

Prof Ulrika Kreicbergs

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Research summary

Ulrika's research in paediatric palliative care can be summarized as exploration, prevention, and intervention. Her work focuses on factors in health care and family that can be modified or avoided to reduce suffering. Through her program of research, she has identified and begun to test interventions to help families affected by life-limiting or life-threatening illness as well as bereaved family members. She has carried out nation-wide studies in Sweden and beyond on parents' and siblings' psychosocial health and well-being following the loss of a child to cancer. Moreover, she has conducted nation-wide similar studies among parents of children with spinal muscular atrophy in both Sweden and Denmark. An ongoing study concerns children with spinal muscular atrophy in an era of new treatment options. This longitudinal study focuses on decision making and long-term impact of the new therapies for the child, families, and health care professionals. Her studies exhibit high participation rates. A key factor has been close partnership with patients, and family members.

Teaching summary

Ulrika has taught in several undergraduate and postgraduate programs, both nationally and internationally and has supervised numerous master and doctoral students. She has organized a multitude of seminars and an advanced course in paediatric palliative care. Ulrika has also given talks to both patient and parent organizations and to the general public to increase awareness of paediatric palliative care and bereavement.

Education

Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm, Sweden

Doctorate, Doctor of Philosophy | 2004

Stockholm Institute of Education, Sweden

Master of health pedagogy | 2000

Health Care College Falun, Sweden

Registered nurse | 1987

Biography

Ulrika became a registered nurse in 1987. In 2000 she presented her PhD thesis entitled "To Lose a Child to Cancer – A nation-wide study of parents experiences". She completed post-doctoral studies at Dana Farber Cancer Institute, Boston USA 2006-2007. For the ensuing two years, Ulrika participated in clinical work and teaching, while also continuing her research work at Karolinska Institutet. In 2009 she received funding from the Swedish Research Council and the Swedish Cancer Foundation enabling her to build her own research team. In 2014, she was the first to be appointed as a professor in palliative care for children and youth in the Nordic countries. This position at Ersta Sköndal University College was funded by the Gålö Foundation. Ulrika has initiated what today is the Swedish Association for Paediatric Palliative Care. She has been actively involved in the Swedish Council for Palliative Care and in the development of the Swedish National Guidelines for Paediatric Palliative Care. She has served as a member of several research committees and, for the past six years, for the Swedish Childhood Cancer Found. She currently serves as a member of the SMA Europe Scientific Advisory Board.