## A Rural Health Research Perspective

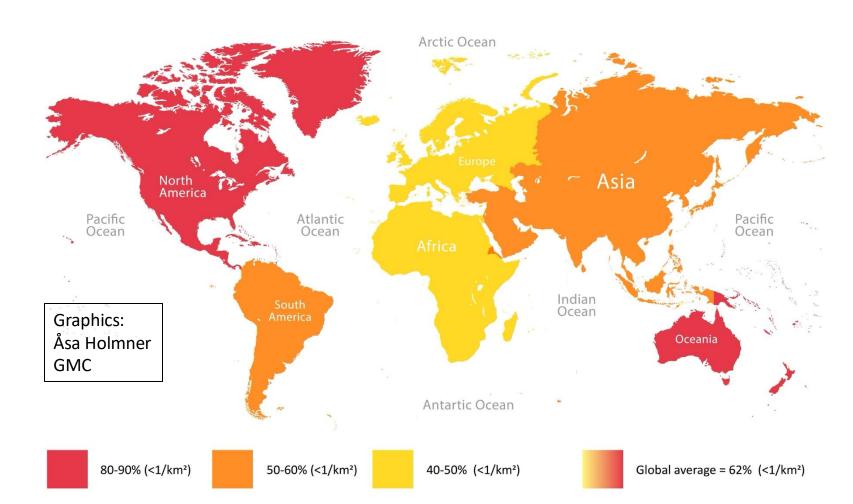
Anette Edin-Liljegren The Centre for Rural Medicine, Region Västerbotten Dep. of Epidemiology and Global Health, Umeå University







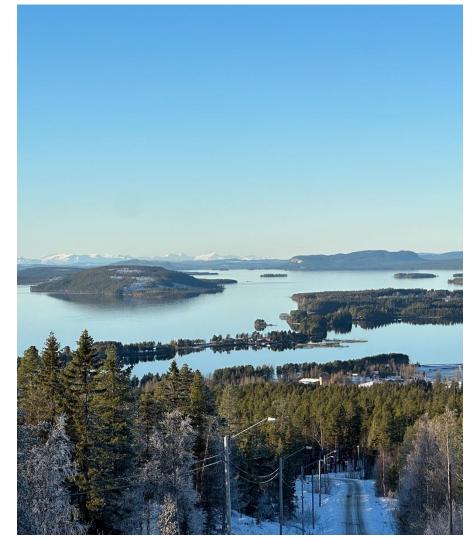
#### DEMOGRAPHIC DENSITY - continental average of land area with population density < 1 person/km<sup>2</sup>



## Sparsely Populated Regions (SPR)

- 1. Few people
- 2. Long distances
- 3. Remotely controlled
- 4. Specific life-style

Le Tourneau, Sparsely populated regions as a specific geographical environment, *Journal of Rural Studies* 75 (2020) 70–79.



## What?



## **Research questions**

- 1. How to assure a competent workforce for good quality care?
- 2. How can digital technology and e-Health contribute to good and close care?
- 3. How can new models for integrated care be implemented?
- 4. What are the specific needs in the rural population?



# How?



## **Methods**

### Randomized Control Trial (RCT)? Gold standard – but NOT allways suitable for SPR

- 1. They may not give relevant answers to our questions
- 2. The evidence may NOT target people in rural areas
- 3. Difficult with small samples

### Instead

- 1. Qualitative studies
- 2. Culturally sensitive surveys of the specific health care needs
- 3. Research collaborations



### **Rural Health Ethics**

- 1. Overlapping, dual and multiple relationships
- 2. Patient confidentiality and privacy
- 3. The allocation of limited resources
- 4. Different understanding of health and priorities for self and community

Christy Simpson Fiona McDonald

Rethinking Rural Health Ethics



# Conclusion



## 1. Few people

People in rural area living with a stoma, experienced that they didn't get the right help in their daily life. UMEÅ UNIVERSITY

### Stomas from a rural perspective

- An evaluation of characteristics, differences and improvement opportunities

Simon Näverlo

Department of Surgical and Perioperative Sciences Umeå 2020

## 2. Long distances

Person-Centered Care (PCC) can be provided by means of video meetings but needs a digital extension: ePCC.



