**Health Challenges of the Modern Society Related to Aging**

*Description*

Although several diseases have age as an important risk factor the greatest burden to our societies, today and in the near future, are diseases affecting the nervous system. These include a range of neurologic and psychiatric conditions but also chronic pain states. Paradoxically, in spite of the enormous costs to society and the rapidly growing burden on healthcare systems this area of research remains relatively poorly funded.

We are therefore forming a research network within the ACCESS collaboration with the primary aim to combat the diseases of the aging brain. To achieve this goal, a multi-level approach will ultimately be needed – building on strong research initiatives within areas such as basic science, clinical science, population health and culture studies. Strategic collaboration with industrial partners will also be of importance to promote the innovative process towards new therapies.

**Research areas/key words**

* Basic neuroscience research
* Clinical neuroscience research
* Register studies
* Aging and culture
* Healthcare organization and pathways of care among the elderly

**Research questions**

* Basic research in the biology of neurodegenerative disease (e.g. Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s)
* Chronic pain in the elderly
* Metabolic syndrome and cognition
* Aging and mental health disorders

**Possible outcomes**

* Joint research projects
* Exchange of expertise/know-how
* Improved treatment and care of the elderly