

Annual Report

Research Activity 2025



Division of Clinical Neuroscience

**University of Oslo
Oslo University Hospital
Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital**



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Oslo University Hospital, Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital and the University of Oslo

Oslo University Hospital (OUH) is Norway's largest hospital with over 24 000 employees and a budget of 23 billion NOK. The Hospital has a local function for parts of Oslo's population. It has a regional function for the inhabitants in the South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority, as well as a large number of national functions. The Hospital is responsible for a large part of the medical research and education of health personnel in Norway.

Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital offers multidisciplinary rehabilitation to patients with complex functional impairment following illness or injury. The Hospital also holds national responsibilities for rare congenital disorders and locked-in syndrome.

The University of Oslo (UiO) is Norway's largest research and educational institution with 28 000 students and 7 000 employees. Professional breadth and internationally recognized research environments make UiO an important contributor to society. The Faculty of Medicine was established in 1814 and works for progressive education, research and dissemination for the patients' and society's best interests.

Division of Clinical Neuroscience

The Division of Clinical Neuroscience encompasses the disciplines of neurology, neurosurgery, physical medicine and rehabilitation, neuro habilitation and complex epilepsy. The proximity to patients and their medical issues are the cornerstones for the research conducted at our hospitals, and the research aims at improving patient care. High ethical standards ensure the confidentiality and our goal is to continuously improve diagnostics, treatment and management for all our patients.

Research activity

The Division's research activity is organized into 30 different research groups covering a broad range of basic, clinical and epidemiological research, with an overall aim to improve patient care with emphasis on diagnostic, therapeutic and preventive measures. Most group leaders have a combined position at the hospital and the University of Oslo. In total, the Division has 15 Professors, several postdoctoral fellowships and PhD students, administrative staff and technical staff.

The Division has an advisory research board which in 2025 consisted of: Professor and Head of Research John-Anker Zwart, Division Director Eva Bjørstad, Professors and Senior Consultants Morten Lossius, Angelika Sorteberg, Lasse Pihlstrøm, Torgeir Hellstrøm, Bjørnar Hassel, Kaja Selmer, Cathrine Buaas Tverdal and Administrative Manager Lise Benningstad.

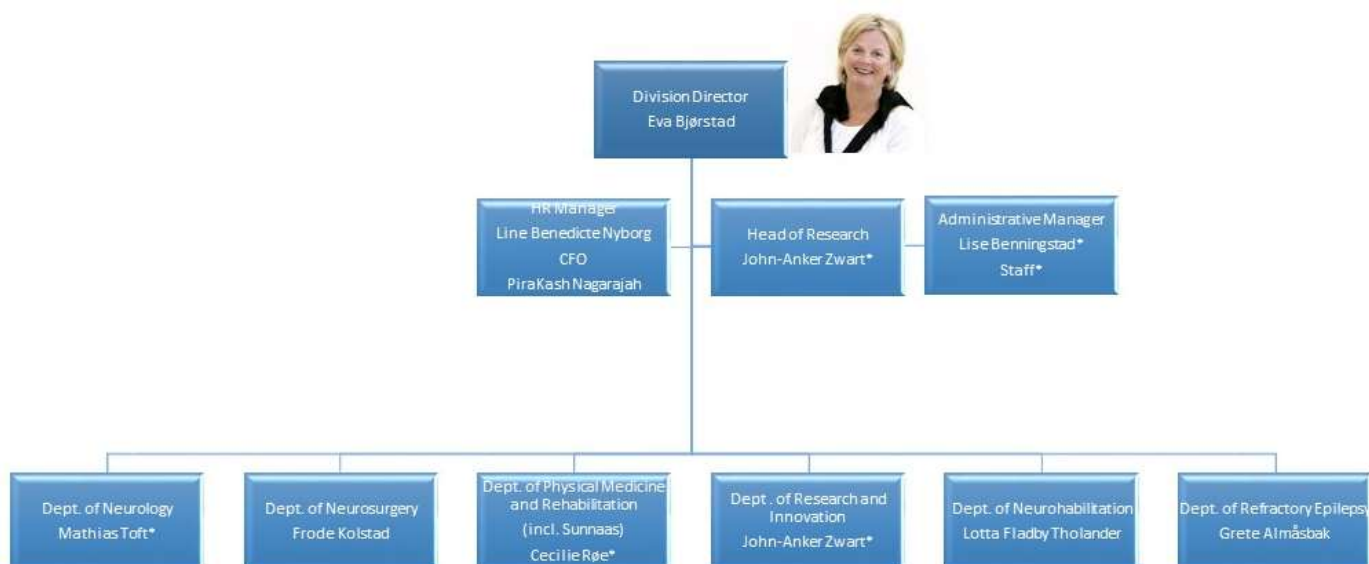
In 2025 there were in total 253 registered peer reviewed publications and 11 PhD dissertations, while Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital published 77 registered peer reviewed articles and had 2 PhD dissertations.





Division of Clinical Neuroscience (NVR)

Organizational Chart



*UiO employees





Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation has a large outpatient clinic for painful musculoskeletal disorders and carries out early rehabilitation after traumatic brain injuries and other conditions in need of both specialized rehabilitation and hospital care.

The department has a multidisciplinary staff with clinical, educational and research responsibilities. The two research groups: "Painful musculoskeletal conditions" and "Rehabilitation after trauma" conduct clinical interdisciplinary research, aiming to improve treatments programs services and outcome in close collaboration with the users and their organizations is in focus.

The research groups are included in the network of Center for habilitation and rehabilitation services research (CHARM).

The "Rehabilitation after trauma" group has close collaboration with the rehabilitation research group at Sunnaas Hospital and constitute the Oslo Traumatic Brain Injury Outcome and Rehabilitation Research Network (OBIOR).

The Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation is headed by Professor Cecilie Røe.



Rehabilitation after trauma



Group Leader

Torgeir Hellstrøm, MD/PhD, Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, OUH
(torgeir.hellstrom@ous-hf.no)

Group members

- Cecilie Røe, Professor, UiO
- Nada Andelic, Professor emeritus, UiO
- Erik Bautz-Holter, Professor emeritus, UiO
- Helene Lundgaard Sjøberg, Professor, OsloMet
- Unni Sveen, Professor emeritus, OsloMet
- Tonje Haug Nordenmark, Associate Professor, UiO
- Marit V. Forslund, PhD, Researcher, OUH
- Tanja Karic, PhD, Researcher, OUH
- Ingerid Kleffeltgård, PhD, Senior Researcher, OUH
- Mari Storli Rasmussen, PhD, Postdoc, Ass. Prof, OUH/OsloMet
- Emilie I. Howe, PhD, Postdoc, OUH
- Silje Fure, PhD, Researcher, OUH
- Elin Western, PhD, Researcher, OUH
- Ida Maria Borgen Henriksen, PhD/postdoc, OUH/UiO
- Håkon Moksnes, PhD,, OUH
- Christoph Schäfer, PhD fellow, UiT
- Cathrine Buaas Tverdal, PhD, OUH
- Lars-Johan Viddal-Valaas, PhD fellow, UiO
- John Bjørneboe, PhD, Postdoc, OUH
- Benedikte Madsen, PhD fellow, UiO
- Camilla Guren Hovset, PhD fellow, UiO
- Joanna Nordhagen Selj, PhD fellow, UiO
- Vilde M. Danielsen PhD fellow, UiO
- Viljar Andreas Sørum Møretrø, PhD fellow, UiO

Research profile and aims

The research group generates knowledge about the mechanisms and consequences of trauma, patient care, and emerging trends and challenges in treatment and rehabilitation including the patients' healthcare- and social support needs. The primary research focus is traumatic injuries including traumatic brain injury (TBIs), multiple trauma and aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage (aSAH). The group's research is multidisciplinary in nature and is conducted by long-standing collaboration between genetics, intensive care medicine, neurosurgery, neuroradiology, neuropsychology and rehabilitation. These collaborations have been established and developed over the last 20 years.

By integrating perspectives and methods of basal, clinical and health care service research, we aim to



generate unique knowledge on the consequences of injuries, how to organize effective patient care, and improve the functional outcomes after injuries.

The main aims of the research group for are:

- To better understand the mechanisms, course and consequences of TBI, multiple traumas and aSAH by using translational research strategy
- To develop (and implement) cost-effective rehabilitation interventions to target TBI-related challenges in the short- and long-term after injury
- To improve collaboration and knowledge transfer between primary and secondary health care services to ensure seamless rehabilitation for trauma patients
- To strengthen existing and initiate new national and international research collaborations

Main ongoing projects

- Rehabilitation needs, service provision and cost after trauma. In collaboration with the National Trauma Register, University Hospital of North Norway, and CHARM.
Principal investigator Nada Andelic, Co-PI PhD Mari S. Rasmussen, PhD Håkon Moksnes and PhD fellow Christoph Schäfer.
- Sub-threshold training in patients with persistent post-concussion symptoms after mild TBI – a randomized controlled study.
Principal investigator: Ingerid Kleffegård, PhD fellow Lars-Johan Viddal Valaas
- Exploring the role of personality characteristics in symptom-burden, return to work and health related quality of life during the first year after mild-to-moderate traumatic brain injury.
Principal investigators: Emilie I. Howe, PhD fellow Benedikte Madsen
- Traumatic Brain Injury – Rehabilitation and user satisfaction.
Principal investigators: Marit V. Forslund, PhD fellow Camilla Guren Hovset
- Trauma Rehabilitation: User experiences and Unmet Needs.
Principal investigator: postdoc Emilie I Howe
- Managing symptoms and disability in the sub-acute phase after traumatic injury: A pragmatic randomized controlled trial of a self-management support program.
Principal investigators: Cecilie Røe, Solveig L. Hauger, Mari S. Rasmussen, PhD fellows Joanna Selj and Vilde Danielsen
- Health-related quality of life in the chronic phase following traumatic brain injury – a registry study. Principal investigator: postdoc Torgeir Hellstrøm
- Post-acute rehabilitation: needs, effect, and clinical recommendations. Principal investigator: Emilie Isager Howe, Researcher Håkon Moksnes
- Brain health after moderate and severe traumatic head injury – 20 years of follow-up. Principal Investigator John Bjørneboe, PhD fellow Viljar Andreas Sørum Møretrø
- Socialized vs. Private Medicine after TBI: A Comparison of Demographic, Injury-Related, and Longitudinal Rehabilitation and Psychosocial Variables in the United States and Norway. Principal investigators: Nada Andelic and Paul B. Perrin





Other projects

- PRO-GLIO: PROton versus photon therapy in IDH-mutated diffuse grade 2 and 3 GLIOMas.
Principal investigator at OUH Petter Brandal, responsible for the neuropsychological part: Tonje Haug Nordenmark. Postdoc Ida M Borgen.
- Brain Health in female former football players. In collaboration with Norwegian School of Sport Sciences.
PhD fellow Sara Dahlèn. Postdoc John Bjørneboe
- Effect of graded aerobic exercise in mild traumatic brain injury. In collaboration with Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital
Principal investigators: Marianne Løvstad and Ingerid Kleffellaard, PhD fellow Lars Nysether

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Oslo Traumatic Brain Injury Outcome and Rehabilitation Research Network (OBIOR- research network)
- Hospitals in the South-East Region, including Sunnaas Rehab. Hospital
- OsloMet
- Work Research Institute (AFI)
- Norwegian Labor and Welfare Administration, Oslo
- NAV, Dept. of vocational rehabilitation
- Universities of Oslo, Bergen, Trondheim and Tromsø
- Helsam/Charm, UiO
- Norwegian School of Sport Sciences

International

- Karolinska, Uppsala, Umeå and Salgrenska University Hospitals, Sweden
- Copenhagen University Hospital and Hammel Rehabilitation and Research Centre, Denmark
- Virginia Commonwealth University, Richmond, US
- BioCruces Health Research Institute, Spain
- University of Salamanca, Spain
- Public University of Navarre, Spain
- Hannover Medical School, Germany
- University of Innsbruck, Austria
- CENTER-TBI collaborators across the European hospitals/universities (particularly Finland, UK, France, Slovakia and Germany)
- Monash University, Australia
- Auckland University of Technology, New Zealand
- University of Laval, Canada

Funding

- Norwegian Research Council
- Health Authority South-East Region
- Dam Foundation (Stiftelsen Dam)
- Norwegian Fund for Post-Graduate Training in Physiotherapy (Fysiofondet)
- European Union's Seventh Framework Programme for Research and Development
- University of Oslo
- Oslo University Hospital
- Norwegian Cancer Society
- Norwegian Health Association





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: >20

Dissertation February 13th, 2025, MD Håkon Øgreid Moksnes

"Injury-related factors, functional outcomes, rehabilitation needs, and service provision in the first year following moderate-to-severe traumatic injuries" for the degree of PhD at the University of Oslo. Main supervisor; senior consultant Torgeir Hellstrøm, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation. Co-supervisors Nada Andelic, Helene L. Sjøberg and Olav Røise all from Oslo University Hospital.

