

ANNUAL REPORT 2020

DEPARTMENT OF EPIDEMIOLOGY AND GLOBAL HEALTH



UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

Annual Report 2020

Department of Epidemiology and Global Health

Umeå International School of Public Health (UISPH)

Prologue

To all staff, students, collaborators and other colleagues,

We thought that 2020 was going to be a year like any other year...but it was not. It was a year that all of us will remember, it was the year the Covid-19 pandemic began. A year when we had to face the pandemic as organisation and as individuals.

It was the year when we all learnt how to use zoom. We had our first staff meeting on zoom in March; would it work, would we hear and see each other??.... And yes, we did! And since then, the virtual meetings have become the every-day reality of our work. Ways to connect which are to be grateful for, but where subtle non-verbal messages tend to get lost. We got efficient in some aspects, we all moved on with our tasks, but missed the physical presence of colleagues and students. Working mostly from home, we missed the small talk, “the fikas”, and the spontaneous exchanges of highs and lows.

We successfully started a new Master's Programme in Working Life and Health. It was appropriately planned as a distance-based master programme. Teaching in other programmes had to temporarily be transformed, and we felt sympathy for our international MPH students who had travelled far to have the lived experiences of studying on campus in Umeå. We acknowledge their strength and endurance to keep going and graduate. We also proudly acknowledge our new doctors who have defended their PhD theses during the pandemic. A big salute to all students!!

The pandemic has made us reflect; we have been isolated, yet never so aware of that we are all connected. The fragilities and inequalities of societies and health systems have been exposed as well as the need for a societal fabric built of genuine solidarity, locally and globally. At the Department we strive to contribute to this fabric through interactive collaborative research and teaching. We build on our combined multidisciplinary strengths, where public health bridges social and natural sciences.

Please take a moment to learn more about our activities in this Annual Report!

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

And thanks to everyone for all your contributions over the year!

ANNA-KARIN HURTIG
Head of Department

KLAS-GÖRAN SAHLÉN
Deputy Head of Department

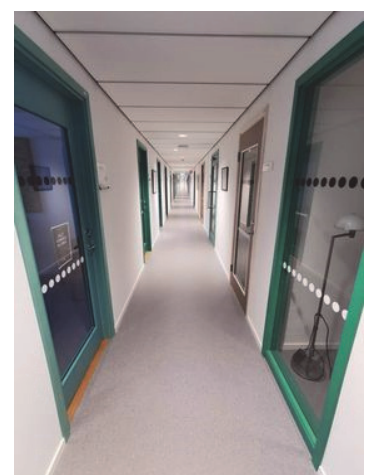
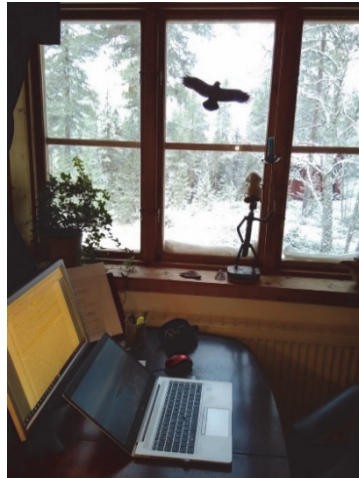
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Staff experience of the covid-19 year in pictures



The 2020 Work from Home experience shared by EpiGH staff

Work-wise, 2020 started just like any other year. As a *global health* department, we face the ‘global’ in our everyday work in manifold ways. For many decades, both our master and PhD education, as well as our research are thriving in a truly global environment. Up until early 2020, EpiGH staff was engaged in teaching and supervising international master students and got ready for the upcoming spring grant applications which more often than not involved old and new international collaborators. We welcomed several incoming sandwich PhD students and guests from many different countries to our department – and due to upcoming travel restrictions, some of them ‘got stuck’ in Umeå for longer than planned. In February, the last ‘physical’ PhD defense took place and some colleagues returned from their last travels to Africa, Asia and South America, followed by a 2-weeks quarantine. Since then, most of our daily activities have been largely ‘zoomified’.

On January 30, the WHO declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern regarding Covid-19, and later on March 11 2020 declared a pandemic. The Covid-19 pandemic has resulted in many people, around the globe, working from home – and EpiGH is no exception to this. The pandemic has covered a full spectrum of experiences, including the collision of our professional and personal lives as we’ve settled into working somewhere from our bedrooms and basements. How Covid-19 has – and hasn’t – changed the way EpiGH staff work and whether there haven’t only been challenges but also benefits in our new way of working, is presented here through the feedback and perspectives of five EpiGH colleagues.

For some, settling into the new 2020 working routines has been a positive experience and some could even imagine to continue working from home to a large extent after the pandemic’s end. Skipping the daily commute to work – which is both good for the environment and saving on fuel, being able to better and more flexibly balance family and work, or having the possibility to go for a quick ski during the

lunch break are just some positive examples. But above all, Covid-19 made all of us more technology-friendly. Zoom, Teams, and Göran got us through the pandemic. Many described themselves as largely ‘technology-averted’ prior to the pandemic but were positively surprised about how smoothly teaching and seminars – even larger events like PhD defenses – can be done online. All of our spring term teaching and supervision, our work and Pump meetings, and even our fika breaks have been done on distance.

But despite the help from technology, for many of us it hasn’t been always easy to settle into the 2020 roller coaster. What else is crucial to make it work? Self-motivation, not being too hard with ourselves when trying to find and adjust our new routines, and a bit of self-discipline when it comes to ‘not bringing work home’ when working from home have been common strategies by EpiGH staff during 2020. Some described 2020 as a ‘year of contradictions’ - the lines between our professional and private lives are both more blurry and more distinct. More distinct in the sense that when we are working, we are working – by ourselves on our kitchen table. At the same time, the book we’re supposed to read is not lying on our desk at work but on the kitchen counter, and we can’t no longer leave it up to the two persons on fika week duty to empty our dishwasher.

The Covid-19 pandemic changed the agendas and timelines of many research projects. Many had to adapt to the challenges the pandemic put on field work and data collections – foremost the PhD students. But again, many perceived this as positive since they were forced to approach their research field in new ways which enabled them to identify gaps in the field that they may not have seen otherwise. We shall all look forward read and learn how students and staff have coped with Covid-19 in their projects in upcoming articles and theses in the years to come!

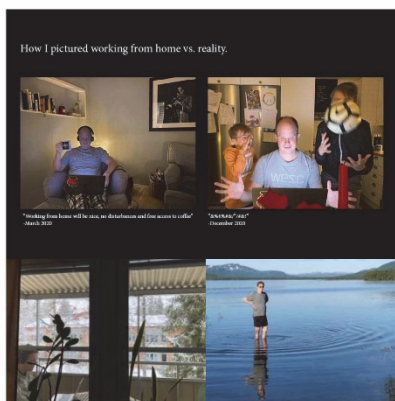
But unanimously, after almost a year of working from home, EpiGH staff miss real in-person conversations most of all. The informal casual chat in the corridor, being able to knock the door of a colleague, catching up during fika breaks, meeting students in the classroom, travelling to follow up on our projects, celebrating small

and big achievements – these have been described as the most rewarding parts of our work. For most, these relational aspects of our work are the key triggers of their motivation and creativity – emphasizing the unique working environment at EpiGH.

At EpiGH, we have both individually and as a department gone through the year 2020. While we have learnt new ways of working – and for sure some new routines will remain in place after the pandemic – we're now having high hopes to safely open up the

department for the autumn 2021 semester – greeting a new cohort of master students and meeting the second year students in person, welcoming visiting PhD students and researchers. But all too much are we longing to again stand in the long queue leading to Epi's coffee machine catching up with colleagues and friends. We will meet again!

We thank Isabel Goicolea, Ulrika Järvholm, Mikael Emsing, Wolfgang Lohr, and Huzeifa Aweesha for sharing their stories of 2020.





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

Organisational setting

Organisation, Leadership and Staff

The work of the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health (EpiGH) has been shaped by a set of key values that are central to the way in which we conduct research and education and engage with society. These efforts are underpinned by our aim which is to contribute to equitable and sustainable improvements in health and welfare across the globe. We adopt a broad definition of global health to include public health issues in Sweden, as well as in the rest of the world. Our mission, vision and values are presented on page 4.

EpiGH is a multidisciplinary research and teaching environment. We host Umeå International School of Public Health with Masters Programmes in Public Health (MPH) and we have an extensive PhD programme. From 2020 we have had responsibility for the Master's programme in Working life and Health (ALPHA) which is a one year masters programme.

A guiding principle of our organization is to ensure that each and every member of 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 guide future developments in this regard. The Midpoint Researchers' Group involves "post-docs" and others at the beginning of their research careers. The Academic Dialogue Spaces, which emerged from bottom-up initiatives to encourage increased scientific dialogue and to promote the development of cutting-edge expertise, continued their activities during 2020 (see page 34). The three research profiles: *Emerging Global Health Challenges*, *Health Systems and Policy*, and *Northern Sweden Health and*

Welfare, has further been consolidated during the year (see page 28).

The Leadership Group, which meets once a month, comprised the following members in 2020:

Anna-Karin Hurtig	Head of Department
Klas-Göran Sahlén	Deputy Head of Department
Marie Lindkvist	Study Director, MPH
Karin Johansson	Administrative Coordinator
Sara Forsberg	Finance Coordinator
Miguel San Sebastián	Study Director, Research education
Helene Johansson	Study Director, ALPHA
Anneli Ivarsson	Rep. Research Strategic Group
Isabel Goicolea	Rep. Research Strategic Group
Mazen Baroudi	Rep. Doctoral Students
Faustine Kyungu	
Nkulu Kalengayi	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. During 2020 meetings were virtual as a consequence of the restrictions of physical encounters during the pandemic.

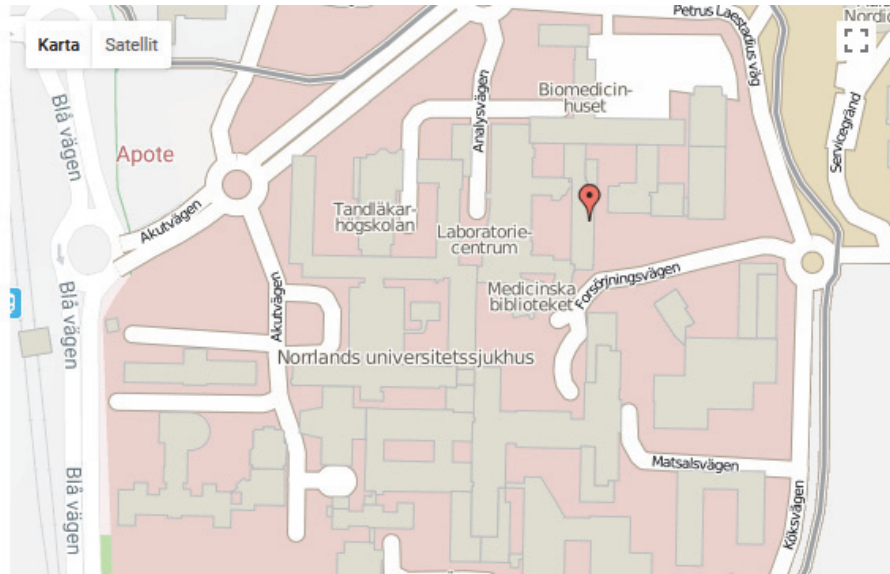


Figure 1. Map showing the location of our offices within the hospital area.

Information Committee

An Information Committee has been formed to take responsibility for managing the Department's internal and external information. During 2020 the group has continued to use social media platforms (Facebook and Twitter) in order to inform researchers, alumni, prospective students and the general public about our activities. The colourful eye-catching screens display calendar events and other information to visitors and colleagues have not been actively used part of the year due to Covid -19. Alicante and Butajira have been equipped with technical solutions to perform mixed meetings (physical & digital). Members of the Committee are Klas-Göran Sahlén (chair), Klara Johansson (parental leave), Ulrika Järvholm, Göran Lönnberg and Karl-Renhorn.



Epidemiology and Global Health on Facebook.

Finances

The total revenues for this year amounted to 53,8 MSEK, out of which approximately 58% originated from sources external to the University (Figure 2). 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 revenues were higher than the costs. We had planned for a deficit but due to less activities, such as less travel and more working from home during a year of Covid-19, we ended up with a result with a net profit of 844 T SEK (Table 1).

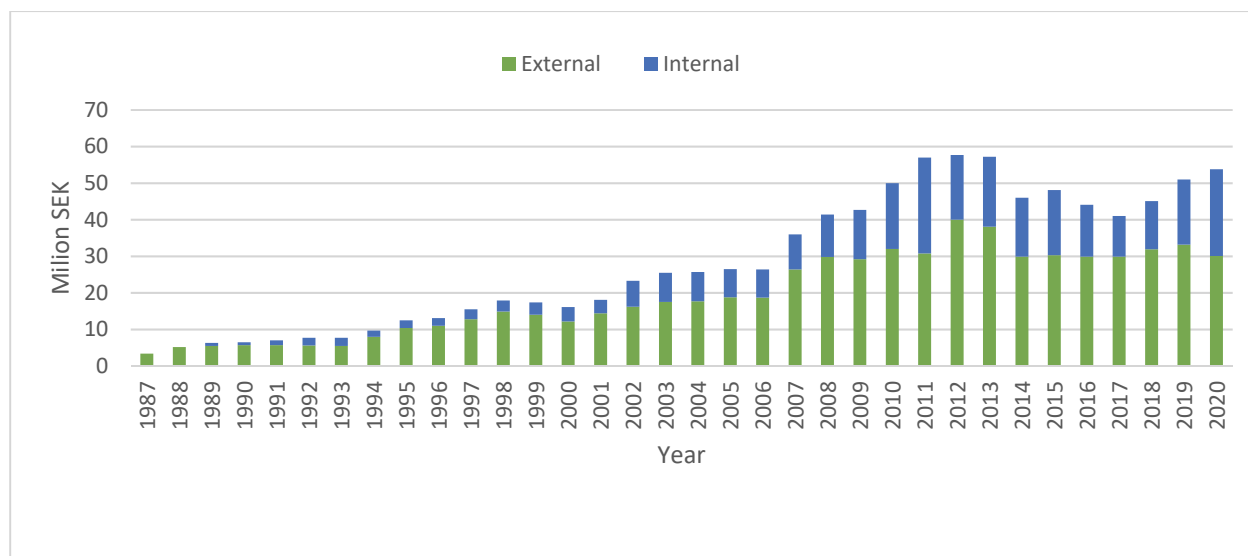


Figure 2. Annual outcome, EpiGH 1987-2020, showing internal and external funding.

