

*Welcome to the symposium*

## **Health inequalities in modern welfare states**

***Do we understand present trends?***

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**Date:** 23–24 January 2013  
**Venue:** The Beijer Hall, The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences,  
Lilla Frescativägen 4A, Stockholm

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Life expectancy has been growing in the modern world, but this development is unequally shared. Health inequalities, measured as differences in life expectancy between segments of the population in one country, are large and seem to be growing steadily. This is equally the case for modern welfare states with advanced systems for social protection, such as the Nordic states, where life expectancy differences between educational groups have been growing for more than three decades.

Leading researchers will share new evidence from the European continent, Britain and Scandinavia on health trends. Explanations for the growing health gaps will be discussed. We will focus in particular on the role of education and discuss why modern welfare policies and a commitment to egalitarian policies do not seem to be enough to reduce health inequalities.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, together with the Inter Academy Medical Panel, are inviting you to a state-of-the-art symposium to discuss what we know, what we need to know and what the proper political responses might be to health inequalities in modern societies.

*The symposium is sponsored by Stiftelsen Bröderna Jacob och Marcus Wallenbergs Minne.*

### ***Programme***

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#### **23 January**

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##### **13.00 Welcome**

##### **13.05 Session 1: Health differentials by education and social class**

###### ***Trends and explanations***

Introduction by Denny Vågerö, session moderator

##### **13.15 Findings from the European Review of Social Determinants of Health and the Health divide**

Michael Marmot

##### **13.50 New evidence on the persistence of health inequalities in modern welfare states: results of the EURO-GBD study**

Johan Mackenbach

##### **14.25 Findings from the Danish Review on Inequality and Health**

###### ***Trends and explanations***

Finn Diderichsen

##### **15.00 Coffee break**

##### **15.30 Session 2: The association between education and health. Is it causal?**

###### ***What are the mechanisms?***

Introduction by Robert Erikson, session moderator

##### **15.40 Is education causally related to survival?**

Anton Lager

**16.15 Does education have health effects on significant others?**

Jenny Torssander

**16.50 Effects on the brain of intense education. Relevance for health?**

Martin Lövdén

**17.30 End of day**

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**24 January**

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**9.00 Session 3: The role and capacity of welfare policies to reduce health inequalities**

Introduction by Olle Lundberg, session moderator

**9.10 Is there a welfare state paradox?**

Clare Bambra

**9.45 The changing contribution of alcohol and smoking to social inequalities in life expectancy in Finland**

Pekka Martikainen

**10.20 Can welfare policies influence the level and distribution of health?**

Espen Dahl

**11.00 Coffee break**

**11.30 Session 4: Panel Discussion**

***What are the political implications of our knowledge of health inequalities***

Introduced by Erling Norrby, session moderator

*Format: Anders W Jonsson and Lena Sommestad (Swedish parliament) and Clive Needle (Eurohealthnet) question a panel consisting of Clare Bambra, Finn Diderichsen, Johan Mackenbach and Michael Marmot. Questions from the public.*

**13.00 End of symposium**

***The symposium is open to the public but registration is required. Please register at latest 21 January. For more information and registration please visit <http://kva.se>***