Selected publications:

Howe EI, Sjøberg HL, Røe C, Løvstad M, Andelic N (2025) "What standard should we set?": A qualitative study of rehabilitation professionals' perspectives on rehabilitation needs after traumatic injuries

J Rehabil Med, 57, jrm44087

DOI [10.2340/jrm.v57.44087](https://doi.org/10.2340/jrm.v57.44087), PubMed [41168954](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41168954/)

Jacob L, Castro J, Heslot C, Andelic N, Tenovuo O: CENTER-TBI Participants and Investigators (Appendix), Azouvi P (2025) Absence from work in the 12 months following mild traumatic brain injury in Europe: a CENTER-TBI cohort study Ann Phys Rehabil Med, 68 (8), 102017

DOI [10.1016/j.rehab.2025.102017](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.rehab.2025.102017), PubMed [41032948](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41032948/)

Ghafaji H, Nordenmark TH, Western E, Sorteberg W, Karic T, Sorteberg A (2025)

Resilience in good outcome patients with fatigue after aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage

Behav Brain Res, 483, 115466 DOI [10.1016/j.bbr.2025.115466](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bbr.2025.115466), PubMed [39923942](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39923942/)



Painful musculoskeletal disorders



Group Leader

John Bjørneboe, Senior consultant, Dept of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UiO (John.andreas.bjorneboe@medisin.uio.no)/ OUH (jonabj@ous-hf.no)

Group Members

- Erik Bautz-Holter, Professor emeritus, UiO
- Siri Bjorland, PhD, OUH
- Jens Ivar Brox, Professor emeritus, UiO
- John Bjørneboe, PhD, OUH
- Kaia Beck Engebretsen, , PhD, OUH
- Marianne Bakke Johnsen, PhD, OUH, OsloMet
- Synnøve Kvalheim, PhD, OUH
- Kjersti Myhre, PhD, OUH
- Marianne Mørk, PhD, OUH
- Mirad Taso, PhD, OUH
- Helene Skaara, MSc, OUH
- Sigrid Skatteboe, PhD, OUH
- Thy Thy Vanem, PhD, OUH
- Maren Lunder Wefring, PhD-student, OUH
- Adrian Aamnes, PhD-student, OUH
- Håkon Sveinall, PhD student, OUH
- Marte Heide, PhD student, UiO
- Thea Morin Melås, PhD-student, OUS, OsloMet
- Janica Ignatius, MD, OUH

Research profile and aims

The research unit generates knowledge regarding diagnostics, treatment and rehabilitation of painful musculoskeletal conditions. The main focus is on neck, back and shoulder conditions. The research is multidisciplinary, and collaboration with basal, clinical and health care service milieus established. Based on the framework of the International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health (ICF) and the biopsychosocial model, interaction basal disease mechanisms with psychosocial, personal and environmental factors are studied regarding the course of pain, functioning and participation. Furthermore, developing and evaluating treatment models in prospective and randomized studies, with the ai of improving functioning and facilitating return to work.

The main aims are:

- To understand the mechanisms, course and consequences of painful musculoskeletal conditions
- To develop and evaluate treatment models for painful musculoskeletal conditions



Ongoing projects

- A randomized controlled study of surgical versus non-surgical treatment for cervical radiculopathy.
Principal investigator Jens Ivar Brox, PhD fellow Mirad Taso
- The Norwegian Tennis Elbow (Note) study.
Principal investigator Marianne Bakke Johnsen, PhD fellow Håkon Sveinall
- Effect of a self-management program compared to treatment as usual for patients with lateral hip pain.
Principal investigators Marianne Bakke Johnsen and John Bjørneboe. PhD candidates Thea Morin Melås and Maren Wefring
- Development of a minimum reporting set for rehabilitation services.
Principal investigator Cecilie Røe
- Neck and back patients. How are they doing? A register-based study. Principal investigator John Bjørneboe.
- Frozen shoulder: the role of physiotherapy. Principal investigator John Bjørneboe. PhD-student Adrian Aamnes.

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark
- Research Unit for Musculoskeletal Health, FORMI, OUH
- Institute of Health and Society, UiO
- Dept. of Physical medicine and Rehabilitation, St Olavs Hospital
- Dept. of Physical medicine and Rehabilitation, University Hospital of North Norway
- Dept. of Physical medicine and Rehabilitation, Haukeland University Hospital
- Department for Neurosurgery, OUH

International

- Christoph Gutenbrunner, Hannover Medical School, Department of Rehabilitation Medicine, Hannover, Germany
- Michael Rathleff, Dept of Health Sciences and Technology, Aalborg University, Denmark
- Juan Lu, Paul Perrin, Virginia Commonwealth University, US
- Department of Orthopaedic Surgery, Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark

Funding

- The Research Council of Norway
- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- Sofies Minde Ortopedi
- Oslo University Hospital
- Fysiofondet





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 14

Selected publications:

Taso, M., Sommernes Jon, H., Sundseth, J., Pripp Are, H., Bjorland, S., Engebretsen Kaia, B., Kolstad, F., Zwart John, A., & Brox Jens, I. Surgical versus Nonsurgical Treatment for Cervical Radiculopathy. NEJM Evidence. 2025;4(4):EVIDoa2400404.

Aars NA, Brandseth O, Bardal I, Stevelink S, Sanatkar S, Trichet LO, Samuelsen KM, Wilhelmsen M, Bjørneboe J, Anke AGW, Roe C, Brox JI, Brinchmann B, Mykletun A. Cohort profile: the Norwegian Neck and Back Registry (NNRR): a medical quality registry for patients with neck and back complaints. BMJ Open. 2025 Mar 12;15(3):e096992. doi: 10.1136/bmjopen-2024-096992. PMID: 40074271; PMCID: PMC11904339.

Røe C, Heide M, Sjøberg HL, Brunborg C, Hoksrud AF, Myhre K, Brox JI, Mørk M. One-Year Trajectory of Pain, Function, and Health-Related Quality of Life in Patients With Plantar Fasciopathy. J Foot Ankle Res. 2025 Sep;18(3):e70067. doi: 10.1002/jfa2.70067. PMID: 40671207; PMCID: PMC12266988.





Department of Refractory Epilepsy - National Centre for Epilepsy

The National Centre for Epilepsy at OUH is the only tertiary epilepsy centre in Norway and offers highly specialized work-up and treatment for complex and refractory epilepsy. The Centre is a full member of the ERN EpiCare and has members in several committees and the Executive Committee.

The Centre provides comprehensive care and has national responsibilities for complex epilepsy, rare epilepsy, pre-surgical work-up, epilepsy surgery and post-surgical work-up in collaboration with the Department of neurosurgery, OUH, psychogenic non-epileptic seizures (PNES) and dietary treatment.

The research group at the centre includes MDs, PhDs, epilepsy nurses, pharmacist, psychologists, and clinical nutritionists. The focus is on genotype/phenotyping of epilepsies, characterization of different epilepsy syndromes, clinical pharmacology of antiseizure medication, diagnostic and treatment options; EEG, epilepsy surgery, VNS, diets, psychosocial issues, cognition and PNES.

All patients are included in the hospital quality registry, also used for research purposes, consent provided.

The department of Refractory Epilepsy is headed by Grete Almåsбак.



Complex epilepsy



Group Leader

Morten I. Lossius, Consultant neurologist, National Centre for Epilepsy (NCE), OUH (mortenl@ous-hf.no) and Professor, UiO (morten.lossius@medisin.uio.no)

Group Members

- Marit Bjørnvold, MD/PhD, NCE
- Cecilie Johannessen Landmark, MSc/PhD, NCE and OsloMet
- Kristin Alfstad, MD/PhD, NCE
- Karl Otto Nakken, MD/PhD, NCE
- Magnhild Kverneland, MSc/PhD, NCE
- Kari Modalsli Aaberg, MD/PhD, NCE
- Hilde Karterud, Cand.san/PhD, NCE
- Oliver Henning, MD, Dr. Philos., NCE
- Erik Sætre, MD/PhD, NCE
- Annette Holth Skogan, Clin. Neuro. Psych/PhD, NCE
- Lisa E. Hauger, Clin. Psych./PhD, NCE
- Silje Alvestad, MD/PhD, NCE
- Sigrid Pedersen, MSc, PhD, NCE
- Torleiv Svendsen, MD, PhD, NCE and UiO
- Antonia Villagren, MD, PhD, NCE and UiO
- Ellen Molteberg, MD, PhD, NCE and UiO
- Konstantin H. Kostov, MD, PhD, NCE and UiO

PhD candidates

- Eli B. Kyte, Clin. Neuro. Psych, NCE and UiO
- Gernot Hlauschek, MD, NCE and UiO
- Merete Tschamper, MSc, NCE and UiO
- Truls Vikin, MD, NCE and UiO
- Fridny Heimisdottir, MD, NCE and UiO

Associated group members

- Anette Huuse Farnen, MD/PhD, Innlandet Hospital Trust and UiO
- Marte Syvertsen, MD/PhD, Vestre Viken Hospital Trust and UiO
- Kaja Kristine Selmer, MD/PhD, OUH and UiO
- Ine Cockerell, MSc, OUH and UiO
- Margrete Larsen Burns, MD, PhD, Dept. of Pharmacology, NCE, OUH



Research profile and aims

Clinical research in patients with difficult-to-treat epilepsy, with particular focus on:

- Characterization of epilepsy syndromes (genotype/phenotype)
- Clinical pharmacology of antiseizure medications
- Diagnostic and treatment options; EEG, pharmacotherapy, surgery, VNS, ketogenic diets
- Psychosocial, psychiatric and neurocognitive aspects
- Functional dissociative seizures (FDS)
- Vision, ambition and aims for the research group: [OUH - Vision, ambition, goals, and strategy](#)

Dissertations 2025

Konstantin H. Kostov: *“Clinical outcomes and determinants of effectiveness of vagus nerve stimulation in a large national refractory epilepsy population”*

Supervisor: **Morten I. Lossius** , Co-supervisor: Jukka Peltola

Ongoing projects

PhD candidates in the UiO PhD program:

- **Eli B. Kyte:** *“Impact of epilepsy surgery on cognition, psychiatry and quality of life at the commencement of aging”* Supervisor: **Kristin Å. Alfstad**. Co-supervisors: **Morten I. Lossius** and **Annette H. Skogan**.
- **Merete Tschamper:** *“Childhood epilepsy and parental health literacy”* Supervisor: Marie Hamilton Larsen, Co-supervisors: Astrid K. Wahl, Rita Jakobsen.
- **Gernot Hlauschek:** *“Identifying novel imaging and clinical biomarkers of epileptogenesis poststroke”*. Supervisor: **Morten I. Lossius**, Co-supervisors: Patrick Kwan and Meng Law
- **Truls Vikin:** *“Epilepsy in children-how are they doing?”* Supervisor: **Kari M. Aaberg**, Co-supervisors: Morten I. Lossius
- **Guro Minken:** «Monitoring cognition in brain tumor patients undergoing awake brain surgery» Supervisor: **Annette Holth Skogan**. Co-supervisor: Einar Osland Vik-Mo, Andreas Espinoza, Awais Mughal Ahmad
- **Fridny Heimisdottir:** *“FORCE: FOcal Refractory Childhood Epilepsy. A Study of surgical treatment in Norway- aetiology and predictive factors”* Supervisor: **Kaja K. Selmer**, Co-supervisors: **Kristin Å. Alfstad**, Inger-Lise Mero

Postdoc:

- **Kari M. Aaberg:** *«Development in childhood epilepsy»*. Co-worker: Morten I. Lossius





Other projects:

- **Kristin Å. Alfstad:** “Risk factors for psychiatric symptoms and executive problems in youth with epilepsy”
Co-worker: Morten I. Lossius
- **EpilepsiNett:** «Can we close the gap? Socioeconomic differences and health inequality in young people with epilepsy. An EpilepsiNett project of health registry data and clinical cohorts. Co -workers: Antonia Villagren, Kari Modalsli Aaberg, Silje Alvestad, Kristin Alfstad
- **Magnhild Kverneland:** “Who should be treated with ketogenic diet for epilepsy”
Co-worker: **Kaja K. Selmer**
- **Erik Sætre:** “Mortality in Epilepsy”
Co-worker: Michael Abdelnoor
- **Lisa Evju Hauger:** “Adapted fMRI paradigms for pediatric patients and adults with cognitive impairment Co-workers: **Annette Holth Skogan** and Markus H Sneve
- **Lisa Evju Hauger:** “EpiTrack jr., Quality Assurance Study “
Co-workers: **Morten I. Lossius, Annette H. Skogan, Kari M. Aaberg**
- **Guro Minken:** «Development of a pediatric language protocol for awake brain surgery». Co-workers: **Annette H. Skogan, Fridny Heimisdottir**, Ingeborg Ribbu, Silje Systad, Christiane Sørensen, DuLIP gruppen.
- **Kathrine C. Haavardsholm:** “Long term effect of ketogenic diet in children with epilepsy”
Co-workers: Anette Ramm- Pettersen, **Kaja K. Selmer**, Mahtab Zamani, Karolina Skagen, Mona Skjelland
- **Cecilie Johannessen Landmark:** «Pharmacological variability and follow-up of new antiseizure medications”. Co-workers: Margrete Larsen Burns, Erik Sætre, Anne Våtevik, Torleiv Svendsen, Caroline Lund et al.