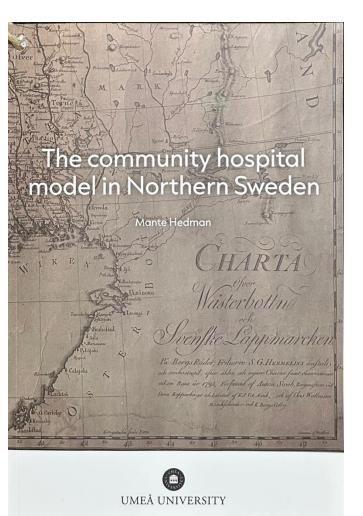
Ek, Liljegren, Edin-Liljegren Patients With Cardiovascular Disease Revisiting Specialist Physicians via Remote Treatment: Interview Study of Experiences *JMIR Human Factors* 2023;10:e43125



## 3. Remotely controlled

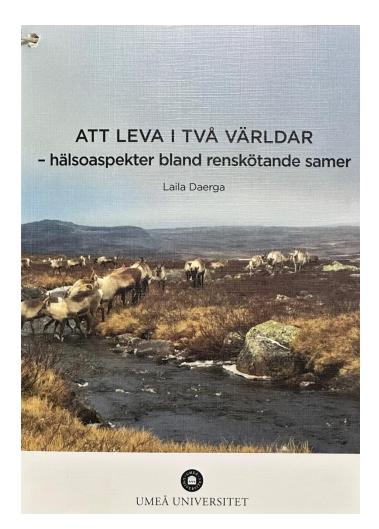
We need effective *locally adapted* models, e.g.

"the community hospital is a good way of delivering care in rural area. The importance of relational continuity was stressed by rural GPs".



## 4. Specific life-style

- The confidence in primary health care and psychiatry was lower among the reindeer-herding Sami.
- 2. Knowledge of the culturespecific lifestyle facilitate the meeting between care providers and Sami patients.





### Primary Health Center, Kaiwara Chintamani Chikkaballapura

ಕೈವಾರ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಮರ

**Rural Satellite** 

Center



RAMAIAH Medical College

Ramaiah Tele Medicine Unit Indo - Sweden Tele Geriatrics Project An ICMR Funded Project ರಾಮಯ್ಯ ಟೆಲಿಮೆಡಿಸಿನ್ ವಿಭಾಗ ಭಾರತ - ಸ್ವೀಡನ್ ಟೆಲಿ ಜೀರಿಯಾಟ್ರಕ್ಸ್ ಯೋಜನೆ ಐ.ಸಿ.ಎಂ.ಆರ್ ಅನುದಾನಿತ ಯೋಜನೆ

ಗ್ರಾಮಾಂತರ ಉಪಕೇಂದ್ರ

Chintamani Chikkaballapura ಕೈವಾರ ಪ್ರಾಥಮಿಕ ಆರೋಗ್ಯ ಕೇಂದ್ರ ಚಿಂತಾಮಣಿ ಚಿಕ್ಕಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ

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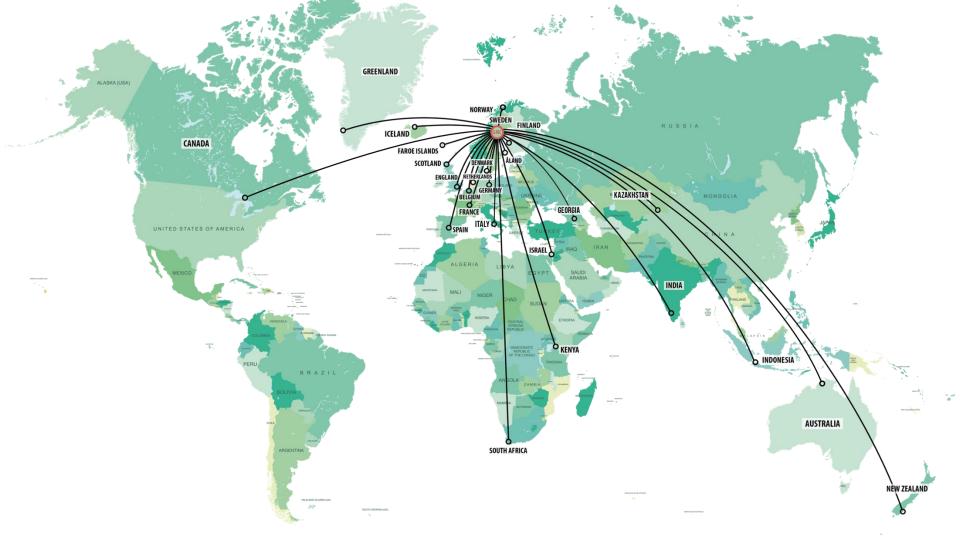
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#### Thank You!

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