

**Maria Klasson** – Occupational Hygienist/PhD Student

In March 2014, I started working at the Department of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, USÖ, in a project concerning cobalt exposure in the hard metal manufacturing industry. Air measurements and biological measurements are conducted at Swedish hard metal production plant to evaluate exposure, correlations and impacts on health.

My PhD project entitled "Cobalt exposure in the hard metal production industry – exposure via inhalation and skin and the effects on human keratinocytes and activation of the inflammasome" is based on these measurements.

The results from the analyzes of the measurements will be used to further establish dose-response relationships of cultured human keratinocytes (HaCaT) and to establish a model to examine whether and if so, at what concentrations keratinocytes are exhibiting activation of the inflammasome upon exposure to cobalt.

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