National network

- EpilepsiNett: National Network for Evidence-based Epilepsy Care
Chairperson: Marte Syversen. Management team: **Morten I. Lossius**, Nils Erik Gilhus, Marte Bjørk, **Kristin Å. Alfstad**, Jørn Mandla Sibeko

International networks

- EpiCARE: European Reference Network (ERN) on rare and complex epilepsies. Lead (**Morten I. Lossius**) of working group 18 (Beyond seizures) including **Kristin Å. Alfstad** and **Oliver Henning**. Executive committee member: **Morten I. Lossius**
- BIOJUME – the biology of juvenile myoclonic epilepsy. Members of consortium: **Marte Syvertsen and Kaja Selmer**





International projects

- “EURAP study”. An International Antiepileptic Drugs and Pregnancy Registry” (International concerted Action on the Teratogenesis of Anti-epileptic Drugs) (<https://www.eurapinternational.org/>)
Silje Alvestad, international steering committee and Torill Martinez, national coordinator.
- “Ultra-long subcutaneous EEG monitoring: reliability, safety and impact on clinical management in uncontrolled epilepsies.” **Kristin Å. Alfstad, Oliver Henning, Margrete Halvorsen Bø**, Arild Egge, OUH, Guido Rubboli, University of Copenhagen, Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, Denmark and Sándor Benizky, Aarhus University Hospital and Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, Denmark.
- “Precision treatment of genetic epilepsies” PhD project, Cathrine Gjerulfsen. Project between the National Centre for Epilepsy in Norway and Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, Denmark; Rikke S. Møller, Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, project leader; co-supervisor, Cecilie Johannessen Landmark.
- “Nordic Delphi Consensus on VNS guidelines”
An international multicenter project. The aim of the project is to find Consensus for mutual clinical VNS guidelines in the Nordics for drug resistant epilepsy patients
Oliver Henning, project leader, **Hrisimir Kostov**, Thorsten Gerstner, Stein-Helge Tingvoll, Susanne Ingebrigtsen, Atle Lillebø, Omar Hikmat (Norway)
Dragan Marsanovic, Kern Olofsson, Anne Sabbers, Ioannis Tsiropoulos, Noemi Becser Andersen (Denmark)
Finland: Liisa Metsähonkala, Reina Roivainen, Salla Lamouso, Jukka Peltola
Sweden: Sintia Kolbjør, Lisa Gordon, Helena Gauffin, Johan Lundgren, Elinor Ben-Menachem, Fredrik Asztely

Expert groups and international commissions

- NorEpiNet; **Kathrine Cammermeyer Haavardsholm, Magnhild Kverneland**
- EpiCARE – Special Interest group on Ketogenic Diet; **Ellen Molteberg, Magnhild Kverneland**
- ILAE Dietary Task Force of the medical Therapies Commission; **Magnhild Kverneland**
- Treatment strategies on pediatric epilepsies annual educational course
<https://www.epiped-course.com> (EpiPed.) **Cecilie Johannessen Landmark**
- Plant-based I Medicines Task Force and Treatment task force, all initiated by the International League Against Epilepsy (EpiED) **Cecilie Johannessen Landmark**
- Faculty member, Eilat Educational course: Pharmacological treatment of epilepsy **Cecilie Johannessen Landmark**
<https://www.ilae.org/congresses/10th-eilat-educational-course-pharmacological-treatment-of-epilepsy>
- Faculty member, annual course Baltic sea summer school for epilepsy: **Oliver Henning and Cecilie Johannessen Landmark**
<https://www.ilae.org/congresses/ilae-sponsored-meetings-and-courses/baltic-sea-summer-school-on-epilepsy-bssse>
- Nordic Expert Group on Epilepsy and Dementia. **Erik Sætre**
- Nor-EpiNet Nordic network for precision medicine, steering group members **Kaja Selmer and Cecilie Johannessen Landmark**
- Commission on Epidemiology, International League Against Epilepsy. **Kari Modalsli Aaberg**





- Scientific and organizing committee member, European Epilepsy Congress, Athens 2026, Cecilie Johannessen Landmark
- Committee member, Pharmacy Section; ILAE, Cecilie Johannessen Landmark

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Førsteam. Maryam Shirzadi, St. Olavs Hospital and NTNU, Trondheim
- Prof. Nils Erik Gilhus, Haukeland University Hospital and UiB
- Assoc. prof. Marte Bjørk, Haukeland University Hospital and UiB
- Marte Syvertsen, MD, PhD, Viken Hospital Trust and UiO
- Assoc. prof. Sverre Myren NTNU, Møre and Romsdal Hospital Trust
- Prof. Erik Taubøll, OUH and UiO

International

- Prof. Sándor Beniczky, Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, Aarhus University, Denmark
- PhD Jacob Christensen, University of Århus, Denmark
- Ass. Prof. Rikke Steensbjerre Møller, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- Prof. Marina Nikorova, Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, Denmark
- Prof. Richard Chin, Muir Maxwell Epilepsy Centre and University of Edinburgh, UK
- Prof. Christoph Helmstaedter, Bonn University Hospital, Germany
- Prof. Jukka Peltola, Tampere University Hospital, Finland
- Prof. Guido Rubboli, Danish Epilepsy Centre, Dianalund, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 30

Other publications: 4

Selected publications:

Kostov KH, Kostov H, Larsson PG, Henning O, Egge A, Lossius MI, Peltola J (2025) Turning up the current - optimizing stimulation parameters with vagus nerve stimulation in a nationwide Norwegian cohort (The NOR-current study)
Brain Stimul, 18 (4), 1212-1219
DOI [10.1016/j.brs.2025.06.016](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.brs.2025.06.016), PubMed [40588127](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40588127/)

Vikin T, Chin RF, Lossius MI, Hofoss D, Brandlistuen RE, Aaberg KM (2025)
Syndromic and etiological classification predicts seizure freedom in childhood and youth onset epilepsy: A population-based study from the Norwegian Mother, Father, and Child Cohort Study *Epilepsia* (in press)
DOI [10.1111/epi.18672](https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.18672), PubMed [41066145](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41066145/)

Vikin T, Lossius MI, Brandlistuen RE, Chin RF, Aaberg KM (2025)
Incidence of childhood and youth epilepsy : A population-based prospective cohort study utilizing current International League Against Epilepsy classifications for seizures, syndromes, and etiologies
Epilepsia, 66 (3), 776-789
DOI [10.1111/epi.18238](https://doi.org/10.1111/epi.18238), PubMed [39797741](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39797741/)





Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority: 1 PhD, 1 postdoc 6 years
- Norwegian Foundation for Health and Rehabilitation (Stiftelsen Dam): 3 PhDs

Other financial support:

- Norwegian chapter of ILAE
- Norwegian Epilepsy Society
- Norwegian National Advisory Unit on Rare Disorders
- Unifor





Department of Neurosurgery

The department of Neurosurgery treats adults and children with traumatic brain injury, spontaneous intracranial hemorrhages, intracranial tumors, hydrocephalus, epilepsy, congenital malformations in the central nervous system, degenerative brain diseases, degenerative spinal disease, intraspinal tumors and cervical spine injuries.

The department has regional responsibility for neurosurgery in Helse Sør-Øst with 3.1 million people, and national functions in craniofacial surgery, epilepsy surgery, and surgery for cerebral vascular malformations. In addition, the department has multi-regional functions for pediatric neurosurgery and Parkinson's surgery.

The department of Neurosurgery is headed by Professor Angelika Sorteberg (UiO) and Frode Kolstad (OUH).



Neurovascular–Cerebrospinal Fluid Research Group



Group Leader

Per Kristian Eide, Professor, Dept of Neurosurgery, UiO (p.k.eide@medisin.uio.no)/
Head of Section, Dept of Neurosurgery, OUH (peide@ous-hf.no) / Director, K.G. Jebsen
Centre for Brain Fluid Research.

Group Members

- Aukrust, Camilla Grøver, PhD fellow UiO
- Dahlberg, Daniel, PhD, OUH
- Eide, Per Kristian, group leader
- Fric, Radek, PhD, OUH
- Lashkarivand, Aslan, PhD fellow, UiO
- Langvatn, Erlend, Consultant, OUH
- Quesada, Cesar Luis Vera, PhD fellow, UiO
- Sorteberg, Angelika, professor, UiO / Consultant OUH
- Sorteberg, Wilhelm, dr.med., OUH
- Romundstad, Luis, Consultant, OUH
- Rønning, Pål Andre, PhD, consultant, OUH
- Wiedmann, Markus, PhD, Consultant, OUH

Research profile and aims

The Neurovascular & Cerebrospinal Fluid Research Group teams up with a multidisciplinary group of neurosurgeons and neuroscientists, mathematicians, PhD candidates, postdocs and students, to provide a broad collaboration with a common vision; to challenge, discover and improve our current understanding and treatment of complex neurovascular and cerebrospinal fluid (CSF) disorders. We address the close interaction between the cerebral vasculature and the CSF, which we consider to having major impact on cerebral metabolism and metabolic failure. The group has a translational perspective with a strong clinical basis. In 2024 the group became part of **K.G. Jebsen Centre for Brain Fluid Research**, with Per Kristian Eide as Centre director.

From the clinical perspective, the following diseases and disease states are targeted:

- Intracranial aneurysms and subarachnoid hemorrhage, including neuro-intensive surveillance and outcome. Cerebral hemodynamics and cerebral revascularization. Pathophysiology and treatment of chronic subdural hematomas.
- Cerebrospinal fluid diseases and role of cerebrospinal fluid in metabolic function of central nervous system, particularly in neurodegeneration and dementia, CSF disturbances, vascular disease and cerebral bleeds, inflammatory disease and neuro-oncology.
- Neuro-inflammatory conditions, particularly related to neurosurgical diseases.
- Brain Monitoring. Neurosurgical pathophysiology, intracranial pressure and arterial blood pressure dynamics.



Ongoing projects

- **Cerebrospinal fluid**

Efflux pathways. Glymphatic function. Meningeal lymphatic function. Imaging of CSF flow and CSF tracer transport, and CSF molecular clearance function. Pathophysiology of CNS diseases with CSF disturbance: Hydrocephalus. Normal pressure hydrocephalus. Idiopathic intracranial hypertension. Spontaneous intracranial hypotension. Idiopathic CSF obstruction from cysts. Chiari malformation.

- **Neurovascular**

Subarachnoid hemorrhage: Bleeding risks. Complications (Vasospasms. Hydrocephalus. Fatigue). Rehabilitation. Outcome. Vascular compression syndromes. Trigeminal neuralgia.

- **Neuro-inflammation**

Cerebral abscesses: Pathophysiology. Subdural hematoma: pathophysiology and role of neuroinflammation.

- **Brain monitoring**

Invasive and non-invasive intracranial pressure (ICP).

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Simula Research Laboratory, UiO
- Dept of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, OUH
- Dept of Radiology, OUH
- The Intervention Centre, OUH
- Dept of Informatics, UiO
- Dept of Mathematics, UiO
- Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Division of Emergencies and Critical Care, OUH
- Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital
- Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, UiO

International

- University of Gothenburg, Sweden
- University of Kupio, Finland
- University of Copenhagen, Denmark

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- European Union
- K.G. Jebsen Foundation
- Norwegian National Association for Public Health (Nasjonalforeningen)





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 49

Invited lectures at international congresses: 10

Selected publications:

Eide PK, Undseth RM, Pripp A, Lashkarivand A, Nedregård B, Sletteberg R, Rønning PA, Sorteberg AG, Ringstad G, Valnes LM (2025) Impact of Subarachnoid Hemorrhage on Human Glymphatic Function: A Time-Evolution Magnetic Resonance Imaging Study. **Stroke** 56:678–691

Ghafaji H, Nordenmark TH, Western E, Sorteberg W, Karic T, Sorteberg A (2025) Resilience in good outcome patients with fatigue after aneurysmal subarachnoid hemorrhage. **Behav. Brain Res.** 483:115466

Netteland DF, Aarhus M, Sandset EC, Sorteberg A, Padayachy L, Helseth E, Brekken R (2025) Real-Time Automated Measurements of Optic Nerve Sheath Diameter for Noninvasive Assessment of Intracranial Pressure in Aneurysmal Subarachnoid Hemorrhage. **Neurocritical care** 42:1043–1053



Oslo Neurosurgical Neurotrauma Group



Professor Eirik Helseth, MD/PhD, Consultant neurosurgeon, Dept. of Neurosurgery, OUH (eirik.helseth@ous-hf.no) and Professor of Neurosurgery, Faculty of Medicine, UiO (eirik.helseth@medisin.uio.no)

Group Members

- Jon-Terje Ramm-Pettersen, MD/PhD, OUH
- Mads Aarhus, MD/PhD, OUH
- Hege Linnerud, MD/PhD, OUH
- Pål Rønning, MD/PhD, OUH
- Tor Brommeland, MD/PhD, OUH
- Markus Wiedmann, MD/PhD, OUH
- Vidar Stenset, MD/PhD, OUH
- Ali Rizvi, MD/PhD, OUH
- Cathrine Buaas Tverdal, PhD, OUH
- Thomas Glott, MD, Sunnaas Hospital
- Ingar Næss, MD/PhD fellow
- Anamaria Gheorghiu, MD/PhD fellow
- Dag Ferner Nettelund, MD/PhD fellow, OUH
- Pål Galteland, MD/PhD fellow, OUH
- Mats Døving, MD/PhD fellow, OUH
- Pål N F Rydning, MD, PhD fellow, OUH
- Mona Strøm, MD, PhD fellow, Sunnaas Hospital

Research collaboration

- Eric Thelin, MD/PhD, Karolinska University Hospital, Stockholm, Sweden
- Rahul Jaj, MD/PhD, Helsinki University Hospital, Helsinki, Finland
- Erik Taubøll and Hild Sødal, Department of Neurology, OUH
- Nada Andelic, Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation
- Leiv Arne Rosseland, MD/PhD, IPOT-NTR

Research profile and aims

Main focus on surgical complications and outcome after surgery for:

- Neurotrauma
- Traumatic brain injury
- Cervical spine injury
- Bicycle related injuries



Ongoing projects 2025

- Cervical trauma – Epidemiology and Surgical management
- Cervical spinal cord injury – Epidemiology, time to surgery and specialized rehabilitation
- Traumatic Brain Injury – Epidemiology and management
- CenterTBI – European study
- Transocular ultrasound for ICP measurement – with SINTEF/Nisonic
- Differences in management and outcome of severe traumatic brain injury patients in Nordic countries (Sweden, Finland and Norway)
- Bicycle-related Neurotrauma

PhD projects

- Transocular ultrasound for ICP measurement - Dag Ferner Nettelund
 - Dissertation 2025
- Bicycle-related facial fractures – Pål Galteland
 - Dissertation 2025
- Bicycle-related accidents – Ingar Næss
 - Dissertation 2025
- Brain tumor epidemiology - Anamaria Gheorghiu
 - Dissertation 2025
- Bicycle accidents – Mats Døving
 - Ongoing
- Epidemiology and outcome after cervical spinal cord injury – Mona Strøm
 - Ongoing

Funding

South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 16 (including Center TBI-publications)

Invited lectures at international congresses: 5

Prospective quality control databases

- Traumatic Brain Injury – TBI patients admitted OUH with positive head CT (400 patients per year)
- Cervical fractures in Southeast Norway (500 per year)





Selected publications:

Age and Time as Predictors of Outcome in Patients Undergoing Decompressive Craniectomy for Traumatic Brain Injury.

