Töres Theorell was licensed as physician at the Karolinska Institute in 1967. He then became a specialist in internal medicine in 1973 and served as an internist until 1978. Theorell then turned to social medicine and became a specialist in social medicine and epidemiology in 1980. He started research in stress medicine and psychosomatics in 1968 and made his dissertation at the Karolinska Institute in 1971.

Postdoctoral work was done with Stewart Wolf in Galveston Texas in 1973-1974.

He served as professor of caring research at the national institute for psychosocial factors in 1980-1995. He then became director of the same institute and at the same time professor of psychosocial medicine in 1995. After retirement from these positions in 2006 he has served as research consultant at the institute for psychosocial factors and health (nowadays equal to the Stress Research institute a the Stockholm University).

Theorell's research has been dealing with stress mainly at work but also in rehabilitation. The research methodology has ranged from epidemiological studies to longitudinal psychophysiological observational and experimental studies as well as controlled interventions. Psychiatric states as well as coronary heart disease have been main outcomes.

Theorell has supervised 40 doctoral theses.

There are 434 articles available in pubmed/medline and more than 750 publications in total, including articles available in non-medical databases similar to pubmed as well as books, chapters and reviews.

Since the mid 1980:s Theorell has been doing research on the relationship between cultural activities and health. See for instance

Theorell T Psychological health effects of musical experiences. Springer books, 2014

Theorell T, Nyberg A and Romanowska J
Developing Leadership and Employee Health Through the Arts
Springer books 2016