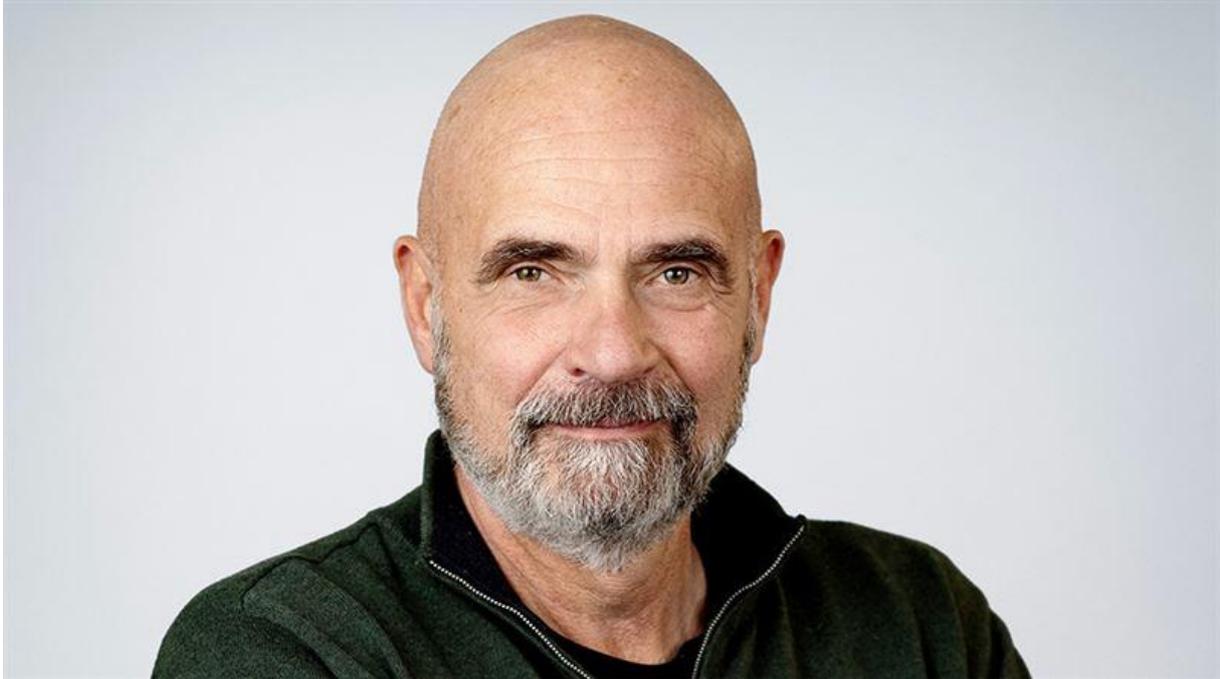


## **National Screening Can Save More Men's Lives**

Screening is one of the Prostate Cancer Federation's most urgent issues. In recent days, we have submitted a proposal to the National Board of Health and Welfare for a National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer.



*Portrait photo of the Prostate Cancer Federation's chair, Magnus Klang  
Photo: Rosie Alm.*

Swedish research in prostate cancer diagnostics is world-leading. New methods that combine PSA testing with MRI can determine which cancers require treatment and which can be monitored without the risk of overtreatment. This means that more men can be detected early – and more can survive.

“Now it's time for us to get screening for the early detection of prostate cancer. With a general national screening programme, we estimate that half of the deaths could be prevented. This is about human lives, not statistics,” says Magnus Klang, chair of the Prostate Cancer Federation.

### **The Road Toward National Screening**

In 19 of Sweden's 21 regions, trials with Organised Prostate Cancer Testing (OPT) are underway. The introduction of MRI has already reduced the risk of overtreatment. But for screening to be effective and equitable, it must be built up nationally and implemented step by step, so that healthcare can manage the increased number of early detected cases.

Each year, about 11,000 men are diagnosed with prostate cancer, and more than 2,000 die from the disease. Over 140,000 men in Sweden live with or after the illness. Advanced prostate cancer can often not be cured and may lead to a painful final phase of life with reduced quality of life. Extended survival is important, but perhaps even more important is the quality of that survival. Early-stage prostate cancer is usually a silent disease without symptoms, one we must actively search for. Screening for early detection can significantly reduce suffering and improve

quality of life. That is why the Prostate Cancer Federation has now submitted a proposal to the National Board of Health and Welfare for a National Screening Programme for Prostate Cancer.

### **Screening Must Be Equitable**

Today, men in certain social groups and men born outside Sweden are diagnosed at significantly lower rates. It is therefore essential that national screening includes invitations and reminders, so that all groups have the opportunity to participate. Screening then becomes not only a medical tool but also a symbolic act – much like mammography for women.

### **Sweden at the International Forefront**

In 2024, the European Association of Urology (EAU) highlighted Sweden as a pioneering country in the introduction of evidence-based prostate cancer screening. Several other countries, such as Lithuania and Mexico, have already introduced limited programmes, and more are preparing. Sweden has the opportunity to become the first country in the world with a national, evidence-based programme.

“The introduction of national screening is crucial and should be accelerated. We must start step by step and improve the programme over time to make it equitable and accessible to all men,” says Magnus Klang

Source: [https://news.cision.com/se/prostatacancerforbundet/r/vill-infora-nationell-screening-for-att-radda-fler-mans-liv,c4267505?fbclid=IwZnRzaAOLxH9leHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2Njl4NTY4Mzc5AAEe27LaFSeFfNVgkPFW2Fati7gXA1R71Pcnmmg9iY8E\\_7xeMaJK5j-T5g19EJg\\_aem\\_JcgJ3mBanPNoKFhcYPj8eQ](https://news.cision.com/se/prostatacancerforbundet/r/vill-infora-nationell-screening-for-att-radda-fler-mans-liv,c4267505?fbclid=IwZnRzaAOLxH9leHRuA2FlbQIxMQBzcnRjBmFwcF9pZAo2Njl4NTY4Mzc5AAEe27LaFSeFfNVgkPFW2Fati7gXA1R71Pcnmmg9iY8E_7xeMaJK5j-T5g19EJg_aem_JcgJ3mBanPNoKFhcYPj8eQ)