Emma Ohlsson-Nevo graduated as a registered nurse at Södra Älvsborgs Vårdhögskola 1989, and then specialized in emergency care in 1995. She has been employed by the neurological department at Borås hospital and for the last 15 years in the surgical department of Örebro University Hospital. In the late 2006 she was registered as a doctoral student at Örebro University and has since then combined her clinical work with the academic studies.

Cancer is a life-threatening illness that affects both patients and next-of-kin. The recovery from cancer is a complex situation, and information and support can be needed to enhance the well-being of both patients and next-of-kin.

This thesis focuses on those who have to face the challenge of meeting colorectal cancer in their life as a patient or as a next-of-kin. The purposes of the thesis have been to enhance the understanding of their experiences and to evaluate whether a psycho-educational program can improve their health-related quality of life.