Netteland DF, Rønning PA, Brommeland T, Stenset V, Tverdal C, Aarhus M, Helseth E.

World Neurosurg. 2025 Nov;203:124471. doi: 10.1016/j.wneu.2025.124471. Epub 2025 Sep 12. PMID: 40946788

Epidemiology of Traumatic Cervical Spinal Cord Injury in Southeast Norway.

Strøm M, Mirzamohammadi J, Glott T, Brommeland T, Linnerud H, Rønning PA, Mujtaba Rizvi SA, Biernat D, Arnøy Austad T, Efskind Harr M, Aarhus M, Helseth E.

Neurotrauma Rep. 2025 Jun 16;6(1):539-550. doi: 10.1089/neur.2025.0013. eCollection 2025. PMID: 40630650

Traumatic odontoid fracture - Proposal of a treatment algorithm.

Rizvi SAM, Linnerud H, Rønning PA, Brommeland T, Aarhus M, Mirzamohammadi J, Harr ME, Stenset VTV, Evjensvold M, Helseth E.

Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2025 Jul;254:108951. doi: 10.1016/j.clineuro.2025.108951. Epub 2025 May 5. PMID: 40339191



Vilhelm Magnus Laboratory for Neurosurgical Research



Group Leader

Einar O. Vik-Mo, MD/PhD, Professor, Dept of Neurosurgery, UiO /Dept. of Neurosurgery, OUH (UXVIEB@ous-hf.no)

Group Members

- Cecilie J. Sandberg, MSc/PhD, unit leader
- Iver A. Langmoen, dr. med, professor emeritus
- Skarphedinn Halldorsson, MSc/PhD, researcher
- Awais Mughal, MD/PhD, research fellow
- Erlend Skaga, MD/PhD, research fellow
- Emily Palmero, BSc
- Zanina Grieg, MSc
- Richard Nagymihaly, MSc/PhD
- Christian D. Bope, MSc/PhD, postdoc
- Ksenia Khelik, MSc/PhD, postdoc
- Lance J.L. Estabillio, MSc, PhD-student
- Marit Brynjulvsen, MSc, PhD-student
- Eduardo Mendoza, MD, PhD-student
- Guro Minken, MPsy, PhD-student
- Farhan Amin, MD-research program
- Even Bjerkstrand Olsen, MD-research program
- Alexander C. Strømberg, MD-student
- Thilde Kjørstad, MD-student, Odense, Denmark
- Vegard W. Tangen, MD-student,

Associated researchers from other departments

- Henning Leske, Researcher, Neuropathologist, Dept. of Pathology
- Rebecca R. Winther, MD, PhD, Dept. of Oncology
- Marianne CJ Nævra, MSN, PhD-student, Section of Intraoperative Neurophysiology

Research profile and aims

The Vilhelm Magnus laboratory for neurosurgical research (VML) focuses on translational research to understand underlying mechanisms in neurosurgical diseases and improve diagnostics and treatment for these. In recent years, the research has mostly been on molecular and cell biology methods to better understand brain cancer. We aim to translate basic research into practical clinical use. As such we have broadened our scope to also include research into epidemiology, outcome studies, intraoperative neurophysiological/neuropsychological and imaging studies.

Four clinical intervention studies have originated VML, of which three are ongoing. These studies seek to improve the prognosis for patients with glioblastoma (GBM), the most frequent and deadly brain cancer, with a median survival in unselected series < 1 year. From 2008-2015 we performed the first clinical protocol targeting stem cells in a solid tumor - an autologous vaccine against GBM stem cells. Evolving from this first study, we have



since 2018 been conducting a randomized study evaluating this immunotherapy approach (DEN-STEM). In addition, we are exploring an individualized systems medicine strategy, in which we test > 500 drugs against tumor stem cells from individual patients in the setting of recurrent GBM (ISM-GBM). The latter is also the first study of its kind in any type of solid tumor. From 2025 on we are performing a study on the impact on ultrarapid molecular diagnostics on neurosurgical strategy during brain tumor resection. This is the first study of its kind worldwide.

The Vilhelm Magnus Laboratory is a section within the Department of Neurosurgery. The laboratory is named after the Norwegian pioneer neurosurgeon Vilhelm Magnus and was established in 2005 by professor em. Iver A. Langmoen.

Ongoing projects

Two decades ago the Vilhelm Magnus Laboratory demonstrated, for the first time, that stem cells from the adult human brain can differentiate into functional neurons, and that it is possible to generate a small nervous system with numerous neurons that fire action potentials and communicate via synapses, from a single stem cell, harvested from the adult human brain. In parallel, we started to cultivate and characterize stem-like cells from glial brain tumors. Through extensive comparisons between GSCs and normal stem cells from the adult brain, we identified genes and pathways which are dysregulated in GSCs and provided the first clinical dataset that support the cancer stem cell hypothesis in glioblastoma (Moe, Brain, 2005, Varghese, Neurosurgery, 2008, Vik-Mo, Neuro Oncol, 2010, Sandberg, Exp Cell Res, 2013, Fayzullin, Exp Cell Res. 2016, Mughal, Neoplasia, 2018).

Development of a stem cell-based vaccine in patients with brain cancer

Based on these patient specific cell cultures we developed the first clinical protocol which targeted stem cells in a solid tumor by transducing dendritic cells from patients with mRNA from their own GBM stem cells. This significantly improved clinical outcome (Vik-Mo, Cancer Immunology, Immunotherapy, 2013). Two out of the 21 treated patients are still alive more than ten years after their diagnosis of GBM. A randomized trial of the vaccine was certified by all required authorities and started in the spring of 2018 (DEN-STEM). This study is currently including patients. Our intention in the current study is also to clarify why some patients respond by in-depth studies of individual tumors and treatment responses. We are further developing this treatment strategy through the EU Horizon Europe funded GLIOMATCH project. The project started in 2024 and will fund 5 clinical intervention trial, of which one is a dendritic cell-based vaccine combined with checkpoint inhibition for recurrent GBM here in Oslo. We will start patient inclusion in 2026.

Individualized systems medicine strategy to target GSCs in patients with recurrent glioblastoma

In collaboration with our partners at the Finnish Institute for Molecular Medicine, we are combining the novel technical possibilities of high-throughput screening and deep sequencing with our established know-how on patient specific tumor stem cell cultures. Exploring a panel of 525 drugs established in clinical use, as well as drugs in early-phase development, at five different concentrations, we have screened stem cells from individual tumors for drug sensitivity. The approach has been coined Individualized Systems Medicine. This study has shown that GBMs from individual patients are highly heterogenous in drug sensitivity (Skaga, BMC Cancer, 2019). We have explored intratumoral heterogeneity (Bryjulsens, Cancers, 2023) as well as the molecular foundations of resistance mechanisms (Estabillo, BMC Cancer, 2025). An early phase trial for feasibility evaluation of this strategy (ISM-GBM)





started patient inclusion in 2023 and continues to include patient. This study is financed through Kreftforeningen.

Characterization of invasive GCSs at the single cell level

Glioblastomas are characterized by diffusely infiltrative growth. To investigate the invasive properties of glioblastoma cells we characterize their invasion pattern into rodent brain slices or 3D-biomatrixes using time-lapse microscopy. We have identified subpopulations of cells with different invasive potentials, specific movement patterns and morphology (Fayzullin et al. 2019). We are now developing this strategy further to encompass functional characteristics combined with time-lapse microscopy in collaboration with Krister Wennerberg at Copenhagen University, funded through Novo Nordisk fonden.

Nanopore based molecular diagnostics for brain tumors

Brain cancer is categorized into >200 types. Generating a final diagnosis is complex and expensive – usually based upon a range of different methods taking weeks. In 2019 we performed the world's first intraoperative whole genome sequencing based diagnosis during surgery. We used nanopore technology combined with machine learning to generate DNA-methylation based diagnosis and demonstrate how this method can lead to sensitive, robust, and rapid intraoperative molecular classification of brain tumors (Djirackor, Neuro Oncol Adv, 2022). The project has gained wide international interest and during the last year resulted in several high-impact publications (Brändl, NatMed, 2025, Patel, NatMed, 2025, Yuan, NatCancer, 2025), and led to a range of opportunities as invited lecturer at international scientific meetings (EANO, ISPN, SNOG, SIOP). We have also published a study demonstrating the added values of using a broad range of the MGMT promotor for determining the relationship between promotor methylation and temozolomide resistance (Halldorsson, NANB, 2024). The method has developed into testing for implementation into routine use during 2025. The project has been supported through Barnekreftforeningen, Kreftforeningen, Marthe Stiftelsen, TRANSCAN3 and Helse Sør-Øst Research grants.

Real-world data of clinical outcome for patients operated for brain tumors

Based upon the quality database from the Section of Surgical Neuro-Oncology at the Department of Neurosurgery we have explored the impact of resection on survival in patients with brain metastases (Winther, Cancers, 2023, Winther, Neurooncol Pract 2025) and glioblastoma (Mendoza Miereles, Neurooncol Pract, 2023). Through this data we have also contributed to the work at the PIONEER Consortium and RANO RESECT group resulting in several high impact papers (Karschnia, Lancet Oncol, 2024, & 2025). We are heading a study on secondary surgery for brain metastases (RECMET) organized through the European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) and contributing to the working group of The Norwegian Quality Registry of Brain and Spinal Cord Tumors at Kreftregisteret.





Improved outcomes for brain tumor surgeries in Oslo (Oglio)

Adolescent and young adults (15-40 years) with brain tumors are increasingly being identified as a separate clinical group. They have a wider variety of pathological entities and often longer expected survival. In this group the impact of improved surgical quality, through diagnosis and intraoperative monitoring is especially important. We have started a study to explore the impact of neuropsychological and continuous dynamic neurophysiological monitoring on the outcome of these patients, with two ongoing PhD-projects funded through DAM-stiftelsen and Oslo University Hospital.

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Kyrre Emblem, OUH
- Else Marit Inderberg, OUH
- Petter Brandal, OUH
- Dag Josefsen, OUH
- Jon A. Kyte, OUH
- Steven Wilson, UiO
- Marianne J. Hermestad & Stein Kaasa, OUH
- Annette H. Skogan, OUH/UIO
- Andres S. Alonso, OUH

International

- Krister Wennerberg, Copenhagen University, Denmark
- Winston Hide, Harvard University, MA, USA
- Phillipp Euskirchen and David Capper, Charité Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany
- Felix Sahm and Areeba Patel, University Hospital Heidelberg, Germany
- Björn Brändl and Franz-Josef Müller, Christian-Albrecht University of Kiel, Germany
- Phillipp Euskirchen and David Capper, Charité Universitätsmedizin, Berlin, Germany
- Mathias Simon, Bethel Clinic, University of Bielefeld Medical Center/ EANS Neuro-Oncology Section, Germany
- Lorenzo Bello, Università degli Studi di Milano Statale, Italy

Funding

- Norwegian Cancer Society
- EU Horizon Europe
- Marthefondet
- DAM-stiftelsen
- South-Eastern Regional Health Authorities
- Novo Nordisk





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles:

Estabillio LL, Skaga E, Halldorsson S, Vik-Mo EO, Sandberg CJ.

Drug resistant glioblastoma stem cells exhibit enriched stemness signatures and share extracellular matrix overexpression.

BMC Cancer. 2025 Oct 27;25(1):1655.

doi: 10.1186/s12885-025-15163-z

Karschnia P, ... Mireles EEM, ..., Vik-Mo EO, ..., Hervey-Jumper S, Berger MS, Tonn JC.

A prognostic classification system for extent of resection in IDH-mutant grade 2 glioma: an international, multicentre, retrospective cohort study with external validation by the RANO resect group.

Lancet Oncol. 2025 Dec;26(12):1638-1650.

doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(25)00534-0.

Yuan D, ..., Halldorsson S, Vik-Mo EO, ..., Eils R, Lukassen S, Euskirchen P.

crossNN is an explainable framework for cross-platform DNA methylation-based classification of tumors.

