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Working with a design perspective means that the users’ experiences are at the center of the product. In cancer research we focus on patients’ and relatives’ experiences. Identified needs lead to increased survival. Where we see a gap in knowledge is how we can get people to quickly seek care and how care can be better at receiving and interpreting symptoms that may indicate cancer. We have through patient interviews also identified opportunities to improve psychosocial care, self-care and the cooperation between patient and caregiver.

To achieve our goals of faster diagnosis and better well-being of both patients and relatives an interdisciplinary collaboration is required, where health centers, specialized care, and other community organizations must cooperate with the individual.

The goal is to design a healthcare where the patient is in the center
Fredrik Nilsson, founder of Proactive cancer care

Proactive cancer care
INNOVATIVE CANCER LOGISTICS
DESIGN SCIENCES | LUND UNIVERSITY
What is proactive cancer care?

The project deals with innovative cancer logistics in order to shorten the time from concern about a disease to a cancer diagnosis and improved quality of life for people. An earlier detection and subsequent diagnosis provides among other things a better prognosis for survival if the treatment is fast.

Design Sciences at the Faculty of Engineering at Lund University operates an interdisciplinary research group focusing on health and cancer diagnostics. Through individual-centered innovation research we connect medicine, logistics, social work, engineering and public health with the patient, relatives, caregivers and industry. Through an increased knowledge about the time from first symptoms to diagnosis and treatment, one can detect bottlenecks, shorten times and enhance the individual’s own ability. We have started cooperation with both companies and various cancer organizations as well as with cancer researchers in Sweden and other Europa. A first needs assessment with patients is also completed.

Patient's and relatives' needs are the basis for the research.

Studies on patient and relatives are carried out in order to design interventions based on needs.

Role play with experiential learning for health professionals and researchers is carried out to increase the understanding of their role as well as how the illness affects the patient and his family.

Workshops with project partners is carried out on an ongoing basis. For the development of a good and long-term coope- ration personal contacts are required. It brings researchers, health professionals, patients and industry together in exciting discussions.

How can society best benefit from the medical, technical and social medical knowledge that has already been developed? We see three intertwining services:

**Strengthening of the individual’s own ability and knowledge** – by spreading information and creating knowledge about alarm symptoms and the importance of acting early, more cases of cancer will be diagnosed earlier than they are today. For example, educational activities and web-based information directed at staff, relatives and symptom carriers. It is also a source of relevant knowledge related to a possible cancer situation or concerns about such.

**Digital services for inclusion and participation** – design of a platform that contributes to knowledge about cancer and health care contacts, which contains specific psychosocial tools for a better mood and strengthened own capacity.

**Systematic monitoring of symptoms** – systematic documentation of what may be suspected symptoms. By continuously monitoring some parameters the basis for decisions becomes more evidence based once the recommendation to contact health care is made.

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