

PERSONAL STATEMENT

MARIA LARSSON, MD

Consultant Psychiatrist | Clinical Leader | Specialist in Bipolar Disorder



Dear World Psychiatric Association (WPA),

I am writing to express my interest in the position as zone representative for WPA Northern Europe zone 7. With more than 20 years of experience in psychiatry, including senior consultant and leadership roles, and as a former president of the Swedish Psychiatric Association (SPA) it would be a great honour to continue my work by becoming more involved in the WPA as zone representative. As such I hope to continue to strengthen the great collaboration in Northern Europe and improving it with the help from all the countries in the WPA. I also hope that Northern Europe will contribute to strengthen psychiatry in other countries also outside of Northern Europe.

I currently serve as Acting Head of Department in outpatient psychiatry at Psychiatry Southwest, Karolinska University Hospital Huddinge alongside my role as Consultant Psychiatrist. Throughout my career, I have combined clinical work with leadership responsibilities, including serving as Medical Lead Physician for different departments and holding several managerial roles within both inpatient and outpatient settings. These experiences have provided me with a strong foundation in clinical governance, service development, and team leadership.

Beyond my clinical work, psychiatry is also my main professional passion. Since my residency, I have been actively engaged in national psychiatric organizations, particularly within the SPA, where I have held several leadership roles, including being President. Through this work, I have gained extensive experience in strategic development, education, and research, as well as built a broad professional network. I have for instance been head of our yearly national conference, as president of SPA initiated new collaborative structures, including a Professorial Advisory Council and partnerships with other professional bodies and the National Collaboration for Mental Health which in Sweden is the common organization for patients and their relatives.

I believe that my combined clinical expertise, leadership experience, and strong engagement in the development of psychiatric services would allow me to contribute effectively to the role as zonal representative for Northern Europe. Hope you believe so too so we can strengthen psychiatry in the world together on the basis of science and the care for humans.

Yours sincerely,
Maria Larsson

