

Strategy and Action Plan for Research 2022-2023

Department of Gastroenterology, Division of Medicine, Oslo University Hospital (OUH)

The Department of Gastroenterology covers all main areas within gastroenterology, including endoscopy, hepatology, pancreatology, inflammatory bowel disease, and neurogastroenterology, including functional assessments. This plan applies to all these areas of expertise.

1. Strengthen the focus on patient-oriented clinical research

The Department of Gastroenterology aims to:

- work to increase the number of clinical studies and the number of patients included in such studies. This effort includes both investigator-initiated and industry-funded studies.
- prioritize clinical studies and innovation projects as integral parts of patient assessment and treatment.
- involve users (representatives of patients and relatives) in all studies.
- work to establish more clinical studies in collaboration with the industry, such as through industry-funded PhD programs.
- advocate for more permanent positions supporting clinical research, such as study nurses, biomedical engineers, and research coordinators.

2. Strengthen translational research as a crucial link between basic research and clinical practice

The Department of Gastroenterology aims to:

- work to establish combined positions (clinic/research) enabling the translation of knowledge between research and innovation to clinical practice and vice versa.
- facilitate the establishment and further development of thematic research registries and biobanks to ensure
 - I. optimal material and data access for research
 - II. the department can leverage the large clinical and well-characterized patient materials available
 - III. the department becomes an attractive partner for local, national, and international research groups.
- develop collaborations with research groups within the hospital, nationally, and internationally.

3. Provide systematic training and career support for researchers and targeted recruitment for research

The Department of Gastroenterology aims to:

- work towards active, interdisciplinary research groups with researchers at all levels (master's, PhD, postdoc).
- support good researcher training and mentoring conditions.
- facilitate combined positions between research, innovation, and the clinic after completing a PhD, and work to finance these positions externally and internally.
- ensure career guidance is a permanent point of discussion in development of younger researchers and support further development through postdoc courses, mentoring courses, and research leadership courses.

- facilitate the participation of younger researchers in international research programs, overseas stays, and other exchanges.