

MANAGEMENT AND ORGANISATION OF RHINESSA

RHINESSA is organized with a research director, a vice director and a coordinating centre; 10 study centres from 7 countries (Norway, Australia, Denmark, Estonia, Iceland, Spain, and Sweden); a steering committee; an advisory board; working and writing groups and protocol development groups.

Research Director: Cecilie Svanes, Bergen, Norway

Vice Director: Vivi Schlünssen, Aarhus, Denmark

Steering Committee (SC)

The steering committee has the responsibility to fulfil the long-term goals of RHINESSA. The SC is responsible for protocol development, funding and quality control of the data collection. The SC further has the highest responsibility for data analysis and dissemination of results, with a primary responsibility to quickly publish main results that are essential to further publications, and to publish main outcomes and issues that are not covered by working groups. Scientific and important managerial decisions will be made by this group.

The steering committee consists of the research director, the vice director, the principal investigators (PIs) from each study centre (or the Vice PIs who will represent the centres in the absence of the PI), and persons with specific functions: Research director Cecilie Svanes; vice director Vivi Schlünssen. Centre PIs Randi J Bertelsen (Bergen, Norway), Bryndis Benediktsdottir (Reykjavik, Iceland), Lennart Bråbäck (Umeå, Sweden), Shyamali Dharmage (Melbourne, Australia), Mathias Holm (Göteborg, Sweden), Andrei Malinowski (Uppsala, Sweden), Rain Jögi (Tartu, Estonia), Jesus Martinez-Moratalla (Albacete, Spain), José Luis Sanchez-Ramos (Huelva, Spain), Vivi Schlünssen (Aarhus, Denmark); Specific functions: Christer Janson (PI RHINE), Debbie Jarvis (PI ECRHS), Joachim Heinrich (SC ECRHS), Ane Johannessen (lead data management), Julia Dratva (children's and adolescent health), Thorarinn Gislason (sleep), Bertil Forsberg (air pollution), Dan Norbäck (indoor environment), Francisco Gómez Real (women's health), Torben Sigsgaard (biodiversity, farm environment), Kjell Torén (occupation and disability).

Scientific Advisory Board

The scientific advisory board includes world-leading experts in relevant fields. The scientific board is invited to participate in annual meetings. Members: Simone Accordini (transgenerational statistical analyses), Jan Vilhelm Bakke (the Norwegian Labour inspection), Bo Alexander Gleditch (the Norwegian Asthma and Allergy Association), Karin Lødrup Carlsen (paediatric asthma, children cohorts), Susanne Krauss-Etschmann (transgenerational animal models), Joachim Heinrich (respiratory epidemiology, children cohorts), John Holloway (epigenomics), William Horsnell (immunology, animal models), Deborah Jarvis (PI ECRHS, respiratory epidemiology), Francine Kaufmann (respiratory and genetic epidemiology), Torvid Kiserud (foetal medicine), Stephanie London (genetic epidemiology), Benjamin Marsland (airways microbiome), Juha Pekkanen (respiratory epidemiology), Jordi Sunyer (respiratory epidemiology, children cohorts).

Coordinating centre

A coordinating centre in Bergen is responsible for project administration, coordinating field worker training and quality control, coordinating protocol implementation, data management, study website, and establishment of biobank in Norway. The coordinating centre is responsible for organising meetings.

Study centres

The study centre is the owner of their own data and biomaterial. The study centre is responsible for obtaining ethics permission, for funding of their own work, for revising/ accepting/translating study protocols and for data collection in their centre.

The centre PI is responsible for co-ordinating that centre's participation in publication and dissemination. The centre PI is further responsible to store final datasets and do-files for publications first-authored in that centre.

The study centre is responsible to follow the local ethical regulations for data collection, for data and material transfer, and for data protection.

Protocol Development Groups (PDG)

PDGs are temporary ad hoc groups established by the SC to pursue time limited protocol development tasks. A chair/leader is appointed for each PDG. PDG chairs report progress and suggested protocols to the SC, and circulate draft protocols to the SC for feedback.

- Adult offspring (Cecilie Svanes, Shyamali Dharmage, Christer Janson)
- Women's study (Francisco Gómez Real)
- Adolescent and children offspring (Julia Dratva)
- Biobank (Randi Bertelsen)
- Grandparents' registry study (Lennart Bråbäck)
- Grandparents' study (Cecilie Svanes)

Thematic working groups (WG)

We have previously discussed whether to establish subject matter working groups responsible for data analyses and publications within specific fields, like in the ECRHS study - a policy that attempts to secure that all important areas are published within reasonable time and that co-authorship possibilities are fairly allocated. In the RHINE study, suggestions for analyses has been presented at yearly meetings, for analyses expected to be prioritised during the next 6 (-12) months. In a smaller setting where all centres are invited to all analyses this has been very efficient.

At the Solstrand Annual conference 2016 it was agreed that we will attempt the RHINE policy the next year, and consider the need for WGs in 2017.