

Fakultetsstyret

Dato: 13.02.2012

Deres ref.:

Vår ref.:

Notat: Etablering av et Senter for Global Helse ved Det medisinske fakultet

Institutt for Helse og samfunn (Helsam) ønsker støtte fra Det medisinske fakultet til å utvikle planer, og tilsagn om finansiering til etablering av et Senter for Global Helse ved fakultetet.

Bakgrunn

Etablering av et Senter for global helse ved Det medisinske fakultet vil være forankret i Universitetet i Oslo sin overordnede strategi fram til 2020, strategien for internasjonalisering, fakultetet sin strategi og universitetet sin årsplan for 2012 til 2014. Etableringen av et Senter for globalt helse vil kunne styrke fagmiljøer ved universitetet sin posisjon og muligheter for å tiltrekke seg ekstern finansiering av forskningsprosjekter innen global helse.

Ved en etablering av et Senter for global helse er det naturlig å basere seg på erfaringene med det tematiske område Globinf ved Det medisinske fakultet fungerte i perioden 2002 – 2009. Globinf fungerte som et virtuelt nettverk med andre institusjonelle partnere og forskere innen globale infeksjoner, der bruken av mindre såkornmidler, seminar- og reisestøtte bidro til å legge til rette for utarbeiding av suksessfulle søknader om ekstern forskningsfinansiering.

Formål

Et Senter for global helse er tenkt etablert som et virtuelt senter, uten fysiske vegger, med en vitenskaplig leder og en administrativ støttefunksjon.

Formålene med et senter vil være:

- styrke og koordinere global helseforskning ved Med Fak
- styrke forskermiljøer ved Med Fak sin konkurranseevne inn mot internasjonale og nasjonale forskningsprogram
- styrke det tverrfaglige samarbeidet internt på UiO og med andre sentrale aktører i Oslo-regionen som arbeider med global helse
- oppfylle fakultetets strategiske forpliktelser til å nå målsetninger om økt internasjonalisering innen forskning og utdanning



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Senteret vil videre ha som mål å bidra til å styrke samarbeide med akademiske institusjoner i sør, nasjonale og internasjonale organisasjoner i tillegg til å bidra som en ressursbase for Helsam sine studie- og forskerutdanningsprogram.

Organisering og virke

Et senter for global helse vil i første omgang ha som formål å kartlegge pågående og interessen for global helseforskning ved fakultetet og UiO. Aktivitetene videre vil være knyttet til koordinering av forskningsmøter, støttefunksjoner i søknadsprosesser og utvikling av studietilbud. Senteret vil også arbeide for å legge til rette for et tettere samarbeid mellom studieprogrammer, nasjonale og internasjonale aktører. Til sist vil senteret kunne være en base for påvirkningsarbeid rettet mot politikere, NFR, SIU og internasjonale aktører.

Senteret er i utgangspunktet tenkt organisert med en vitenskaplig leder og en administrativ ansatt. I tillegg ønsker vi etablering av en styringsgruppe samt en nasjonalt og internasjonalt sammensatt ressursgruppe.

Planene videre

Første fase: Det etableres en bred prosjektgruppe under ledelse av Instituttleder ved Helsam for å initiere senteret og kartlegge interesse, aktiviteter, og bredden av samarbeidspartnere for et Senter for global helse. Det tilsettes en administrativ ansatt.

Andre fase: Det rekrutteres en vitenskaplig leder for å drive senteret. Det etableres en styringsgruppe og en ressursgruppe som faglig støtte til driften av senteret. Målsetningen er å ha begge stillingene besatt senest 1. juli 2013.

Ressurser og ressursbehov

I 2012 vil det være behov for inntil NOK 75.000 til møter og seminar knytt til prosjektgruppens arbeid samt halv årslønn for en 50% administrativt ansatt NOK 170 000 . I 2013 vil det være behov for anslagsvis NOK 1 300 000.

Fra 2014 vil det årlig være behov for anslagsvis NOK 2 000 000 til lønn (100% vitenskaplig ledelse og 50% administrativ støtte) inklusive drift.

Med hilsen

Jeanette H. Magnus
instituttleder

Vedlegg; Konseptnotat om etablering av Senter av global helse

Establishing a Center for Global Health at the

University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine

As Norway's leading university, the University of Oslo should aim to strengthen its engagement and prioritize its work in global health by establishing a Center for Global Health at the Faculty of Medicine

1. Global Health

The most significant global health challenges and diseases are unevenly distributed among low, middle, and high-income countries. Through the UN's Millennium Development Goals, the world community has committed itself to a common fight against HIV/AIDS, malaria, and tuberculosis along with improving maternal health and reducing child mortality in MDGs 4, 5, and 6. In addition, other MDGs directed towards reducing hunger, improving gender equality, and improved environment are related to health. Norwegian authorities, under the current government have focused on MDGs 4 (Reduce child mortality) and 5 (Improve maternal health). The new Global Health White paper is released later this week.

