

Abstract for symposium at Nordic Meeting in Neuropsychology 2024

Responsible Nordic Society: Swedish Neuropsychological Society

Title of the symposium: “Towards a Deeper Neuropsychological Understanding of the Post-COVID Condition -from Subjectivity to Intervention”

Chair: Ulrika Birberg Thornberg, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Linköping/ Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

Presentation 1:

Title: To Combine Subjectivity and Neuroscience in the understanding of the Post-COVID Condition.

Presenter: Ulrika Birberg Thornberg, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Linköping/ Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden

Presentation 2:

Title: Fatigue and Cognitive Function after Covid-19 in in People with Post-COVID Condition Compared to People Recovered from COVID-19.

Presenter: Agnes Andersson, Licensed Psychologist, PhD-student in Rehabilitation Medicine, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden.

Presentation 3:

Title: Personality and Illness Perception in People with Post-COVID Condition Compared to People Recovered from COVID-19.

Presenter: Ulrika Birberg Thornberg, Specialist in Neuropsychology, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden and Department of Behavioural Sciences and Learning, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden.

Presentation 4:

Title: Effects from Visuo-motor Based Rehabilitation for Patients with Post-COVID-19 Condition.

Presenter: Stina Gunnarsson, RN, PhD, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine and Department of Health, Medicine and Caring Sciences, Linköping University, Linköping, Sweden.

Brief description of symposium:

For most people symptoms after a SARS-CoV-2 infection gradually decrease, but some people get persistent or severe symptoms that demands examination and rehabilitation. To date, approximately 40 000 individuals fulfill the criteria for post-COVID condition in Sweden. But still, the understanding of post-COVID, its clinical features, prognostic factors, and rehabilitation effects remains incomplete. Severe fatigue, cognitive deficits and vision related symptoms are common. Plentiful studies have investigated fatigue and cognitive deficits after COVID-19, but assessment

methods vary and there is a lack of control groups. Further, the impact of psychological factors as personality, illness perception and subjective experiences are not well examined.

At the Department of Rehabilitation Medicine in Linköping, researchers have been interested in both subjective experiences and clinical and neuropsychological characteristics of post-COVID. Data from two studies will be presented. The first study, with ongoing data collection, includes 40 persons with post-COVID condition and 40 matched controls, recovered from COVID-19, but not suffering from post-COVID condition. Methods from medical humanities and neuroscience are combined, and subjective and objective assessment methods are used to examine fatigue, cognition, personality, and illness perception. The second study investigates effects from a visual rehabilitation intervention for patients with visual impairment after COVID-19. Visual function, fatigue, and subjective occupational performance (reading, screen use etc.) are outcome measures.

This symposium will address different methodological aspects on the study of post-COVID. Insights from the results of the subjective and objective measurement methods, as well as the rehabilitation of people with post-COVID condition, will be discussed.