



RESEARCH STRATEGY 2019-2022

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL DENTISTRY

UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN



DEPARTMENT

The Department of Clinical Dentistry (IKO) has active research groups in clinical/epidemiological research, infection and inflammation, biomaterials and regenerative dentistry of high international standard.

VISION

The department aims to be a leading actor in research in oral health, nationally and internationally.

RESEARCH

Overall objective:

To acquire new knowledge that can improve oral health and quality of life in the individual and in the population.

Targets:

- To develop safe and durable biomaterials
- To develop good(sustainable?) treatment methods
- Study the evolution of oral health at the population level.
- Exploring links between oral health and general health

ORGANIZATION

The department has the following research groups:

- Biomaterials
- Tissue engineering
- Craniofacial development, oral infections and inflammations
- Oral health

Each research group is led by a research group leader with a clear mandate, description of responsibility, right of choice and authority.

Research infrastructure at the department must be further developed in accordance with research activity, thereby facilitating excellent research and contributing to innovation and innovation.

EFFORT:

- Clarify the mandate and responsibility for the role of research group leader.
- Create routines for use of the department's research infrastructure (laboratory and other facilities) to ensure efficient operation.
- Stimulate the use of equipment at UiB's research platforms and core facilities.
- Facilitate increased use of patient data from the institute's clinic and strengthen the scientific competence of staff in the clinic.
- Ensure necessary staffing at the laboratory in accordance with the department's externally funded projects.
- Establish gathering arenas:
 - Poster presentation days
 - Research dissemination days
 - Research seminars/theme days
 - Annual seminar for the department's scientific staff as a meeting point for the development of research projects and the research environment
- Strengthen interaction between departments, faculties and research administration.

THEMATICS

The research projects at IKO will focus on basic research, clinical research and epidemiological research to solve the oral health challenges of the future.

EFFORT:

- Interaction between basic research and clinical and epidemiological issues.
- Evaluate new and existing treatment and diagnostic methods.
- Use the clinical patient material in clinical research and thereby contribute to knowledge about various measures and treatments.
- Stimulate the implementation of clinical and population-based studies and facilitate their practical implementation.
- Research on safe, appropriate and durable biomaterials that can replace lost and missing tissue.
- Special attention is paid to measures that can improve oral quality of life for patients at all stages in life.
- Develop studies aimed at finding causal links between oral diseases and overall health.
- Initiate and conduct at least two studies in the student clinic each year.
- Develop projects for students in the research programme, as well as master's and bachelor's theses with a view to clinical issues.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

The department will increase the number and scope of externally funded projects during the period.

EFFORT:

- Increase the number of applications to the EU's research programme and work to ensure that the institute coordinates at least one project at any given time.
- All research groups must apply for national and international calls for proposals.
- Arrange annual seminars focusing on writing and developing applications to, among others, the EU research programme, the Research Council of Norway, Helse Vest and the Norwegian Directorate of Health.
- Facilitate the sharing of experience between researchers when it comes to writing grant applications.
- Get more academic staff to register as evaluators for EU applications.
- The research advisor at the faculty has at least one fixed day a week at IKO.
- Provide support, in the form of help with application writing, to researchers and groups who apply to the ERC, the Centre for Outstanding Research and the Centre for Outstanding Innovation.

DOCTORAL EDUCATION

The department will have an active academic learning environment for the acquisition of scientific, practical and analytical skills for our doctoral candidates.

All academic employees in permanent positions must be involved in the doctoral education at the department.

EFFORT:

- All scientific candidates must always be the main and/or co-supervisor for PhD candidates and candidates in the research programme.
- Strengthen supervisory competence.
- Increase the number of externally funded PhD positions.
- Increase the number of courses for the doctoral degree (courses at 900 level) by 2021, one of which should be within dental biomaterials.
- Arrange regular PhD seminars that build up the candidates' knowledge, skills and attitudes.
- Follow the mandatory work plans of relevant PhD candidates with relevance to their research education.
- Include PhD candidates in the department's research groups and benefit from the research group's activities and knowledge.
- All PhD candidates are encouraged to travel abroad during their research training period.
- Profile PhD candidates on the department's website.
- Actively recruit to the research programme in dentistry and arrange separate gatherings for these candidates.
- Encourage at least one research programme candidate in the last study semester each year to apply for a transition to earmarked PhD fellowships at the faculty.

DISSEMINATION

The department's research environment shall be an active communicator towards its own academic environment, other disciplines and the general public. Academic staff at the department must have an extensive publication portfolio with publications in reputable journals and other dissemination channels.

EFFORT:

- All academic employees must publish at least 7 publications over a 5-year period, including be the first or last author of at least 3 works.
- The first choice for publication channel must be journals at Norwegian level 2 and with a high "impact" factor.
- Increased attention to approved publication channels, and awareness of "predatory journals".
- Profile research through chronicles, opinion pieces and media reports.
- Stimulate international and national publication of integrated master's, bachelor's and specialist theses through necessary supervision.
- The research groups must actively use websites and other media to disseminate their research activity.
- Highlight the department's scientific staff on the university's website.
- Ensure that PhD candidates engage in research-based teaching and dissemination in their compulsory duties.
- The department will use UiB's infrastructure and digital tools to profile its research and research environment and other social media.

COOPERATION

To be able to find good solutions for today's complex health challenges, the institute's research environment will be innovative, and explore and establish collaboration across disciplinary boundaries nationally and internationally.

EFFORT:

- Establish a collaborative body for oral health-related research with TkVest-Hordaland and Haukeland University Hospital.
- Participate in national and international research networks.
- Facilitate cooperation with industry and innovation, especially in regenerative dentistry/medicine and nano-safety.
- Develop research collaboration with regional dental competence centre(s), primary health services and specialist health services.
- Establish cooperation with Alrek Health Cluster.
- Create a framework for cooperation and exchange for PhD students and researchers.
- Further anchor partner universities/environments through internationalization.
- Develop cooperative relationships with the BRICS countries (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa), and other international partner institutions.

RECRUITMENT

The department will actively recruit good researchers at doctoral and post-doctoral level, and to permanent academic positions. The department must have competent personnel in the support network around the research environment (laboratory, research administration).

EFFORT:

- The department will further develop a long-term plan for recruitment to academic positions and more postdoctoral positions at the department.
- Recruitment of young talents will begin early in the study period, with a particular focus on recruitment to the research programme.
- Conduct a needs analysis for support personnel at the laboratories.
- Profiling of the department's research environment shall be an important element in recruitment.
- The department's facilities such as research infrastructure must be made visible on websites.
- Recruit instructors in clinical positions for research.