In addition to the MDGs, the UN held a high-level meeting on Non-communicable disease prevention and control in September 2011. The purpose of the meeting was to place prevention of life style diseases on the international agenda. Norway had a central role in the preparations for this meeting with a large consultative meeting in Oslo in November 2010. In the Declaration from the high-level meeting, there is a call for more international collaboration on research and development related to life-style diseases.¹

Global health embraces two long-standing traditions at the Faculty of Medicine: public health and bio-medical research.

¹ <http://www.ncdalliance.org/sites/default/files/UN%20Political%20Declaration%20on%20NCDs.pdf>

Global health has been defined as:

“Global health is an area for study, research, and practice that places apriority on improving health and achieving equity in health for all people worldwide. Global health emphasises transnational health issues, determinants, and solutions; involves many disciplines with and beyond the health sciences and promotes inter-disciplinary collaboration; and is a synthesis of population-based prevention with individual clinical care.” ²

Global Health “can be thought of as a notion (the current state of global health), an objective (a world of health people, a condition of global health), or a mix of scholarship, research and practice (with many questions, issues, skills, and competencies)” ³

2. Anchored in UiO’s strategies, policies, and current initiatives

Establishing a Center for Global Health at the Faculty of Medicine will meet the strategic objectives and strategies that the University of Oslo identifies in *Strategy 2020*.

Strategy 2020 gives a firm basis for an increased commitment to global health. The first objective in the Strategy is: “The University of Oslo shall promote pioneering research, education and communication and be sought after as an international partner.” (p. 6). Further the strategy notes that “Existing boundaries between academic disciplines are transcended, allowing cooperation across national boundaries and between universities. Many of the 21st century’s global challenges associated with areas such as climate, energy, health, poverty and violation of human rights observe neither disciplinary boundaries nor geographic borders” (p. 6)

UiO underlines this again when it points to “Cooperation with prioritized countries in other parts of the will be improved and include selected institutions in the global South.” It is here clear that UiO’s international engagement shall also be directed towards low and middle-income countries.

² *Lancet Vol 373 June 6, 2009*

³ *Lancet Vol 373 June 6, 2009*

The Faculty of Medicine, in its development of Strategy 2020, underlined that “ In order to achieve a critical mass and good institutional infrastructure), the Faculty shall strengthen its collaboration with other faculties, professional arenas, and national and international institutions”.⁴

Rector Ole Petter Ottersen, in 2010 noted that the Institute of Health and Society is “....a natural starting point for an even stronger role for UiO in capacity building nationally and internationally, and could contribute to following-up Norway’s foreign policy aspirations in development assistance and international development.”⁵

The rationale for a Center for Global Health is well rooted the four priority areas in UiO’s *Internationalization Action Plan 2012 – 2014*.⁶

- Mobilization for global challenges
- Strategic collaboration
- Strengthening UiO’s international profile in education and research
- Increasing UiO’s competence and capacity for internationalization

If a Center for Global Health were already established, it could have contributed to the achievement of a number of initiatives identified in *UiO’s Annual Plan 2012 – 2014*, specifically:

- Measure 4 Development of strategic partnerships
- Measure 9 Strengthen and expand UiO’s contacts in the wider society
- Measure 12 High quality arenas for research competition
- Measure 14 Increased grants from EU
- Measure 16 Further development of an infrastructure for research
- Measure 19 Targeted capacity building and follow-up

Finally, the establishment of the *Lancet-UiO Commission: Global Governance for Health* with its Secretariat at Helsam, is a demonstration of the existing capacity, interest, and engagement of Helsam in global health issues.

⁴ <http://www.med.uio.no/om/strategi/2010-2020/index.html>

⁵ <http://blogg.uio.no/unidir/ottersen/content/gratulerer-med-dagen-uio-tale-til-%C3%A5rsfesten-2-september-2010>

⁶ “Globalt ansvar – globalt nærvær; UiOs Handlingsplan for internasjonalisering 2012 – 2014”

3. Experience with Globinf – A thematic research area at the Faculty of Medicine since 2002

In 2001, "Globinf – Centre for prevention of global infections" was established as one of the thematic research areas at the Faculty of Medicine. This was part of a strategic effort to concentrate research activities within a number of prioritised areas. Globinf was evaluated in 2005 and was one of five areas that were extended for an additional period of time. Globinf focused on prevention of global infections and had four core areas: HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis, meningitis, and health systems. Globinf was organised with a Steering Group, an academic leader, and a small secretariat.

Globinf developed institutional partnerships within the UiO, the Norwegian Institute of Public Health, Norwegian Knowledge Centre for the Health Services, and Ullevål University Hospital. In its most active period, Globinf received NOK 700 000 from the Faculty of Medicine and the three external partners each contributed with NOK 350 000 annually. These funds were strategically used to support research seminars, smaller grants for proposal preparation, travels and network meetings.

