

Dermato-Venereological Research at Örebro University

MAGNUS LINDBERG

Department of Dermatology, Örebro University Hospital, Örebro, Sweden. E-mail: magnus.lindberg@orebroll.se

For a university clinic, the Department of Dermatology and Venereology at Örebro University hospital is relatively young. The clinic itself was founded in 1947. Örebro University obtained its status as a university in February 1999, and the former regional hospital in Örebro (including the Department of Dermatology) became a University hospital in 2001. The Medical School began in January 2011. Prior to this the clinics at the hospital had for many years provided clinical training and teaching for medical students from Linköping.

The Department of Dermatology has just over 30 staff members, including seven senior dermatologists (not all of whom work full time), of whom two have a PhD, and five assistant dermatologists in training. A senior dermatologist has a 20% appointment for the education of students and, since 2007, there has been a professor at the clinic. In December 2010, Anna Josefson, the head of the clinic, obtained her doctoral degree for her work with hand eczema and nickel allergy. This was the first doctoral thesis from the clinic at Örebro University. Two previous theses have been carried out in connection with other universities. Today there are two PhD students registered with the clinic. For clinical research we collaborate with clinics in the region, and for laboratory-based research there is the opportunity to collaborate with the Clinical Research Centre at the hospital.

Over the last 4 years research and education has been integrated actively into the overall planning and daily

work of the clinic. Research areas we focus on are: eczema (especially hand eczema), contact allergy and quality of life (QoL) and other consequences of skin diseases for the individual, healthcare system and society. We participate in an on-going study of wound healing and chronic leg ulcers and one project addresses the question of risk factors for *Chlamydia* infections.

In a nation-wide population-based study performed in collaboration Department of Pharmacology at Uppsala university, we investigate the prevalence of hand eczema, other skin diseases and the correlation with QoL, use of topical pharmaceutical and some socio-economic factors. It is clearly seen that hand eczema negatively affects QoL and that these persons have a higher consumption of pharmaceuticals. Aspects on QoL in skin diseases are further studied by Maria Ekbäck in her PhD work, exploring possible effects of hirsutism on individuals with hirsutism as well as evaluating different instruments to find one suitable to apply in this patient group. In collaboration with the Department of Dermatology in Eskilstuna, Pharmacology in Uppsala and Occupational and Environmental Dermatology at Karolinska institutet we are now finalizing a study where we compare two instruments (DLQI and EQ-5D) for the evaluation of QoL in hand eczema. An important part of our clinical work is the use patch testing for contact allergy in contact dermatitis, especially hand eczema. As a part of a forthcoming PhD work we have recently performed a retrospective study on hand eczema, patch testing and effects on QoL at the clinic. From a more experimental point of view we are just in the beginning of that type of studies. Today, we are involved in a laboratory study on mechanism in skin irritation and in another project dealing with chronic ulcers, especially leg ulcers.



Magnus Lindberg, Professor in Dermatology.



Anna Josefson, PhD, Head of the Dermatology clinic.

Örebro University Hospital

The clinic is located in the right building (left picture).



Facts

Örebro University was founded 1999. The first professor of Dermatology and Venereology is Magnus Lindberg (since 2007).

The group of researchers at the Department of Dermatology and Venereology comprises:

- 1 Professor
- 1 PhD researcher
- 2 PhD students

Since 2005 the group has published approximately 25 scientific papers with 14 of them over the last 4 years.

1 doctoral thesis have been produced.