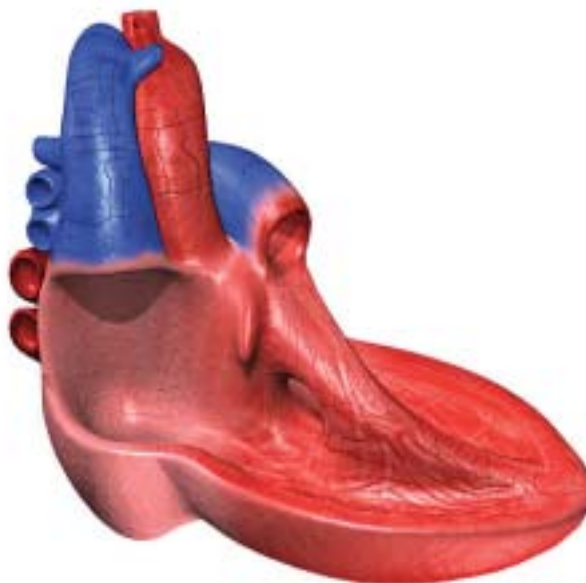


Sweden's leading university hospitals buy medical e-learning from Linköping

Bäwer & Nilsson AB's first product – training in interpreting EKGs – is currently in use at several of Sweden's leading hospitals, including Karolinska Hospital (Stockholm), Sahlgrenska University Hospital (Göteborg) and Lund University Hospital. The EKG training package has also been sold to casualty and cardiac clinics at hospitals throughout Sweden, to Pharmacia as part of its EKG school, and to Swedish ambulance operator Falk. The next step is an international launch.

Bäwer & Nilsson AB is a fast-growing company at Berzelius Science Park that develops customised concepts for IT-based medical training. The company offers high-quality courses produced by medical professionals for medical professionals.

Together with the Department of Cardiology at Linköping University Hospital, the company has developed a new e-learning product, "Heart Failure", which will be offered as a five-credit university course through the Heart Centre at Linköping University Hospital from autumn 2003. This is the first of four products from the "Heart" project, the others being



Interactive 3D environment from the new e-learning product "Heart failure"

"Prevention", "Ischaemia" and "Arrhythmia", which will be launched in 2003 and 2004. Bäwer och Nilsson AB also plans to work with Berzelius Clinical Research Centre on courses for patients and personnel involved in clinical trials. In the longer term the company hopes to develop a whole

range of internet-based learning packages for doctors, nurses and patients.

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Business development expert to strengthen biotechnology sector in Linköping

Per Lindström, Managing Director of Meadowland Business Partners AB, will be stepping up his involvement to help promote biotechnology in Linköping in 2003. His many years of experience from biotechnological and pharmaceutical development projects in Uppsala and elsewhere will give the biotechnology sector in Linköping a major boost.

The principals for the project are Linköping University, the Municipality of Linköping and Östergötland County Council. The focus will be on business development, PR and marketing. In concrete terms this means an expanded inventory of new ideas and projects in the fields of Life Science Technology and Biomedicine. The work will also include struc-

turing, evaluating and financing new projects, in addition to marketing new products and models – locally, nationally and internationally.

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Breakthrough for unique needle-free, blood sampling method

Medtech company Optovent's subsidiary OptoQ at Berzelius Science Park in Linköping has made crucial advances in the development of a new way of measuring haemoglobin without taking blood samples. The first products will be designed specifically to measure haemoglobin and haematocrit in connection with haemodialysis.

OptoQ's HemoQlip™ will offer continuous measurement of changes in

haematocrit – and with a high degree of accuracy, which is essential for assessing the patient's condition. HemoQlip™ also measures the patient's absolute haemoglobin value with such accuracy that it can replace current methods and so save money in the healthcare sector. Worldwide there are around a million dialysis patients who undergo 150 million dialysis treatments a year. The annual cost of haemoglobin tests for this patient group totals around SEK 2.8 billion. Approximately 50,000 new dialysis machines are sold every year and the current annual rate of

growth in the market is 7%. HemoQlip™ is estimated to have an overall sales potential of between SEK 100 million and SEK 500 million a year. The income it generates will be used to finance the development of the next product, which will be a non-invasive technique for measuring haemoglobin in the finger.

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Swedish Industrial Development Fund invests in Micromuscle AB

The Swedish Industrial Development Fund and CIMON Medical are investing a total of SEK 4.2 million in medtech development company Micromuscle AB in Linköping. The company is focusing on products for vascular surgery, but its technology also has applications in other areas of medicine.

The idea is to use polymers that swell when a small voltage is applied to develop medtech products for areas such as microsurgery. The company's first product is a microanastomosis connector – a tiny device used to reconnect small blood vessels that avoids the need for the surgeon to sew the vessels together under a microscope. The technology has the potential to help surgeons in a number of other areas too, such as hand surgery, neurosurgery and transplantation surgery. The world market for vascular surgery products is worth bill-

ions and there are numerous interesting applications where the Micromuscle's technology offers clear advantages over existing products. The company aims to launch its first product in 2004. Micromuscle AB was founded in 2000 by a research group from Linköping University with support from the Foundation for Technology Transfer in Linköping.

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Linköping attracts bioinformatics researchers from Stockholm

Bengt Persson, a physician and former senior lecturer in bioinformatics at the Karolinska Institutet Medical University, has been installed as the new Professor of Bioinformatics at Linköping University. Linköping has now succeeded in recruiting four new professors in the fields of bioinformatics and bio-

informatics, all with strong connections to Stockholm's scientific milieu.

Bengt Persson's research in bioinformatics is directed towards discovering links and patterns in proteins that can be used to reveal the functions of proteins. These links can be discovered by comparing sequences and computing structures. The research includes the development of bioinformatics tools, with the emphasis on computer programs for the

automation of the search for sequence patterns. Professor Persson is also working with the development of computer bases for handling sequence data, and with prediction algorithms for membrane proteins. He also plans to use his professorship at Linköping to develop new bioinformatics methods based on machine-learning techniques and to apply these to interesting medical and biological problems.

Linköping welcomes new Professor of Life Science, Culture and Society

A new landmark in Linköping University's major life science initiative has been achieved with the appointment of Stellan Welin, formerly of Göteborg University, to the post of Professor of Life Science, Culture and Society.

Stellan Welin hopes to launch new research projects in three fields: the politics, ethics and economics of the biosciences; the development of the biosciences and cultural self-awareness; and the computerisation of the biosciences, the industrialisation of research and the return of positivism. Welin's background is in the philosophy of science, bioethics and research ethics. Recently he has also tackled issues relating to emerging biomedical technologies such as

xenotransplantation, stem cell research, biomaterials and bioinformatics. His research group will initially include a research assistant and a PhD student researching into biobanks, the introduction of new biomedical technologies and commercialisation.

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