfare. Northern Sweden is our home, and the world is our landscape.

Our **MISSION** is to undertake meaningful work through multidisciplinary research and transformative education, and by engaging collaboratively with the surrounding society, both within Sweden and internationally.

The **VALUES** of solidarity, curiosity and integrity guide our daily work. Our environment strives for

- Open minds in an open climate
- Creative and critical thinking
- Inclusive and safe spaces
- Strength in diversity

Education



Introduction day August 2023

Umeå International School of Public Health

Public health education and training has been integral to the success of our international research collaborations. Many ad hoc training courses, workshops and short courses in epidemiological methods have provided a springboard for international projects. These activities have helped to build what is now a highly regarded international school within Umeå University. Maintaining a strong research focus in our teaching has been critical for mutual success in education, training and international partnerships.

The first courses in public health in Umeå were given in 1986. Five years later, in 1991, a one-year Master of Public Health (MPH) programme was introduced. The structure of the programme remained fairly similar until 2007, when an additional two-year programme was introduced, covering epidemiology more broadly to include health systems and the social determinants of health.

As a result of a decision taken by the Swedish Parliament, since autumn 2011, students

from outside the European Economic Area (EEA) and Switzerland have been required to pay tuition fees for higher education in Sweden. This led to a drop in enrolments from non-European students in 2011/12. Despite this challenge we remained committed to promoting the one- and two-year MPH programmes and further developing and diversifying their educational content.

In the autumn of 2015, in collaboration with the Umeå School of Business and Economics, we introduced an MPH with a specialization in health economics. This recognises the breadth of health economics across a range of topics that include making evidence-based decisions about the best use of resources for maximising health gains, ways of analysing systems, organizational change, and health financing.

To ensure flexibility and offer common ground for students, the first year of the MPH is identical for all students regardless of whether they are undertaking a one- or two-year program, with or without the health

economics specialty. This first year includes courses in: global health conditions; health systems analysis; quantitative and qualitative methods useful for developing, implementing, and evaluating public health policies. The two profiles for the second year expand on the knowledge and skills developed so far, both when it comes to depth and breadth. They comprise a mix of set courses to ensure a foundation in core topics, but also some elective courses on relevant topics. This arrangement offers students possibilities to shape their own unique profiles according to their interests and needs. Taken together, the programmes provide public health practitioners and researchers with the skills needed to comprehensively understand, analyse and ultimately improve population health.

During the 2023/2024 academic year we had an intake of 26 new students comprising 8 one-year students, 11 two-year students enrolled in the regular programme and 7 students enrolled in the health economics specialisation. In addition, there were 20 second-year students, 12 of whom are in the regular two-year program and 8 of whom are in the health economics programme. In 2023 our incoming students originated from Sweden, Europe, Asia, Africa and Oceania. The multi-cultural composition of the students promotes a diverse academic and social climate, which students frequently highlight as a major strength of our programmes.

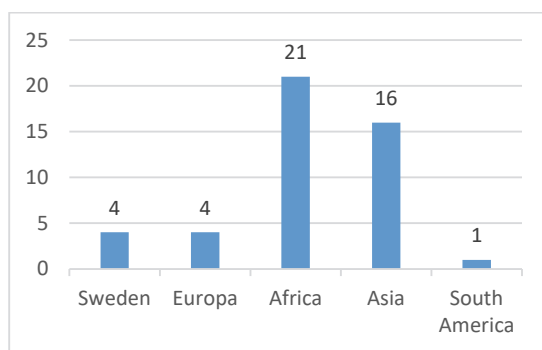


Figure 7. Master's students 2023/2024

Since the introduction of tuition fees, scholarships from the Swedish Institute have been instrumental in the recruitment of students outside the EU. In 2023, 14 of our

international students were fortunate enough to receive scholarships from the Swedish Institute and one got Umeå University scholarship. 10 students were supported by the Erling-Persson Family Foundation and we are most grateful to the Foundation for the many years of support in providing scholarships to students from outside the European Economic Area.



EpiGH is a member of tropEd, an international network for higher education in international/global health from Europe, Africa, Asia, Australia, and Latin America. The Network provides postgraduate opportunities for education and training which contribute to sustainable development. The focus is on improving the management of health services for disadvantaged populations.

TropEd offers a Master's programme in international health. In 2020 EpiGH held tropEd accredited courses on various public and global health related topics. During the years 2020-2025, EpiGH has an active role in tropEd through our director of studies, who participates in the executive committee and was acting President in 2021 and will again be acting president 2024.

EpiGH is also part of the Nordic Network on Global Health. This network, which was established in 2017 with support from Nordplus, currently comprises six universities from five Nordic countries. EpiGH has joined with other Nordic universities to further expand the course portfolio, and benefit from the learnings in different Nordic higher education environments. This underscores a strong commitment to the principles of equity and global health partnerships. The Nordic countries and their universities aim to build an extensive knowledge network of student and teacher exchange thereby strengthening their strong profiles within global health education.

Master programme courses

First year

Global Public Health, 10 credits
 Biostatistics 5 credits
 Epidemiology, 10 credits
 Qualitative Methods 5 credits
 Health Systems: Organization and Financing, 5 credits
 Health Economic Evaluation Methods, 5 credits
 Theory and Management in Health promotion, 5 credits
 Master Thesis, 15 credits

Second year

Evidence Based Public Health, 4 credits
 Equity and Health, 3.5 credits
 Qualitative Data Analysis, 7.5 credits
 Advanced Biostatistics and Epidemiology, 7.5 credits
 Advanced Topics in Health Economics Evaluation Methods, 7.5 credits **or**
 Social Epidemiology – Theory and Methods, 7.5 credits
 Health, Environment and Sustainability, 3.5 credits
 Leading change and development in welfare organizations, 4 credits
 Evaluation in Public Health, 7.5 credits
 Master Thesis, 15 credits

Second year with specialization in Health Economics

Tools and Methods for Economists, 7.5 credits **or**
 Evidence Based Public Health, 4 credits **and** Equity and health, 3.5 credits
 Health Economic Theory, 7.5 credits
 Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship, 7.5 credits **or**
 Project Management, 7.5 credits **or**
 Environmental Resource Economics, 7.5 credits **or**
 Advanced Biostatistics and Epidemiology, 7.5 credits
 Advanced Topics in Health Economic Evaluation Methods, 7.5 credits
 Health, Environment and Sustainability, 3.5 credits
 Leading change and development in welfare organizations, 4 credits
 Evaluation in Public Health, 7.5 credits
 Master Thesis, 15 credits

Scholarship for Master programme students

The Erling-Persson Family Foundation is providing 12 million SEK towards scholarships for students from non-EU/EEA countries studying the Master's programmes

in Public Health in our Department. This funding is covering tuition waivers, and partially covers living costs, for up to eight students each year. The scholarship provisions started with the autumn intake in 2020-2021 and ends with the intake 2024-2025.

Other teaching activities

All courses within the MPH can be taken as single subjects. Priority is given to those enrolled in the MPH, but several non-programme students are also accepted. This is especially true for the more methodologically oriented courses such as *Biostatistics*, *Epidemiology* and *Qualitative Methods*, and courses concerning health systems, policy, organization and financing, e.g., *Health Systems: Organizing and Financing* and *Health Economic Evaluation Methods*. In our view it is essential that these subjects are accessible to research students in related disciplines. Since 2018 we have a single subject course outside the programme that have also attracted masters' students, namely "From a thesis to a paper". Other single subject courses offered by the department are "R-a tool for statistical analyses", "Gender-based violence, health and healthcare" and "Sámi and indigenous health".

We teach within the Medical Programme, in close collaboration with staff from the Department of Law and the unit of Sustainable Health within the Department of Public Health and Clinical Medicine. A new strand of Community Medicine, including Sustainable Development, is being developed and introduced as the Medical Programme is moving over from being 5½ years to 6 years to adapt to European Union standards. Subjects embraced are Social Medicine, Public Health Sciences, Health Economics, Health Systems, Agenda 2030, Global Health, Epidemiology, Demography, Biostatistics Medical Law and Occupational and Environmental Medicine.

Staff of our Department also teach in several other programmes. Teaching is carried out at all academic levels - from basic to doctoral. During the first semester of the 'Biomedical Programme' (180 credits), our Department

is responsible for teaching a 7.5-credit course in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Members of the Department are further teaching (from basic to master's level) in various courses (including topics like Agenda 2030 and global health, Global oral health, etc.) at the Medical Faculty and the Faculty of Social Sciences.

