

# English summary and links to the current and previous research strategies at the University Hospital of North Norway (UNN), (2007-2025)

Research Strategy at University Hospital of North Norway (2007 to 2012)

Research Strategy University Hospital of North Norway (2013-2017, 2018-2020)

Research strategy, University Hospital of North Norway (2020-2025)

*The University Hospital of North Norway (UNN) is an important collaborator for the Faculty of Health Sciences, UiT Arctic University of Norway. Many of our employees holds a position as a clinician in UNN and as an academic in Helsefak. Thus, both the Faculty's own strategy for research and UNN's research strategy are important for the health research in North Norway. Underneath we present English summaries of UNN's research strategies for the period between 2007 and 2025. See also [The Faculty's strategies for the period of 2010-2022](#), and the [UiT's strategy for 2022-2030](#).*

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## Research Strategy at University Hospital of North Norway – 2007-2012

This summary encapsulates the main aspects of UNN's research strategy, highlighting its vision, goals, and the practical steps planned to enhance and promote research within the institution and the broader medical community.

### Introduction

The vision of UNN is to provide patient care, research, health personnel education, and training for patients and relatives. Research is mandated as one of the four main activities in hospitals, vital for improving healthcare services and for critical evaluations of established and new diagnostic methods, treatment options, and technology

### Research strategy alignment

UNN's research strategy aligns with research strategies for The Ministry of Health and Care Services (HOD), Northern Norway Regional Health Authority, and the Faculty of Medicine, University of Tromsø. The National Research Strategy Group (NSG) and the EU have been involved in defining national focus areas for research. These areas are: neurology, cardiology, psychosis research, cancer research, musculoskeletal research, and health services research

### Research strategy, UNN.

The strategy aims to stimulate both top-level and broad-based research, supporting strong research groups to acquire significant external funding, and aiding weaker research groups to obtain external research financing. UNN's strategy strives to be complementary to, and to support and utilize potential synergy in relation to the strategies mentioned above.

### Vision and Goals

The vision is to generate new knowledge with national and international relevance, especially for the population in the northern areas, through interdisciplinary collaboration and ethical research practices. The overarching goal is for UNN to be a regional driver for research activity, with specific targets for publication points and active research projects across departments and professional groups.

### Strengthening Collaboration with Universities

The strategy involves enhancing synergy and collaboration with UiT and other higher education institutions, establishing common areas for strategic research discussions, joint reporting, and collaborative research courses.

### Further Follow-up of the Strategy

The strategy will guide UNN's research activities up to 2012 and influence the research leadership following the reorganization of UNN's Clinical Research Center and Northern Norwegian Psychiatric Research Center. The research leadership is responsible for implementing the strategy, conducting annual reviews, and updating the plan as needed.

## Research Strategy University Hospital of North Norway, 2013-2017 & 2018-2020

This strategy aims to strengthen UNN's position in health research, enhance collaboration, increase external funding, support innovation, empower employees, and foster research-oriented education.

### Introduction

Research is one of five core activities in hospitals. It is crucial for improving healthcare services, evaluating established and new diagnostic methods, treatments, and technologies, and guiding patients. Systematic research forms the foundation for quality improvement, evidence-based practice, and education.

### Definitions and Limitations

Medical and health research involves scientific methods to generate, validate, and disseminate new knowledge through peer-reviewed publications. Distinguishing research from development work is complex. Development work applies existing knowledge and practical experience to create new or significantly improved materials, products, processes, systems, or services. Patient-oriented clinical research directly enhances diagnosis, treatment, and cost-effective utilization of healthcare resources.

### Guidelines for UNN's Research Strategy

UNN's strategy must align with strategies from the Ministry of Health and Care Services, Northern Norway Regional Health Authority (Helse Nord RHF), and the Faculty of Health Sciences at the UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT). National Strategy Group for Research (NSG) and EU define national research focus areas. An evaluation by the Norwegian Research Council highlighted the need to strengthen UNN's research focus, academic, and financial resources, suggesting measures like increased funding, academic leadership, collaboration with UiT, external funding, career opportunities for researchers, and leveraging Tromsø's unique location and research areas to attract academic personnel.

### UNN's Research Strategy

#### Vision

It's the results for the patient that matter! We provide the best treatment.