Table 1. Revenues and costs.

Outcome 2020	Education	Research Phd training	Commissioned research	Total
Revenue	11 092	35 750	7 025	53 867
External Grants	-811	25 995		25 184
Accrued external Funds	813	-7 068	-2 495	-8 750
External Contracts	4 117		9 520	13 637
Government grants	6 966	15 549		22 516
Other revenues	7	1 273	0	1 279
Costs	-9 868	-35 835	-7 320	-53 023
Staff	-5 992	-25 539	-4 557	-36 089
Premises	-237	-400	-0	-638
Other Operative expenses	-1 402	-5 181	-1 513	-8 096
Depreciation		-69		-69
Overheads	-2 238	-4 644	-1 249	-8 131
Total	1 224	-85	-295	844

Our education outcome amounted to 11.1M SEK, out of which 6.9 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: *Umeå University*, *Erling-Persson foundation*, the *Swedish Institute*, and *Science without Borders*. Figure 3 shows that EpiGH is a key source of student fees within the Medical Faculty and the University as a whole.

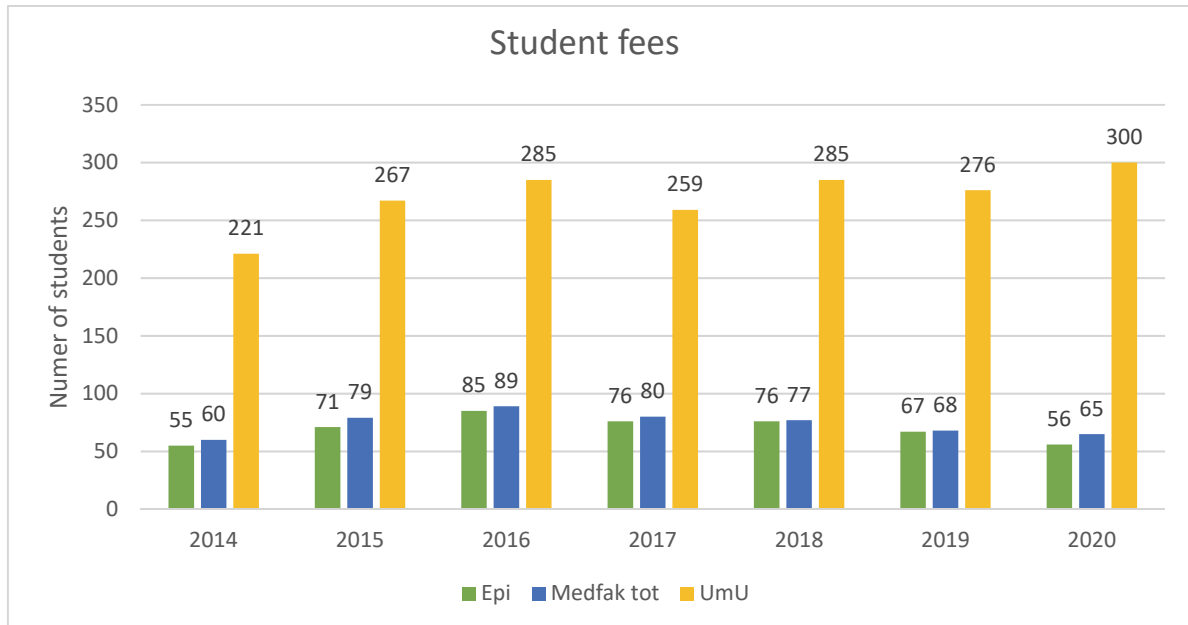


Figure 3. Fee paying students, EpiGH, Medical Faculty, University, 2014-2020.

However, as in previous years the major part of research funding in 2020 was from external sources comprising both grants and contracts.

Our external revenues for commissioned research have been increasing year after year, (Table 1). One significant reason for this is that many contracts are with the Swedish Public Health Agency.

The reason why our education outcome had a profit this year, was due to our new ALOHA programme and lower other operating costs. Next year we expect to have more income

from ALOHA because it will have students in both semesters.

ZikaPLAN is Umeå University's largest EU project and one of our main benefactors. Our biggest contributor (61%) in 2020 was the FORTE-Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and Welfare. Other benefactors are the VR-Swedish Research Council and SIDA-Swedish International Development Agency (Figure 4).

A notable trend in 2020 was the increase in external grant funding even though we had a year of covid-19 (Figure 5). We are hopeful that this trend will continue in 2021.

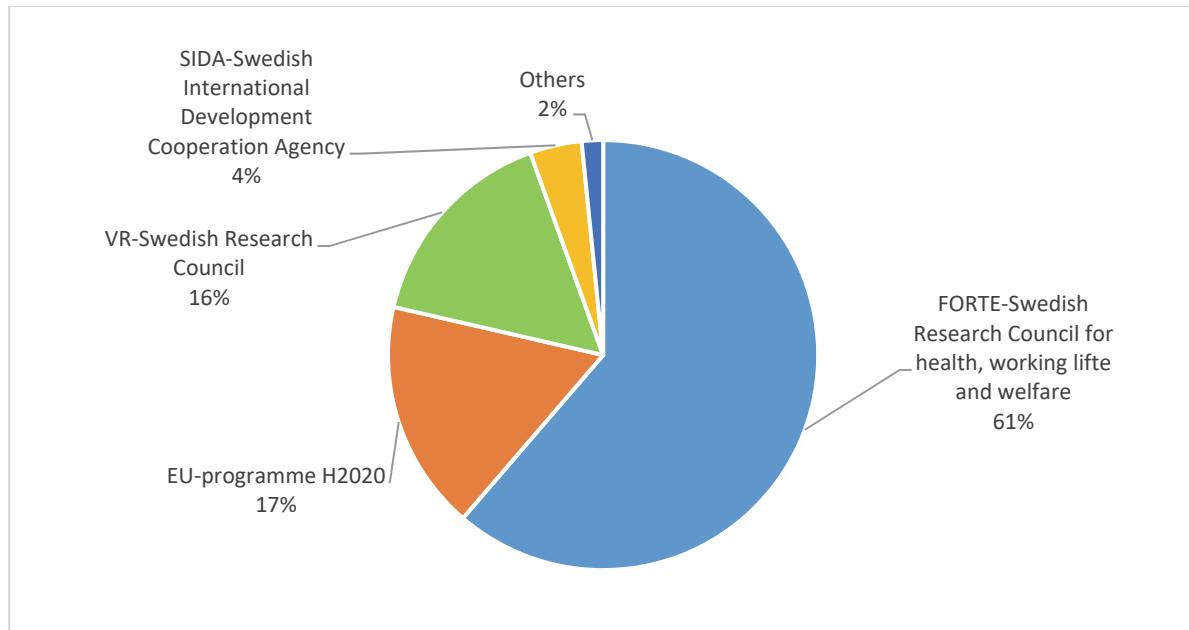


Figure 4. Main grant sources, EpiGH, 2020.

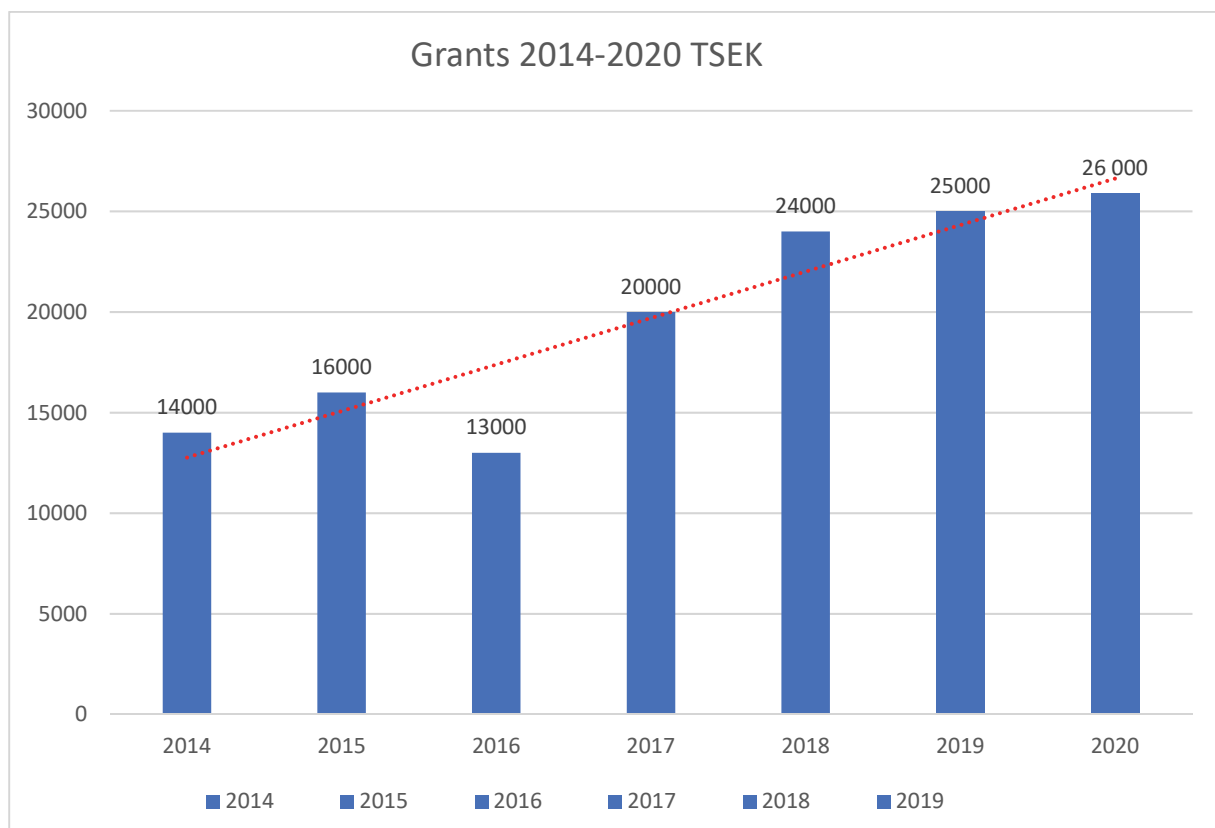


Figure 5. Incoming grants, EpiGH, 2014-2020

Outputs

There are no measures that can fully evaluate our activities. However, one outcome criterion is the number of publications (Figure 6). 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 2020 four PhD students successfully finalised their studies (Figure 7). At the end

of 2020, 33 PhD students were associated with our Department, including five new students registered during the year.

The Medical Faculty budget model uses three parameters for 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.

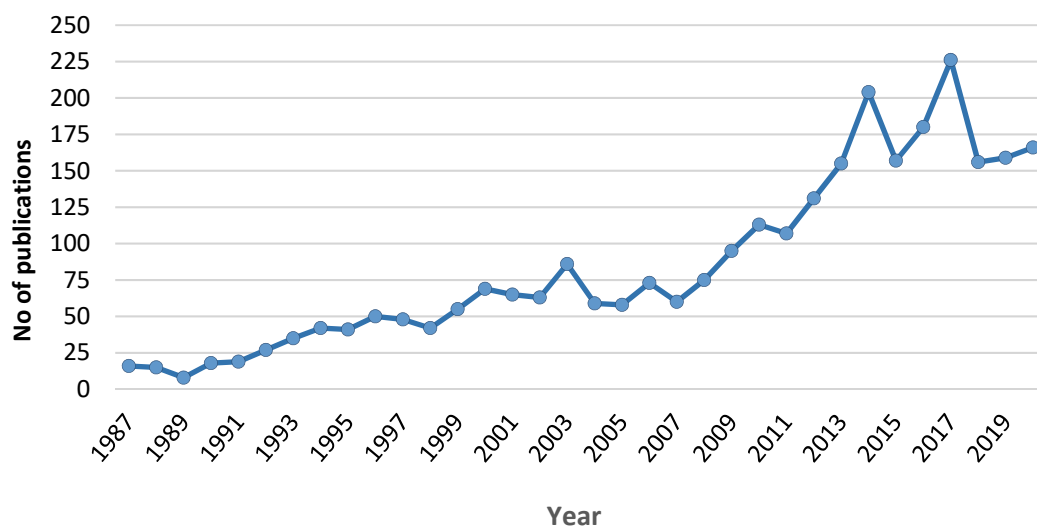


Figure 6. International peer reviewed publications by EpiGH members, 1986-2020 (registered in the publication database DiVA).

