

**Research strategy 2019-2023, Department
of Forensic Sciences**



Research strategy 2019-2023

Department of Forensic Sciences (RMF)

The strategy is followed up by rolling action plans

About the Department of Forensic Sciences:

- The Department of Forensic Medicine (RMF) has national and regional assignments for the judicial system and other public administration.
- The assignments include expert assignments, research and teaching in forensic sciences.
- RMF has national and regional assignments in forensic genetics, forensic toxicology, drug research, forensic pathology, biological age assessment, death scene investigations and clinical forensics.
- RMF works according to recognized quality assurance principles to contribute to legal certainty for all the parties involved.

2. Overall goal

Our goals and tasks:

- We will conduct excellent research in order to deliver services of high academic quality that safeguard legal protection.
- We will contribute to better diagnostics and reduce harmful health effects and premature death.
- We shall at all times develop and use professionally updated and sensitive analytical methods.
- We will have good research culture and collegial cooperation, which is supported by management.
- We will share our research results with others, and publish them in scientific journals.
- We will strive for quality rather than quantity in our research.
- We will strive for and increase our international cooperation.
- We will contribute to good research training, actively recruit research talents and provide researchers with good guidance throughout their research careers.

3. Strategic objectives

Main strategic objectives for 2019-2023 for RMF research:

1. Contribute to more outstanding research environments, based on quality and academic width.

- a. Stimulate to maintain and establish new high-quality research environments, in close cooperation with the University of Oslo.
- b. Dynamically and transparently prioritize outstanding research environments in resource distribution.
- c. Promote increased external funding and shield resources for research in the annual budget.
- d. Strengthen the initiatives from- and support the research groups seeking external funding.
- e. Support research communities through improved infrastructure.
- f. Strive for better utilization of research results.

2. Strengthen forensic and clinical/diagnostic research, in active cooperation with users/clients

- a. Involve users/clients in the planning and implementation of our research.
- b. Better facilitate skilled researchers, who combine routine work and research. And make sure they have good opportunities for research in the form of smaller projects, case reports and PhD projects.
- c. Strengthen research support functions.
- d. Strengthen translational research, which is an important link between basic and clinical research.

e. To a greater extent test, develop and implement new technology.

3. Improve the research organization and strengthen the cooperation with the university and university college sector by:

a. Further develop cooperation with the University of Oslo by anchoring research in the university environment and make greater use of research infrastructure and administrative services, as well as participating in strategic initiatives such as the university's life science strategy.

b. Further develop the research groups through:

i. Strengthening and increasing our competence.

ii. expanding the collaboration between groups internally and externally, across academic disciplines and professions, as well as between clinical and basic environments.

iii. Place more emphasis on research ethics, research and work culture, career development and supervision, and job satisfaction.

iv. *leadership and supervisor development for researchers in collaboration with the University of Oslo.*

c. Support interaction between research groups and management for good priorities based on competence, academic advantages, and needs.

d. *Strengthen research cooperation with other research institutions, not only UiO.*

4. Strengthen our international cooperation

Increase our participation in international cooperation and networks, for example through increased participation in the EU's 8th Framework Programme (Horizon 2020) and other European networks.

Stimulate increased international mobility, cooperation, and recruitment of researchers.

5. Strengthen research based on the use of research biobanks and medical quality registries

a. Facilitate research through increased overview, availability, and good management of human biological material and associated data, with best practice in handling the test giver's/patients' right to consent and reservation.

b. Encourage increased use of research biobanks, thematic research registries, and quality registries, including a greater degree of sharing and re-using data.

c. Work to obtain legal authority to apply for use of routine material for research.