#### Primary Direction

Conduct high-quality research in collaboration with the University of Tromsø and, Northern Norway Regional Health Authority, contributing to improved diagnostics and patient care. Research should underpin evidence-based practice, professional development, quality enhancement, and innovation.

#### Approaches

Participation, education, research, collaboration, telemedicine, and culture.

#### Main Goals with Sub-Goals

#### Patients

UNN shall provide research-based training, assessment, treatment, and care.

- Focusing research that is relevant for UNN's patients and the population in the region
- Highlighting the importance of research so that patients wish to participate in research projects
- Considering the patient's perspective through user participation in research

### *Society*

UNN aims to be a leader in health research in the northern areas, and conduct professional and public dissemination of research findings locally, nationally, and internationally.

- Serve as a hub for health research in the region and strengthen collaboration with other health institutions.
- Participate in regional, national, and international research initiatives.
- Increase the proportion of external funding for research.
- Initiate research projects in collaboration with primary healthcare services.
- Support research-driven innovation originating from UNN HF.

### *Employees*

UNN will have competent employees who are satisfied and actively contribute to research.

- Ensure that employees understand the importance of research at UNN and are committed to contributing to it.
- Increase research competence and efforts among relevant professional groups.
- Establish career paths, good working conditions, and infrastructure for staff involved in research.
- Coordinate and strengthen competence and research support across the Faculty of Health Sciences and UNN.
- Focus research activities around research groups.
- Define qualitative/quantitative targets for research output in clinic dialogue agreements.

### *Students*

UNN will educate research-motivated and competent health workers in collaboration with educational institutions.

- Students shall be met by research-motivated staff at UNN.
- Collaborate with educational institutions to establish attractive research career paths for students at various levels.
- Establish and operate research schools in collaboration with the Faculty of Health Sciences.
- Actively recruit students to research tasks that match their qualifications.

## Research strategy, University Hospital of North Norway, 2020-2025

Through research, education, and innovation, the University Hospital of North Norway (UNN) continues to fulfil its role as a regional and university hospital. We aim to be the unifying force in providing internationally top-class health services to the patients in the region, achieved in close collaboration with UiT the Arctic University of Norway. By working together with Northern Norway Regional Health Authority and the other hospitals in the region, we contribute to spreading knowledge, building strong professional communities, and supporting research and innovation.

UNN conducts advanced research and continuous quality improvement, laying the foundation for developing health services aligned with technological and medical advancements. We hold a special responsibility for ensuring research-based approaches to the specialist health services to the northern population.

UNN maintains and develops national and regional competence and treatment services, prioritizing and evolving quality registers as essential tools for professional development and quality work.

In specialist health services, our research is primarily patient-oriented and clinical, to improve diagnostics and treatment. This forms the basis for necessary prioritizations, transparency, and informed discussions about resource allocation.

Health services research is crucial for demonstrating the effects of how we deliver health care and for the further development of health care, and also research to contribute to health promotion and disease prevention. UNN in collaboration with UiT facilitates translational research to ensure that the results of fundamental research benefit patients.

UNN provides highly specialized services of international top-class and supports the professional communities in the region. To achieve this, we:

1. Ensure the development of highly specialized services through clinical research.
2. Emphasize research competence in recruiting doctors, psychologists, nurses, therapists, and other professionals.
3. Include patients in clinical studies and national quality registers as a central part of all patient treatments.
4. Facilitate patient inclusion in clinical studies throughout the region.
5. Through regional, national, and international professional networks and forums, be visible, make active contributions, ensure competence building and sharing, and thus facilitate equitable services in the region.

UNN is a central and recognized actor nationally and internationally in research, clinical use of artificial intelligence, and personalized medicine. To advance in these areas, we:

1. Collaboratively with UiT the Arctic University of Norway, strategically build strong research groups competitive for external funding.
2. Prioritize research in this area in close cooperation with recognized institutions nationally and internationally.
3. Focus on research using machine learning in health registries.
4. Contribute to research throughout the region through collaboration and sharing.

LINK TO THE ORIGINAL STRATEGY DOCUMENT, WRITTEN IN NORWEGIAN:

<https://www.unn.no/siteassets/documents/Om-oss/UNN-strategi-2021-2025.pdf>