Educational Strategic Group

The Educational Strategic Group was established in early 2017. The Group is headed by the Director of Studies for the Master of Public Health (MPH) Programmes. The other members are the Chair of the Programme Council and six teachers representing different orientation of our courses. The purpose of the group is to provide a strategic perspective on the educational development of all our education with a special focus on the MPH programmes. The group further act as an advisory body for the Director of Studies. Ongoing work includes the review and improvement of courses, discussion of strategies for recruitment and collaborations, and devising solutions for educational issues as they arise. During 2023 the group's priorities were to discuss revision

of the thesis course, the series of lectures regarding “Embedding academic literacy” in our master programmes in public health, including more sustainability related themes in the education, promote the name “Umeå International School of Public Health” and start to think about strategies to market our MPH programmes more in Europe.

Promoting Educational Exchange

During 2021-2023 we continued our collaboration with Nordic countries as part of a Nordic-Plus application. Further, we have worked actively to be more engaged in the tropEd network for Master's education in Global Health.

Educational qualifications for university teachers

Umeå university has a system for educational qualifications for university teachers. The qualification system has two steps: recognised university teacher and distinguished university teacher. In 2023, Fredrik Norström was accepted as recognised university teacher.

CONTACT: *Marie Lindkvist*



Figure 8. Home country of Master of Public Health students 1987-2023

One-year Master Programme in Occupational Health

Since 2020, EpiGH is responsible for the one-year master programme in Occupational Health”. The field of Occupational Health is interdisciplinary, and the programme offers three specializations: Behavioural Science, Ergonomics, and Occupational health nursing. The program runs at half speed and is carried out as a distance education. In addition to EpiGH, four other departments/sections at Umeå university are involved in the teaching; Law, Psychology, Physiotherapy, and Sustainable Health.

The programme includes three common courses and three specialization-specific courses. The common courses give a base where age, gender, class, and cultural aspects are addressed as well as a global perspective on working life and health. The specialization-specific courses provide an opportunity to delve into the field based on profession/ specialization.








One-year Master’s programme in Occupational Health

General courses
Working life and health, 15 credits
Communication and the consultative approach, 7.5 credits
Theory, methods and ethics of science in Occupational Health, 7.5 credits
Specialization-specific courses
Behavioural science
Behavioural change and rehabilitation, 7.5 credits
Conflict, stress and bullying from an individual and organizational perspective, 7.5 credits
Master thesis in Occupational Health with specialisation in Behavioral Sciences, 15 credits
Ergonomics
Physical ergonomics: Work place analysis and evaluation, 7.5 credits
Work ability and rehabilitation in working life, 7.5 credits
Master thesis in Occupational Health with specialisation in Ergonomics, 15 credits
Occupational-Health Nursing
Physical aspects in Occupational Medicine, 7.5 credits
Chemical aspects in Occupational Medicine, 7.5 credits
Master thesis in Occupational Health with specialisation in Occupational Health Nursing, 15 credits

Course in Sámi and Indigenous Health

During spring 2023 Sweden's first university course on Sámi health was given for the second time: "Sámi and Indigenous Health", (SÁIH), 7.5 ECTS). The courses include an larger PM assignment and seven two-week modules which provide a broad introduction to the field (see picture). SÁIH is digital, runs on 25% pace, thought in English and can be taken asynchronously. The teaching staff includes the Lávvuo Sámi health research group as well as topic experts from fields such as history, ethnology, and nursing, including external health professionals working with Sámi and Indigenous health care and research, based in Sweden, Norway,

Kalaallit Nunaat (Greenland), Canada and the United States. Most students are health or social care professionals working in Northern Sweden, taking the course on the side of their jobs as doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers etc. However, SÁIH also attracts students from the Umeå International School of Public Health, from elsewhere at Umeå university, other Swedish and European universities. 13 of the 17 students who completed SÁIH in 2023 participated in course evaluation, providing average rating scores for all modules above "very good", with four modules reaching 45-55% "excellent" ratings. The teaching faculty are hopeful that the SÁIH course has come to stay, and will continue to be offered at EpiGH for many spring terms to come.

						
Module 1: Identity, history and rights	Module 2: Discrimination, trauma and decolonisation	Module 3: Traditional knowledge, culture and health	Module 4: Social determinants, climate change and Indigenous health research	Module 5: Gender and violence	Module 6: Indigenous health policy, health systems and health promotion	Module 7: Health care encounters, competence and sensitivity

CONTACT: *Jon Petter Stoor*

Research

Epidemiology and Global Health is host to a dynamic, multidisciplinary and international research environment. Our research falls into three broad and overlapping

profiles: Health Systems and Policy; Northern Sweden Health and Welfare and Emerging Global Health Challenges.

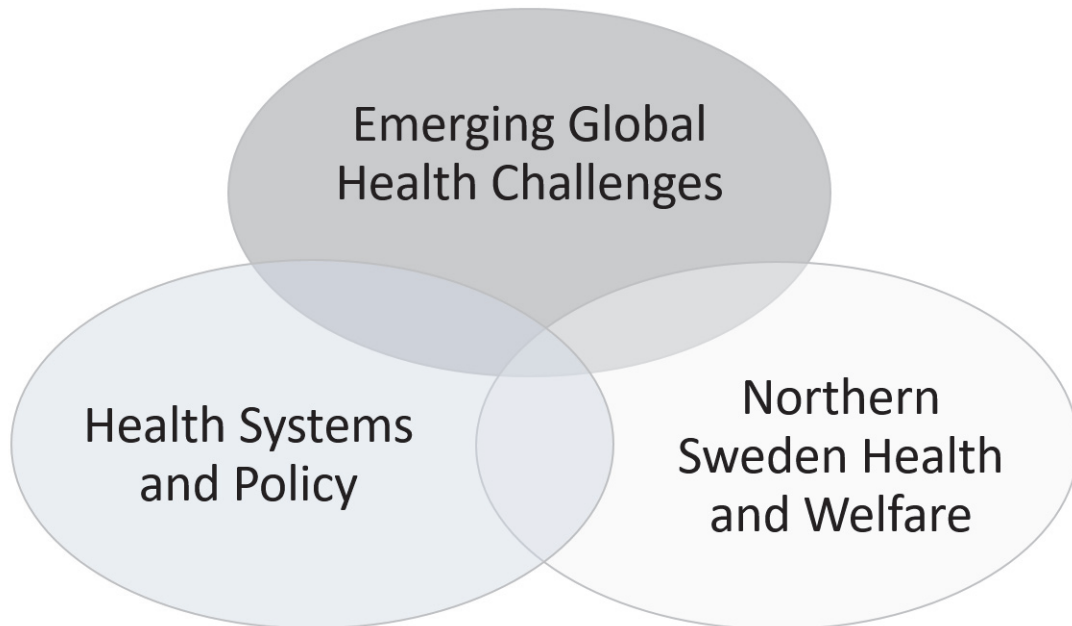


Figure 9. Research profiles at the Department of Epidemiology and Global health.

Ongoing research projects – the three profiles

Emerging Global Health Challenges

The world is becoming increasingly globalized, and we are faced with challenges to health which transcend national borders. While migration, climate change and ageing populations are emerging health threats, the negative impacts of poverty and social inequalities persist.

Over the course of the past decades, our Department has been collaborating with multidisciplinary stakeholders around the

world to address these major global health challenges. Together we strive to fill knowledge gaps by improving our understanding of the dynamic interaction of demographic changes with social, economic, and environmental factors influencing population health.

Our endeavour contributes to the implementation of policies and actions needed to create sustainable, resilient, and healthy societies globally.