Nat Cancer. 2025 Jul;6(7):1283-1294.

doi: 10.1038/s43018-025-00976-5



Functional & Stereotactic Neurosurgery Research Group 2025



Group Leader

Jugoslav Ivanovic, MD/PhD, Dept. of Neurosurgery, OUH

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Tlf: 93 85 18 22

Group Members

- Arild Egge, MD, PhD, OUH
- Ane Konglund, MD, PhD, OUH
- Mark Züchner, MD, PhD, OUH
- Awais Mughal, MD, PhD, OUH
- Eduardo Mendoza, MD, OUH
- Ketil Berg Olsen, MD, OUH
- Lars Etholm, MD, PhD, OUH
- Ulvin, Line Bédos, MD, PhD, OUH
- Halvorsen, Maud Beate, MD, OUH

Research profile and aims

Main research aim is assessment of brain, medulla and peripheral nerve function and surgical treatment:

- Epilepsy surgery
- Deep brain stimulation
- Stereo Electroencephalography (SEEG)
 - Robot-assisted surgery
 - Function localization through intracranial recordings and stimulations
 - Artificial intelligence applications in surgical planning
- Assessment of brain function through EEG
 - Electrophysiological mechanisms for cognitive functions
 - Oscillatory mechanisms supporting human cognition
- Laser Interstitial Thermal Therapy (LITT)
- Clinical assessment through machine learning
- Functional treatment of spinal trauma
- Brain stimulation for spinal cord injury rehabilitation



Ongoing projects

- Cognitive function assessment through SEEG
- Epilepsy surgery outcomes
- Prospective study of image-guided DBS in Parkinson disease
- TremorStim - DBS in tremor
- Diagnostics and follow up of fatigue after cerebral abscesses with EEG
- Context-dependent memory maps in the medial temporal lobe
- Laser ablation in the treatment of epilepsy
- Robotics in functional neurosurgery
- Epileptic seizures: activity of single neurons as a diagnostic marker
- Recent trends in status epilepticus - with a special focus on outcome prediction and diagnosis
- Predictors of VNS stimulation
- Assessment of MEP suction in cerebral surgery
- 7 T MRI assessment in epilepsy surgery
- Motor Cortex Stimulation in patients with spinal cord injury
- Experimental models for spinal cord injury

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- National Center for Epilepsy, OUH
- Department of Neurology, OUH
- Institute of Psychology, Oslo University
- Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, Oslo University
- Department of Radiology, OUH
- Pediatric Department, OUH
- The Intervention Centre, OUH

International

- Sahlgrenska Akademiet, Department of Neurosurgery, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden
- Karolinska Institutet, Department of Neurosurgery, Stockholm, Sweden
- Rigshospitalet, Department of Neurosurgery, Copenhagen, Denmark
- Helene Wills Institute, UC Berkeley, US
- Clinical Neurophysiology, Århus, Denmark
- Dianalund Epilepsy Center, Denmark

Funding

- Applications for national funding submitted in several projects
- National and international funding through collaborators





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles:

Selected publications:

Karagianni, M. D., Schijns, O. E. M. G., Brotis, A., Tasiou, A., Auer, C., Blauwblomme, T., Budke, M., Campos, A. R, Candela-Cantó, S., Clusmann, H., Consales, A., Cossu, M., Delev, D., Dorfer, C., Dorfmueller, G., Egge, A., Eröss, L., Ferrand-Sorbets, S., Giordano, F., ... Krüger, M. (2025). Anterior temporal lobectomy and selective AmygdaloHippocampectomy complications across Europe: review, meta-analysis, and Delphi consensus. *Brain & Spine*, 5, Article 104304. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bas.2025.104304>

Fuhrer J., Glette, K., Ivanovic, J., Larsson, P. G., Bekinschtein, T., Kochen, S., Knight, R. T., Tørresen, J., Solbakk, A.-K., Endestad, T., & Blenkmann, A. (2025). Direct brain recordings reveal implicit encoding of structure in Random auditory streams: Direct brain recordings reveal implicit encoding of structure in random auditory Streams. *Scientific Reports*, 15(1), Article 14725. <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-98865-5>

Ivanović, J., Halvorsen, M., Gandrud, Å., & Pelanis, E. (2025). Verification of a Robotic System for “ Stereo -EEG Surgery using an Anthropomorphic Skull Phantom – Preliminary Results. *Brain & Spine*, 5, Article 105394. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.bas.2025.105394>

PhD defence:

Ulvin, L. B., Universitetet i Oslo Institutt for klinisk medisin, & Universitetet i Oslo Det medisinske fakultet 2025. *Recent trends in status epilepticus: with a special focus on diagnosis and prediction of outcome* [University of Oslo, Faculty of Medicine, Institute of Clinical Medicine]. https://urn.nb.no/URN:NBN:no-nb_pliktmonografi_000059279



Pediatric Neurosurgical Research Group



Group Leader

Radek Frič, MD PhD, Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon, Dept. of Neurosurgery, OUH
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Group Members

- Bernt J. Due-Tønnessen, MD/PhD, OUH
- Angelika Sorteberg, MD/PhD, UiO/OUH
- Jarle Sundseth, MD/PhD, OUH
- Arild Egge, MD/PhD, OUH
- Ulrikke Wiig, MD, OUH
- Christina Høstmælingen, MD, OUH
- Jugoslav Ivanovic, MD/PhD, OUH
- Einar Vik-Mo, MD/PhD, UiO/OUH
- Pitt Niehusmann, MD/PhD, OUH
- Monica Cheng Munthe-Kaas, MD/PhD, OUH
- Einar Stensvold, MD/PhD, OUH
- Tale Torjussen, MD/PhD, OUH
- Aina Ulvmoen, MD/PhD, OUH
- Elin Tønne, MD/PhD, OUH
- Ketil Heimdal, MD/PhD, OUH
- Petra Aden, MD/PhD, OUH
- Anita Pühr, PhD, OUH
- Anne-Britt Skarbø, Consultant Neuropsych., OUH
- Ingeborg Halvorsen, med.student, UiO
- An-Thu Nora Tran, med. student, UiO
- Kristine Augensen, med. student, UiO

Research profile and aims

This research group was formally established in 2023, in order to promote and coordinate ongoing and future research projects within the field and pediatric neurosurgery at OUH. The group's activities include several areas, primarily:

- Pediatric neurooncology - in cooperation with Depts. of Pediatrics and Oncology (Tale Torjussen, Aina Ulvmoen, Einar Stenvold) and Vilhelm Magnus Laboratory (prof. Einar Vik-Mo)
- Cranofacial surgery - in collaboration with the Norwegian National Unit for Cranofacial Surgery (Bernt Due- Tønnesen, Ulrikke Wiig, Elin Tønne, Ketil Heimdal)
- CSF circulation incl. pediatric hydrocephalus, arachnoidal cysts and Chiari-malformation – in cooperation with Neurovascular & Cerebrospinal Fluid Research Group and K.G. Jebsen Centre for Brain Fluid Research (Per Kristian Eide, Geir Ringstad, Radek Frič)



- Functional pediatric neurosurgery incl. spasticity and epileptology surgery – in cooperation with Functional Neurosurgical Research Group (Arild Egge, Jugoslav Ivanovic)
- Cerebrovascular neurosurgery incl. arteriovenous malformation, aneurysms, moyamoya disease (Angelika Sorteberg, Radek Frič, IJ Halvorsen)
- Spinal dysraphism - in cooperation with pediatric neurology group at OUH (Petra Aden)
- Traumatic brain injury in children in cooperation with Oslo Neurosurgical Neurotrauma Group (Dag Nettelund), Injury Prevention and Outcomes following Trauma (Leiv Arne Rosseland) and Norwegian Trauma Registry (Trond Nordseth)

An important part of the group's activities is the scientific cooperation with similar groups abroad (Düsseldorf, Copenhagen, Utrecht, Tel Aviv, Basel) as well as the scientific organizations like ESPN (European Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery) where Radek Frič (RF) is currently a member of executive board (treasurer elect), as well as ISPN (International Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery) and EANS (European Association of Neurosurgical Societies, where R. Frič currently is the chairman of section of pediatric neurosurgery (2023-2027), and finally within the informal Nordic Pediatric Neurosurgical Network, which last meeting was co-organized and attended by several group members (Ulrikke Wiig, Bernt Due-Tønnessen, Radek Frič) in Bergen in September 2025.

Ongoing projects

Selected and status per 2025

- AVM in children; intern quality register and long-term outcome study (R. Frič, I. Halvorsen, B. Due-Tønnessen, B. Tennøe A. Sorteberg, R. Frič) – *continues, 1st paper submitted*
- *10-års resultater etter behandling av kraniosynostoser (U. Wiig, B. Due-Tønnessen, E. Tønne)-continues*
- *Subdurale hematomer ved benigne ekstraaksiale væskeansamlinger (U. Wiig) – continues.*
- Pediatric aneurysms (S. Hatlevoll Myhre, R. Frič, A. Sorteberg, K. Nordengen) - under analysis of data and editing before submission to publication.
- Surgical treatment of childhood-onset craniopharyngioma – institutional long-term outcome study and multicenter observational study (w/Copenhagen, Gothenburg) (A-T.N. Tran, M. Wiedmann, B. Due-Tønnessen, R. Frič) - a research line project (med. stud. A-T.N. Tran) – analysis of data, continues
- *PETBIN (Pediatric Traumatic Brain Injury in Norway) – epidemiology, outcome after neurosurgical treatment and use of healthcare services. (D. Nettelund, R. Frič, T. Nordseth) – data retrieved, currently under analysis.*
- *European Cerebellar Mutism Study (R. Frič) –multicentre, cooperation continues*

PhD project

- Long-term follow-up of children treated for craniosynostosis with minimal invasive cranioplasty (Ulrikke Wiig)- continues

Group meetings





A research group meeting was arranged in September 18, 2026, attended by most group members.

Funding

South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority

Scientific production & activity of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 11

(Complete list: <https://www.ous-research.no/home/pn/Publications/24161>)

Selected publication:

Tuft M, Berger YØ, Marthinsen PB, Due-Tønnessen BJ, Frič R. **Surgical treatment of subependymal giant cell astrocytoma in patients with tuberous sclerosis complex-an institutional experience and results** Childs Nerv Syst 2025 Mar 4;41(1):126. doi: 10.1007/s00381-025-06779-4.

Laustsen AF, Grønæk JK, Frič R, Avula S, Mallucci C, Nilsson P, Nyman P, Hauser P, Mudra K, Kiudeliene R, Ročka S, Hjort MA, Brandsma R, Hoving E, Carai A, Beneš V, Tábořská J, Dorfer C, Jacobs S, Pavon-Mengual M, Skjøth-Rasmussen J, Schmiegelow K, Sehested A, Mathiasen R, Juhler M. **Postoperative speech impairment and cranial nerve deficits in children undergoing posterior fossa tumor surgery with intraoperative MRI - a prospective multinational study.** Acta Neurochir (Wien). 2025 Sep 22;167(1):252. doi: 10.1007/s00701-025-06669-3.

Laustsen AF, Avula S, Grønæk J, Pizer B, Nyman P, Nilsson P, Frič R, Hjort MA, Beneš V, Hauser P, Pálmafy B, Rutkauskienė G, Wilhelmy F, Brandsma R, Sehested A, Mathiasen R, Juhler M. **Tumour volume as a predictor of postoperative speech impairment in children undergoing resection of posterior fossa tumours: a prospective, multicentre study.** Acta Neurochir (Wien). 2025 Apr 3;167(1):97. doi: 10.1007/s00701-025-06459-x.

Invited lectures (representing the research group):

Frič R. **Intracranial compliance in pediatric Chiari malformation type 1.** Journées lyonnaises de neurochirurgie pédiatrique. Lyon, January 23-25, 2025.

Frič R. **Craniofacial injury in children.** ESPN Course (13th Cycle, 1st Year), April 7-11, Dubrovnik, Croatia.

Frič R. **The role of intracranial compliance in pediatric Chiari malformation type 1.** International congress of Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery. June 7, 2025; Varna, Bulgaria.





Frič R. **AVM and aneurysms in pediatric population – specificities and results of treatment.** International congress of Bulgarian Society of Pediatric Neurosurgery. June 7, 2025; Varna, Bulgaria.

Frič R. **Treatment of intracranial hypertension, hydrocephalus and secondary Chiari malformation in non-syndromic and syndromic craniosynostosis.** 8th Pediatric Neurosurgery Symposium, June 26-27, 2024, Basel, Switzerland.

Frič R. **Intracranial compliance in Chiari malformation Type 1-** implications for pathogenesis and treatment. Syringomyelia 2025, July 2-4, Liverpool, UK.

Frič R. **Results from the European survey on management of incidentalomas.** EANS Congress, October 5-9, 2025, Vienna, Austria.

Frič R. **Specificities of cerebrovascular pathologies in children – a neurosurgical perspective.** Annual meeting of Slovak neurosurgical society, October 22-24, 2025, Tale, Slovakia.

Frič R. **Childhood-onset craniopharyngioma – update on management and outcome.** INCONESON 5.0 (5th International Congress of Nepalese Society of Neurosurgeons), Kathmandu, November 13-15, 2025.

Frič R. **Surgery of pediatric brain tumours.** CCN Review Course, Krakow, November 23-28, 2025.

Frič R. **Craniopharyngioma.** CCN Review Course, Krakow, November 23-28, 2025.

Frič R. **Chiari malformation.** CCN Review Course, Krakow, November 23-28, 2025.

Wiig U: **Barnesvulster – kirurgi.** Fagdag psykologer Helse Sør-Øst 25.4.2025.

Other lectures:

R. Frič, S. Hatlevoll Myhre, R. Sletteberg, A. Sorteberg, K. Nordengen: **Intracranial aneurysms in pediatric population – an institutional experience from three decades of treatment.** 29th ESPN Congress, London, May 11-14, 2025.





