

" New diagnoses " - an explanatory model for neurological illnesses (1999)

by Robert Olin

The report "New Diagnosis" was written by Robert Olin, MD and Professor Emeritus of Preventive Medicine. The report was prepared on behalf of a Parliamentary Commission appointed by the Swedish government. It was published in October 1999.

This report was commissioned as a result of ongoing research carried out by several organisations, including the Karolinska Institute, The Swedish National Institute of Occupational Health, the Swedish Union of Clerical and Technical Employees in Industry (SiF), Lule College and Institute of Technology, Lund University and the Orebro Medical Centre in Sweden.

NOTE: the following is an initial translation from Swedish. It is hoped to soon have a full and accurate translation available. The full report is currently available in Swedish if requested.

Don Maisch, March 3, 2016

INTRODUCTION

The National Public Health Committee is a government inquiry , which has the main task to present proposals on national targets for public health policy.

It is intended that the national targets to be guidance for the future of public health policy in Sweden . They should - to quote the Government's directive to the Committee - " To be one of the starting points for a proactive and multisectoral public health work at all levels . " The work of the Committee is expected to be completed in 2000.

The National Public Health Committee is parliamentary . All parties represented in parliament are represented the Committee. The committee work also includes a fairly large number of experts and advisers , who represent different sectors of society. The Committee has a special secretariat at its disposal.

Our mission includes , among other things, analyzing and evaluating current and future health problems and point out the problem areas that are most important to come to terms with. On the basis of such an analysis , the Committee shall propose forward-looking and priorities for public health policy .

Our mission includes proposing strategies to achieve the future health goals . This means that we should do a review of public health work organization and structure , and evaluate the need for changes in various fields. It may e.g. involve changes in the division of responsibilities between different authorities , legislation in the field or other control systems that are important in public health .

We shall work on goals and strategies to pay particular attention the differences in health between different socio-economic groups , between ethnic groups , between different geographical areas and between men and women. We shall have a broad approach. This means that all areas of society and sectors that are essential to human health be taken into account in our work.

We want have a wide public health debate

The National Public Health Committee will work openly and with outreach. The committee's directives emphasize that it is important to develop national public health objectives, but that the process itself should lead to goals that are just as important as the objectives. We want as many people as possible to be involved and involved in the work of national public health goals. Our aim is to stimulate a broad and lively debate in public health. The ambition is that we should have as wide a collaboration as possible with different actors in the field of public health; with government authorities, local governments, with organizations operating in the area, with research and industry.

One important aim of such cooperation is that the prospective national public health objectives must be given a strong anchorage possible. We hope and believe that our work with national public health to be able to provide support and inspiration to other work that can contribute to improving public health, at central, regional and local level.

It is against this background that the Committee decided to continuously prepare and publish discussion papers on topics which we consider to be important in public health . The purpose of these papers is to provide the basis for a broad and intensive public health debate. We 'd love to have reactions to the debate scriptures. Have you comments on the content , write happy to committee. Our Address is National Public Health Committee , Regeringsgatan 30-32, 103 33 Stockholm . The Committee has issued the following debate writings :

Heritage & Environment - How is your health?
Trust deficiency diseases - Myth or Reality?
Swedish Alcohol - motivated or outdated ?
Tobacco – Societies greatest enemy ?
Old and healthy? - If the health of the elderly a social privilege ?
Sick or healthy mentally? – The perception of mental health

We hope that many will be interested in taking part of our debate writings. Papers can be ordered by the Committee secretariat. Feel free to copy the papers for your own requests. It is important to emphasize that the National

Public Health Committee in no way takes a position on the content of the debate papers. The various authors independently responsible for the content of the papers .

" New diagnoses " - an explanatory model for neurological illnesses

This paper discusses the concept of " neuro- somatic diseases " and what it stands for. The title is " New diagnoses " - a explanatory model for neurological illnesses. The publication was prepared and written by Robert Olin, who was born in 1932 and who is professor Emeritus focusing on social medicine . He has doctors working in the areas of Social Medicine, epidemiology , psychiatry and occupational health. Robert Olin was in the latter part of the 1980s, responsible for the National Board work with HIV / Aids . He is currently employed as a consultant at the infectious disease clinic at Huddinge Hospital , Karolinska Institute.

Stockholm 1 November 1999
Margareta Persson
Ordförande

Bernt Lundgren
Huvudsekreterare

The following brief translated summary was provided Per Sedgerback

From the back page of the book:

“In medical care, the research community and among decision makers the attitude versus the “new diagnoses” have often been blocked by out-of-date views and prejudices.”

From the Summary chapter of the book:

...“But it is also true that living conditions for people in a highly developed country like Sweden, have changed considerably during the last century, compared to earlier centuries. The “exploding” technical development all the way from phone and radio use into the current “communication society” as well as the multitude of new chemical products and physical technologies, for most people leads to very different living conditions.”

“This document is founded on the belief that for many “new diagnoses” the common symptoms (see below) have existed for a long time, but that the conditions have become more visible, e.g. due to the above mentioned changes in the society. In addition, it is likely that the true occurrence have increased, which may

hypothetically depend on the dramatic increase over the last decades in daily sensory stimulus and chemical and physiological environmental influence.”

“The document presents in brief, a number of “new diagnoses” and in chapter 14 especially, symptoms that are more or less common, namely tiredness, sleep disorders, vegetative and neuro-cognitive symptoms. Pain and disturbed “psychological equilibrium” as well as symptoms from mucus are also common.”

. . . “In the same chapter an overall hypothesis about the biological mechanism is discussed that might explain the majority of the “new diagnosis” -conditions – but naturally not all, because in a **minority** of the cases it is likely to be purely psychological circumstances or somatic diseases that are the cause of the symptoms.”

“The document critically reviews the role and position of psychiatry in the treatment and attitudes towards the patients suffering from “new diagnosis” -disorders.”

The hypothesis relates to and enlarges the theory/hypothesis that the Swedish research group Rönnbäck-Hansson formulated regarding defects/damage in the astroglial cell membrane caused by disturbances in the transport through the membrane of e.g. the important energy- and signal substance glutamate.”

To be continued.....