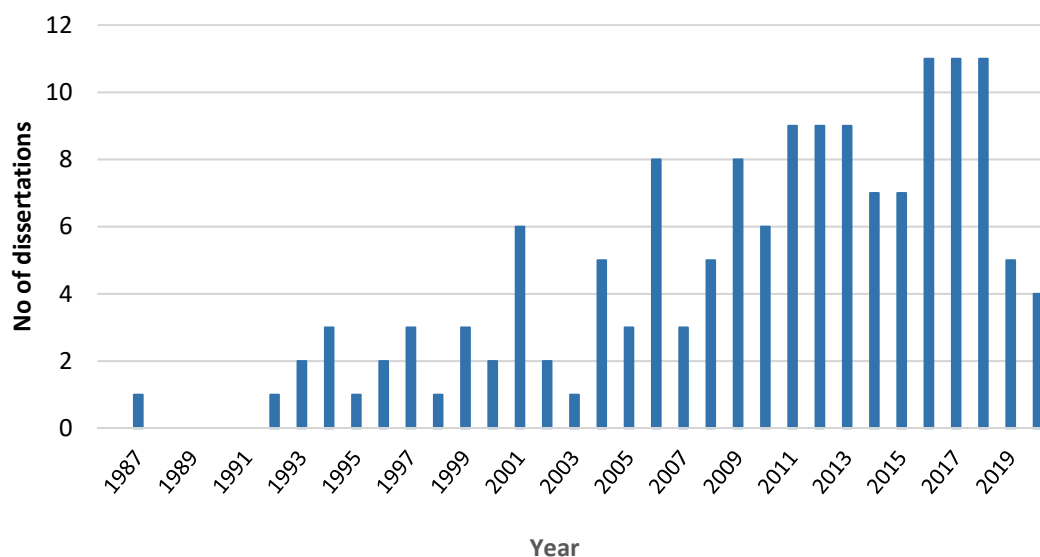


Figure 7. EpiGH, doctoral dissertations, 1987-2020.

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.



Mazen Baroudi. Doctoral student focusing on young immigrants' sexual and reproductive health and rights and their access to healthcare in Sweden. His main research interests are health system and migration health.



Hanna Blåhed. Research assistant in a project concerning men's sexual and reproductive health and rights.



Peter Byass. Professor of Global Health. He was Chief Editor of Global Health Action, our open-access journal, at www.globalhealthaction.net. He collaborated closely with the World Health Organization and other international agencies. He also held honorary Professorships at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and the University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa. Peter passed away in August 2020.



Hanna Bäckström. Postdoctoral Fellow with a PhD in Gender Studies. Studies young women's self-organizing against gendered violence and young women's ill-health within the Swedish women's shelter movement. Research interests also involve civil society involvement in welfare provision, social movements for migrant rights, and feminist ethics.



Kerstin Edin, RNM, PhD, associate professor and docent in Public Health. I have a clinical background as a RN midwife working at labour and neonatal wards. After a PhD in Public Health my research (in Sweden and in low-income

countries) has mainly focused on sexual & reproductive health, violence against women and gender. Before recently coming back to Epidemiology & Global Health where I once started my journey as a researcher, I was a coordinator and an associate professor for seven years at the midwifery master programme at the Nursing department.



Mikael Emsing. Doctoral student at Epidemiology and Global Health and the Post-graduate school for Educational Sciences. Working on the thesis "Perceptions of conflict management and its association with mental health and quality of life among Swedish police officers". The project seeks to examine the associations of conflict management and personality with mental health and Quality of Life among Swedish Police.



Louise Ehrenberg. Project assistant. Project coordinator for TOPAS, an experimental study carried out on behalf of the Swedish Public Health Agency with the purpose of evaluating a tobacco prevention program aimed at secondary schools in Sweden. Affiliated to the Epidemiology and Public Health Intervention Research group at Karolinska Institutet.



Eva Eurenus. PhD in Physiotherapy and Docent in Public Health – working mainly with the Salut Child Health Promotion Programme with studies on the becoming parents' and children's health, lifestyle and living conditions in Västerbotten and the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of the Salut Programme. Employed at the Public Health Unit, Strategic Management Office, Region Västerbotten and funded half time by ALF.



Nadja Fagrell Trygg. PhD student and project assistant in the project Complex inequalities in mental health.



Inna Feldman. Associate professor in health economics. Research and teaching on health economics, Theoretical and empirical health-economics evaluations, with a particular focus on: 1) Interventions targeting mental health

problems in children and adolescents, and 2) Prevention interventions targeting lifestyle choices.



Osvaldo Fonseca. Senior Research Assistant. Ph.D. in Veterinary Science. Also affiliated to the Department of Clinical Microbiology and the Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research (CEDAR) at Umeå University. Participates in several research projects such as “Health impacts of weather types in Sweden – the context of climatic and demographic change” and “Complications following COVID-19 – register studies”.



Sara Forsberg. Financial coordinator. Responsible for budgeting, economic planning and accounting. Has worked previous as an accountant for the financial office at Umeå University.



Isabel Goicolea. MD, Professor in Public Health. 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.



Anne Gotfredsen. Doctoral student at the Department for Epidemiology and Global Health. Also affiliated to the Umeå Centre for Gender Studies (UCGS). The overall aim of my doctoral thesis is to explore and understand how teenagers involved in various civic organizations and leisure activities develop a collective capacity to influence their mental health.



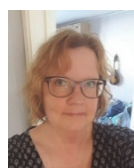
Per Gustafsson. PhD in Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Associate Professor in Epidemiology, and Docent in Public Health. My research falls within social epidemiology with a particular focus on various forms of social inequities in health and health care, and I teach theory and methods for e.g. basic epidemiology, social epidemiology and philosophy of science at basic, advanced and doctoral levels.



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



Anna-Karin Hurtig. MD, DrPH, DTM&H, MSc. Professor in public health. Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health. 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. Researcher. MA in work- and organizational psychology. Research focus on facilitation of and support structures for change and development in welfare organizations. Ongoing partnership with FoU Välfärd, Region Västerbotten and also employed at Karolinska Institutet, LIME/MMC.



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. International Director of the Medical Faculty. Consultant at the Public Health Unit, Strategic Management Office of Region Västerbotten. Nationally and internationally known for decades of coeliac disease research. Scientific leader of the Salut Child-Health Intervention Programme in Västerbotten. Founder of the Umeå SIMSAM Lab focusing on multidisciplinary register-based research for connecting childhood with life-long health and welfare.



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



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.



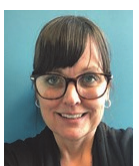
Klara Johansson. PhD, researcher in epidemiology and public health. Research interests: 1) socioeconomic determinants of adolescents' mental health, safety & injury, and sexual health; and 2) interrelations between gender equality versus physical and mental health. Currently working on a project on macroeconomic factors in relation to adolescent mental health internationally.



Frida Jonsson. Postdoctoral fellow 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 Järvholm. Department administrator. Working with web and communication, research courses, PhD administration and project administration



Ida Linander. PhD in public health and postdoctoral fellow. Does qualitative research about sexual consent, LGBTQ people's experiences of safety and transgender people's experiences of health and healthcare. Teaches gender- and queer theory, qualitative methods and LGBTQ perspectives on healthcare. Affiliated with Umeå Centre for Gender Studies (UCGS).



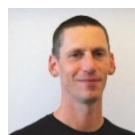
Lars Lindholm. Professor in Health economics. Studies on equity in health economic evaluation and the use of epidemiological data in the distribution of health care resources.



Marie Lindkvist. Director of Studies at the Unit. Associate professor in Epidemiology and Biostatistics, PhD in Statistics and B.Sc in Mathematics. Appointed as Excellent 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



Kristina Lindvall. Researcher, Dietitian, master in Food and Nutrition, PhD in Public Health. Involved in 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. 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.



Curt Löfgren. Senior lecturer in Economics. PhD in Public Health, particularly issues on health financing in low and middle income countries, e.g. how to protect households from catastrophic health expenditure.



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



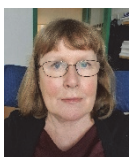
Kaspar Meili. PhD student in health economics, working on CALYs - Capability-Adjusted Life Years. CALYs are based on Sen's capability approach and can be used in similarly to QALY, for example in economic evaluations. CALYs aim to measure quality of life in terms of accessible capabilities, giving individuals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



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.



Lena Mustonen. Department administrator, web editor and staff directory coordinator. Also administering the publication database (DIVA). Research administrator within the Umeå SIMSAM Lab, the EU-supported project ZikaPLAN and EQ5D project. Lena retired June 2020.



Fredinah Namatovu. Research fellow; PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health. Also affiliated with CEDAR (Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research) at Umeå University. Her current interests include research on gender-based violence, reproductive health, disability, and population ageing within the Swedish context and in Sub-Saharan Africa. Principal investigator of the study on Strengthen service provision among

people with disabilities that experience intimate-partner violence in Sweden (DIS-IPV).



Nawi Ng. Visiting Professor of Epidemiology and Global Health. His research interests are in ageing and disability, chronic non-communicable disease, behavioral change and implementation research. Lead two research projects at UmU: (i) a multidisciplinary research programme on digital coaching for behavior change in Västerbotten County (Forte Programme, 2018-2021); and (ii) an implementation research for integrating the tuberculosis, diabetes mellitus and smoking prevention programme in India and Indonesia (VR Research Link, 2019-2020).



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. Research fellow. 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.



Margareta Norberg. 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 Co-PI for VIPVIZA, a pragmatic randomised controlled trial nested in the VIP, ClinicalTrials.gov, NCT 01849575. Affiliated also to the Dep of Public Health and Clinical Medicine.



Annika Nordström. PhD. Senior lecturer in public health. Head of Welfare Research and Development Unit, Region Västerbotten. Studies on social services challenges in sparsely populated areas.



Fredrik Norström. Docent in Epidemiology and Biostatistics and Associate Professor in Health Economics. 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 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.



Sarah Osman. BDS, MPH. Project assistant of EU H2020 Project ZikaPLAN hosted at the Department. Her research focuses on infectious diseases and health inequalities and has a special

interest in tobacco control and oral health.



Solveig Petersen. PhD in Pediatrics, Associate Professor in Epidemiology and Public Health. Ongoing research in the fields of epidemiology and prevention of mental ill-health, recurrent pain and

overweight in children in Sweden and internationally. 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.



Raman Preet. A Dental Professional, Research Coordinator and Equal Opportunity Officer. Co-coordinator of EU H2020 Project ZikaPLAN hosted at the

Department. Since last 8 years coordinating and collaborating in many large public health research consortia especially European Union funded grants on arboviral diseases. Teach global health to medical, dental and public health students at Umeå University. Give lectures on various topics especially sustainable development goals in global health, health and oral health inequalities and the systems thinking approach to planning and management.



Anni-Maria Brännström. MSc, PhD.

Researcher and teacher in health economics. Research focuses on the evaluation of multisectoral and complex interventions. Coordinator of the Faculty's Equity in Health thematic

space.



Susanne Ragnarsson. PhD in Epidemiology and global health. Involved in the Study of Health in schoolchildren from Umeå (the SISU project). My PhD Studies were about recurrent pain in school-aged

children and the relation to academic outcome. Also a part of Post-graduate School for the Educational Sciences.



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, Ph D 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.

Arian Rostami. Doctoral student at the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health. Also affiliated to the Police Education Unit and the Umeå Centre for Gender Studies (UCGS). The overall aim of my doctoral thesis is to study mental health and job satisfaction in relation to work-related stress, personality and resilience in police officers working in vulnerable areas. Also, gender-based and sexual harassment as one of the main job stressors will be assessed in this investigation with a specific focus on female police officers.



Klas-Göran Sahlén. R.N, PhD. Associate professor and deputy head of the department. Studies in the area of aging, prevention and health economics. Lecturer in health economics, ethics and qualitative methods. Responsible for the software Open Code. Chairing the Nordic Global Health Network. 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. He is also the health research leader at Várdduo-Center for Sámi Research.



Eva Selin. Study administrator and Study counselor of the Public health programme. Working with student support and course administration.



Julia Schröders. (MA & MMedSc) is a social scientist with academic training in medical anthropology, global public health, and epidemiology. Her research interests include health and health care challenges of LMICs with rapidly transitioning societies; determinants and dynamics in disablement processes during midlife and old age; and social network epidemiology. Her ongoing PhD research focuses on understanding the role of social networks for aging adults in Indonesia



Barbara Schumann. Associate Professor/research fellow; PhD in epidemiology. Affiliated also with CEDAR (Centre for Demographic and Ageing Research) at Umeå University. Research on health impacts of weather and climate change in Sweden and in low- and middle income countries. Another focus are public health challenges of environmental change in East Africa.



Anna Stenling. MSc. Doctoral student evaluating the Västerbotten Intervention Programme from a health economic perspective.



Jennifer Stewart Williams. PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics. Editor for Global Health Action. Responsibilities include supervising and mentoring students in scientific writing and manuscript preparation and capacity building among early career researchers in the translation of their research outputs into peer-reviewed publications. Research focus covers non-communicable diseases, population ageing, and social and economic inequalities in health and health care utilization. Emerging research interests include access to essential medicines and vaccines, and the social and economic impact of antibiotic resistance.



Petter Stoor. MSc and Research assistant (PhD in Health sciences at UiT in Norway, since dec 2020). Mainly researches health among Sámi, and Indigenous peoples in the Arctic, focusing on mental health, suicide and suicide prevention.



Sun Sun. Research Fellow, PhD in Health Economics. Affiliated also with the Health outcomes and Economic Evaluation Research Group at LIME, Karolinska Institutet. Research on health outcomes especially EQ-5D related topics, health economics and real world evidence. PI for ongoing project on Health outcomes and resource utilization for bariatric surgery: evidence from real-world data in Sweden”.



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 budget and departmental administration. Also involved in the project on celiac disease.



Masoud Vaezghasemi. Postdoc fellow; PhD in Epidemiology and Public Health. Current research focuses on social-emotional problems 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.



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.



