

## **Doktorandprojekt 02**

Phd Project Description from Sean Perrin

There is an opportunity for a PhD student to carry out research on conditions involving recurrent pelvic pain/discomfort and emotional distress in women. Such conditions can include (but are not limited to) fibroids, pelvic-inflammatory diseases (PID), endometriosis, premenstrual syndrome, and premenstrual dysphoric disorder. The pain and distress are associated with significant impairments in all aspects of functioning and lower quality of life (QoL). Pharmacological and medical treatments are often poorly tolerated, contraindicated, and/or have very modest effects on broader aspects of functioning and QoL. Psychological treatments are under-investigated. A further problem is that women often report high levels of dissatisfaction with how healthcare professionals respond to their reports of pelvic pain and associated distress, which in turn can negatively affect the quality of care received and engagement with healthcare professionals. It is widely recognized that more needs to be done to improve how healthcare professionals engage with and support women with chronic health problems. The overall aims of the research are threefold: 1) to develop broad-based measures of functioning, quality of life (QoL), and health-economic impacts that are valid/sensitive to the effects of conditions involving pelvic pain and emotional distress; 2) to identify psychological and social factors (e.g., psychological flexibility, coping style, social/familial/work supports, interactions with healthcare professionals) that influence the severity and impact of this form of pain and associated distress; 3) to assist in the development and piloting of brief psychosocial interventions for women with these conditions to improve functioning and QoL; and 4) to develop methods for improving the way that healthcare providers interact with women with these conditions. The project builds upon and existing program of research examining factors that influence functioning and quality of life individuals with chronic pain. There are opportunities for collaboration with other members of the psychology and medical faculties at Lund University and from other universities in Sweden and abroad.