

# The 2014 EpiScania Symposium

3 September, 2014

Location: Auditorium, Medicon Village

Organizer: ERC South, Skåne University Hospital, Region Skåne in collaboration with EpiHealth, Lund University

Meeting chair: Ingemar Petersson and Martin Englund

Scientific program committee: Anna Jöud, Jenny Hubertsson, Kjerstin Stigmar, and Martin Englund

## **Summary of the day**

The 2014 EpiScania symposium attracted an audience of about 100 people interested in epidemiological and/or register based research in Southern Sweden. The day kicked off with an introduction of honorary doctor at the medical faculty Professor Peter Croft, who acknowledged the Nordic countries position in register based cutting edge epidemiological research. This followed by an overview of some of the ground breaking research in cancer epidemiology taking place in Professor Håkan Olsson's group. Prof Olsson shared with the audience interesting an important data on how the incidence of different cancer types differ in different groups and he also emphasized that despite our growing knowledge in the field still lots are to be done. Using registers held in Sweden combined with epigenetic methods enables this research.

The following speaker continued on the epigenetic path and Professor Paul Franks from the Lund University diabetes centre introducing the audience to the complexity of studying a complex disease such as type 2 Diabetes and how studies focusing on both genetic pre disposure and environmental impact play a role. He especially touched upon the possible need of a more stratified and tailored made interventions and treatment strategies. Prof Franks also stretched the importance of a symposium such as Episcania to strengthen the research environment in the University when he shared with us that this talk was his first talk for an audience since he first started at the University four years ago.

The morning session then switched focus when Psychologist and PhD student Catharina Strid presented how region Skåne has implemented a national rehabilitation programme for people with mild mental illnesses and/or pain in back, neck or shoulders. She explained the whole process from identifying a problem area on national level, implementing it regionally and then evaluating the process.

The last talk before lunch break was held by Professor Sölve Elmståhl how gave us the background of Epihealth as well as up to date information on the screening project. What type of data are collected and on how participants themselves book their appointments with the project on the Epihealth website.





INTERVENTION TO IMPROVE  
ANTIBIOTIC PRESCRIBING

- 50 intervention practices
- 317,717 patients
- Respiratory tract infections
- Antibiotic prescribing

- 50 control practices
- 285,692 patients
- Respiratory tract infections
- Antibiotic prescribing

The afternoon started with a lecture by Professor Peter Croft on register based research in an international perspective. He gave a historical background to register based research and talked about the role of death registers. He further stressed the importance of being aware of the difference between occurrence and health care use. He also gave a humorous example of how an influenza period could be tracked by using numbers of searches on Wikipedia, giving a result that was remarkably similar to that of an observational study of health care seeking. Finally he illustrated how observational data can be used to study the effect of treatments and interventions.

Susanne Iwarsson presented the Swedish National Graduate School for Competitive Science on Ageing and Health, a cross disciplinary graduate school, funded by the Swedish Research council to develop and strengthen the recruitment base for future leaders in research on aging and health. She also reported from the International Summer School on Aging held in August with participants from all over the world.

Jenny Hubertsson then talked about future legislation for register based research. She presented results from the Bengt Westerberg enquiry into facilitating register based research. She also presented the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) that is being processed in European Union and highlighted some of the problems that the proposed regulation could cause for register based research if it is adopted in its current form.

Jonas Björk presented his results from his current enquiry on how to improve the infrastructure for register based research at Lund University. He suggested a cross-faculty centre for register based research at Lund University. Such a centre would improve the possibilities to exchange expertise, knowledge and data and facilitate common routines on data management and data security.

The final talk for the day was held by Katarina Steen-Carlsson that gave examples of health economic research from her studies on diabetes.