Annelies Wilder-Smith. Infectious disease physician and public health practitioner with a special interest in emerging infectious diseases and vaccine-preventable diseases. The past 15 years have been devoted to dengue research, in particular dengue vaccine development and dengue in international travelers. Prof Wilder-Smith is President of the International Society of Travel Medicine, Editorial Consultant to the Lancet, Senior Advisor to the Dengue Vaccine Initiative, and serves on various WHO committees. She is the Principal investigator of the EU funded project, “Zika Preparedness Latin American Network – ZikaPLAN”.

Affiliated staff

Alberto Aulet. Specialist in family medicine and a resident in dermatology at the University Hospital of Norrland, Umeå. His research interest relates to the epidemiology and quality of care of the psoriasis disease.

Yulia Blomstedt. PhD. Head of Centre of Registry Northern Sweden. Research on health interventions, self-reported health, health care management.

Kjerstin Dahlblom. Senior lecturer in Public Health, is a social scientist and currently involved in a Swedish collaborative research project entitled “Child health inequalities and place: Kjerstin has expertise in participatory research with children in Nicaragua and in Cambodia

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.

Manuel Gonzáles. Specialist in general medicine and cardiology. He holds a PhD degree in cardiology since 2013 and has completed Post-doctoral studies in eHealth (2017-2019) at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) in Brisbane, Australia (AU). Manuel is currently employed as senior practicing cardiologist at the University Hospital of Norrland, Umeå. He holds an

Honorary Senior Lecturer position at the University of Queensland, Australia. His research focuses on the use of eHealth to deliver cost-effective care for chronic heart disease's patients and its practical integration in daily health care activities, especially in home-based monitoring and rehabilitation programs.

Gabriel Granåsen. Statistician at the Registry Centre Northern Sweden.

Anne Hammarström. MD, DrPH, Professor in public health. PI for Northern Swedish Cohort and for several research programmes.

Alison Hernandez. PhD. Doctoral studies on Health Service Delivery in Rural Guatemala: Analysis of Strategies to Support the Performance of Auxiliary Nurses. Finalised her PhD during 2015.

Henrik Holmberg. Statistician at the Registry Centre Northern Sweden.

Åsa Holmner. Project coordinator/researcher at Region Västerbotten.

Kathleen Kahn. PhD, MPH, MBBCh. Collaborative work in child and adolescent health, community-based cause of death assessment, and adult health and aging through INDEPTH multi-site work. Active in forging research and training links with Wits University, South Africa. Also based in the MRC/Wits Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt), School of Public Health, University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa.

John Kinsman. Associate Professor in Global Health. Expert, Social and Behaviour Change, European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control.

Per Liv. Statistician at the Registry Centre Northern Sweden.

Hajime Takeuchi. Guest professor. Paediatrician and child neurologist. Guest Professor at Epidemiology and Global Health, otherwise working as a Professor at Bukkyo University, Kyoto, Japan.

Stephen Tollman. (MA MPH MMed PhD), Directs the Medical Research Council/Wits University Rural Public Health and Health Transitions Research Unit (Agincourt) in rural north-east South Africa Founding Board chair of the INDEPTH Network (2002-2006). Leads Network efforts in Adult Health and Aging.

Susanne Waldau Wiechel. PhD, knowledge management strategist at Region Västerbotten. Among relevant knowledge fields (besides medicine) are public health, epidemiology, sociology of medicine, health economics and medical ethics. Member of the Program Council for master programmes in public health.

Magnus Zingmark. Head of Research and Development on Active and Healthy Ageing at Municipality of Östersund. His works is with effects and cost-effectiveness of physiotherapeutic interventions among elderly.

Ann Öhman. Professor in gender studies and in public health, with special reference to health profession research, violence against women and constructions of masculinity. Theme manager of the research theme Gender and Global Health within Umeå Centre for Global Health Research. She is Professor and Scientific Leader at Umeå Centre for Gender Studies, Umeå University

In Memoriam

Professor Peter Byass (1957-2020)



Peter Byass, our friend and colleague for many years, died suddenly and unexpectedly from a heart attack at his home in the UK on August 16. This is a tragedy for his wife Margaret and their three sons, Richard, Paul and Mark and families. We convey our deepest sympathy in these difficult times.

Peter's untimely death is an enormous personal and professional loss for staff and students at Umeå University and for his many friends and collaborators around the globe. Peter contributed to our Department's growth and global recognition over many years. He leaves an empty space but also a wide array of scientific and human footprints from his work and collaborative friendship not the least in a number of low- and middle-income countries.

Peter was a Professor of Global Health at Umeå University and Honorary Professor at the University of Aberdeen, Scotland and at the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.

Peter was a genuine global health researcher, substantiated in the scientific, traditional way through more than 300 international publications, but first and foremost through his engagement in building capacity for health research in low-income countries. He supported the development of epidemiological networks among young researchers in Africa and Asia and became one of the founding leaders of INDEPTH, an

epidemiological and demographic surveillance system, created to make up for the fact that then, in the early 1990s, we lacked basic information on health and living conditions among the poorest in the world. INDEPTH conveyed the imperative to "count every life since every life counts" and the network now provides longitudinal health and demographic information for more than 3 million people in 37 African and 11 Asian study sites. Peter was, for several years, chair of INDEPTH's scientific advisory committee and, as such, a key enabler of the many collaborative projects initiated and funded through the network.

Many of us have known Peter for over 30 years. One of our first contacts was in Ethiopia, the scientific birthplace of our Department's global epidemiological research. Peter has, ever since, been an ambassador for Umeå and we are proud to say that we managed to convince him to take the giant step to northern Sweden and accept a part-time position with us. This subsequently led to his appointment as our first Professor of Global Health in 2008.

For many years, Peter and Margaret were true northerners with residences both in Umeå and the rural Pengsjö village. During that time Peter was the Director our Global Health Research Centre. In that capacity he fostered and led a number of research groups covering diverse global health research strands such as the epidemiological transition, community interventions, health systems and climate change. He was instrumental in making our Department the Swedish representative in the Lancet Countdown reporting on the connections between public health and climate change.

In his capacity as Professor of Global Health, Peter brought numerous talented young students to Umeå for doctoral training. This gave rise to a global collaborative map of emerging researchers from countries including Ethiopia, Malawi, South Africa, Vietnam, India, Indonesia and the UK meeting up in Umeå. One of the first students supervised by Peter when he was based in Nottingham, was Tedros Adhanom Gebreyesus, whom he brought to Umeå for epidemiological training in the summer of 1997. Dr Tedros is now the first African

serving as Director General of WHO. He was awarded the degree of Honorary Doctor by Umeå University in 2017 with Peter as the local host.

Peter was a simplifier with extraordinary pedagogical skills. He was known for being able to unravel complicated epidemiological patterns in an understandable way and he never thought that fancy methods could make up for poor quality data. One of his most significant contributions was to develop an algorithm, Inter-VA, to assess the most probable cause of death through so called “verbal autopsies” in countries where medical diagnoses are generally lacking. This has upgraded the quality of epidemiological studies in such contexts and the methodology has also become the preferred method of choice by WHO.

Peter was a doer and lengthy meetings were not his “cup of tea”. He was also committed to global health as a community-based endeavor rather than a desk-based activity and was convinced that you needed to be there on the spot to understand the what’s, why’s and how’s. When communicating his research, often imbedded in his teaching, he was a master in making epidemiology talk.

After having passed 60 he wanted to travel less to see more of his family’s younger generation. From his base in the UK, he held a part-time affiliation with Umeå and took on the job as Chief Editor of Global Health Action, our co-owned international open access journal. Under his leadership, Global Health Action has continued to flourish and

is now a leading journal contributing to bridging the health information gap between high- and lower-income countries.

Many of us are privileged by long-lasting friendships with Peter and his family, and their hosting in the UK or Umeå. Many memories also relate to our joint travels, particularly to Ethiopia, Vietnam and South Africa. While Peter was always working, he seemed quite relaxed about it and while focusing on what had to be done, he was always ready to help others outside his own duties. Being a working globetrotter, he had no need for extravaganza. He always found a place for his laptop typically lying propped up on one arm on a hotel bed. Peter had no problems mixing business with pleasure and he would any day qualify as a driving guide in the Kruger National Park spotting lions, elephants and especially birds, the names and stories about which he enjoyed recounting. We were then treated with beautiful pictures from his camera.

We miss a strong global health voice. This is now echoed by his many former students centrally positioned in a number of countries. We all share and hear their stories and poignant tributes to Peter. His legacy will live on.

On behalf of staff and students

Stig Wall, Emeritus Professor

Founding Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Global Health at Umeå University

Education



Introduction day August 2020

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 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; social determinants of and inequalities in health, and 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 a selection of elective courses on a range of 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 2020/21 academic year we had an intake of 35 new students comprising 10 one-year students, 15 two-year students enrolled in the regular programme and 10 students enrolled in the health economics specialisation. In addition there were 21 second-year students, six of whom are in the regular two-year program and 15 of whom are in the health economics programme. In 2020 our incoming students originated from Sweden, Europe, Asia, Africa, New Zealand and Mexico. 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.

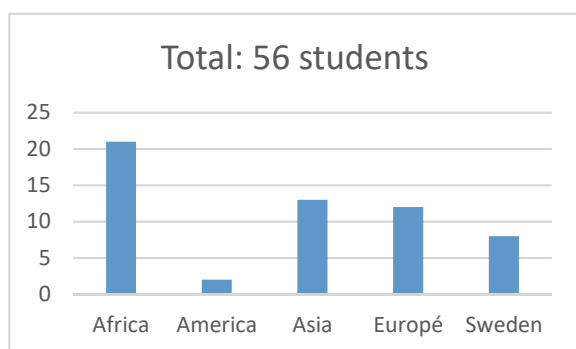


Figure 8. Masters students 2020/21

Since the introduction of tuition fees, scholarships from the Swedish Institute have been instrumental in the recruitment of students outside the EU. In 2020, 19 of our international students were fortunate enough to receive scholarships from the Swedish Institute. Seven students were

supported by the Erling-Persson Family Foundation. We are most grateful to the Foundation for the many years of support in providing scholarships to students from outside the European Economic Area.

The pandemic situation with Covid-19 has during 2020/21 led to a very different study environment. Most education have been performed digitally. To give the students some support we have had digital “coffee” and also an activity with “Tutorial groups” with the purpose of social interaction



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 Masters programme in international health. In 2020 EpiGH held tropEd accredited courses on various public and global health related topics. During the years 2020-2022, EpiGH has an active role in tropEd through our director of studies, who participates in the executive committee and is also acting president in 2021.

EpiGH is also part of a 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 in an effort 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 2020/21

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
 Social Pathways in Global Health and 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, 7.5 credits **or**
 Planning and Management in Health Care, 7.5 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 ECTS **or**
 Evidence Based Public Health, 4 ECTS **and** Equity and health, 3.5 ECTS
 Health Economic Theory, 7.5 ECTS
 Social and Environmental Entrepreneurship, 7.5 ECTS **or**
 Project Management, 7.5 ECTS **or**
 Environmental Resource Economics, 7.5 ECTS **or**
 Advanced Biostatistics and Epidemiology, 7.5 ECTS
 Advanced Topics in Health Economic Evaluation Methods, 7.5 ECTS
 Health, Environment and Sustainability, 7.5 ECTS **or**
 Planning and Management in Health Care, 7.5 ECTS
 Evaluation in Public Health, 7.5 ECTS
 Master Thesis, 15 ECTS

New scholarship for Master programme students

The Erling-Persson Family Foundation will provide 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 will fully cover tuition waivers, and partially cover living costs, for up to eight students each year, beginning with the autumn intake in 2020-2021. The Foundation already provides generous support to our PhD students.

"This news has energized us immensely, and will now enable us to increase our focus solely on education, and towards building a sustainable health for the future", says Klas-Göran Sahlén, Chair of the Programme Council. "This is the second time we have received such funding, a validation and a sign that we are doing many things right and are headed in the right direction. This is great news on many levels", says Marie Lindkvist, the Director of Studies.

Other teaching activities

All courses within the MPH can be taken as single subjects. Priority is given to those enrolled in the MPH but a number of 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 two single subject courses outside the programme that have also attracted masters students. Those courses are "From a thesis to a paper" and "R-a tool for statistical analyses".

The Department has been responsible for teaching community medicine (since 2002) and global health (since 2005) to medical students. The latter course was introduced in response to student requests. Almost all public health lectures to medical students are given during semester 5. The teaching is done in collaboration with the Unit of Sustainable Health. and the Department of Law.

Staff at the Department also teach into 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 teaching (from basic to masters level) into the Departments of Nursing, Community Medicine and Rehabilitation, Ontology, Food and Nutrition, Psychology, Economic History and the Umeå School of Education.

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, the Director of Research Education and four teacher representatives. The purpose of the Group is to provide a strategic perspective on the educational development of MPH programmes and act as an advisory body for the Director of Studies. Ongoing work includes the review and improvement of the content and structure of different courses from an integrative programme perspective,

the discussion of strategies for recruitment and collaborations, and devising solutions for programme issues as they arise. During 2020 the group's priorities was to develop and change syllabus for some courses on our MPH programmes including the master thesis courses, work with routines for course evaluations and deal with the Covid-19 pandemic from educational/pedagogical view.

Promoting Educational Exchange

Finally, we aim to promote opportunities for educational exchanges with low- and middle-income countries. As part of these efforts, we have launched two "new" MPH initiatives whereby foreign students can take first year courses in their home countries and can continue into a second year in Umeå in 2018.

During 2020 we continued our collaboration with Nordic countries as part of a Nordic-Plus application. Further we have been more engaged in the tropEd network for masters education in Global Health. During 2020 we had European tropEd students in two of our masters courses.