Spinal Neurosurgery Research Group



Group Leader

Jon Håvard Sommernes, MD, Consultant Neurosurgeon, Department of Neurosurgery, Oslo University Hospital, and PhD fellow, Faculty of Medicine, University of Oslo (haasom@ous-hf.no)

Group Members

- Jarle Sundseth, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital
- Tor Brommeland, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital
- Mark Züchner, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital
- Hege Linnerud, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital
- Mads Aarhus, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital / University of Oslo
- Syed Ali Mujtaba Rizvi, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital
- Carl Johan Henie Sogn, PhD fellow, Oslo University Hospital / University of Oslo
- Pål N. F. Rydning, MD, PhD fellow, Oslo University Hospital / University of Oslo
- Frode Kolstad, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital

Research collaboration

- John-Anker Zwart, MD/PhD, University of Oslo / Oslo University Hospital
- Mirad Taso, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital
- Jens Ivar Brox, MD/PhD, Oslo University Hospital / University of Oslo
- Siri Bjorland, Oslo University Hospital / University of Oslo

The Spinal Neurosurgery Research Group conducts clinical and translational research across degenerative cervical and lumbar spine disorders, cervical spine trauma and spinal cord injury, and comparative effectiveness of established and emerging surgical techniques. The group combines randomized clinical trials, population- and registry-based cohort studies, and contemporary causal-inference methods.

A major scientific achievement in 2025 was publication of the randomized comparison of surgical and nonsurgical treatment for cervical radiculopathy in NEJM Evidence. The group also contributed to population-based studies of traumatic cervical spinal cord injury, traumatic odontoid fractures, lumbar spinal stenosis, spinal cord injury management, and health-service pathways for patients with neck and back pain. International dissemination included an oral presentation at the Cervical Spine Research Society Annual Meeting and an invited Grand Rounds lecture at Weill Cornell Medicine.





Research profile and aims

Degenerative cervical spine disorders and cervical radiculopathy

The group investigates indications, effectiveness, patient-reported outcomes and complications of surgical versus nonsurgical treatment for cervical radiculopathy. The randomized cervical radiculopathy programme includes parallel trials of patients with cervical disc herniation and cervical spondylosis, with continued work on secondary outcomes and long-term follow-up.

Cervical spine trauma and ankylosing spinal disorders

Population- and registry-based research is a central research line. Oslo University Hospital has regional responsibility for assessment and surgical treatment of cervical spine fractures in Southeast Norway. Cases are registered prospectively in the MedInsight registry, providing a unique population-based dataset for studies of epidemiology, management, complications, mortality and long-term outcomes.

Pål Nicolay Fougner Rydning's PhD project, "Traumatic Cervical Spine Fractures in Ankylosing Spondylitis: Epidemiology, Management, and Outcomes in a Population-Based Cohort", evaluates treatment strategies and short- and long-term outcomes in a Population-Based Cohort", evaluates treatment strategies and short- and long-term outcomes in patients with ankylosing spondylitis and cervical fractures.

Comparative effectiveness and minimally invasive surgery

This research line is led by **Carl Johan Henie Sogn** and focuses on comparative effectiveness of established and emerging surgical techniques in degenerative spine disease. A central methodological approach is target-trial emulation using routinely collected clinical data to approximate causal comparisons where randomized trials are not available or feasible. Current projects include comparisons of full-endoscopic versus microsurgical lumbar discectomy, ACDF versus posterior cervical foraminotomy for unilateral cervical radiculopathy, and endoscopic versus microsurgical posterior foraminotomy. The programme aims to establish a broader platform for evaluating endoscopic and other minimally invasive spine procedures using contemporary causal-inference methods.

Key achievements in 2025

- Publication of the randomized study "Surgical versus Nonsurgical Treatment for Cervical Radiculopathy" in NEJM Evidence.
- Continued development of the population-based cervical spine trauma research programme, including studies of traumatic cervical spinal cord injury and odontoid fractures.
- Publication of clinically relevant work on lumbar spinal stenosis, spinal cord injury management and referral pathways for neck and back pain.
- International oral presentation of prospective dysphagia data after ACDF at the Cervical Spine Research Society Annual Meeting.
- Invited Grand Rounds lecture at the Department of Neurological Surgery, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York.





Ongoing projects

- **Traumatic Cervical Spine Fractures in Ankylosing Spondylitis: Epidemiology, Management, and Outcomes in a Population-Based Cohort.** PhD project; population-based studies of epidemiology, treatment
- **Full-Endoscopic versus Microscopic Lumbar Discectomy for Lumbar Disc Herniation: A Target-Trial Emulation.** Ongoing comparative-effectiveness study.
- **Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion versus Posterior Cervical Foraminotomy for Unilateral Cervical Radiculopathy: A Target-Trial Emulation.** Ongoing comparative-effectiveness study.
- **Full- Endoscopic Foraminotomy versus Microscopic Foraminotomy versus Anterior Cervical Discectomy and Fusion for Unilateral Cervical Radiculopathy: A Target-Trial Emulation.** Ongoing study.
- **Randomized cervical radiculopathy programme.** Continued secondary analyses and long-term follow-up of randomized trials comparing ACDF with structured nonsurgical treatment in cervical disc herniation and spondylosis.

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

The following list is restricted to publications with direct relevance to spinal disorders, spinal surgery or spinal cord injury and is deduplicated at research-group level.

Taso M, Sommersen JH, Sundseth J, Pripp AH, Bjorland S, Engebretsen KB, Kolstad F, Zwart JA, Brox JJ, Surgical versus Nonsurgical Treatment for Cervical Radiculopathy. NEJM Evid. 2025;4(4):EVIDoa2400404. Doi: 10.1056/EVIDoa2400404

Lioi FMC, Dahlberg D, Sundseth J, Olsen KB, Lilleby HL, Nedregaard B, Wiedmann MKH. Multiple isolated spinal aneurysms - A rare condition with uncertain treatment strategies: A case report and literature review. Brain Spine. 2025;5:104192. doi:10.1016/j.bas.2025.104192.

Hjall B, Liavaag S, Thomassen HT, Brommeland T. Urinary complaints and voiding function in patients operated for lumbar spinal stenosis. Clin Neurol Neurosurg. 2025;257:109060. doi:10.1016/j.clineuro.2025.109060





Scientific presentations and invited lectures 2025

Oral scientific presentation

Sommernes JH. Dysphagia After ACDF: A Prospective Study with Non-Surgical Controls.

Late-Breaking Point Session Cervical Spine Research Society Annual meeting , 6 December 2025.

Invited international lecture

Sommernes JH. Surgical or Nonsurgical? Results from a Norwegian RCT on Cervical Radiculopathy.

Department of Neurological Surgery Grand Rounds, Weill Cornell Medicine, New York, USA, 22 December 2025.

Research collaboration

The group's research is primarily based on clinical and population-based datasets generated within Oslo University Hospital and through multidisciplinary collaboration across neurosurgery, rehabilitation, radiology, epidemiology and related clinical disciplines. No formalized external research collaboration has been reported for the ankylosing-spondylitis PhD programme. International academic exchange in 2025 included invited scientific dissemination at Weill Cornell Medicine and presentation at the Cervical Spine Research Society Annual Meeting.

Outlook

The priorities are to strengthen the population- and registry-based research programme in spinal trauma, continue long-term follow-up and secondary analyses from the cervical radiculopathy randomized trials, and expand comparative-effectiveness research in degenerative spine surgery. Particular emphasis will be placed on target-trial emulation and evaluation of endoscopic and other minimally invasive techniques. The group also aims to increase international visibility through scientific collaboration, invited lectures and conference presentations.



Research Group for Neurosurgical Simulation, Training and Robotics (Volodarsky Lab)



Group Leader

Markus K.H. Wiedmann, MD, PhD, FEBNS, MASurg
Senior Consultant Neurosurgeon and Researcher
Department of Neurosurgery, Oslo University Hospital
Institute of Clinical Medicine, University of Oslo

Group Members

- Daniel Dahlberg
- Jugoslav Ivanovic
- Aslan Lashkarivand
- Francesco Lioi
- Ida Olesrud (PhD student)
- Nantushan Suntharampillai
- Markus K.H. Wiedmann (group leader)

Research profile and aims

The Research Group for Neurosurgical Simulation, Training and Robotics (Volodarsky Lab) was formally established in 2025 at the Department of Neurosurgery, Oslo University Hospital.

The group focuses on neurosurgical simulation, microsurgical training, surgical visualization technologies, and integration of emerging technologies into neurosurgical education and clinical practice. Research activities include cadaveric dissection training, exoscopic and endoscopic surgery, intraoperative fluorescence imaging, robotic systems, surgical ergonomics, and development of objective assessment tools for microsurgical skill acquisition.

The overall aim is to establish a translational and interdisciplinary platform integrating surgical education, technological innovation, and clinical neurosurgical research.

Ongoing projects and activities

- Development and validation of microsurgical and endoscopic simulation models
- Structured national cadaveric dissection and skull base training courses for neurosurgical residents
- Exoscopic visualization and ergonomics in cranial and skull base surgery
- Continuous white-light / indocyanine green (ICG) overlay endoscopy in pituitary surgery



- Integration of robotic systems and advanced visualization technologies into neurosurgical training
- Development of low-cost and portable microsurgical simulation systems for global neurosurgical education
- International educational collaborations and longitudinal training initiatives in Tanzania
- Establishment of the Oslo Neurosurgical Simulation and Dissection Laboratory as a research and educational platform

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Department of Neurosurgery, OUH
- Institute of Clinical Medicine, UiO
- Department of Otorhinolaryngology, OUH
- Oslo Neurosurgical Simulation and Dissection Laboratory

International

- Muhimbili Orthopaedic Institute, Tanzania
- WFNS Innovation committee

Technological and industry collaborators

Karl Storz, Olympus, Bissinge

Funding

South-Eastern Regional Health Authority (PhD)

Scientific activity of the research group in 2025

Peer -reviewed original articles, reviews and technique papers: ongoing and published contributions in cerebrovascular neurosurgery, skull base surgery, surgical visualization, and simulation-based education.

- National neurosurgical dissection and skull base courses
- International microsurgical and endoscopic training initiatives





- Invited presentations at EANS, IFNE, WFNS, and national neurosurgical meetings
- Establishment of formal UiO/OUH research group infrastructure in 2025

Scientific peer-reviewed articles in 2025

Wiedmann MKH, Steineger JE, Dahlberg D, Dheyauldeen S. How I do it: exoscopic minimally invasive pericranial flap harvest for endoscopic anterior skull base reconstruction. *Acta Neurochir (Wien)*. 2026; 168:70.

Olesrud I, Andersen MK, Larsson C, Heck A, Dahlberg D, Wiedmann MKH. Continuous white-light/indocyanine green overlay endoscopy in pituitary adenoma surgery: a prospective feasibility and safety study. *Brain and Spine*. Submitted.

Wiedmann MKH, Netteland DF, Enriquez B, Nedregaard B, Schjørlien T, Skjelland M, Romundstad L, Aamodt AH. Reconsidering stroke management pathways: the role of microsurgical thrombectomy after failed endovascular therapy. *J Clin Neurosci*. 2025;142:111661.



Department of Neurology

The Department of Neurology is located at Rikshospitalet and Ullevål, and treats patients with diseases of the brain, spinal cord and peripheral nerves, as well as certain muscle diseases.

The department has extensive clinical expertise and research activity, particularly related to movement disorders, epilepsy, stroke/diseases in the brain's blood supply, multiple sclerosis (MS), diseases that affect muscles such as myasthenia gravis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), hereditary neurological diseases, neuropsychiatry and painful conditions affecting the neck, back and peripheral nerves, as well as headache.

The Department of Neurology is headed by Professor Mathias Toft.



Movement disorders and neurodegeneration



Group Leader

Mathias Toft, MD/PhD, Professor and Head of Department, Dept. of Neurology, UiO (mathias.toft@medisin.uio.no) and OUH (mtoft@ous-hf.no)

Group Members

- Espen Dietrichs, Prof MD PhD (PI Clinical movement disorders)
- Sara Staubo, MD
- Hedda Holm
- Silje Bjerknes, MD
- Inger Marie Skogseid, MD PhD (PI Deep brain stimulation and botulinumtoxin)
- Iselin Wedding, MD, PhD
- Nadja Anette Myrvik Kvernmo, MD
- Mathias Toft, Prof MD, PhD (PI Molecular studies of PD)
- Zafar Iqbal, PhD
- Solveig Dalbro, MD
- Natasha Demic, MD
- Angelina Maniaol, MD, PhD (PI Myasthenia and ALS)
- Vilde Hjelseth Hannestad, MD
- Nafeesa Akhtar, MD

Research profile and aims

The Movement disorders and neurodegeneration group brings together researchers studying a spectrum of chronic neurological disorders causing impaired motor function. Our areas of interest range across different movement disorders and neurodegenerative diseases.

In a majority of the conditions we study, the etiology is neurodegenerative, genetic or both.

Our scientific approaches span from translational studies, based largely on laboratory and bioinformatic methodologies, to observational studies and clinical trials recruiting patients from the Department of Neurology.

The group is a thematically overarching research group, organized into five subgroups focused on specific diseases and methodologies:

- [Clinical studies of movement disorders](#)
- [Molecular studies of Parkinson's disease](#)
- [Deep brain stimulation and botulinumtoxin treatment](#)
- [Myasthenia gravis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis](#)

Ongoing projects

We perform clinical studies of patients with Parkinson's disease and studies on the efficacy of deep brain stimulation for Parkinson's disease, dystonia, and tremors.

Laboratory research is focusing on genetic, epigenetic and genomic studies. Furthermore, several



projects are examining biomarkers in neurodegenerative diseases.

The last project group focuses on clinical studies of myasthenia gravis and amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and participates in national and international projects related to epidemiology, genetics and clinical trials.

