

Nordic SAC network workshop- cooperation in research and practice

Date and location: Trondheim 27.08.23.

Attendants (both physically and digitally):

Teams: Ask Elklit (psychologist Odense), Aviaja M. Wingender (social anthropologist, Copenhagen), Ellen Bugge (the NGO, Norwegian Women's Public Health Association, Norway), Gerd JM Delaveris (forensic physician, Oslo), Linda Mølgaard (forensic/psychiatric nurse, Sandefjord), Line E Andersen (psychologist, Copenhagen), Sara Hagström (psychologist, Copenhagen), Erik Wallmark (psychologist, Malmö), Anna Möller (gynecologist, Stockholm)

Physically: Tone Jeksrud and Sunniva Morgane Leber (both social workers, Oslo), Dina Midttun (forensic physician, Oslo), Bjarne R Kristensen (gynecologist, Odense), Malene Hilden (gynecologist, Copenhagen), Kai Part and Made Laanpere (both gynecologists, Tartu, Estonia), Riina Korjamo (gynecologist, Helsinki), Diana Reynstind (gynecologist, Faroe Islands), Cecilie Hagemann and Berit Schei (both gynecologists, Trondheim), Tina Haugen (psychologist, Trondheim, referent).

Part one: Possible future Nordic (incl. Estonia) research cooperation on early mental intervention after rape

1. Cecilie Hagemann presents the agenda and background for this meeting, incl. presentation of the original NFOG¹ application from March 2020 (reason for why only Nordic gynecologists have received funding to travel for this meeting). The original purpose: To bring together Nordic gynecologists working in the field of sexual assault. The output of the meeting should be to develop a protocol for a multi-country study on early psychological intervention after an acute sexual assault.
2. Ask Elklit presents: Nordic collaboration in the field of rape survivors.
Step 1: Mapping of Nordic rape centers: Done by Elklit et al Autumn 2018, presented at the ICSor² conference – should be done once more?
Step 2: Review of research on rape victims – Performed by Elklit et al 2023 and assembled in a compendium
Step 3: Systematic assessment of mental health in the follow-up – does any SAC perform this of today? Examples are the previous studies from Århus and Stockholm, and the ongoing Norwegian TRUST-study
Step 4: Treatment studies. Examples are the previous studies from Stockholm and the ongoing EIR study in three centers in Norway
3. Representatives from each country/region presents shortly how psycho-social support is provided at their center. However, especially in Norway and Sweden the follow-up service varies widely. In Norway, hardly any center has psychologists, instead psychiatric nurses and social workers take care of the follow-up. In Denmark, Stockholm (and soon Malmö), Finland, Iceland and Estonia, psychologists are the rule. The Faroe Islands also plan for psychologist as care takers in the follow-up.

¹ NFOG, Nordic Federation of Societies of Obstetrics and Gynecology

² ICSor, International Conference of the Survivors of Rape

From Teams chat regarding this theme:

Line E Andersen (psychologist, Copenhagen): "Hello - how many psychology sessions are offered?"

Erik Wallmark (psychologist, Malmö): "No specific limit. But if the patient does not show improvement within 2 months, a deeper assessment of potential hindrances to treatment are made. We for example, will not provide social interventions. If one for example lives under current threat, or with the perpetrator we will help the person to get in contact with a social worker at the local "fylke".

Part two: Establishing a Nordic collaboration/Scientific Society

Presented by Bjarne R. Kristensen

1. Purpose: Research, clinical experience network, education, organizing of collaboration meetings/congress etc., find common ground regarding clinical standards.
2. Participants: All working at SACs or different sub-networks of gynecologists, forensic nurses, psychiatric nurses, social workers, psychologists, leaders etc. Individual memberships or organizational?
3. Which nations should be included in this network? Nordic countries plus Estonia.
4. Informal network or professional scientific society? It is easier to get financial support if we organize as a "society".
5. Should there be a board of directors or executive committee? A board, yes.
6. Membership with subscription?
7. Recurring meetings? How often should the society have meetings? Board meetings, general assembly, member meetings, conferences/congresses?
8. Authority of decisions? Statutes?
Preliminary statutes are discussed and refined by the meeting.
Name of the society: **NORDSAC**.
Preliminary statutes will be sent out for a hearing (inquiry).
9. The meeting constitutes as "Founding members" of the society.
10. The meeting constitutes an interim board by acclamation:
Cecilie Hagemann as Scientific Leader (Norway)
Bjarne R. Kristensen as Administrative Leader (Managing Chair) (Denmark)
Riina Korjamo (Finland)
Helen Naalsund (Norway)
Line E Andersen (Denmark)
Anna Möller (Sweden)
Diana Reynstind (Faroe Islands)