CONTACT: *Marie Lindkvist*



Figure 9. Home country of Master of Public Health students 1987-2020.

Due to the Covid 19 pandemic many students were forced to stay in Umeå during the summer. EpiGH department arranged a day by the sea in Järnäs. Food, sports, talks and traditional sauna were activities for all.



Coordination of regional public health

During 2019-2020, the Västerbotten County Administrative Board has the Government's task to - carry out a pilot project to develop methods for coordinating regional public health cooperation in line with the national public health policy.

Staff members at Epidemiology and Global Health (Helene Johansson, Elisabet Höög and Lars Weinehall) have since the beginning contributed to the pilot's ongoing planning and actively followed the development both through observational studies, mapping and analysis of working methods and results.

The model Västerbotten aims to concretize collaboration between the County Administrative Board of Västerbotten, the Västerbotten Region and the county's municipalities. The initial step of the model was to basically survey the municipalities' own public health work, as well as their intentions and future need for support and collaboration. Based on this, a Declaration of Intent was formulated for good and equal health in Västerbotten. The purpose was both to specify a common direction for the county's future public health work and to confirm this direction by adopting the Declaration of Intent in each party's highest decision-making body.

With the approval, the proposal for an organizational structure for the collaboration was confirmed - Forum for Public Health in Västerbotten. The Forum is supposed to function as a dynamic "hub" in the regional public health work. It is led by the County Governor and four politicians, and has a secretariat to assist it. The members of the secretariat prepare basis for concrete co-operation efforts. The broad contact area with municipalities, authorities and associations consists of recurring Collaborative Conferences, with the aim of creating dialogue, share information, exchange experience and support development and education.

Epidemiology and Global Health has the task of conducting several commissioned education programs in Public Health Science and practical public health work to give employees and decision-makers enhanced opportunities to contribute in the collaboration. Klas-Göran Sahlén is responsible for the training program and implements it in collaboration with several of the department's lecturers.

The commissioned training program started during the autumn 2020 with 50 participants from several municipalities, the region, and the County Administrative Board of Västerbotten. A second batch with 40 participants were planned for spring 2021.

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.

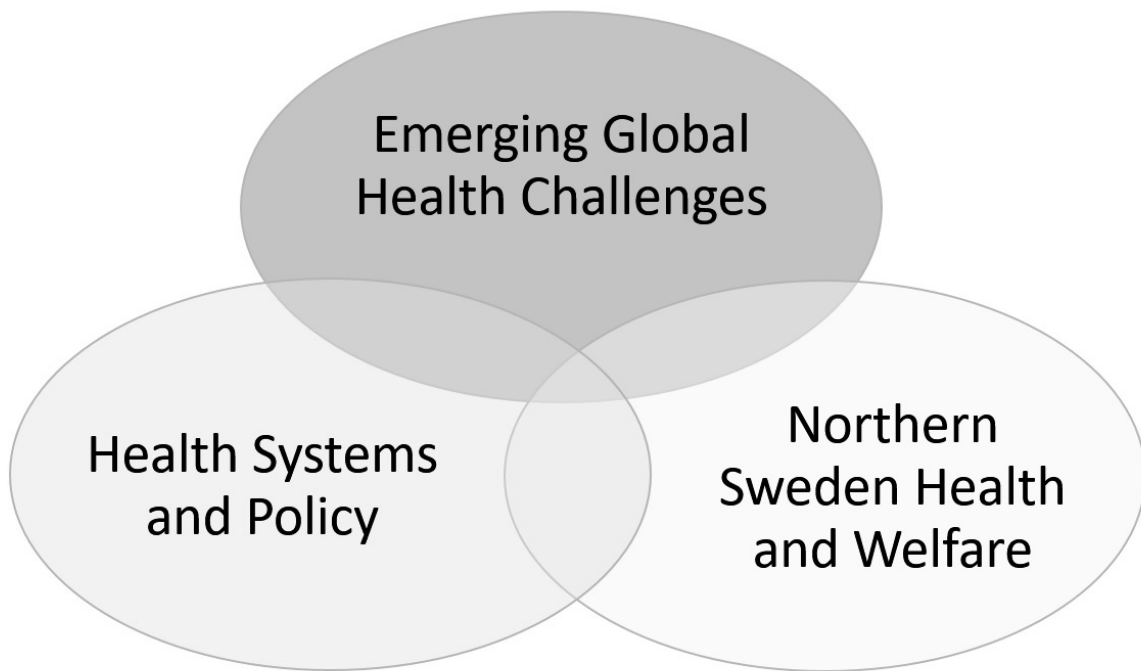


Figure 10. Research profiles at the Department of Epidemiology and Global health.

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 still 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
Community based interventions for strengthening adolescent sexual reproductive health and rights in Zambia	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Swedish Research Council
Zika Preparedness Latin American Network	Annelies Wilder Smith	European Commission
Adolescent mental health in relation to macroeconomic factors: protective and risk factors	Klara Johansson	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
Lancet countdown 2030 on climate change and health	Maria Nilsson	Wellcome Trust
Population dynamics and socioeconomic well-being.	Joacim Rocklöv	Sida
Mitigating poverty and disablement in older age: Understanding the complex interactions of factors influencing equitable healthy ageing in Myanmar	Malin Eriksson	Swedish Research Council
Designing implementation research for integration of tuberculosis, diabetes, and tobacco control programme: research link collaboration between India, Indonesia, and Sweden	Nawi Ng	Swedish Research Council
Strengthening youth resilience and mental health in North India	Isabel Goicolea	Swedish Research Council
Resilient public health in the context of large-scale, drought-related migration in East Africa: Knowledge status and knowledge needs	Barbara Schumann	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)
Can mental health and health care be promoted among young prisoners in Cambodia?	Miguel San Sebastián	Swedish Research Council
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
Complex inequalities in mental health	Per E Gustafsson	Public Health Agency of Sweden
A spectrum of sexual consents. An interview study with sexually active adults in Sweden	Isabel Goicolea	Public Health Agency of Sweden
The SomSwe network - using social network theory and analysis to develop research capacity among	Anneli Ivarsson	Swedish Research Council

young Somali academics to support evidence-based public health in the fragile state of Somalia.		
Mitigating Climate change through communicating health benefits and risks – tailored and timely messages to lower household consumption	Maria Nilsson	Umeå Medical faculty

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 and citizens with the aim of contributing to the strengthening of systems and implementation of interventions. 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 and their implementation.

HEALTH SYSTEMS AND POLICY		
PROJECT TITLE	CONTACT PERSON	FUNDING AGENCY
Towards a democratic and equitable health system: Building citizens health literacy and intrinsic motivation to becoming co-creators in health promotion	Maria Nilsson	Swedish International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD)
Health policy and systems research. Strengthening community based health systems	Anna-Karin Hurtig	STINT
Perceptions of conflict management, association with mental health and quality of life among Swedish police officers	Mikael Emsing	Police Education Unit, School of Education
Validation of the health related life quality instrument EQ5d 5L for Sweden	Klas-Göran Sahlén	EuroQol Foundation, Region Stockholm
How can mental health care services be integrated in youth clinics? A health policy and systems study	Isabel Goicolea	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
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)
Capability-adjusted life-years (CALYs) - a novel measure for evaluating welfare interventions	Lars Lindholm	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
The role of regional collaboration and support structures for knowledge governance within social services.	Elisabet Höög	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
Strengthening health system research capacity for enhancing innovations and sustainable socio-economic development in Tanzania.	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Sida
The National Celiac Disease Register in Children	Anneli Ivarsson	The national pediatric working group for celiac disease
The times they are a-changin' – Managing change in healthcare to retrain and attract competence	Linda Richter Sundberg	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
Service design as a tool for creating innovation - how the National Board of Health and Welfare can promote the innovation capacity in the social service in the future	Linda Richter Sundberg	VINNOVA
Network for inclusive, socially accountable and resilient Community Health Systems: CHS-Connect	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Swedish Research Council

Leaving no one behind: an intersectional population approach for health system equity in Sweden	Per Gustafsson	Umeå Medical Faculty
Covid-19 and home care: a high price for new lessons learned	Fredrik Norström	AFA Försäkring
Evaluating Healthy Cities project in two Swedish municipalities	Elisabet Höög	Public Health Agency of Sweden
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

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
Implementation of evidence-based practice in rural Sweden - Exploring innovative strategies for realization of national guidelines for treatment and support for people with schizophrenia	Linda Richter Sundberg	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
How do civically-engaged youth develop the collective capacity to influence alcohol consumption?	Evelina Landstedt	Systembolagets alkoholforskningsråd
STAR-C: Sustainable behaviour 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)
Strengthening community-based health systems through e-health innovations?	Anna-Karin Hurtig	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
Health impacts of weather types in Sweden – the context of climatic and demographic change	Barbara Schumann	The Swedish Research Council for Environment, Agricultural Sciences and Spatial Planning (FORMAS)
Causation and Novel Risk Modelling for Person-Centred Prevention and Control of Cardiovascular Diseases	Nawi Ng	Swedish Research Council
Can the health-promoting Salut Programme for children and parents contribute to the health of the population	Anneli Ivarsson	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
Health care access for rural youth on equal terms?	Isabel Goicolea	Swedish Research Council for Health, Working Life and welfare (FORTE)
Factors contributing to beneficial development of social emotional ability in early childhood	Eva Eurenus	Region Västerbotten
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
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)
Effect evaluation of a comprehensive school-based tobacco prevention method targeting youth	Maria Nilsson	Public Health Agency of Sweden

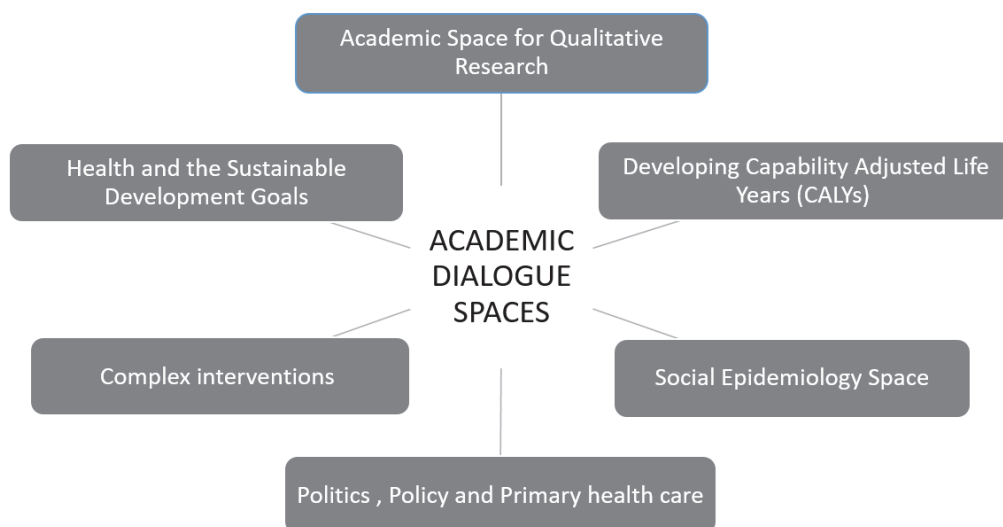
The mental health and access to mental health care among the Sámi in Sweden; which are the main social determinants?	Miguel San Sebastián	Swedish Research Council
Paving the way for children's right to good and equal social and emotional health - an epidemiological and health economic study	Anneli Ivarsson	Umeå Medical Faculty
The mental health and well-being of the Sámi in Sweden: does ethnic discrimination play any role?	Miguel San Sebastián	Umeå Medical Faculty
Socioemotional problems among 3 years old children: evaluating the validity of the "Age and stages questionnaire: social emotional (ASQ:SE)" and socioeconomic differences	Anneli Ivarsson	Public Health Agency of Sweden

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. During 2020 the focus was on how to strengthen our research profiles (see page 30). Other strategic 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 six 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) Complex Interventions, and 6) Health and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). 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 five-six times per year to discuss articles on issues of relevance for social epidemiology and equity in health, and discuss drafts of articles or research proposals from the group. *Coordinators: Miguel San Sebastian 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 and Anna-Karin Hurtig.*

Complex Interventions

Members of this academic Space are undertaking research on development, implementation and evaluation of complex interventions across a range of different health settings and this provided a basis for the Complex Interventions Academic Space. *Coordinators: Linda Richter Sundberg and Kristina Lindvall.*

Health and the Sustainable Development Goals

This Space focuses on health in the SDGs. We discuss health and sustainability with a holistic and broad perspective considering the natural environment, but also urbanization, consumption, and general issues around sustainable lifestyles and sustainable development in low- middle- and high-income regions. *Coordinator: Barbara Schumann.*