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Multiple other groups within UiO and OUH
- The other university hospitals in Norway, incl. NeuroSysmed in Bergen
- Ringen and Unicare Fram Rehabilitation Centres

International

- Prof. Volkmann, Würzburg, Germany
- COURAGE-PD consortium
- Prof. Joutsa, Turku, Finland
- Prof. Odin, Lund University, Sweden

Funding

Among others:

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Norwegian Health Association

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 8

Selected publications:

Holm H, Dietrichs E, Joutsa J, Connelly JP, Lund CG, Skjelland M, Gundersen V, Bjerknes S (2025)

Delayed-onset parkinsonism is common after isolated striatal infarcts

Front Neurol, 16, 1653832

DOI [10.3389/fneur.2025.1653832](https://doi.org/10.3389/fneur.2025.1653832), PubMed [41356237](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41356237/)

Dalbro SEJ, Elsais A, Rydning SL, Toft M, Kerty E, Larsen SE (2025)

Repeatability, reliability, and stability of eye movement measurements in Parkinson's disease, cerebellar ataxia, and healthy adults

Front Neurol, 16, 1556314

DOI [10.3389/fneur.2025.1556314](https://doi.org/10.3389/fneur.2025.1556314), PubMed [40356635](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40356635/)





Staubo SC, Fuskevåg OM, Toft M, Lie IH, Alvik KMJ, Jostad P, Tingvoll SH, Lilleng H, Rosqvist K, Størset E, Odin P, Dietrichs E, Dietrichs ES (2025)

Impulse control and correlation to dopamine agonist serum concentrations in people with Parkinson's disease

J Neurol, 272 (2), 134

DOI [10.1007/s00415-024-12870-8](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00415-024-12870-8), PubMed [39812843](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39812843/)



Huntington's disease and neurodegenerative genomics



Group Leader

Lasse Pihlstrøm, MD/PhD, Professor and Senior Consultant, Institute of clinical Medicine, UiO and Department of Neurology, OUH (lasse.pihlstrom@medisin.uio.no)

Group members

- Lasse Pihlstrøm, MD, PhD
- Manuela Tan, PhD – researcher
- Nora Raaf – PhD fellow
- Ahmad Kaddoura – PhD fellow
- Khadeeja Siddique, PhD – postdoctoral fellow
- Maren Stolp Andersen, MD – PhD fellow
- Jon Anders Tunold, MD – Clinician
- Ingeborg Haugesag Lie, MD – PhD fellow
- Marleen van Walsem, PhD – psychologist and researcher
- Ellen Hoven Maurtveten – research nurse
- Juni Kristensen Folge – medical student on the research programme
- Anne-Maria Tanskanen – reseach nurse

Research profile and aims

We study a range of neurodegenerative and movement disorders, combining clinical data collection with advanced genomics and biomarker research. An overarching aim of our work is to elucidate disease mechanisms and pave way for precision medicine in neurodegenerative disorders of both monogenic and complex etiology.

Genome-wide association studies (GWAS) have provided important knowledge about the genetic architecture of brain disorders and highlighted key molecular pathways. We aim to build on the insights from GWAS and advance our understanding further both by deep clinical phenotyping and advanced bioinformatic analyses of large genomic, epigenomic and transcriptomic datasets. In particular, we are interested in neuroinflammation, protein pathology and their intersection with genetic risk profiles.

Group leader Lasse Pihlstrøm is also heading the clinical team for Huntington's disease and is responsible for the follow-up of HD patients in the outpatient clinic at Department of Neurology. The ultimate aim of our research is to improve patient care in Huntington's disease, Parkinson's disease and other neurodegenerative disorders. Observational studies such as PROSPOS and Enroll-HD are designed to facilitate clinical trials through their scientific output, but also by generating databases of well-characterized potential trial participants.

We have obtained large-scale funding for a national clinical trial of nicotinamide riboside (vitamine B3) supplement as a disease-modifying treatment in Huntington's disease. The NAD-HD trial was launched in 2025 and will include and follow patients over the next 3-4 years. Lasse Pihlstrøm is also currently local PI of the NOPARK and NADAPT trials in Parkinson's disease and atypical Parkinsonism.



Ongoing projects

[NAD-HD](#) is a double-blind randomized controlled multicenter trial investigating nicotinamide riboside supplement as a potential disease-modifying treatment in Huntington's disease, led by our group at OUH. Funding for the study was secured in 2023, and protocol development and ethical approval were completed in 2024.

[Prospective study of parkinsonism in Oslo \(PROSPOS\)](#) is a longitudinal observational study tracking natural history, genetics, and biomarkers to understand disease mechanisms and facilitate personalized medicine in Parkinson's disease and atypical parkinsonism, including multiple system atrophy (MSA). This study forms the basis of a number of ongoing PhD projects involving methods, such as brain imaging using PET and MRI, studies of cerebrospinal fluid biomarkers, single-cell sequencing analyses and eye-tracking technology.

[Enroll-HD](#) is a global registry for Huntington's disease including both symptomatic and presymptomatic gene carriers, as well as family and community controls. Data is collected at annual visits. The study has included more than 20,000 participants worldwide.

[NOPARK](#) and NADAPT is a double-blind randomized controlled trials investigating nicotinamide riboside supplement as a potential disease-modifying treatment in Parkinson's disease and atypical parkinsonism, respectively. The trial is led from the Haukeland University Hospital and the NeuroSysMed center.

We collaborate extensively with local and international partners and are active members of several international consortia, in particular the [International Parkinson's Disease Genomics Consortium \(IPDGC\)](#), the [Global Parkinson's Genetics Program \(GP2\)](#) and the Genetic Modifiers of Huntington's Disease (GeM-HD) Consortium.

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Close day-to-day collaboration with the Movement, muscle and neurodegeneration group
- Andreas Lossius, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, UiO
- Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen with NeuroSysMed and Prof. Charalampos Tzoulis
- Marianne Fyhn and Torkel Hafting, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, UiO
- Prof. Ole Andreassen, UiO, and the DemGene Consortium

International

- IPDGC (international Parkinson Disease Genetics Consortium)
- GP2 (Global Parkinson's Genetics Program)
- COURAGE-PD consortium
- Genetic Modifiers of Huntington's Disease (GeM-HD) Consortium
- Prof. Owen Ross, Mayo Clinic, USA
- Prof. Wilma van der Berg, Amsterdam University Medical Center, Netherlands
- Prof. Jon Mill, University of Exeter, UK
- Prof. Henry Houlden, University College London, UK





Funding

Among others:

- South-Eastern Regional Health Authority, Norway
- Michael J. Fox Foundation
- The Norwegian Health Association
- Norwegian Parkinson Research Fund
- University of Oslo
- The Dam Foundation
- The national KLINBEFORSK program for clinical therapy research in the specialist health services

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 6

Selected publications:

Lie IH, Maurtveten EH, Andersen MS, Dalbro SEJ, Tunold JA, Pihlstrøm L (2025)
The Menstrual Cycle and Pregnancy Commonly Impact Symptoms of Women with Early-Onset
Parkinson's Disease
Mov Disord Clin Pract, 2025 Nov 14. (Online ahead of print)
DOI 10.1002/mdc3.70438, PubMed 41235605

Lie IH, Tan MMX, Andersen MS, Toft M, Pihlstrøm L (2025)
Epigenome-wide association study, meta-analysis, and multiscore profiling of whole blood in
Parkinson's disease
Ann Clin Transl Neurol, 12 (4), 701-713
DOI 10.1002/acn3.52292, PubMed 39907161

Udayar V, Gilormini PA, Bryois J, Gehrlein A, Chen X, Sonea S, Zhu S, Deen MC, Anastasi N, Murphy AE,
Skene N, Tan MMX, Tunold JA, Roudnicky F, van de Berg WDJ, Pihlstrøm L, Vocadlo DJ, Jagasia R (2025)
Enzyme Activity-Based Genome-wide Screening for Modifiers of Lysosomal Glucocerebrosidase
Uncovers Candidate Risk Factors for Parkinson's Disease
ACS Cent Sci, 11 (10), 1933-1945
DOI 10.1021/acscentsci.5c00240, PubMed 41142333



Rare NeuroMuscular Disorders Research Group



Group Leader

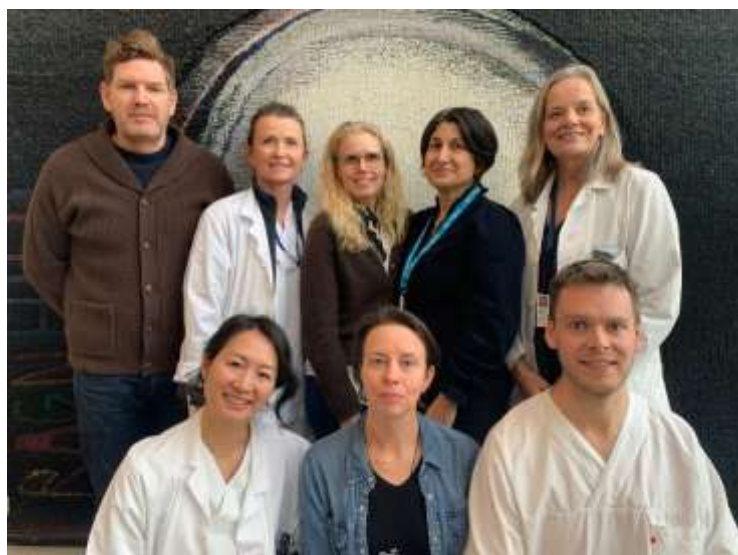
Kristin Ørstavik, MD/PhD, Head of Section for Rare neuromuscular disorders and EMAN, Dept. of Neurology, OUH (krorstav@ous-hf.no)

Group members

- Kristin Ørstavik, MD PhD, Board member ERN-NMD
- Trine Haug Popperud, MD PhD, PI Clinical studies in adults
- Sean Wallace, MD PhD, PI Clinical studies in children
- Marianne Nordstrøm, Clinical dietitian, PhD, leader ERN-NMD multidisciplinary group
- Tarun Arora, PT, PhD, researcher and research coordinator
- Hanne Ludt Fossmo, PT, PhD-student, research coordinator
- Anna Benterud, MD, PhD-student
- My Hermanser, MD, PhD-student
- Fredrik Hellem Stenseth, PT MSc, research assistant
- Anette Lie Granberg, PT, MSc, and researcher
- Benjamin Møller Delaveris, PT and research assistant

Associated members

- Gro Solbakken, Physiotherapist, PhD
- Jan Frich, MD PhD, Professor UiO
- Marleen Van Walsem, Neuropsychologist PhD





Research profile and aims

The Rare Neuromuscular Disorders Research Group was established in 2019, bringing together researchers focused on a broad spectrum of rare neuromuscular conditions that impair motor function.

Our research spans disorders affecting motor neurons (e.g., spinal muscular atrophy), the neuromuscular junction (e.g., myasthenic syndromes), and muscle (including primary myopathies and muscular dystrophies), as well as metabolic and mitochondrial myopathies and hereditary neuropathies. Most of the conditions we study are genetic and characterized by progressive disease courses.

We conduct observational studies and clinical trials, recruiting patients from the Department of Neurology and the Norwegian Registry of Neuromuscular Disorders (NORNMD). The research group is closely affiliated with the Section for Rare Neuromuscular Disorders and EMAN at the Department of Neurology, OUH. Both the research group and the clinical section are members of European Reference Network for Neuromuscular Diseases (Euro-NMD), with a particular focus on multidisciplinary care.

Ongoing projects

The group focuses on juvenile and adult neuromuscular disorders, with the primary aim of improving early detection and diagnosis, advancing treatment, and strengthening multidisciplinary care for individuals affected by rare neuromuscular disorders and their families.

PETRA-NMD



A 5-year national study is investigating the effects of personalized training in adults with three hereditary neuromuscular disorders: Charcot–Marie–Tooth disease (CMT), facioscapulohumeral muscular dystrophy (FSHD), and myotonic dystrophy type 1 (DM1). The study is designed as a two-arm, single-blind, multicenter randomized controlled trial (RCT), with a planned inclusion of 120 participants.



The study comprises five work packages: (1) dynamic balance, muscle strength, and body composition; (2) activity measures; (3) neuromuscular ultrasound; (4) motor unit number estimation (MUNE); and (5) metabolomics.



In 2025, approximately 100 participants were recruited and enrolled. Baseline assessments, intervention delivery, and primary endpoint evaluations have been conducted, with a subset of participants also completing 10-month follow-up assessments. Data collection is ongoing. The study is funded by KLINBEFORSK for the period 2024–2028. A collaborative meeting was held with the PETRA research group in Tromsø.

Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) project

Since 2018 OUH has administered nusinersen (Spinraza) to children with SMA. More recently, Zolgensma and risdiplam have also become available treatment options. Sean Wallace is involved in an ongoing PhD project on patients who have received treatment, with Sean Wallace serving as PI and main supervisor. The group also has an ongoing project on the diet of children with SMA, led by Marianne Nordstrøm.

Myotonic Dystrophy type 1(DM1) projects

Myotonic dystrophy research has focused on understanding the disease burden, improving outcome measures, and evaluating rehabilitation and treatment strategies for individuals with DM1. In our group research includes the Norwegian translation and validation of patient-reported measures, studies of upper limb function in DM1, and projects on symptoms, activity, exercise, and quality of life, alongside broader clinical work on multisystem complications and care needs. In 2021 Gro Solbakken delivered her PhD thesis on; Trunk Muscle Impairments and Pain in Myotonic Dystrophy type 1 Association to CTG size and Function



- We have an ongoing Phd project on “Symptoms, Outcome measures and Treatment of arm- and hand function in Myotonic Dystrophy type 1”. PhD student Hanne Ludt Fossmo. Kristin Ørstavik is a co-supervisor. All data collection is completed. In 2025 the project had one publication:
[Psychometric Properties of MFM32 in Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1 - PubMed](#)
- We also collaborate in an ongoing Phd project from the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences. The project includes a study called Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1 and Resistance Exercise (STYRK DM1).
[Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1 and Resistance Exercise](#).

