



# ACT oriented psychiatry practices in two outpatient clinics in two different countries

## Some reflections

Direnç Sakarya  
Psychiatrist

Uppsala University Hospital, Psychiatry Division  
Affective Disorders Unit  
Uppsala, Sweden

# Soft science warning!



The facts are coming! The facts are coming!

# My personal psychiatry journey

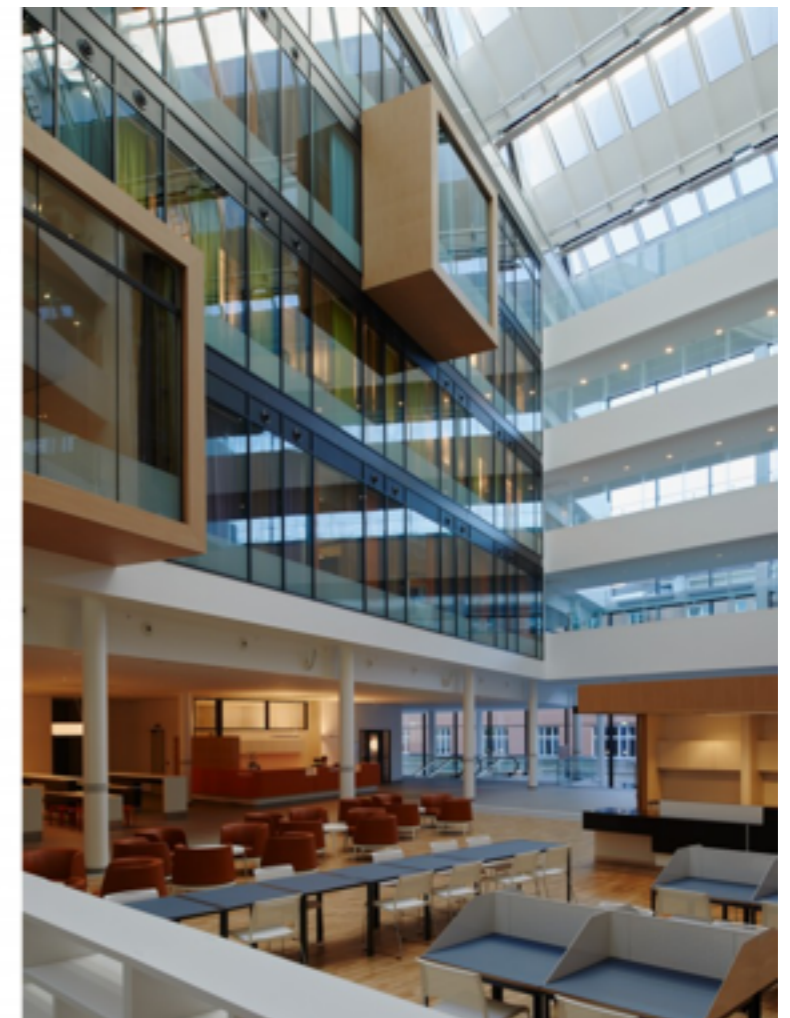


Ankara, Denizli, Van, Kastamonu, Istanbul /  
Turkey



Uppsala / Sweden







**AKADEMISKA  
SJUKHUSET**

# Psychiatry Division

- Affective Disorders
- Acute and consultation psychiatry
- Child and adolescent psychiatry
- Addiction and neuropsychiatry
- Clinical Research Unit
- Psychosis Clinic
- Forensic Psychiatry Unit
- Old age psychiatry

# Affective disorders unit

- Bipolar disorder
- Severe affective disorders
- Personality disorders
- Neuropsychiatric problems
- General outpatient psychiatry clinic

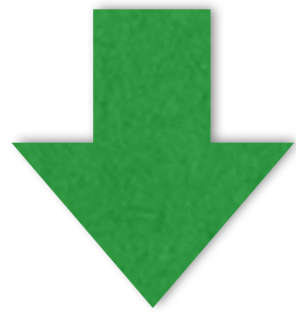




	Uppsala	Kastamonu
ECA	330.000	300.000
Number of daily patient visits	6-7 per doctor	~50 per doctor
Number of monthly patient visits	100-120 per doctor	~1000 per doctor
Patient type	Affective disorders	General psychiatry

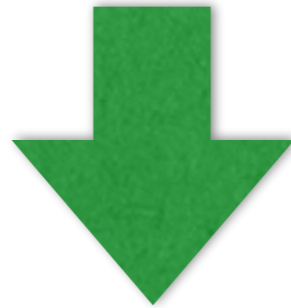


- Ease of access to a psychiatrist and allocated time for an individual patient



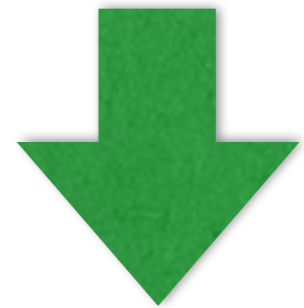
different priorities in the meeting

- Predominant attitude of the doctor (culture)



differences in style of introducing the concepts

- Unspoken role attributions to psychiatrist in the system



different pursuits in the clinical work

- **Easy access**  
to psychiatrist,  
**very short**  
**time** in the  
meeting

I need to make the doctor  
aware of my problems  
**quickly!**



I need to choose  
the most feasible (best?)  
intervention for my patient.

(not necessarily “bad”  
in the bigger scale)

- **Difficult access** to psychiatrist (long waiting time) but **long time** in the meeting

At last!  
This is my chance to  
get rid of all of my problems!

I have to cover all aspects of my patient.  
(Prediction?, diagnosis, pharmacology,  
cooperation, insurance, follow-up, other?)

More paternalistic



- Predominant attitude of the doctor (culture)

More egalitarian



differences in  
style



- Diagnose and treatment
- Organising authorities for patient's basic needs
- Psychoeducation
- “Being there” when needed
- Other

- Unspoken role attributions to psychiatrist in the system



different pursuits  
in the clinical  
work

- Member of a team: highly specialised, qualified personal with specific expertise
- Well-defined (unspoken) role assignments of the psychiatrist (Diagnose and treat the disease)

Different caregivers deal with different “problems”

- Unspoken role attributions to psychiatrist in the system



different pursuits  
in the clinical  
work

# Diagnose-driven care

1. Clustering symptoms to a diagnose and/ or planning/performing sophisticated diagnostic psychological tests
2. Putting the diagnose
3. Beginning to think on the basis of diagnose

# Bits of unstructured ACT in psychiatric practice

- To remember values: forgotten?!
- We had the concept of functioning? (social and vocational)
- Reformulating symptoms and meanings of symptoms as the other side of (or extensions of) values



# Bits of unstructured ACT in psychiatric practice

- To associate with the content with a different perspective
- Not getting lost in the content

# Bits of unstructured ACT in psychiatric practice

- Less priority to “feeling better”
- It is not needed to wait until “feeling better” to begin with a small step,
- it might be OK to choose to be willing to experience difficult emotions in certain contexts

# Medical model?

- In order to safeguard institutional interests and working with “a sense of coherence”
  - Tendency to reject unfamiliarity
  - Social, economical and political determinants
- Medicine helping mainly for “containing anxiety”
- Psychiatry as a medical science working with medical model?

- Thanks!

- [www.act.care](http://www.act.care)

- [direncsakarya.com](http://direncsakarya.com)