Academic Seminars 2020

January	Nadja Trygg – <u>50% seminar</u> Complex inequalities in mental health
	Susanne Ragnarsson – <u>Dissertation</u> Att Klara skolan när huvudet dunkar och kroppen värker – en studie om återkommande smärta och skolprestation bland skolbarn
February	Junia Joffer – <u>Pre-dissertation</u> Adolescents' experiences of health and social status
	Mazen Baroudi – <u>50% seminar</u> Young immigrants' sexual rights and their access to sexual and reproductive health care
	Lars Hagander - <u>Seminarium</u> Kirurgi i ett globalt och folkhälsovetenskapligt perspektiv.
	Bruno Marchal and Sara Van Belle - <u>Seminar</u> Realist research in the field of health policy and systems research
	Rakhal Gaitonde – <u>Dissertation</u> Divergences, dissonances and disconnects: Implementation of community-based accountability in India's national rural health mission
March	Petter Stoor – <u>Forum för samisk hälsa</u> Om utmaningar i samisk hälsoforskning. Diskussion om hur samisk hälsoforskning kan stärkas
	Susanna Bellander – <u>Admission seminar</u> The Swedish police authority's work against terrorism; an explorative study of the implementation of the government's strategy against terrorism
	Huzeifa Jabir Aweesha – <u>Admission seminar</u> Effective development cooperation: improving health system governance - Efforts, challenges, and opportunities in Sudan
May	Camilla Andersson – <u>Admission seminar</u> The role of health communication and household's habits in Climate change mitigation
	Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström – <u>Docent seminar</u> Docent ship lecture: A health economic approach to global health research and education
June	Angela Kisakye – <u>Admission seminar</u> A Gender analysis of the health workforce in Uganda: Implications for policy, planning and Human Resource development
September	Junia Joffer – <u>Dissertation</u> Adolescents' experiences of health and social status
	Jing Helmersson – <u>Seminar</u> Sami Traditional Medicine
	Glesbygdsmedicinskt centrum möter Epidemiologi och global hälsa – <u>Seminar</u>
October	Nu Anh Vu – <u>Admission seminar</u> Establishing a national threshold value for cost effectiveness analysis in Vietnam
	Julia Schröders – <u>Pre-dissertation</u> Diversity, Dynamics and Deficits: The Role of Social Networks for the Health of Aging Populations in Indonesia
November	Sulistyawati – <u>Dissertation</u> Mapping human health vulnerability and response to climate change in Yogyakarta, Indonesia
	Hanna Blåhed och Miguel San Sebastian – <u>Seminarium</u> Det är ju faktiskt framtiden som tas ifrån en
	Mai Vu Thi Quynh – <u>50% seminar</u> Health related quality of life measurement in Vietnam healthcare planning system
	Julian May, University of the Western Cape - <u>Research profile Seminar</u> Emerging global health challenges Title: Why is social protection failing South Africa's children?
	Chama Mulubwa – <u>50% seminar</u> Community-based Sexual and Reproductive Health Systems for Adolescents in Zambia: A Realist Evaluation Approach

December	Alieu Sowe – Admission seminar Investigating inequitable vaccination: predictors of, social inequalities in, and intervention against sub-optimal vaccination in The Gambia
	Petite Nobel Day
	Mikael Emsing – 50% seminar Perceptions of Conflict Management and its Association with Mental Health and Quality of Life among Swedish Police Officers

Medical Faculty - Theme Equity in Health

The overarching objective of Swedish National Public Health Policy is to create the societal conditions for good health on equal terms for the whole population, and to reduce avoidable health inequalities within a generation. Epidemiology and Global Health is one of the coordinators of the Medical Faculty's thematic space Equity in Health, which offers a meeting platform for doctoral students and senior researchers active in the field, and others interested in issues related to equity in health.

The main activity is a seminar series, which has been running since 2014 with three seminars each term and speakers mainly 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. This year, seminars were cancelled due to the pandemic. Upcoming events are announced on the website: www.umu.se/en/research/groups/u-chec-/theme-health-equity2/

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 related fields. www.umu.se/en/education/courses/equity-and-health2/

CONTACT: Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström

A challenging year for Global Health Action



Global Health Action is a leading open-access journal in global health, hosted in our Department, and published in collaboration with Taylor and Francis. The journal publishes research in the field of global health and

address transnational health and policy issues. The journal has grown steadily over the years and in 2020 we received almost two submissions per day.

A major blow to the department, the journal and the editorial team was the death of editor-in-chief Peter Byass on 16 August 2020. The founding editor Stig Wall took over as acting editor and worked together with the editors Jennifer Stewart Williams and Maria Emmelin in a difficult time of the history of the journal. In early September, Professor Maria Nilsson agreed to succeed Peter as the new editor-in-chief, to start in beginning of 2021.

During 2020 we received 679 submissions, a 75% increase compared with the previous two years. During 2020 we accepted 157 papers for publication (23%). The average time from submission to first decision was 22 days, from submission to first post-review decision 53 days and from acceptance to online publication 30 days. We are always a bit sad when we have to reject papers, because we know that authors have worked hard and have high hopes of acceptance. The reasons for rejection vary – from papers lacking a clear purpose or research question,

to poor study design, small sample size, and inappropriate analytical methods, to name a few. Sometimes there are also more formal reasons why we can't accept a paper. One interesting example is that on the journal's webpage we state clearly as a rejection criterion that "*The study uses primary data that were collected by local researcher(s) in low- or middle-income countries and are not publicly available, but does not include any local researcher(s) as co-authors*". Yet we still get submissions from authors who have parachuted in somewhere, organised research and written up a paper without apparently collaborating with local institutions and researchers. We wish that other journals would take a similar position so that this kind of neo-colonialist approach to research could be eliminated.

Global Health 50/50, a group founded to accelerate the pace of change towards gender equality in global health, annually assesses gender equality across global health institutions, and in 2019 included a group of 11 leading global health journals. *Global Health Action* was found in the top tier of "very high scorers" overall, as well as being one of the highest-rated global health journals.

Up to the end of 2019, *Global Health Action* had published 1,456 papers since starting in 2008, which had accumulated 28,795 citations in Google Scholar (mean 19.8 citations per paper). The journal's h-index was 67 (meaning that 67 papers had 67 or more citations). The impact factor for 2019 has risen to 2.162.

CONTACT: Maria Nilsson

ZikaPLAN – a transnational global health research consortium culminates!

Research and research collaborations have no boundaries. This perpetuated and propelled more than ever during the year 2020 when COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. The research that was not COVID-19 related got somewhat stalled and/or redirected. To contribute to the ongoing pandemic, ZikaPLAN (Zika Preparedness Latin American Network) project was granted a six-month extension making March 31, 2021 as the last day of its implementation. ‘United we achieve more’ and ZikaPLAN has set that as a successful example.

The Department of Epidemiology and Global Health (EpiGH) coordinated this large consortium funded by the European Union’s H2020 research and innovation programme under Grant Agreement, 734584. It comprised of 25 leading research and public health organizations in Latin America, North America, Africa, Asia, and Europe, taking a comprehensive approach to tackle the Zika virus disease. The project was awarded 11.5 million Euros, of which Umeå University and EpiGH received 1.68 million Euros, starting in October 2016.

Ambition, Excellence and Implementation are three building blocks of any EU funded project and ZikaPLAN stood strong in each one. The project’s objectives were set in two working wheels – a red wheel to ‘Address Zika’ and a blue wheel for ‘Beyond Zika’. To achieve our objectives, we followed four blocks of operations: 1) Research 2) Training and Capacity Building 3) Networking and 4) Dissemination. All four blocks operated simultaneously and were interlinked.

As a consortium, [@ZikaPLAN](#) has produced more than 100 peer-reviewed publications and made five websites on various topics publicly available including: Global Birth Defects; Brain Infections;

Global Vector Hub; the International Zika-virus related Guillain Barré Syndrome

Outcome study (IGOS-Zika) and Research Capacity Network (REDe). The collective Impact of the project is remarkable and seen as successful example by EU DG RTD. While addressing knowledge gaps, advancing new knowledge and creating new products and interactive tools, ZikaPLAN has also submitted many reports to the Commission, from 15 working groups. In the final months, three public webinars were organised which were well attended from various geographical regions including the presence of our senior EU officer moderating a joint session for 3 EU Zika projects.

To make the research and its findings accessible beyond the scientific community, we have produced four thematic professional short documentary films presenting the excellent science to our communities who are our subjects, with whom we conduct trials, interviews and analysis. An inclusive effort to share the efforts that made this project what it became **#ZikaPLANUnite**.



@ZikaPLAN – consortium meetings



Read more at:

www.zikaplan.tghn.org

Professor Annelies Wilder-Smith (a medical doctor and specialist in public health and infectious diseases) is the scientific coordinator of ZikaPLAN and Guest Professor at Umeå University. **Dr Raman Preet** (a dentist and global health researcher) is the project coordinator of ZikaPLAN and Equal Opportunity Officer at EpiGH.

Somali Swedish Research cooperation for health

The bilateral research collaboration between Somalia and Sweden was first launched in early 1981/82, including several faculties of the Somali National University and numerous Swedish universities and research institutions. This research partnership focused primarily on capacity building, and led to the training of Somali a considerable number of Somali academicians, while generating significant quantity of research outputs that contributed to the production and use of evidence in policy formulation, especially in the Health Sector. This era of partnership was abridged by the 1991 extended civil war and conflict in Somalia.

An initiative to revive this cooperation was started in late 2013, followed by a joint conference and a workshop were organized in Umeå in 2014 and 2015 respectively, with the active participation of these 11 academic institutions in Somalia and Sweden and SSRA.

Accordingly, a one year online research training starting with 2-week intensive face-to-face course was organized in October 2016 in Hargeisa, Somaliland, bringing together 24 Somali participants from the six Somali universities and the three engaged ministries of health. The course focused its teaching on the basics of epidemiological and qualitative design, analysis and interpretation.

The Somali Swedish consortium have made several efforts to finance a continuum. However, this initiative is in the border-line between training, research, and peace making, and therefore not been easy to get grants to continue. Several efforts have been made.

A small VR grant for net-work building initiated by Julia Schröders and her social network theoretical approach have got a small grant to continue. The work will start during 2021



Mohammed Hassan-Ali, Umeå; Dr. Khalif Bile, SSRA; Maria Emmelin, Lund; Dr Marian Qasim¹, Klas Göran Sahlen, Umeå during the training 2016.

¹Marian is a medical doctor by training. She served as an obstetrician and gynaecologist, living and working in various places, including Somalia, Yemen, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. She acted 2010 as the Minister of Women's Development and Family Affairs in the Transitional Federal Government. She was a key part of Prime Minister Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed (Farmajo)'s Cabinet.

Research Training

Our PhD program

During 2020, a total of 33 research students (17 men and 16 women) were registered and actively engaged with their research activities at the Department.

The Covid-19 pandemic that started in 2020 affected our PhD program in different ways. The main challenge was probably that our PhD students could not come to Umeå and the supervisors could not visit them. While this situation affected to some extent the quality of the training and supervision, both students and supervisors tried to adjust to this new circumstance in the best possible way and other new opportunities emerged. Everybody had to adapt to the digital communication.

Supervision became digitally, allowing a continuous monitoring of the students' progress. PhD courses were transformed into a distance-based mode, facilitating some students their registration, which in other circumstances would have not been possible. New students (Uganda, Sudan, The Gambia, Vietnam) could present their plans and be registered. In addition, several mid-term seminars and even two PhD defences were organized digitally and worked excellent.



Junia Joffer's PhD defense, September 2020

Meetings between PhD students were also organized along the year to keep the sense of the group, with different levels of participation.

While this situation has not been ideal and hopefully we will be able to receive our students again in 2021, it is clear that many of these digital possibilities will remain after the pandemic.

CONTACT: *Miguel San Sebastián*



In Memoriam

PhD student Hendrew Lusey- Gekawaku (1966-2020)



In October 2020 our PhD student Hendrew Lusey-Gekawaku passed away, survived by his wife Christine and their four children Juliette, Luc, Joy and Amons.

Hendrew was trained as a registered nurse in DR Congo and later graduated with a master in public health from Liverpool, UK. He was working as the regional coordinator for the World Council of Churches Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiatives and Advocacy (EHAIA) program in Central Africa (French-speaking countries) since its genesis in 2002. Hendrew was convinced that it was impossible to end HIV and to maintain people living with HIV on treatment and healthy if we do not vigorously and persistently address and take part in the fight against gender inequality, sexual risk behavior and violence in all its forms. This belief together with his vision that more evidence-based interventions within the churches of Africa were needed, lead him to contact us in 2008 to explore the possibilities of a doctoral degree.

Hendrew was profoundly knowledgeable about the topics of gender and HIV, was a humble and soft-spoken person, able to address the most challenging issues, be it violence, sexuality, or masculinity in a very open, yet communicative manner. Friendly and funny, warm and kind, that is how we remember him from his stays in Umeå.

Hendrew was admitted as a PhD candidate at the unit of Epidemiology and Global Health 2009 and later also affiliated to the

Nursing department at Umeå University. The journey was not straightforward because of a failing health but Hendrew never ever

wanted to give up. Hendrew published, as part of the planned PhD thesis, four unique articles on gender, especially about masculinities in the context of HIV in sub-Saharan Africa and with a main focus on young people in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The four publications are all worth mentioning: “Conflicting discourses of church youths on masculinity and sexuality in the context of HIV in Kinshasa, DR Congo” (2014); “Church representatives’ perspectives on masculinities in the context of HIV: the case of the Ecumenical HIV and AIDS Initiative in Africa” (2016); “Factors associated with gender equality among church-going young men in Kinshasa, DR Congo: a cross-sectional study” (2017); “Prevalence and correlates of gender inequitable norms among young, church-going women and men in Kinshasa, DR Congo” (2018).

One of his passions was how to integrate and promote spirituality and a gender-based approach into HIV prevention programs in Africa. This resulted in two publications (in French) worth mentioning: “Models of preaching and biblical meditations in the context of HIV / AIDS in Africa (2003)” and “Femininities and Masculinities: a guide on their perceptions, meanings and repercussions in the DRC Congolese environment in the era of HIV and AIDS (2019)”.

His spirit will remain in his writings and his progressive work in the field of gender and HIV will continue to give fruits. Rest in peace.

On behalf of staff and students

Kerstin Edin, Associate Professor in Public Health

Miguel San Sebastián, Professor in Public Health.