EMERGING GLOBAL HEALTH CHALLENGES		
PROJECT TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	FUNDING AGENCY
How does Integration of sexuality education in schools shape sexuality decisions among adolescents? A community based participatory research driven realist evaluation in Zambia	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Lancet countdown 2030 on climate change and health	Maria Nilsson	Wellcome Trust
Population dynamics and socioeconomic well-being in Mozambique	Miguel San Sebastian	Sida
Mitigating poverty and disablement in older age: Understanding the complex interactions of factors influencing equitable healthy ageing in Myanmar	Nawi Ng	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Sexual and reproductive health and rights among migrant youth	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Public Health Agency of Sweden
Sexual and reproductive health among HIV positive women in Sweden	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Public Health Agency of Sweden
The SomSwe network - using social network theory and analysis to develop research capacity among young Somali academics to support evidence-based public health in the fragile state of Somalia	Anneli Ivarsson	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Mitigating Climate change through communicating health benefits and risks – tailored and timely messages to lower household consumption	Maria Nilsson	Umeå Medical faculty
Linking Swedish, Nepalese, and Indonesian capacities to inform the design of effective, efficient, and equitable Social Network Interventions for health	Julia Schröders	Swedish Research Council (VR)
PRECISION PUBLIC HEALTH: Shifting the focus from group averages to individual variations to better understand the distribution of Body Mass Index over time and across social and geographical contexts	Masoud Vaezghasemi	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
CATALYSE - Climate Action To Advance Healthy Societies in Europe	Maria Nilsson	European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme
Health and living conditions of LGBTQ people over 65: an interview study	Ida Linander	Public Health Agency of Sweden
The Global Child Rights Dialogue during COVID-19: multi-country action research	Hajime Takeuchi Mazen Baroudi	Japan Society for the Promotion of Science, Pfizer Health Research Foundation

The role of health communication and household's habits in climate change mitigation	Camilla Andersson	Umeå Medical faculty
Rethinking access and utilization of reproductive healthcare, and domestic violence services among women with disabilities in Uganda	Fredinah Namatovu	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Rethinking the role of Power and Global Health (Funded by SASUF)	Mazen Baroudi	South Africa-Sweden University Forum (SASUF)
The cognitive consequences of social frailty: a mixed methods study of precarity and resilience among aging populations in India and Sweden.	Julia Schröders	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Exploring needs for Knowledge, Support and interventions among pregnant women living with HIV: an interview study	Faustine Nkulu	The Swedish Physicians Against AIDS Research Foundation

Health Systems and Policy

It is essential to understand how societies organize themselves in achieving public health goals, and how different actors interact in policy and implementation processes to contribute to improved health outcomes. Health systems worldwide are struggling to respond to the needs of populations and provide universal health coverage. We conduct interdisciplinary research in

relation to decision makers, service providers, communities and citizens with the aim of contributing to the strengthening of systems. During the past decade, the Department has been involved in projects aiming to strengthen the equity, quality and safety of health systems globally, and also in methodological development for more valid and reliable strategies to evaluate health policies.

HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICY		
PROJECT TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	FUNDING AGENCY
Children as capable participants in decisions affecting their lives - how can the child rights perspective be realized by Health-Learning-Safety teams within the welfare sector?	Anna Westerlund	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Validation of the health-related life quality instrument EQ5d 5L for Sweden	Klas-Göran Sahlén	EuroQol Foundation, Region Stockholm
Health Outcomes and Resource Utilization for Bariatric Surgery: Real World Evidence from Sweden	Sun Sun	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
From outsider to insider. Improved municipal decision support: A new calculation model for interventions aimed at social exclusion.	Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström	Skandia – Idéer för livet
Network for inclusive, socially accountable and resilient Community Health Systems: CHS-Connect	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Strengthening social accountability for improving health system in Tanzania: how can health facility governing committees fulfil their role?	Miguel San Sebastian	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Community Health Workers to achieve universal health coverage: Building on the Latin American legacy	Miguel San Sebastian	Swedish Research Council (VR)
Leaving no one behind: an intersectional population approach for health system equity in Sweden	Per Gustafsson	Umeå Medical Faculty
Behavioral pathways of complex inequalities in health: exploring intersectional mediational analysis to identify suitable targets for equity in health in Sweden	Per Gustafsson	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
How and under what circumstances are Swedish youth clinics reaching migrant youth? A health policy and systems study to bridge the gap in access	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Umeå Medical faculty
Impact of the free patient choice reform on population health and health inequalities in Sweden	Paola Mosquera	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Impact of national Covid-19-related policies on loneliness among elderly receiving elderly care	Per Gustafsson	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Support, empower and change: A qualitative study of the Young Women's Empowerment Centers' support and advocacy work	Hanna Bäckström	Umeå Medical Faculty

<i>Negotiating the risk of segregation - public and civic responses to growing social inequalities in a "not yet" divided city</i>	Hanna Bäckström	FORMAS
Strengthening children's mental health services in Cambodia	Masoud Vaezghasemi	Umeå Medical Faculty
National highly specialised care for gender dysphoria: exploring local experiences, perceptions and implications for equity.	Ida Linander	Umeå Medical Faculty
MEDD – Maternal healthcare, and domestic violence services for women with disabilities in Uganda	Fredinah Namatovu	Umeå Medical Faculty
Screened – then what? Improving the health system response to social-emotionally vulnerable preschool children.	Kristina Lindvall	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)

Northern Sweden Health and Welfare

Northern Sweden is a large geographical area encompassing both the sparsely populated inland and the more populated coast. This region is rich in natural resources and home to the indigenous Sámi people, but also faces challenges concerning population health and health services. We conduct regionally based research on, for example, cardiovascular disease prevention and

health promotion across the life course, service provision in rural areas and equity in health and health care. We collaborate closely with Region Västerbotten and other public health institutions, and also make great use of high-quality Swedish registers. With point of departure in this unique context, and together with our collaborating partners, we contribute to improved regional public health and global health research across the world.

NORTHERN SWEDEN HEALTH AND WELFARE		
PROJECT TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	FUNDING AGENCY
STAR-C: Sustainable behavior change for health supported by person-Tailored, Adaptive, Risk-aware digital Coaching in a social context	Nawi Ng	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Visualization of asymptomatic Atherosclerotic disease for optimum cardiovascular prevention – a pragmatic randomized controlled trial nested in the Västerbotten Intervention Program	Margareta Norberg	VLL, Swedish Research Council, Svenska Läkaresällskapet, Visare Norr, Stroke Riksförbundet, Norrländska hjärtfonden
The Salut Child-Health Intervention Programme	Anneli Ivarsson	Region Västerbotten
The Västerbotten Intervention Program	Lars Weinehall	Region Västerbotten
The mental health and access to mental health care among the Sámi in Sweden; which are the main social determinants?	Miguel San Sebastián	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
The mental health and well-being of the Sámi in Sweden: does ethnic discrimination play any role?	Miguel San Sebastián	Umeå Medical Faculty
Paving the way for children's right to good and equal social and emotional health - an epidemiological and health economic study	Anneli Ivarsson	Strategic grant, Medical Faculty at Umeå University Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
What are the implication of the COVID-19 pandemic for young people who are neither in employment, education nor training, and the societal initiatives that are in place to support them?	Frida Jonsson	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
How can we support 'NEET' youth through neat interventions? A realist evaluation and implementation study of (re)engagement initiatives for young people not in employment, education or training	Frida Jonsson	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Young people in rural areas – for climate change and sustainable development	Frida Jonsson	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Initiatives for young people with disabilities and mental health problems that are not in employment, education or training.	Frida Jonsson	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
What constitutes good coordination disease prevention and health promotion?	Frida Jonsson	The public health agency of Sweden
Daring to ask about violence? Analysing and improving social services' question-centred responses to gender-based violence	Isabel Goicolea	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)

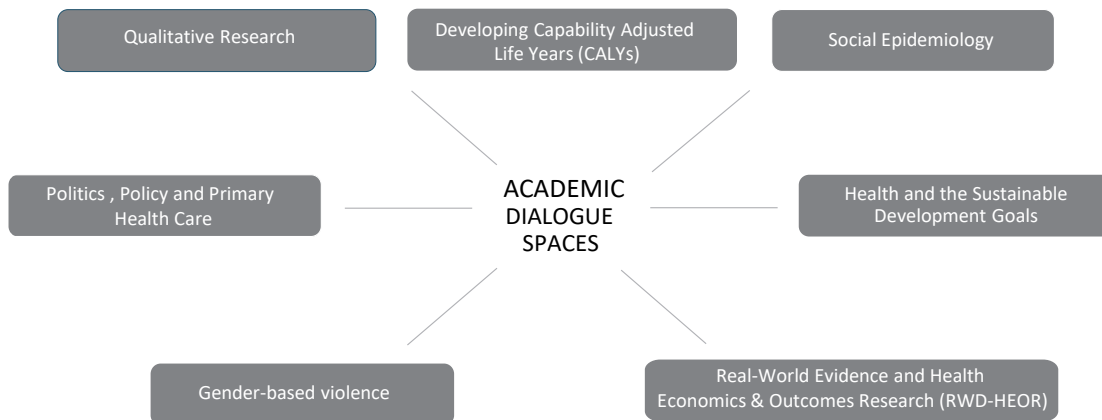
Leaving no one behind: intersectional health system equity in Sweden	Per Gustafsson	The public health agency of Sweden
How can young trans people's mental health be improved? A participatory study	Ida Linander	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Negotiating the risk of segregation - public and civic responses to growing social inequalities in a "not yet" divided city	Hanna Bäckström	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)
The health and well-being of Sámi youth in Sweden: outcomes, perspectives and priorities	Jon Petter Stoor	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Follow-up of health among national minorities and the Indigenous Sámi people in Sweden	Jon Petter Stoor	Public Health Agency of Sweden
A collected description of health outcomes among the Sámi in Sweden	Miguel San Sebastián	Public Health Agency of Sweden
Violence against Sámi Women	Jennie Brandén	Sámediggi (the Sámi parliament in Sweden)
Covid-19 and home care: a high price for new lessons learned	Fredrik Norström	AFA Försäkring
Bridging the gap between the youth clinics and young men	Mazen Baroudi	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Effect, cost-effectiveness, and usefulness of the 'Everyday Life Rehabilitation' (ELR) intervention: a pragmatic RCT of integrated, person centred rehabilitation within supported housing facilities	Maria Lindström	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (FORTE)
Health-promotive efforts for increased social and mental health among university students - Feasibility and implementation of the new group-based intervention 'Unite Youths'	Maria Lindström	Various sources