More than forty researchers were part of the network and many of these were involved in large research projects supported by the EU, NUFU, NFR, and WHO (Please see attached table). At the end of 2008, researchers involved in Globinf were involved in more than 30 externally funded research projects (see attachment). Even if these projects might have received funding without the existence of Globinf, the network served as an important arena and meeting place for the researchers and was used actively to promote capacity at the institution toward the funding agencies.

4. Institutional Collaboration

Many researchers at UiO have developed close institutional relationships with many institutions in the South. In 2010, UiO had collaboration agreements with twenty-seven African and forty-seven Asian research institutions. However, the precise nature and the extent of these partnerships are unknown.

Moreover, one of the strategies in Strategy 2010 is "The university's international involvement shall be greater, e.g. through increased participation in selective strategic partnerships and in the European Research Area."

5. Educational Programs and Capacity Building

There has been a focus on research training at the section for International Health at Helsem for years. Twenty-nine researchers have completed their Ph.D. studies at this section alone all with topics relevant to global health. An additional thirty-two international students are currently in the Ph.D. program. The majority of the students from countries in the South and are affiliated with current institutional collaboration partners.

There is potential to develop new Ph.D. level courses on thematic areas related to global health, both for Norwegian students and for national and international institutions and NGOs working in the field of global health

In addition to professional medical education, there are a number of master level programs at the Faculty of Medicine. Two of these are offered in English: Health Economics, Policy, and Management and International Community Health. Applications are from countries in the South, other European countries, and from Norway. The master degrees that have been offered by the Faculty have been an important element in strengthening institutional collaboration in the South. Over the last 20 years NORAD has funded several NOMA (masters training) and NOFU (PhD & research training) projects at Helsem based on the described partnerships.

A Center of Global Health would provide a deeper and broader resource base for existing and future course offerings at the master and Ph.D. levels as well as meeting the demands from the medical students about increased educational focus on Global Health and opportunities in this area. Mutual capacity building is an important objective for internationalization. Advancements and collaboration in Master level programs can be based in low income-countries. "Sandwich training" is to be preferred with regard to research training. When the students spend part of their time in the north in addition to at their home institutions this broadens their training and perspectives. An understanding of which research groups at the Medical Faculty in Oslo is interested in Global Health would expand out opportunities for collaboration significantly.

6. A Center for Global Health

Helsem seeks to establish a virtual Center for Global Health. As with Globinf, this would be a center "without walls" whose purpose would be to:

- Strengthen and coordinate the Faculty of Medicine's global health research initiatives related to applications and transdisciplinary collaboration
- Strengthen the ability of UiO, the Faculty of Medicine's research groups, and their partners' ability to compete for international research funds (EU and NIH) and national funding sources (NFR, NORHED)
- Strengthen cross-cutting collaboration within UiO including at SUM, LEVE and with other National institutions working in global health
- Contribute to UiO's strategic objectives for increased internationalization in research and teaching.

Additionally, it would serve to:

- Strengthen institutional collaboration with partners in the South and with national and international organisations
- Provide a deeper resource base for the Medical Faculty's educational programmes

6. Future plans

Leadership

It is our recommendation that a new position is linked to this effort. It would be great to attract an internationally acclaimed researcher in Global Health to spearhead this initiative. Until then we would solicit an internal temporary leader to initiate the project.

Phase 1

Establishing a Center for Global Health would take its starting point in existing interests and on-going research activities at the Faculty of Medicine. A workgroup of academic staff could begin to map current and planned research interests, activities, and potential. Maternal and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable chronic diseases and health systems research are areas that natural to start with. A jump off starting point would be re-establishing collaboration with institutions who were partners in Globinf in addition to examining possibilities of collaboration with other faculties at UiO.

Phase 2

Based at Helsam, an internal Steering Group made up of key actors in global health at the Faculty of Medicine should be established to:

- Based on the findings of the mapping exercise, determine a process for prioritising thematic fields and collaboration with a limited number of selected institutions in the South.
- Such prioritising would serve the purpose of an easier and broader collaboration among several research groups. The Working Party should thus also decide which institutions and which thematic areas a Center for Global Health should focus on.
- Coordinate meeting, research applications, and contributions to the educational programs
- Collaborate with the different partners, national and international institutions
- Consider areas for advocacy directed towards policy-makers, key stakeholders, the Norwegian Research Council, and global communities

An external Advisory Group to:

- Add an additional voice regarding emerging thematic areas, networks, and processes
- Comprise key national and international actors in the field of global health

7. Financing

Phase 1: NOK 75 000 for year 1 to cover meeting and seminar costs. Hiring of a 50% administrative coordinator (NOK for 6 months in 2012 170 000 and NOK 340 000 annually.

Phase 2

- 50% Administrative coordinator
- 100% Scientific leader preferably one with an international record of accomplishment.

- NOK 350 000 annually to cover seed money for research, travel, meeting and seminar costs

It is anticipated that grants will permit the Center to increase staff over time, but some core funding is paramount for sustainability.