

# Rehabilitation: from highlighted need to new law

Monica SM Persson, Suzanna Grzechnik, Maria Nylander, Eva-Maria Dufva

Reumatikerförbundet (Swedish Rheumatism Association)

## The problem

Prior to the Swedish national election in 2018, consensus amongst the regional divisions of The Swedish Rheumatism Association was that there was a need to **focus on rehabilitation**. This was chosen as the organisation's priority issue for the upcoming election.

A questionnaire, where over 6,000 members responded, emphasised the challenge that people with rheumatic diseases faced with regards to **access to rehabilitation**.



More and better rehabilitation for those affected by rheumatic diseases were needed.

*The need for rehabilitation surpassed the provision*



### Collaborative group

Internationally renowned researchers & patient research partner



### Research grants

Three-year themed call for rehabilitation research



### Political lobbying

Increase awareness and influence decision-makers

## Our approach

## The outcomes

1

**Systematic review** providing an overview of the field and highlighting research needs has been conducted and submitted for publication

2

In the first year of the themed call, we provided **research grants** to a total of 2.5 million SEK. We have supported four separate **research projects**, all of which have sought the input of **patient research partners**

3

A **new law** has been passed in Sweden – the provision of a rehabilitation coordinator is now mandatory in all healthcare regions

*The rehabilitation questionnaire will be repeated to assess the impact of our work*

# Reumatikerförbundet