Research Strategic Group

The Research Strategic Group, consisting of senior researchers at the Department, meets on a monthly basis to discuss short and long-term strategic issues. The Group also meets together with the Education Strategic Group at least once each semester. Discussions aim to identify specific priority areas and recommend strategic development and ways of implementing decisions. Important areas are “Grant application support” which focuses on streamlining and strengthening support structures; “PhD and MPH funding” which covers searching for funds for stipends and “Academic Dialogue Spaces” which encourage researchers to establish meeting places for academic discussions. The “spaces” are presented below.

Academic Dialogue Spaces

There are currently seven Academic Dialogue Spaces in our Department. These are formed around the following themes: 1) Qualitative Research, 2) Developing Capability Adjusted Life Years (CALYs), 3) Social Epidemiology 4) Politics, Policy and Primary Health Care, 5) Health and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 6) Gender based violence. 7) Real-World Evidence and Health Economics & Outcomes Research (RWD-HEOR) Academic Spaces bring together researchers, often with diverse expertise and experience, around a research topic of mutual interest. They are forums for generating discussions, identifying synergies and promoting research development both for individual researchers and for the Department as a whole. Members of each Space meet periodically. At times the Spaces meet together to discuss research topics from different perspectives. A brief description of each Academic Dialogue Space follows.



Qualitative Research

The Qualitative Research Space cultivates dialogue among those with interest in the methodological strengths and challenges of qualitative research, e.g. recruiting, interviewing, coding and analysis, and also theoretical discussions. The group meets on average once a month to discuss texts (our own and others), shared challenges and to plan open seminars.

Coordinators: *Ida Linander, Anne Gotfredsen and Isabel Goicolea.*

Developing Capability Adjusted Life Years (CALYs)

This Space builds upon two research projects in which researchers from the Department have participated. One is about social exclusion, and the costs of preventing exclusion. The second is about capabilities and their potential use in the evaluation of public interventions. These two projects have now joined forces to develop a common research agenda, which stretches from normative philosophy to statistical method. Dialogue on these issues is ongoing.

Coordinator: *Lars Lindholm.*

Social Epidemiology

The Social Epidemiology Space gathers four-five times per year where we jointly reflect on methodological and conceptual issues of relevance for social epidemiology and equity in health. Usually we base the discussion on particularly interesting articles, but sometimes we discuss drafts of articles, research proposals or research problems from the group members.

Coordinators: *Miguel San Sebastián and Per Gustafsson.*

Politics, Policy and Primary Health Care

Here the focus is on health policy and systems research particularly local and community based systems. Methodologies inspired by systems thinking are explored as well as current topics on the politics of

health. The group meets once a month to share ideas/ongoing activities and discuss published work.

Coordinators: *Lars Lindholm Mazen Baroudi and Anna-Karin Hurtig*

Health and the Sustainable Development Goals

This Space takes a holistic and broad perspective on the SDGs and their role and relevance for public health and health research. We dig deeper into specific goals and targets (e.g. SDG 16 Corruption), discuss and reflect on concepts (e.g. social innovation) and on SDGs in decision-making. We also facilitated an SDG-focus for the Department Day with awareness-raising and discussion of the use of SDGs in teaching.

Coordinator: *Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström*

Gender-based violence

The academic space on gender-based violence gathers people from different positions in the department who are involved in research and education on GBV or have an interest in the topic. It aims to be a safe space where we can exchange ideas and grow in relation to research and work in the area of GBV, and to contribute to visibilize this area within the department, the faculty and the university.

We meet twice or three times per semester to discuss concepts and dilemmas related to research and teaching in the area of GBV. We do this through seminars, reading of our own and others work, inviting other researchers and activists, and by organizing mini symposiums. The organization of the seminars is shared between the members of the space and the coordination will change periodically.

Coordinators: *Hanna Bäckström and Fredinah Namatov*

Real-World Evidence and Health Economics & Outcomes Research (RWD-HEOR)

This multidisciplinary space is dedicated to advance the understanding how real-world data, beyond the confines of clinical trials, can inform health economics research, shedding light on disease complexities, their impact on patient health outcomes, and resource utilization.

Members comprising experts from diverse institutions, including: 1) EpiGH: Our core team. 2) The North Regional Register Centrum as well as the North and South Cancer Register Centers. 3) Other universities: Gothenburg University, Karolinska Institutet, Uppsala University, Örebro University. 4) The National Board of Health and Welfare

Coordinators: *Sun Sun and Kaspar Meili*



Academic Seminars 2023

January	The Medical students – Seminar
	Arvid Burefors – Understanding the exacerbated prevalence of child malnutrition in Indonesia: Investigating the role of social network during the Covid-19 pandemic
	Jacob Carlsson – Socioeconomic inequalities in mental wellbeing: a pre- and during COVID-19 pandemic comparative study
	Ida Bergkvist – Healthcare provider’s experiences with implementation of telemedicine and technology in daily practice
	Mikael Emsing – Dissertation
	Keith Larson Post pump <u>Seminar</u>
	The arctic Centre – building research and education networks
February	U-CHEC – Seminar Discourse Analysis in theory and practice – approach and method(s)
	Liisa-Maria Voipio-Pulkki – <u>Seminar</u> From research to health policy advice – European Observatory on Health Systems and Policies
Mars	Melissa Scribani - Dissertation
	Johan Hambraeus - Dissertation
	Elia Swai – 50% <u>Seminar</u>
	Per Gustafsson & Isabel Goicolea Post pump <u>Seminar</u> Din Emmanuelle speak Swedish? Reflections on language practice, policy and politics at Umeå University
	U-CHEC – Seminar Observation and use of vignettes for learning and practicing person-centered care – and ethnographic study Öncel Naldemirci from the Department of Social Work
April	Miguel San Sebastian – <u>Seminar</u> Why should you become a Bayesian?
	Anne Kubai – <u>Seminar</u> Sexual gender based violence in fragile and conflict affected settings: implications for health and wellbeing
	Ida Linander Post pump <u>Seminar</u> docent lecture What I learned about healthcare by studying the trans-specific care
May	Dean Carson Post pump <u>Seminar</u> Nothing to see here? Limits and potentials for crosscountry rural research: Sweden and Australia as an example
	The Medical students – Seminar Per-Joel Jönsson – Pandemic-related disruptions in malnutrition health services delivery in Indonesia: a qualitative social network study Nils Mikael Nilsson – Lifestyle habits among young adult Sámi – a SámiHET study Ebba Forsman – ADHD, it was more like the answer to everything. Exploring challenges related to ill-health and neurodevelopmental disorders among young people not in employment, education, or training
	U-CHEC – Seminar Video recording as a method for data collection Maria Härgestam & Catarina Fischer Grönlund from the Department of Nursing
	Mai Vu Thi Quynh – Pre defense <u>Seminar</u>
June	Fethi Mohammed Yusuf – Admission <u>Seminar</u>
	Mia Schaumberg – <u>Seminar</u> Healthy body, healthy brain: staying active and ageing well in rural, regional and remote Australia
	Kathleen Kahn & Stephen Tollman – <u>Seminar</u> Addressing inequalities: Responding to complex health transitions in rural sub-Saharan Africa