PhD students and projects

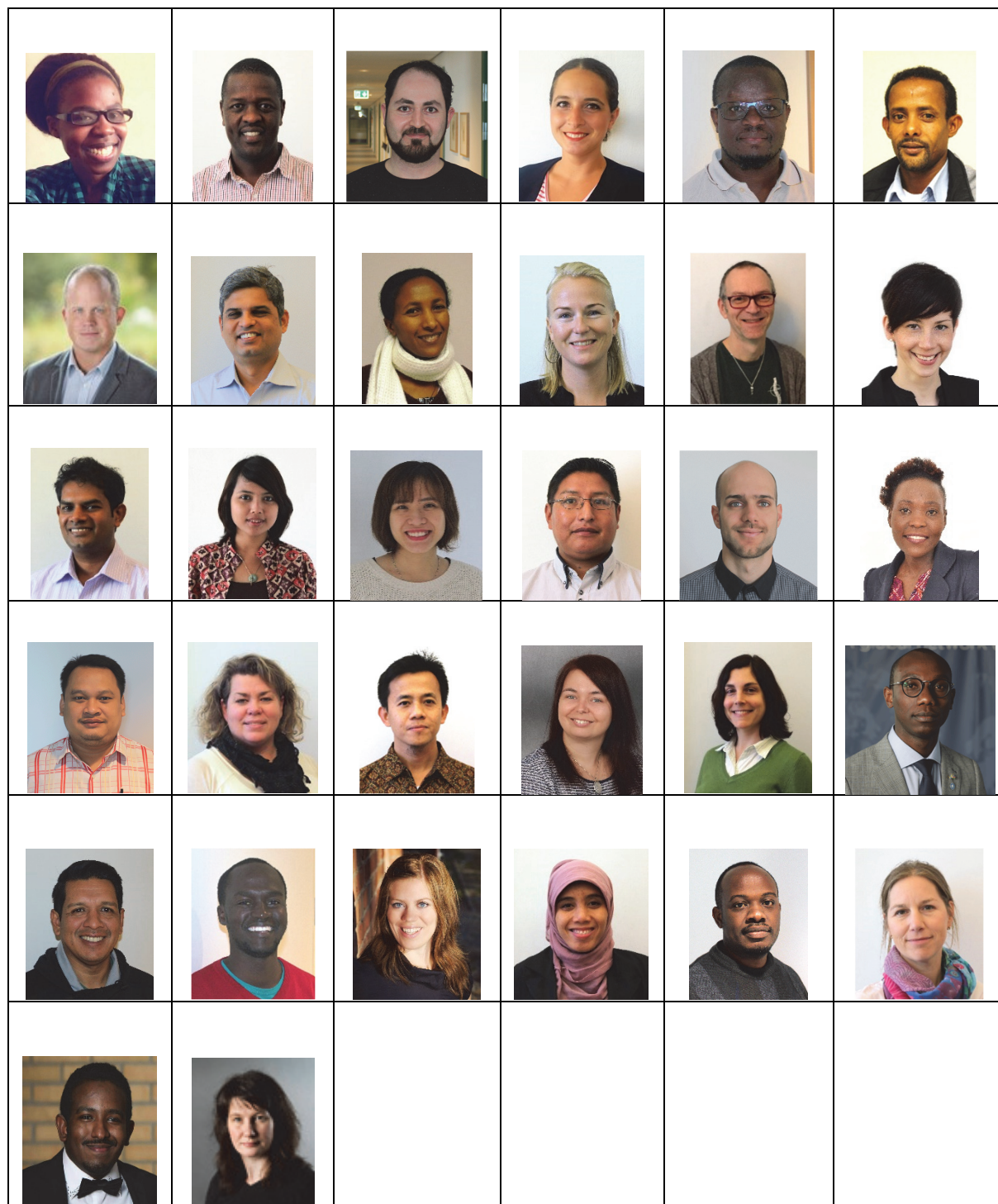


Table 2. PhD students registered at the department 2020.

Name	Background	Country	Thesis subject	Main supervisor
Camilla Andersson	MA Master of Philosophy	Sweden	The role of health communication and household's habits in Climate change mitigation.	Maria Nilsson
Vu Nu Anh	MA Public health	Vietnam	Establishing a national threshold value for cost effectiveness analysis in Vietnam	Sun Sun
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
Huzeifa Jabir Aweesha	MA in sciences of Public health	Sudan	Effective Development Cooperation: Improving health system governance - Efforts, challenges, and opportunities in Sudan	Miguel San Sebastian
Paul Amani	MA Public policy	Tanzania	Health care utilization by the elderly in Tanzania: Does insurance status matter? A case study of Igunga and Nzega districts.	Miguel San Sebastián
Mazen Baroudi	MID	Sweden	Youth migrants' sexual and reproductive health and access to healthcare services in Sweden	Anna-Karin Hurtig
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
Anna Bengtsson	MID	Sweden	Visualisering av asymtomatisk arterosklerotisk sjukdom inom VIPVIZA projektet – Aspekter av nya metoder för optimal primärprevention av kardiovaskulär sjukdom	Margareta Norberg
Chanvo Salvador Lucas Daga	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	Barbara Schumann
Atakelti Derbew	MSc Public Health	Ethiopia	Under 5-year morbidity and mortality in Tigray Region, Ethiopia: an equity perspective.	John Kinsman
Mikael Emsing	MA Pedagogics	Sweden	Perceptions of conflict management, association with mental health and quality of life among Swedish police officers	Mehdi Ghazinour
Rakhal Gaitonde (Dissertation 2020)	MID	India	Policy formulation and implementation of community accountability & governance mechanisms in the National Rural Health Mission in Tamilnadu, India	Anna-Karin Hurtig

Name	Background	Country	Thesis subject	Main supervisor
Tsigemariam Teklu Gebereslassie	BSc Public Health	Ethiopia	Epidemiology of Visceral Leishmaniasis and epidemiological interaction with concomitant infections in north Ethiopia.	Anna Myléus
Anne Gotfredsen	MSc Global Health	Sweden	Samhällsaktiva ungdomars kollektiva förmåga att utöva inflytande över sociala bestämningsfaktorer för emotionellt välbefinnande.	Evelina Landstedt
Johan Hambræus	MID	Sweden	Evaluation of intervention al pain management mainly focused on zygapophysial joint pain	Lars Lindholm
Junia Joffer (Dissertation 2020)	BSc Social Science, MPH	Sweden	Adolescents' experiences of health and social status	Lars Jerdén
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
Prasad Liyanage	BSc Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery	Sri Lanka	Implementation of Early warning decisions for control and prevention of dengue in Kalutara (Sri Lanka)	Joacim Rocklöv
Septi Kurnia Lestari	BA Nutrition	Indonesia	The role of social relationship on health ageing among European population	Nawi Ng
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
Yercin Mamani Ortiz	MID	Bolivia	Cardiovascular diseases in Cochabamba, Bolivia: Identifying preventable risk factors and assessing social inequalities.	Paola Mosquera Mendez
Kaspar Meili	MPH Health economics	Switzerland	Estimating and applying weights for Capability-Adjusted Life Years	Anna Månsdotter
Chama Mulubwa	BSc Biological sciences, MPH	Zambia	Community-based reproductive and health system for adolescents in Zambia: A realist evaluation approach	Isabel Goicolea
Edy Rolando Quizhpe Ordóñez	Medical doctor	Ecuador	The health system reform in Ecuador: advancing towards universal health coverage?	Anni-Maria Pulkki Brännström
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
Susanne Ragnarsson (Dissertation 2020)	Nurse	Sweden	Recent pain in school-aged children and the relation to academic performance – an epidemiologic study	Solveig Petersen
Aditya Ramadona	MSc Environmental science	Indonesia	Developing and validating a dynamic model of dengue transmission with application to early warning and climate change projections	Joacim Rocklöv
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

Name	Background	Country	Thesis subject	Main supervisor
Julia Schröders	MPH	Sweden	Diversity, Dynamics and Deficits: The Role of Social Networks for the Health of Aging Populations in Indonesia	Miguel San Sebastián
Melissa Scribani	BS in Biology, MPH	US	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
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
Adam Silumbwe	BA healthcare management	Zambia	Evaluating Zambia's response to non-communicable diseases: a policy and systems analysis approach	Klara Johansson
Anna Stenling	Civ. engineer, BA economics	Sweden	Hälsoekonomisk utvärdering av hjärt-kärlförbyggande befolkningsintervention – Västerbottens hälsoundersökningar	Fredrik Norström
Sulistyawati (<i>Dissertation 2020</i>)	MPH	Indonesia	Mapping human health vulnerability and response to climate change in Yogyakarta, Indonesia	Åsa Holmner
Elia Swai	MA Physiotherapy	Tanzania	Children and adolescents with physical disabilities in Tanzania. Exploring characteristics, needs and challenges in the Kilimanjaro region	Klas-Göran Sahlén
Nadja Trygg	Health sciences, MPH	Sweden	Complex inequalities in mental health	Anna Månsdotter

Dissertation events and thesis abstracts



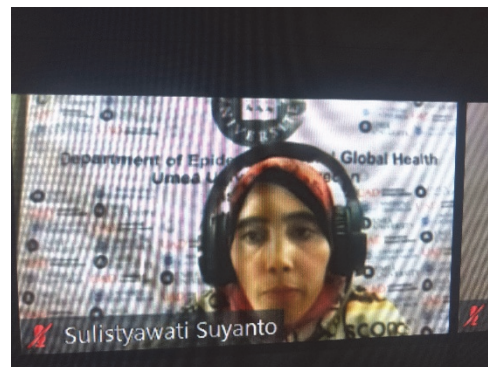
Junia Joffer



Rakhal Gaitonde



Susanne Ragnarsson



Sulistyawati Zoom defence

SUSANNE RAGNARSSON

Att klara skolan när huvudet dunkar och kroppen värker:
en studie om återkommande smärta och skolprestation
bland skolbarn

Thesis defended: January 17, 2020

Supervisors: Solveig Petersen, Anna-Karin Hurtig, Gunnar Sjöberg

Opponent: Eva Clausson, Kristianstad University, Sweden



Background Recurrent pain is one of the most common public health issues among school-aged children. However, less is known about the consequences of recurrent pain, for instance in terms of academic achievement.

Aims The overall objective was to study and synthesize the evidence for an association between recurrent pain and academic achievement, across different pain locations, frequencies, and number of pain sites, and across different measures of academic achievement, while considering potentials moderators and mediators.

Method The objective of the thesis was investigated in two steps. Step 1 used a systematic review to capture the available evidence for an association between recurrent pain and academic achievement among school-aged children, aged 4 to 18 years. In step 2, knowledge-gaps identified in the review were further investigated in two empirical studies. These studies were based upon two longitudinal total population samples following children from grade 6 to 9 in elementary school. One study focused subjectively measured academic achievement and one objectively measured achievement. The participants in the two studies consisted of 1524 and 1567 children, respectively. The independent variable was recurrent pain and the dependent variables were perceived problem with academic achievement, overall grade points, and secondary school eligibility.

Results Step 1: of the 6387 studies identified in the systematic review, 21 met the inclusion criteria's, and 13 verified an association between recurrent pain and academic achievement. However, the literature held numerous methodological drawbacks. Thus, the systematic review overall found low evidence for an association between recurrent pain and objectively measured academic achievement, as well as very low evidence for an association between recurrent pains and subjectively measured academic achievement. Step 2: showed that recurrent pain in school-year 6 doubled the odds for perceived problem with academic achievement three years later. This was true across different pain frequencies, pain locations, and number of pain sites. Problem with concentration, sleep and school-absenteeism, did not mediated the relationship between recurrent pain and perceived problem with academic achievement. Moreover, an association was seen between recurrent pain in grade 6 and overall grade points in grade 9. Finally, problem with concentration, school-absenteeism, and perceived problem with academic achievement partly mediated this association.

Conclusion The findings indicated that recurrent pain may predicts low overall grade points and may also impair children's perception of their academic performance in school. These results may serve as a base for priority setting in the school health services and other health care settings. They may also contribute with knowledge needed for the development of future interventions targeting children with recurrent pain.

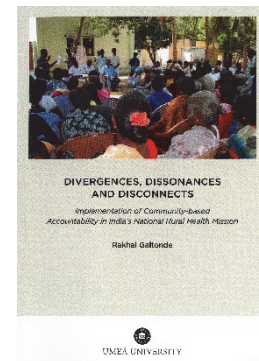
RAKHAL GAITONDE

Divergences, dissonances and disconnects. Implementation of Community-based Accountability in India's National Rural Health Mission

Thesis defended: February 28, 2020

Supervisors: Anna-Karin Hurtig, Miguel San Sebastián,
VR Muuraleedharan

Opponent: Sara Van Belle, Institute of Tropical Medicine, Antwerp,
Belgium



Accountability of health systems to the individuals and communities they serve is increasingly recognized as a key aspect in efforts at health system strengthening. This has led to a greater focus on efforts to evolve systems that enable communities to hold health systems accountable. In parallel with this change, the governance of public systems has been transformed under the influence of the neo-liberal paradigm of governance. India introduced the flagship National Rural Health Mission (presently termed the National Health Mission) in 2005, to bring about an architectural correction of the health system. One of the five key components of the mission was 'Communitization'. This component aimed to increase the ownership of the health systems by the communities they serve. As part of this a programme called Community Action for Health (CAH) was piloted in nine states and then rolled out nationally. The implementation diverged from the originally envisaged process in different states.

This PhD research aims to understand the institutional level influences that impact on the implementation of community-based accountability and governance mechanisms and the potential of integrating such processes in the public health system in India. I used qualitative methods to map out the divergences in implementation and sought to understand the reasons for these. Next, I conducted a case study of the southern state of Tamil Nadu, in which I focused on the processes within the apex administrative level of the state.

