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Request for an investigation of research material

We hereby ask for an urgent and unbiased investigation of specified research material.

The investigation is about a longitudinal controlled population-based study of children with DAMP and DAMP-associated problems and control cases, which has been performed in Gothenburg starting in 1977 and where the last follow-up took place in 1993. Well-known also is that this study, after a report of suspicions of fraud, is undergoing an investigation by the Ethics Committee at the Sahlgrenska Academy—an investigation that hopefully will be finalized shortly. The Administrative Court of Appeals in Gothenburg has, on 2003-02-06, decided that the research material should be handed out to two named persons

Those suspicions of fraud that were presented are overall based on the fact the accusers consider the dropout rate of the participants in the investigation at the age of 22 was too low to be believed. It might appear strange that this rather easily controlled detail has resulted in such a prolonged investigation. We did not have the view earlier that an additional investigation was necessary, but in regard to the difficult-to-understand and, not least for those involved participants in the study, serious situation that has arisen after the verdict by the Administrative Court of Appeals, we thus request that the rector of Gothenburg University takes the initiative for an investigation.

The investigation should be performed by two or several highly research-merited doctors with a specialist competence in child and adolescence psychiatry/child neurology/psychiatry with experience in research within the same or closely connected area. We have nothing against an additional person for the investigation, with an academically-relevant speciality such as psychology, also participating in the review. The investigators should of course have no connection to the DAMP study.

In regard to the accusations of scientific misconduct etc., which had been presented by two persons, we are of the opinion that the following things (details) should be investigated

1. That all those who participated in the follow up study at 22 years of age have been investigated from the start of the investigation—i.e. during phase 1 of the study, when the participants were 7 years old.
2. That the numbers in regard to drop out rates at the follow-up were correctly reported in publications as well as correctly reported to the Ethics Committee.

3. That the division into groups, which took place from the results from the investigations at 7 years of age (DAMP; ADD, MPD, MR, PSO, control group; for an explanation see the report to the Ethics Committee), were maintained throughout the study—i.e. that no participants were moved from one group to the other.
4. That the reports we have given to the Ethics Committee, in a correct way answer/meet those questions/accusations that have been presented. The material will in whole be available for the investigators with restrictions in regard to secrecy

Finally we want to stress that the investigation must be done urgently and be finalized before the documents might given out in accordance with the verdict in the Administrative Court of Appeals. Furthermore we find it extremely important that this investigation be regarded as a part of the already ongoing investigation and not instead of it.

Sincerely yours

Christopher Gillberg
Professor

Peder Rasmussen
Asst. Professor

Cc: Dean Göran Bondjers
Prefect Ian Milson