August	Lávvu Post pump <u>Seminar</u> Is Sámi-ness different from Same-ness? Yercin Mamani Ortiz – 50 % <u>Seminar</u>
September	Per Gustafsson – Post pump <u>Seminar</u> GDP are we there yet? A contextualized update of the processes, plans and particularities concerning research data management at Umeå University and EpiGH
	Thanh Nguyen – <u>Seminar</u> Economic evaluation of strategic clinical networks in Alberta, Canada
October	Britt-Inger Keisu & Johanna Lauri – Post pump <u>Seminar</u> Sexual harassment and gender-based violence at Umeå University
	U-CHEC – <u>Seminar</u> Mixed Methods Design Faustine Kyungu Nkulu Kalengayi from the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health
	U-CHEC – <u>Seminar</u> Supported education for young adults with mental health problems – opportunities and challenges for developing career-oriented services in the Swedish welfare system David Rosenberg from the Department of Social work
November	Arian Rostami – Pre defense <u>Seminar</u>
	Kaspar Meili – Pre defense <u>Seminar</u>
	Satish Strömberg – Post pump <u>Seminar</u> Chat GPT: your assistant in teaching and research
	U-CHEC – <u>Seminar</u> Equity in Health: Ageism indicators, definitions and relation to health Fredrik Snellman from the Department of Social Work
December	Hanna Blåhed – 50 % <u>Seminar</u>
	Chanvo Salvador Lucas Daza – Pre defense <u>Seminar</u>
	Petite Nobel Day – <u>Seminars</u>
	Sun Sun – Post pump <u>Seminar</u> docent lecture When health economics meet real-world evidence: a journey of the joint experience from academic and industry
	Yosephin Anandati Panoto – PhD admission <u>Seminar</u>
	Daniel Örnberg – PhD admission <u>Seminar</u>

Medical Faculty - Theme Equity in Health

Epidemiology and Global Health coordinates Theme Equity in Health, a thematic space for senior researchers and doctoral students active in the field of equity and health, and others interested in the topic. The theme falls under the umbrella of U-CHEC – Umeå Centre of Health Science.

A seminar series has been running since 2014 with alternating speakers from the U-CHEC departments (Epidemiology and Global Health, Nursing, Community Medicine and Rehabilitation). The seminars aim to stimulate debate and creative thinking by offering ample time for

discussion. For details about upcoming and past seminars, go to: <https://www.umu.se/en/research/groups/theme-equity-in-health/>

The course “Equity and Health” (3.5 ECTS) offers PhD and MSc students the opportunity to explore general theories about justice and fairness in society, and their connections with research and practice in public health, health economics, and midwifery science. Students have consistently rated the course very highly since its inception in 2017. www.umu.se/en/education/courses/equity-and-health2/

CONTACT: Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström

Research Training

PhD education at EpiGH

By the end of 2023 there are 38 PhD students admitted at the Department of Epidemiology and Global (or soon to be admitted). As part of our ongoing collaborations with universities based in other countries, we have PhD students who are based in 14 different countries. Besides Sweden, those include India, The Gambia, Vietnam, Uganda, Zambia, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Ecuador, Tanzania, Sudan, Namibia, Cambodia, Bolivia and Indonesia.

Our PhD students are engaged in a diversity of projects dealing with different aspects of public health. Have a look at our Web page to read more about them ([link](#)). Having such a variety of projects and PhD collaborations allows for career progression of the students and supervisors, and also strengthens the networks of collaborations and internationalization of our Department and University.

During 2023 we have had 3 PhD defenses. We also had two PhD days. The first PhD Day was in Lycksele (picture 1) during the Spring

where we learnt more about the Sami and discussed the role of the reference person as a mentor and safe space for PhD students. The second PhD was during the Autumn (pictures 2 and 3) when PhD students and supervisors came together to discuss the predoc exchange – the visit that PhD students do to other research institutions, as part of their PhD education.

We have also had four supervisors meetings where we have discussed the role of the reference person and reference group, and the examiner, ethics and how to prevent and address challenges within the supervisory team.

For 2024 we look forward for a large number of defenses and new PhD students starting their PhDs with us.

CONTACT: *Isabel Goicolea*



PhD Day 26th Oct

PhD students and projects
















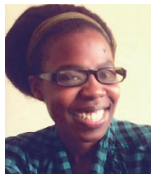




















 Adam Silumbwe	 Ahn Vu Nu	 Aliou Sowe	 André Sjöberg	 Angela Kisakye	 Anika Juneja
 Anna Stenling	 Arian Rostami	 Atakelti Derbew	 Camilla Andersson	 Carla Huanca Challgua	 Cartrine Odhiambo
 Chanvo Daca	 Chama Mulubwa	 Chavula Paul Malizgani	 Edwinah Atusingwize	 Edy Rolando Quizhpe	 Elia Swai
 Ester Steven Mzilangwe	 Fethi Mohammed Yusuf	 Hanna Blåhed	 Hussein Kapuya	 Huzeifa Jabir Aweesha	 Johan Hambræus
 Kaspar Meili	 Lina Årlebrant	 Mai Vu Thi Quynh	 Malin Öhrling	 Melissa Scribani	 Mikael Emsing
 Panduleni Penipawa	 Puthy Pat	 Rodrigo Arcev	 Susanna Bellander	 Tsigemariam Gebreslassie	 Yercin Mamani Ortiz

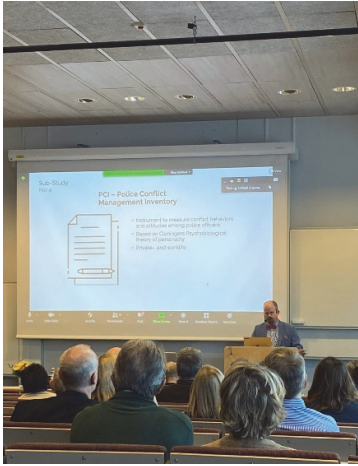
Table 2. PhD students registered at the department 2022.

Name	Background	Country	Thesis subject	Main supervisor
Adam Silumbwe	BA Healthcare management	Zambia	Evaluating Zambia's response to non-communicable diseases: a policy and systems analysis approach	Klara Johansson
Anh Vu Nu	MA Public health	Vietnam	Establishing a national threshold value for cost effectiveness analysis in Vietnam	Sun Sun
Alieu Sowe	MSc Public Health	Gambia	Investigating inequitable vaccination: predictors of, social inequalities in, and intervention against sub-optimal vaccination in The Gambia	Per Gustafsson
André Sjöberg	MSc Public Health with Health Economics	Sweden	Evaluation of the effect, cost-effectiveness, and implementation of Everyday Life Rehabilitation (ELR) for people with severe psychiatric disability living in supported accommodation	Maria Lindström
Angela Kisakye	MA Public health	Uganda	A Gender analysis of the health workforce in Uganda: Implications for policy, planning and Human Resource development	Helene Johansson
Anika Juneja	MSc Public Health	India	Neighbourhood disadvantage and access to health care - the case of sickle cell disease in two Adivasi communities in central and southern India	Anna-Karin Hurtig
Anna Stenling	MSc Engineering Biology	Sweden	Health economic evaluation of the Västerbotten Intervention Programme	Fredrik Norström
Arian Rostami	MA Health education	Iran	Mental health and job satisfaction in relation to work-related stress, personality and resilience in police officers working in vulnerable areas	Monica Burman
Atakelti Derbew	MSc Public Health	Ethiopia	Under 5-year morbidity and mortality in Tigray Region, Ethiopia: an equity perspective.	Anna Myléus
Camilla Andersson	MA Master of Philosophy	Sweden	The role of health communication and household's habits in Climate change mitigation.	Maria Nilsson
Carla Huanca Chaligua	Social communicator	Bolivia	Access to cervical cancer preventative healthcare in Cochabamba, Bolivia	Ida Linander
Cartrine Nancy Anyango-Odhiambo	MSc Public Health	Sweden	Intime violence: Towards improving service provision to women with disabilities in Sweden	Fredinah Namatovu
Chanvo Salvador Lucas Daca	MA International Health	Mozambique	Understanding the drivers for child and reproductive health in Mozambique: The role of socioeconomic inequality and the gaps between policy and implementation	Fredinah Namatovu
Chama Mulubwa	BSc Biological sciences, MPH	Zambia	Community-based reproductive and health system for adolescents in Zambia: A realist evaluation approach	Isabel Goicolea

