

Biosketch for Nordic Conference on Future Health 2026 in Copenhagen

Johan Sundström is Professor of Epidemiology at Uppsala University, a consultant cardiologist at Uppsala University Hospital, and Honorary Professor at The George Institute for Global Health in Sydney. He leads Uppsala University's Clinical Epidemiology unit and has founded the Anders Wiklöf Institute for Heart Research.

His work reimagines how clinical evidence is generated. Convinced that the randomized clinical trial - medicine's most powerful tool - is too slow and costly to answer many of the questions that matter, he has spent the past decade building a new generation of pragmatic, decentralized trial methods. His group develops and validates regulatory-compliant digital instruments for remote informed consent, smartphone-based symptom and outcome reporting, and home-based self-sampling of capillary blood (dried blood spots), alongside electronic health records-based recruitment, registry-linked outcome capture, and video-based enrolment. These tools are being piloted in the trials he leads, including SMARTTEST, U-SCREEN and U-SCREEN-HF, and several have been spun out into companies he founded to bring them into routine research and care.

This complements his broader programme applying machine learning to large-scale clinical data to improve cardiovascular care, recognised by an ERC Advanced Grant in 2022. He has authored nearly 500 papers, is cited over 100,000 times, notably in European, American, and WHO guidelines, and he holds the European Society of Cardiology's Viviane Conraads Outstanding Achievement Award and European Society of Hypertension's Sky Labs Established Researcher Award.

At Future Health 2026 he will discuss how digital, patient-centred trial methods can make robust evidence faster, cheaper, and more representative of real-world populations.