In addition to mapping two dimensions along which the policy seemed to diverge, I also documented three distinct perspectives on accountability among the key actors involved in implementing CAH. Overall there were three constructs that emerged from the research: 'Divergences', 'Dissonances' and 'Disconnects'. Divergences refer to the way in which policies and programmes shift from the original conceptualization. Dissonances points to the presence of multiple perspectives on the same concept in the same organizational setting. Disconnects represents the lack of spaces within the organization that enable processes of collective sensemaking. The emergent understanding from the research is that the divergences in policy implementation may in fact reflect a deeper level of conflict at the level of belief and perspectives in different layers of the administration. In the absence of spaces and processes to facilitate collective sense-making, it is likely that policies, even when introduced with significant commitment from policymakers at the higher administrative layers, are likely to require systematic effort to sustain.

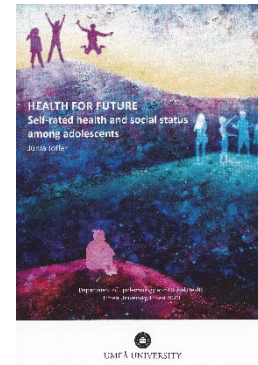
JUNIA JOFFER

Health for future: self-rated health and social status among adolescents

Thesis defended: September 4, 2020

Supervisors: Lars Jerdén, René Flacking, Ann Öhman

Opponent: Anna Sarkadi, Uppsala University, Sweden



The overall aim of this thesis was to explore self-rated health, subjective social status and smoking in adolescents.

This thesis consists of a qualitative and a quantitative study. The qualitative study was an interview study that included 58 participants in the 7th and 12th grades. The cognitive interviewing technique ‘think-aloud’ was employed to explore how adolescents interpret and reason when answering a question about self-rated health (‘A person may feel good sometimes and bad sometimes. How do you feel most of the time?’). Additionally, factors contributing to subjective social status in school and the different strategies adolescents used for positioning were explored. Qualitative content analysis and thematic network analyzes were used to analyze the data. The quantitative study was a cohort study involving 1046 adolescents who answered questionnaires about their health in the 7th, 8th, 9th and 12th grades. Data were used to investigate predicting factors in the 7th grade for smoking in the 12th grade, as well as to examine associations between subjective social status in school, socioeconomic status and self-rated health in boys and girls in the 12th grade. Data were analyzed using chi-square tests, binary logistic regression and ordinal logistic regression analyses.

The results from the interviews showed that participants interpreted the self-rated health question in holistic terms including social, mental and physical aspects. Results from the quantitative study showed that boys rated their health higher than girls at all ages. In a multivariable analysis lower self-esteem, a less negative attitude towards smoking and ever using snus in the 7th grade were significant predictors of smoking in the 12th grade. In addition, girls had an increased risk of becoming smokers. Cross-sectional analyses in the 12th grade revealed that adolescents’ self-rated health was positively associated with subjective social status in school, mood in the family and self-esteem in both girls and boys. Boys rated their subjective social status higher than girls. When exploring subjective social status in school further through interviews, status hierarchies in school were confirmed by the participants, which were strongly influenced by norms linked to gender, age, ethnicity and parental economy, but also expectations about how to look, act and interact.

In conclusion, this thesis demonstrates that the self-rated health question ‘How do you feel most of the time?’ is useful for capturing a multidimensional view of health. Early efforts to strengthen adolescents’ self-esteem, promote anti-smoking attitudes and avoid an early initiation of snus seem to be important components of smoking prevention in adolescence. The positive association between self-rated health and subjective social status in school indicates that the subjective social status question is a useful healthrelated measure of social position in adolescents. Because social desirability in the school hierarchy was defined by norms that left little room for diversity, the possible negative impact of status hierarchies on adolescents’ health should to be considered. Overall, gender differences in health and social status emphasize the need for a gender-sensitive understanding of factors that impact adolescents’ lives

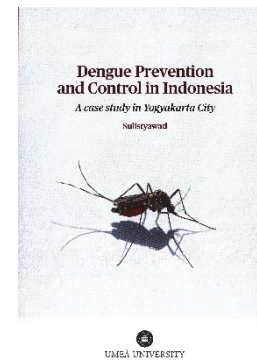
SULISTYAWATI

Dengue Prevention and Control in Indonesia: a case study in Yogyakarta City

Thesis defended: November 17, 2020

Supervisors: Åsa Holmner, Maria Nilsson, Lutfan Lazuardi

Opponent: Cecilia Stålsby Lundborg, Karolinska Institute, Sweden



Background: Integrated efforts that involve many public health sectors are required to combat dengue in any setting. Hospitals are responsible for providing accurate diagnosis and reporting confirmed dengue cases to the health authorities, which serves as an alarm for increasing preventive measures. Community participation in dengue vector control is essential because it affects sustainability and cost-effectiveness of preventive and control. This thesis aimed to provide an in-depth understanding of dengue prevention and control in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, in order to contribute to strengthening the country's health system and the implementation of standardized and well-accepted dengue control strategies. Several aspects have been studied in term of dengue prevention and control (case management and reporting, surveillance and vector control) in a dengue-endemic region of Indonesia – namely, Yogyakarta.

Methods: This thesis comprises four individual research studies: Knowledge, Attitude and Practice (KAP) survey, control card intervention, implementation of the Jumantik programme and dengue case management and reporting in hospital. A descriptive analysis, followed by a pre-post assessment, was performed in the community. A mixed-method approach was used for assessing the Jumantik programme and qualitative approach was conducted for the hospital study.

Results: The findings indicated that: (i) KAP regarding dengue vector control were sufficient but certain aspects still had weaknesses; (ii) level of community participation in vector control was not satisfactory for several reasons, including lacking time, being busy with work and member of the community feel that vector control was not their responsibility; (iii) the Jumantik programme dealt with various obstacles, especially those related to public acceptance; (iv) coordination between the district health office and hospitals for early dengue detection did not run optimally. We also found that standard operating procedures for dengue management differed between hospitals.

Conclusions: The results clearly show that dengue prevention and control efforts in Yogyakarta face certain challenges that must be addressed. While many World Health Organization recommendations are being followed, the weaknesses found in some aspects of the implementation, as well as the lack of integration for various dengue prevention and control elements, need to be promptly addressed.

Engaging with society - a mission for research and education

At the Department of EpiGH we have excellent opportunities for engagement with society. Our research and education directly relates to the health and social sectors and is therefore relevant for policy development. EpiGH is therefore committed to engaging with society, not only as a way of transferring knowledge but also as a way of keeping informed about societal needs that require further research and/or capacity building.

During 2020, we continued our collaboration with different partners, locally, nationally and internationally. Our researchers have been working on different assignments with authorities as well as non-governmental organizations locally, nationally and internationally.

Below a selection of collaborations at different levels which has taken place during 2020.

Collaborations with society locally and nationally

The Sámi institutions

Under the research agreement that EpiGH has with the Swedish Sámi Association (Sámiid Riikasearvi/Svenska Samernas riksförbund, SSR), a health impact assessment of a mining project in Jokkmokk municipality was conducted and published. At the end of the year, a research agreement between Sametinget (the Sámi parliament in Sweden) and EpiGH was also signed. This agreement involves to assess the health of the Sámi population through a population based survey and the use of national registers. This is part of a broader initiative that the Swedish government has started regarding the preparation of a national plan for mental health and suicide prevention. Reports have to be ready at the end of 2021.

County Administrative Board of Västerbotten

During 2019 and 2020, our researchers Helene Johansson and Elisabet Höög have been working on an assignment for the County Administrative Board of Västerbotten. The County Administrative Board is commissioned by the government to run a 3-year pilot project aiming at developing methods and procedures for the coordination of regional work for good and equitable public health, based on the national public health policy objectives. The goal is to establish a coordination structure between the County Administrative Board, the Region, the municipalities and other key players in Västerbotten. Helene Johansson and Elisabet Höög are part of the project group and responsible for the process- and effect evaluation. Results in form a report will be available during 2021.

The Public Health Agency of Sweden

During 2020 researchers at the department have continues to carry out commissioned research. The work on evaluation tobacco prevention efforts in primary school has continued as well as studies on complex inequalities in the area of mental health. Within the area of sexual and reproductive health and rights several studies an explorative study on how the health system work with men's sexual and reproductive health has been conducted. Other assignments include an evaluation of Healthy Cities project in two Swedish municipalities, and a validation of a questionnaire to measure socioemotional problems among 3 years old children.

Collaborations with society internationally

In 2020, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences were asked by the European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC) to nominate Maria Nilsson to an expert group

as expertise in climate change and health was needed. The group is producing a report on decarbonisation of buildings for Europe. The group comprise of members from 16 EU-member states and is led and co-ordinated by EASAC. The results will be published in mid-2021 and communicated widely to different stakeholders and through media.

Maria Nilsson was invited keynote speaker at the session “Tackling climate change while maximising health impact” at Prince Mahidol Award Conference (PMAC) in Thailand, January 2020. PMAC is an annual international high-level conference focusing on policy related public health issues of global significance. The theme for 2020 was Accelerating progress towards Universal Health Coverage.

In April 2020 SIDA arranged a meeting for their international health network on Environment and Climate change. Maria Nilsson gave a presentation on climate change and health. In October 2019 Maria Nilsson gave a presentation on Climate change mental health impacts as part of a

workshop for the European Parliament. The Health Working Group of the Committee on Environment, Public Health and Food Safety (ENVI) of the European Parliament had organised the workshop on Climate change and health.

In summary, we are proud to say that engaging with society is at the heart of all our activities. In recent years, the spread of disinformation in, among other, social media has become more common and we therefore consider it increasingly important to be a clear voice within the academy for scientifically based facts for global health. At EpiGH we continuously strive for high quality research and teaching, which gives us rich possibilities for national and international interaction. Rather than being a separate *third mission*, it is important that engagement with and in society is truly incorporated into our research and education, in ways that contribute positively to societal development and lead to improvements in health and welfare.

Figure 12. During 202 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
Per Gustafsson	Swedish Ethical Review Authority	Member (deputy) of Regional Board in Umeå
Anna-Karin Hurtig	Umeå University	Member of Board of Research, Faculty of Medicine
		Member of Strategic Committee for Internationalization, Faculty of Medicine
		Member of the Committee for Equal opportunities, Faculty of Medicine
	The Swedish Association of Social Medicine	Member of Board and Secretary
	Swedish Medical Association	Member, Committee for Global Health
	Consortium for Advanced Research Training in Africa (CARTA)	Focal person UmU
	Swedish Research Council	Member of the Committee for Development Research
Anneli Ivarsson	The Research Council of Norway	Member of review panel (research projects for scientific renewal)
	Medical Faculty, Umeå University	International Director
		Chair, Strategic Committee for Internationalisation
		Chair, Council for internationalization of the education
		Member, Reference group for the new 6-year Medical Programme
	International office, Umeå University	Member, Evaluation group for Minor Field Research Studies
	Swedish Institute for Global Health Transformation (SIGHT)	Member, representing Umeå university in a network of Swedish universities
	SASUF – a South African-Sweden University Forum funded by STINT strategic innovation program	Member, Academic Advisory Committee on behalf of Umeå University for the theme “Burden of disease & health systems”
	Swelife – a national strategic innovation program by Vinnova: Zero obesity at school start 2030	Representing Region Västerbotten in a national reference group
	The Swedish Foundation for Humanities and Social Sciences - Riksbankens Jubileumsfond	Member, Assessment group for research infrastructure applications
	Family law and parental support authority	Member, Reference group concerning parental support
	Swedish Medical Association	Member, Committee for Global Health
	Save the Children Sweden – Rädda Barnen	Chair of the Västerbotten district
Urban Janlert	Swedish Research council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte)	Chairperson of review panel (health promotion and behaviour)
Håkan Jonsson	Umeå University	Member of review panel Insamlingsstiftelsen
Kristina Lindvall	European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control	Advisory board member on the project “Updating Core Competencies in Applied Infectious Disease Epidemiology”

Curt Löfgren	Umeå University	Member, Council for the internationalization of education, Faculty of Medicine
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
	Vetenskapsrådet	Member of the Global Health Panel (UF-5) for Development Research Grant
	Swedish Research council for Health, Working Life and Welfare (Forte)	Member of the Epidemiology and Population-Based Study panel for Research Grant
Maria Nilsson	European Academies Science Advisory Council (EASAC)	Member of expert group on Decarbonisation of buildings
	Lancet	Member, Lancet Countdown on Climate Change and Health
	Umeå University	Member, Research Education Committee, Faculty of Medicine
	Umeå Swedish Society of Medicine	Group member for Policy for climate, health and sustainable health care
Fredrik Norström	BMC Public Health	Associate Editor
	Swedish Society for Medical Statistics (subsection of the Swedish Statistical Society)	Treasurer (board member)
Lennarth Nyström	Joint Research Centre, Ispra, Italy	Expert, European Guidelines for breast cancer screening and diagnosis
Raman Preet	Swedish Society of Medicine	Member, Committee for Global Health
Anni-Maria Pulkki-Brännström	Swedish Ethical Review Authority	Scientific member
Linda Richter Sundberg	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
	Umeå University	Network for implementation science and practice In the Northern Sweden
Klas-Göran Sahlén	Umeå University	Member of the Education Strategic Committee, Medical faculty
		Board member, CERUM
		Hiring and Docent Board, Faculty of Medicine
Miguel San Sebastián	International Journal for Equity in Health	Associate editor
Petter Stoor	Ethical review board on Sámi health research, Norway	Member
	Lancet	Member, Lancet commission on Arctic Health
		Member, Lancet commission on Suicide and suicidal behavior
Lars Weinehall	Umeå University	Member, Faculty of Medicine committee on ethical issues
	Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions	National program initiative on healthy lifestyle in health service (Chair)

Publications

Original articles

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