Name	Background	Country	Thesis subject	Main supervisor
Chavula Paul Malizgani	MSc Public Health Promotion & Education	Zambia	The role of collaborative governance in delivery of comprehensive sexuality education in Zambia	Anna-Karin Hurtig
Edwinah Atusingwize	BA Environ health science	Uganda	Alcohol and social media use among university students: Perceptions, patterns and experiences, and the feasibility of social media-based interventions for alcohol prevention	Maria Nilsson
Edu Rolando Quizhpe Ordóñez	MA Family Health, MD	Ecuador	The health system reform in Ecuador: advancing towards universal health coverage?	Anni-Maria Pulkki Brännström
Ella Swai	MA Physiotherapy	Tanzania	Children and adolescents with physical disabilities in Tanzania. Exploring characteristics, needs and challenges in the Kilimanjaro region	Klas-Göran Sahlén
Ester Steven Mizilangwe	MA Medical Science	Tanzania	Sexual violence among University students in Tanzania: Experience, prevalence and perceptions regarding support systems	Faustine Nkulu Kalengayi
Fethi Mohammad Yusuf	MSc Public Health, MD	Sweden	Heterogeneity in Bodu Mass Index (BMI) distribution in Sweden: insights from precision in epidemiological and health economic evaluation	Masoud Vaezghasemi
Hanna Blåhed	MSc Public Health	Sweden	Good quality, Local (e) Healthcare in Rural Northern Sweden: A Policy Practice and Community Approach	Anna-Karin Hurtig
Hussein Kapuya	MA Arts in Public Administration	Tanzania	Strengthening Health Faculty Governing Committees to promote social accountability in the local health system in Tanzania	Miguel San Sebastian
Huzeifa Jabir Aweesha	MA Sciences of Public health	Sudan	Effective Development Cooperation: improving health system governance - Efforts, challenges, and opportunities in Sudan	Miguel San Sebastian
Johan Hambræus	MD	Sweden	Evaluation of intervention al pain management mainly focused on zygapophysial joint pain	Lars Lindholm
Kaspar Meili	MPH Health economics	Switzerland	Estimating and applying weights for Capability-Adjusted Life Years	Anna Månsdotter
Lina Årlebrant	BA, MSc Nursing	Sweden	To gain knowledge about experience and expectations of meetings in health care, provided thought digital solutions such as video conference equipment in everyday care and how care meetings can be effective both in terms of resources and quality care.	Anette Edin-Liljegren
Vu Thi Quynh Mai	MSc Health Economics	Vietnam	Feasibility and applicability of health related quality of life in Vietnam healthcare planning system	Klas-Göran Sahlén
Malin Öhring	MSc Public Health	Sweden	Working in home care during the pandemic - What can we learn, moving forward?	Fredrik Norström

Name	Background	Country	Thesis subject	Main supervisor
Melissa Scribani	BS Biology, MPH	USA	Consequences of obesity and determinants of weight maintenance: a study of adult populations in rural New York State and Västerbotten County, moving towards an intervention to stem the tide of the obesity epidemic	Margareta Norberg
Mikael Ermsing	MA Pedagogics	Sweden	Perceptions of conflict management, association with mental health and quality of life among Swedish police officers	Mehdi Ghazinour
Panduleni Penipawa Shimanda	MSc Public Health, specialization Health Economics	Namibia	The burden of rheumatic heart disease in Namibia and seeking cost-effective interventions to lower its magnitude	Fredrik Norström
Puthy Pat	MA Counselling	Cambodia	Promoting mental health of young prisoners and strengthening the mental health care system in the prisons of Cambodia	Miguel San Sebastián
Rodrigo Arce	MA Public Health	Bolivia	Exploring the health system response to the covid-19 pandemic in Cochabamba Bolivia	Frida Jonsson
Susanna Bellander	MA Criminology	Sweden	The Swedish Police Authority's work against terrorism: An explorative study of the implementation of Governments strategy against terrorism.	Mehdi Ghazinour
Tsigemariam Teklu Gebreslassie	MA Public Health	Ethiopia	Epidemiology of Visceral Leishmaniasis and epidemiological interaction with concomitant infections in North Ethiopia.	Anna Myléus
Yercin Mamani Ortiz	Medical Doctor	Bolivia	Cardiovascular diseases in Cochabamba, Bolivia: Identifying preventable risk factors and assessing social inequalities.	Paola Mosquera Mendez

Dissertation events and thesis abstracts



Mikael Emsing



Melissa Brower Scribani



Johan Hambræus

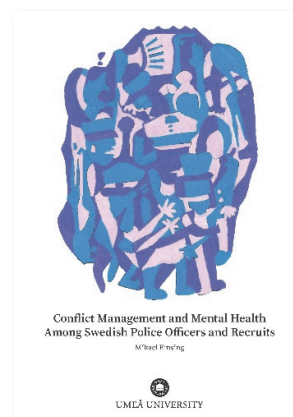
MIKAEL EMSING

Conflict management & mental health among Swedish police officers & recruits

Thesis defended: January 20, 2023

Supervisors: Prof Mehdi Ghazinour, Ass prof Mojgan Padyab, Ass prof Miguel Inzunza, Prof Anna-Karin Hurtig

Opponent: Prof Brita Bjørkelo, Department of Police academy, University of Oslo, Oslo



Introduction: An essential part of police work is handling people in distress, often related to some form of conflict that police officers are expected to handle in a professional manner. Thus, interpersonal and conflict management skills are essential for police officers. Further, police work has been hailed as one of the most complex and stressful jobs that one can have. While important progress has been made in relation to how the complex and stressful nature of police work affects the individual officers - less is known about the timing and onset of these effects. Similarly, while there is a growing body of research into police conflict management, more research is needed to deepen our understanding of police conflict management, not least in the Swedish context. The overall aim of the present thesis was to contribute to existing knowledge about police work by investigating conflict management and mental health among Swedish police recruits and officers.

Materials and methods: The present thesis used a mixed-methods approach and is built on four sub-studies. Sub-study 1 examined the evidence base for current practices, methods, and training in conflict management by means of a scoping review. Sub-study 2 used semi-structured interviews to examine how police officers perceived conflict and conflict-management and their training within the subject. Results from sub-study 2 were also used in creating items for the instrument developed in sub-study 4. Sub-study 3 used a quantitative design to examine the mental health status of Swedish police recruits using the SCL-90 questionnaire. Sub-study 4 documented the initial steps towards developing an instrument to measure conflict behaviors and attitudes to conflict management among police officers and evaluated the psychometric properties of this instrument.

Results: A large proportion of the studies included in the scoping review were conducted in the US and many focused on use of force. The results also indicate that a lack of available data, unified definitions and experimental as well as longitudinal research designs makes it difficult to draw causal conclusions regarding the effectiveness of training in conflict management. In the interviews, respondents described conflict largely in terms of interpersonal conflicts, and focused less on intrapersonal conflict. The complexity and importance of the role played by instructors during probationary training was also salient in their descriptions. As for mental health status, recruits overall reported scores that were similar to the general population. A small number of recruits ($n = 15$) reported scores that were above the patient mean of the Swedish general population in the corresponding age group. The intended factor structure of the instrument developed could not be operationalized in the instrument's current form, but the instrument could still provide insights and provides a basis for further development of the instrument.

Conclusions: To enhance our understanding on police conflict management, scholars and police departments should work together to agree upon unified definitions on key concepts related to this topic. More research using longitudinal and experimental designs are needed to further develop training interventions related to conflict management. While a small number of recruits reported scores above the Swedish patient mean, extant research has indicated that

stigmas surrounding mental health among police could lead to unconstructive coping behaviors. Further research on mental health among not only Swedish police officers but also recruits, could focus on help seeking-behaviors and stigmas related to mental health to provide valuable insights on the topic. The instrument developed within the present thesis needs further development but nonetheless represents a first step towards examining individual differences in relation to police conflict management behaviors and attitudes towards conflict.

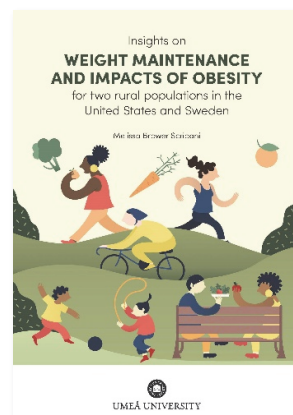
MELISSA BROWER SCRIBANI

Insights on weight maintenance and impacts of obesity for two rural populations in the United States and Sweden

Thesis defended: March 3, 2023

Supervisors: Ass Prof Margareta Norberg, Prof Lars Weinehall, Prof Paul Jenkins, PhD Senior Scientist Julie Sorensen.

Opponent: Ass Prof Kirsten Mehlig, Department of Medicine, Göteborg University, Sweden.



Background: Obesity is a serious public health concern worldwide, and nearly 40% of all adults in the United States and 21% in Sweden are now living with obesity. Efforts focusing mainly on weight loss have fallen short in reducing obesity prevalence. There is a great need for improved insight into what factors may promote a healthy weight, thereby avoiding the adverse health outcomes linked to obesity. Primary weight maintenance is a prevention strategy that emphasizes keeping a long-term stable weight in the non-obese range.

Aim: The overall aims of this thesis were to improve understanding of the patterns of obesity and obesity-related mortality among rural adults in Central New York State (U.S.) and Västerbotten County (Sweden), and to explore factors that are related to primary weight maintenance.

Material and methods: Data from U.S. health surveys and health examinations in Sweden were used to compare twenty-year (1989-2009) trends in body mass index (BMI) and obesity using multi-factor analysis of variance. The association between obesity and risk of 1) premature all-cause death, and 2) premature circulatory death, was compared between the U.S. and Sweden using proportional hazards regression. In 2009, a longitudinal questionnaire of attitudes, behaviors and perceptions regarding weight maintenance was administered to U.S. subjects. Associations between ten-year weight change and survey variables were tested using multiple linear regression, separately for sex and age strata. To gain a deeper understanding of influences, facilitators and barriers to healthy eating and physical activity, a qualitative interview study was conducted with U.S. women aged 26-35, with data analyzed by qualitative content analysis.

Results: Over twenty years, BMI increased for both men and women in all age strata in both countries, and those with no university education consistently had higher BMI than their university-educated counterparts. BMI increased more for younger groups (ages 36-45) compared to those aged 46-55 and 56-62. U.S. females aged 36-45 showed the greatest increases in average BMI, particularly when comparing 1999 to 2009. Increases in the prevalence of obesity (BMI \geq 30) in Sweden were more modest than in the U.S. Severe obesity (BMI \geq 35) was associated with significantly increased risk of premature death from all causes and from circulatory causes for all subjects. Severe obesity was less common in Sweden (2% of men, 3% of women) than in the U.S. (8% of men, 9% of women). Nonetheless, severely obese Swedish men had 2.9 times the risk of premature death from all causes compared to those of normal weight, and 4.9 times the risk for circulatory causes. The gradient of risk among U.S. men was significantly lower than in Sweden; those with severe obesity had a 1.6 times increased risk for all-cause premature death and 3.2 times increased risk for premature circulatory death. The pattern of risk among women did not differ between countries. Longitudinal analysis of U.S. health survey participants showed that women aged 26-35 gained the most weight of any group (mean=10.3kg gained over ten years). The variables found to be associated with ten-year weight change were different across sex and age groups. Among women, all variables

associated with weight change were exerciserelated. Among men, three of the four predictors were focused on eating habits. Interviews with women aged 26-35 revealed the challenges of healthy eating and engaging in physical activity. Women often identified as caregivers for others, and those with more social support, who were financially stable and showed self-efficacy around healthy choices were able to more consistently engage in healthy habits.

Conclusions: Obesity is an increasing problem for the rural adult population in both the U.S. and Sweden. When primary weight maintenance strategies are designed to support individuals towards healthy eating and increased physical activity, the complexity of the living environment must be considered. Individual conditions and personal relationships as well as the physical environment, home environment and work environment must be included in the assessment. Development of targeted programs for primary weight maintenance should be a focus of public health work for adults in rural areas in both Sweden and the U.S.

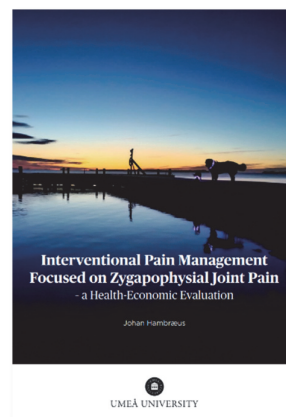
JOHAN HAMBRAEUS

Interventional pain management focused on zygapophysial joint pain: a health-economic evaluation

Thesis defended: March 17, 2023

Supervisors: Prof Lars Lindholm, Ass prof Klas-Göran Sahlen,
Ass prof Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström

Opponent: Prof emeritus Roine Risto, Department of Health and
Social Management, University of Eastern Finland



The pain-system is a central mechanism in our life. Chronic pain is one of the major causes of impaired health-related quality of life according to the World Health Organization's "Global Burden of Disease"-studies. Zygapophysial joint pain has been shown to account for the pain in 30% - 50% of patients with chronic pain. There are several well-established, evidence-based methods to treat zygapophysial joint pain in the cervical and lumbar regions.

This thesis originates from this and starts by exploring whether the treatment of zygapophysial joint pain can improve health-related quality of life. This thesis describes methods for the diagnosis and treatment of zygapophysial joint pain in the thoracic region that can be applied to the treatment of all pain-foci localized to the zygapophysial joints. I show that the health-related quality of life was significantly improved after treatment, and that the clinical methods used for treating thoracic pain were similar to the methods that have been established previously for cervical and lumbar pain.

In order to better understand the patients' experiences we performed qualitative interviews with patients who underwent diagnostic tests and treatments. The overall theme revealed by these interviews was that of empowerment, in which the patients were empowered by the process of diagnostic tests and treatments.

The next question was whether the method was cost-effective or not. In the first cost-effectiveness analysis, the patients served as their own controls and we evaluated the results against the limits set by the Swedish national board of health and welfare. The results showed that it was cost-effective in the moderate to low range.

Finally, we compared the treatment to the "gold standard" for pain management in Sweden; i.e. pain rehabilitation. We mimicked a randomized controlled trial by using propensity score weighting to compare 254 patients against 15,357 patients registered in the Swedish National Register of Pain Rehabilitation. The results showed that interventional pain management was cost-effective in the moderate (12 months after treatment) to low (≥ 24 months after) range whereas pain rehabilitation was in the very high range (after 12 months) and became cost-effective in the high range after 24 months of treatment. Currently, interventional pain management accounts for just 2% of all specialized pain management procedures in Sweden. If this could be increased to 25%, it may be possible to save 106 million SEK annually, while simultaneously gain 14 quality adjusted life years of health. If an interventional pain assessment is performed early in the process, treatable patients could be directed toward interventional treatment and away from interdisciplinary pain management programs, with the potential for further reductions in costs.

From the news.....



Figure 10. During 2023 we have presented our research through many different media.

Consultancy and advisory functions

We regularly contribute our time and expertise within Umeå University and externally, the latter at local, regional, national and international levels through a variety of consultancy and advisory functions. Examples of such roles are given below (Table 3). In addition, our researchers are of course referees and on editorial boards for a large number of scientific journals.

We are key advisers behind the Region Västerbotten Public Health Policy programme. On a regular basis we train local

and regional political assemblies, as well as patient organisations and public associations. We participate in many public health education activities, both for basic public health training and the dissemination of public health research. We regularly inform decision-makers, such as politicians and officials from the municipalities and the county councils, of public health issues in the northern region of Sweden.

Table 3. Consultancy and advisory tasks among the staff.

Name	Institution	Task
Dean Carson	Storumans kommun	Advisor to Storumans Cares 2050 strategy for elder care
Per Gustafsson	Swedish Ethical Review Authority	Scientific Member, Umeå, Department for Other research
	Umeå University	Member of Strategic Board of Education, Faculty of Medicine Chair of Program Council for Master Programs in Public Health, Faculty of Medicine
Anna-Karin Hurtig	The Swedish Association of Social Medicine and Public Health	Member of Board and Secretary
	Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA)	Focal person UmU
	Swedish Research Council	Member of the Committee for Development Research
	University of Bergen, Norway	External advisor Master in Global Health
Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte)	Member of review panel (Health promotion and behaviour) Scientific member
	Swedish Ethical Review Authority	Permanent member, Umeå department ÖV
	Umeå University, Medical Faculty	Member of Research Strategic Board (FON)
	Umeå University, Medical Faculty	Member of internationalisation group
Anneli Ivarsson	Medical Faculty, Umeå University	Member of the Course Coordinator group for the Medical Program
	Swedish Agency for Health Technology Assessment and Assessment of Social Services (SBU)	Expert for a systematic review on promotion of mental health for children and young
	Save the Children Sweden – Räd Barnen	Chair of the election committee for the Västerbotten district
Urban Janlert	Swedish Research council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte)	Chairperson of review panel (health promotion and behaviour)
	Socialmedicinsk tidskrift	Chairperson of the board
Håkan Jonsson	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions (SKR)	Member of national working group for mammography
Marie Lindkvist	Umeå university	Member of the council for internationalisation of education (RIU)
	TropEd, Network for education in international health	Member in the Executive committee
Nawi Ng	Hanoi University of Public Health, Vietnam	Member of the International Publishing Adviser
	Gadjah Mada University, Indonesia	Member of Scientific Advisory Committee for Sleman HDSS
Lena Maria Nilsson	WHO	Participated in the Indigenous expert group for the WHO-commissioned "Literature review on Indigenous health and climate change" 2023

Maria Nilsson	The Royal Swedish Academy of Science	Member of the Health Committee
	Lancet Countdown on Climate Change and Health - global	Co-Chair WG 2
	Lancet Countdown - Europe	Board member
	Umeå University	Chair
	UTRI - Umeå Transformation Research Initiative, Umeå University	Member, Faculty board, Faculty of Medicine
Fredrik Norström	Umeå University Library	Member of Steering group
	BMC Public Health	Board member
Faustine Kyungu Nkulu Kalengayi	Skaraborgsinstitutet, Scientific Council	Associate Editor
	Swedish Platform for global SRHR issues	Member
Lennarth Nyström	Posithiva gruppen	Member of the reference group
	Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy	Member of the expert group for “3P: Positive Pregnancy Peers project”
Raman Preet	Expert, European Guidelines for breast cancer screening and diagnosis	Member, Committee for Global Health
	Swedish Society of Medicine	Member, Academic Governing Board
	The International Institute of Knowledge Management, Sri Lanka	Member, Editorial Board
Linda Richter Sundberg	CAB International - Global Health Database, UK	Member, Editorial Board
	Ministry of Health, Sweden	Scientific advisor concerning Knowledge governance and implementation in the Swedish Health System
	Socialmedicinsk tidskrift	Board member
	Swedish Association of Psychologists	Member of the Ethical board Coordinator
Masoud Vaezghasemi	Umeå University	Network for implementation science and practice In the Northern Sweden
	South Africa Sweden University Forum (SASUF)	Member of the UMU reference group for SASUF 2030
Miguel San Sebastián	International Journal for Equity in Health	Associate editor
Jon Petter Stoor	Sámi parliament, Norway	Member of Ethical review board on Sámi health research, Norway
	Lancet	Member, Lancet commission on Arctic Health
		Member, Lancet commission on Suicide and suicidal behavior
	Sámi parliament, Sweden	Advisory consultant, the new Swedish national plan for mental health and suicide prevention
	Umeå University	Board member, UTRI-YRN (Umeå Transformation Research Initiative young researchers network)
	Public Health Agency of Sweden	Advisory consultant, monitoring health of national minorities and the Indigenous Sámi people in Swede
Sun Sun	EuroQoL Group	Member, and Member of Populations and health systems working group
	Swedish Health economics association (SHEA)	Member
	European Organization for research and treatment for cancer (EORTC),	Member
	NorlanderSun AB, Founder & Owner	Providing consultancy services in health economics, outcomes research and real-world evidence
	The International Society for Pharmacoeconomics and Outcomes Research (ISPORE)	Member
Moses Tetui	Frontiers in Women’s Health	Guest editor
	Kitchener-Waterloo4 Ontario Health Teams, Canada (KW4OHT)	Member, Community Council Design Committee (CCDC)
	Makerere University, School of Health Sciences, Uganda	Member, Research and Ethics Committee
	Global Health: Science and practice Journal.	Guest editor
Lars Weinehall	National Board of Health and Welfare	Expert committee (chair) tasked to revise the National guidelines for prevention and treatment of unhealthy lifestyle habits.

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Other Publications

Berg L, Bäckström H. *Solidaritet i samexistens: om ett begrepp värt att värna*. In: Feminism och konvivialitet: samexistens, oenighet, hopp. Malmö: Gleerups Utbildning AB; 2023. p. 25-35.

Kallerhult Hermansson S, Hilli Y, Norström F, Solbakken R, Rennemo Vaag J, Bölenius K. *The impact of a mentorship program with digital solutions: Mentors' experiences, self-reported self-efficacy, and clinical teaching behavior*. 5th Nordic conference in nursing research, Reykjavik, Iceland, October 2-4, 2023. 2023.

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Doctoral Theses

Emsing M. *Conflict management & mental health among Swedish police officers & recruits*. [PhD dissertation]. Umeå University medical dissertations, 2023.

Brower Scribani M. *Insights on weight maintenance and impacts of obesity for two rural populations in the United States and Sweden*. [PhD dissertation]. Umeå University medical dissertations, 2023.

Hambraeus J. *Interventional pain management focused on zygapophysial joint pain: a health-economic evaluation*. [PhD dissertation]. Umeå University medical dissertations, 2023.

Master of Public Health Theses

2023:01 **Nazmul Ahmed.** Income inequality in hypertension in Northern Sweden: An Wagstaff decomposition Analysis. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:02 **Isa Maria dos Santos Resende.** The costs and consequences of judicialization of public healthcare in the municipality of Araguari, Brazil: an ethical analysis. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:03 **Menayit Tamrat Dresse.** Cost-effectiveness of rivaroxaban compared to warfarin for the prevention of stroke in non-valvular atrial fibrillation in Ethiopia: Markov modelling. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:04 **Afsana Hossain Sharna.** Does only being a Sami influence the suicidal thoughts to end it all? An analysis based on the counterfactual framework of ethnic disparities in Sweden. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:05 **Meenu.** Cost-effectiveness of Internet-based Cognitive Behavioral Therapy for Generalized anxiety disorder in India: A Markov model. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:06 **Ingyin Moe.** Economic evaluations of risk-based screening strategies for breast cancer: a systematic review of economic models. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:07 **Mary Omolabake Olaleye.** Cost-effectiveness analysis of low protein diet for patients with chronic kidney disease in Sweden. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:08 **William Agyapong Opore.** Cost-effectiveness analysis of screening and vitamin supplements for slowing the progression of Age-related macular degeneration in Sweden. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:09 **Fatou Saidy.** The costs and consequences of RBF interventions for improving the quality of care provided on maternal and child health and health in The Gambia. Cost Consequence Analysis. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:10 **Fatou Sanneh.** Rural-urban disparity in overweight and obesity among 15-49 years old women in The Gambia: Blinder-Oaxaca

decomposition analysis. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:11 **Robert Ssooka**. Cost effectiveness analysis of Naltrexone and Acamprosate in treatment of Alcohol dependence to prevent Alcohol related liver cirrhosis and hepatocellular carcinoma: Markov model. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:12 **Nishat Sultana Guldhag**. A Qualitative Interview Study to Understand the Barriers that Hinder the Reporting of Adverse Drug Reactions in Bangladesh. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:13 **Emerson Njokah Wepngong**. A cost-effectiveness study of Angiotensin-converting enzyme inhibitors as initial therapy for hypertension compared to diuretics. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:14 **Ahmed Abdou**. Experiences and Perspectives of Arabic-speaking Migrants about Healthcare in Sweden. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:15 **Rosaline Bezerra Aguiar**. Stories of taking part in longterm, timed, personalized rehabilitation. A narrative inquiry of residents with severe mental illness and their rehabilitation pathway. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:16 **Jonathan Afamefuna Alao**. “If Education is expensive, ignorance is more expensive.” – A Qualitative study Exploring the Knowledge, Attitudes, and Beliefs of Diabetes Mellitus by the Staff of Nigeria Baptist Seminary, Ogbomoso, Nigeria. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:17 **Thein Myint Aung**. Prevalence and determinants of sugar-sweetened beverages consumption among the Sámi population in Sweden: a cross-sectional study. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:18 **Nadia Enih Bah**. Exploring Physiotherapist experience during Covid-19. Challenges to service delivery and possible

suggestions: A Qualitative study in Cameroon. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:19 **Sara Castel Feded**. Sex-differences in the incidence of cardiovascular events in Aragon, Spain. A counterfactual decomposition analysis. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:20 **Omar Ceesay**. Male involvement in reproductive, maternal and child health: a qualitative study of health care managers' experiences and reflections at Bundung Maternal and Child Health Hospital, The Gambia. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:21 **Evert Pieter Marie den Drijver**. Risk factors for poor self-rated health among Sámi in Sweden. A large population-based study. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

2023:22 **Charlotta Gunnarsson**. ME/CFS – How to care for those severely ill and/or housebound? - A rapid scoping review. *Master thesis in public health*. Umeå International School of Public Health, Department of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University 2023. (DiVA)

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