Both projects are expected to be completed in 2026.

Charcot-Marie Tooth (CMT) project

Physical activity in people with hereditary polyneuropathies. Identify potential solutions that can be used in a future intervention study to improve quality of life and regular physical activity in people with CMT. A qualitative study was conducted in 2023 on patient experiences, supervised by PI and main supervisor Kristin Ørstavik, with Anette Lie Granberg as the researcher. The submitted paper has undergone peer review and been resubmitted. Data collection for Tarun Arora's project on CMT and balance is ongoing.

Hypocalemic periodic paralysis project – In collaboration with Frambu

How are your muscles affected by what you eat and how physically active you are? In order to offer better guidance to people with hypokalemic periodic paralysis, we want to learn from the patients experiences. A paper was published in 2025.

Neuromuscular disorders in Heart transplant recipients in Norway – the Heart-Musc Study

Several rare neuromuscular disorders may cause cardiomyopathy and, in some patients, even be fatal. Since 1983 almost 1100 people have received a heart-transplant (HTX) in Norway. Approximately 40% were diagnosed with cardiomyopathy. This is a collaboration between Department of Cardiology, Department of Medical Genetics and our Research Group. PI and main supervisor Kristin Ørstavik. The PhD project received funding from Nasjonalforeningen for Folkehelsen late autumn 2022. In this PhD study we are planning 3 work-packages:

- WP1 and WP2. We will go through the medical records of all HTX, patients alive (after consent) and register if they had neuromuscular symptoms or findings, if there was a positive family history of cardiomyopathy/NMD and to what extent genetic testing was performed and the results. This was finished in 2024 and we have included in total 201 patients still alive with Non-ischemic cardiomyopathy. If indicated they have undergone new genetic testing. Paper 1 is now under preparation





- WP3. In patients with genetic findings and/or medical records indicating a hereditary NMD, clinical testing as well as supplementary work-up will be performed. Over 50 patients have now been tested and we will continue this in 2025. In addition, we have received approval for testing those patients with pure Heart-genetics as controls.
- WP4. For those with negative genetics, additional testing will be performed based on family history or clinics.

AMC project in collaboration with National Center for Rare Disorders (TRS), Sunnaas Hospital

In this project, we are recruiting all registered patients with AMC in Norway to explore both genetically and clinically if they have a rare NMD that might explain their arthrogryposis. This project is mainly localized at TRS, but Kristin Ørstavik is a co-supervisor in this PhD project. The project received funding from HSØ in 2024.

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Dept of cardiology, OUH
- Multiple other groups within UiO and OUH
- The National Neuromuscular Center
- Frambu competence center
- TRS
- The other university hospitals in Norway
- Norwegian School of Sport Sciences
- Neuromuscular Association Norway (FFM)

International

- ERN-NMD (European reference Network)
- Muskelsvindfonden ved Ulla Werluf and Charlotte Handberg, Århus, Denmark
- Bjarne Udd, Finland
- Nicole Voet, Klimmendaal and Radboudumc, Nijmegen, the Netherlands

Funding

Among others:

- KLINBEFORSK
- National Advisory Unit on Rare Disorders (NKSD)
- Research fund of the Neuromuscular Association Norway (FFM)
- Sophie and Leif Torps fund to research on myotonic dystrophy (UNIFOR)
- Sophies Minde Foundation
- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Norwegian Health Association





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 5

Selected publications:

Psychometric Properties of MFM32 in Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1, PMID: 41192792,

DOI: [10.1016/j.apmr.2025.10.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.apmr.2025.10.013)

[Hanne Ludt Fossmo](#)¹, [Mari Ellefsen-Martinsen](#)², [Kristin Ørstavik](#)³, [Tarun Arora](#)³, [Jan C. Frich](#)⁴, [Hilde Stendal Robinson](#)⁵

The most bothersome symptoms in neuromuscular diseases: the ERN EURO NMD Survey.

Mancuso M, Colitta A, Lavorato M, Van den Bergh P, Kirschner J, Kornblum C, Maggi L, Lamy F, Lochmüller H, Nordstrøm M, Malfatti E, Ferlini A, Pareyson D, Silani V, Kleopa KA, de Visser M, Atalaia A, Evangelista T. Orphanet J Rare Dis. 2025 May 8;20(1):221. doi: 10.1186/s13023-025-03742-z. PMID: 40340786

Exploring self-management of diet and physical activity in CACNA1S-related hypokalemic periodic paralysis: A qualitative interview study. PMID: 40397008

Welland NL, Venås BH, Ellefsen-Martinsen M, Fossmo HL, Rosenberger AD, Dahl H, Ørstavik K, Nordstrøm M.

J Neuromuscul Dis. 2025 Jul;12(4):548-557. doi: 10.1177/22143602251342400. Epub 2025 May 21.



Translational neurodegeneration group



Group Leader

Kaja Nordengen, Consultant, Dept. of Neurology, OUH
(kajnor@ous-hf.no)

Group Members

- Sofie Lysholm Lian, MD, PhD student
- Mina Adampour, MD, PhD student
- Grit Richter, MD, PhD student
- Carl Johan Sogn, MD, PhD student
- Maja Bennin Brataas, MD PhD student
- Helene Berge, MD PhD student
- Hildegunn Haugan, masterstudent
- Lydia Emilie Aakervik, masterstudent
- Elise Stenstad, masterstudent
- Dana Asfour, masterstudent
- Angel Dala Aicha, masterstudent
- Rayha Amanuel Ghebreigziabher, masterstudent

Associated Members

- Liv Svenningsson Krogstad, PhD student
- Andreas Solheim, PhD student
- Stephanie Knudtson, MD, PhD student
- Wanlin Liu, PhD student

Research profile and aims

The Translational Neurodegeneration Group investigates the underlying causes of Alzheimer's disease (AD), Parkinson's disease (PD), and Dementia with Lewy Bodies (DLB), with a particular focus on clearance mechanisms.

Ongoing projects

Integrated convergent technology for precision human tissue and disease modeling
(Technology convergence project - Funded by Norwegian Research Council, 2024)



NEUROCLEAR: NEUROdegenerative proteinopathies – investigating the role of glial CLEARance and activation mechanisms in brain tissue and cell cultures.

(Medical Student Research project - Funded by Norwegian Research Council, 2023, Norwegian Health

Association 2025 and Parkinson Research Funds 2025)

BRAIN AGE: Biomarkers of neurodegenerative disease and normal aging. Tracking biomarkers to understand disease mechanisms and facilitate personalized medicine.

(Medical Student Research project - Funded by Norwegian Research Council, 2023

Organization of glymphatic proteins in proteinopathies

(Mobility grant – Funded by Forsberg and Aulie Neurology Prize, 2023

The GRIP Network - Glymphatic function in proteinopathies

(Network grant - Funded by the Norwegian Health Association, 2022)

Clearance pathways in Parkinson's disease

(PhD fellowship project - Funded by the South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority, 2021)

Towards predementia Lewy body aetiology: A multidisciplinary approach

(Postdoctoral fellowship project - Funded by the Norwegian Health Association, 2021

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Norwegian Centre for Stem Cell Research / OUH / Professor Joel Glover
- Simula Research Lab / Professor Kent-André Mardal
- The Intervention Centre / senior researcher Trygve Holck Storås
- Clinical Neuroscience Group / Akershus University Hospital / Professor Tormod Fladb
- Centre for Precision Psychiatry (previous NORMENT) / OUH / Professor Ole Andreassen
- K. G. Jebsen Centre for hjernevæskedforskning / OUH / Professor Per-Kristian Eide and senior researcher Geir Ringstad
- Neurotox / Institute of Pharmacy, UiO / Professor Cecilie Morland
- Oligodendrocytes in health and disease / UiO/ ass-professor Johanne Egge Rinholm
- Neuronal Systems and Graphics Computing Laboratory / UiO /

International

- Jaenisch lab / Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Boston / Professor Rudolf Jaenisch
- Edwards lab / University of California San Francisco (UCSF) / Professor Robert Edwards
- Centre for Healthy Brain Ageing / King's College London / Professor Dag Aarsland
- Clinical Neuroanatomy and Biobanking (CNAB) / Amsterdam UMC / Professor Wilma van de Berg
- VU/VUmc EM facility / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / Ass. prof Jan van Weering
- Klin Neurokemi Lab (Zetterberg lab), Department of Psychiatry and Neurochemistry / Sahlgrenska Academy at the University of Gothenburg / postdoc Johanna Nilsson
- VUmc neurodegeneration / Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam / associate professor Betty Tijms
- Molecular epidemiology of Alzheimer's disease / Maastricht University / Professor Pieter Jelle Visser





Professor Trygve Leergaard

- Department of Old Age Psychiatry, Haugesund sykehus / professor Arvid Rongve
- Department of Neurology / University Hospital of Northern Norway / senior researcher Bjørn-Eivind Kirsebom
- Department of Anesthesia, OUH / MD PhD Ingrid Fæhn Brekke
- Department of Anesthesia, Diaconal Hospital / MD PhD Anna Katarine Junker
- Department of Anesthesia, Lovisenberg Diakonal Hospital / MD PhD Jana Christine Kuhn
- Oslo Delirium Research Group / Akershus University Hospital / Professor Leiv Otto Watne
- Molecular studies of Parkinson's disease / Oslo University Hospital / Professor Mathias Toft
- Electron Microscopy Laboratory (LSEMC node) / University of Oslo / Professor Mahmood Amiry-Moghaddam

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Research Council of Norway
- Norwegian Health Association
- Fondsstiftelsen
- Odd Fellow Forskningsfond
- Civitan Norway
- Parkinson Research Funds
- Nansen Research Funds
- Rebergs legacy
- FriMed





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 7

Selected publications:

Storås TH, Lian SL, Mossige I, Riseth J, Svensson SF, Løvland G, Ringstad G, Mardal KA, Emblem KE, **Nordengen K**. T2-Weighted T1 Mapping and Automated Segmentation of CSF: Assessment of Solute Gradients in the Healthy Brain. J Magn Reson Imaging. 2025 Nov 18. doi: 10.1002/jmri.70169. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41253701

Richter G, Kirsebom BE, Jarholm JA, Pålhaugen L, Gísladóttir B, Aarsland D, Grøntvedt GR, Skogseth RE, Waterloo K, Fladby T, **Nordengen K**. Comparison of CSF neurofilament light chain and total tau as neurodegeneration markers: Associations with synaptic markers and cognitive outcomes. Neurobiol Aging. 2025 Nov;155:13-23. doi: 10.1016/j.neurobiolaging.2025.07.005. Epub 2025 Jul 10. PMID: 40669105.

Kirsebom BE, Nilsson J, Vromen E, Arnesen PM, Bjørnerud A, Brinkmalm A, Bråthen G, Grøntvedt GR, Jarholm J, **Nordengen K**, Pålhaugen L, Selnes P, Siafarikas N, Skogseth RE, Tecelão S, Waterloo K, You P, Zetterberg H, Aarsland D, Tijms B, Visser PJ, Blennow K, Fladby T. Cerebrospinal fluid markers link to synaptic plasticity responses and Alzheimer's disease genetic pathways. Mol Neurodegener. 2025 Oct 13;20(1):107. doi: 10.1186/s13024-025-00899-w. PMID: 41084010; PMCID: PMC12519626.



Cerebrovascular diseases



Group Leader

Mona Skjelland, Professor II and Consultant, Dept. of Neurology, OUH
(moskje@ous-hf.no) and UiO (m.e.skjelland@medisin.uio.no)

Group Members

- Kristine Stø, MD, PhD
- Lars Tveit MD, PhD-student
- Mahtab Zamani, MD, PhD-student
- Brian Enriquez, MD PhD-student
- Stephen Ryan, MD, PhD student
- Therese Schjørlien, MD, PhD-student
- Jesper Sømark, MD, PhD-student
- Vigdis Bjerkeli, Chief engineer, researcher
- Christian Lund, MD, PhD, senior researcher
- Karolina Skagen MD, PhD, senior researcher
- Maria Skytjoti, MD PhD, senior researcher
- Markus Wiedmann, MD, PhD, senior researcher

Research profile and aims

The primary objective is to carry out high-quality cerebrovascular research, both translational and clinical that generates new knowledge and contributes to improved treatment of patients with cerebrovascular diseases.

Ongoing projects

- ILLUMINATE; Targeting neuroinflammation in acute ischemic stroke: A randomized placebo-controlled, double-blind trial of IL-6 receptor inhibition with tocilizumab
- Advanced ultrasound methods in the assessment of carotid plaque instability
- The MIST study (Microbiota in Stroke); The Gut and Oral bacteria, Atherosclerosis and Ischemic Stroke Study
- Optimizing cerebral monitoring in acute ischaemic stroke and subarachnoid haemorrhage
- The BRIDGE study: Bridging pregnancy and fetal microchimerism with future female maternal cardiovascular and neurovascular health
- Inflammation in atherosclerosis and ischemic stroke; a biomarker study
- NORwegian prospective ultrasound study of CARotid RADiation-induced lesions in head and neck cancer patients (NOR-CARRAD)



Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Research Institute of Internal Medicine, OUH, Prof. Bente Halvorsen
- Dept of Transplantation Medicine, OUH, Prof. Johannes Hov
- Division of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, OUH, Prof. Annetine Staff
- Dept of Immunology, Proteomics Core Facility UiO, Prof. Tuula Nyman

International

- Greater Manchester Comprehensive Stroke Center, UK, Prof. Craig Smith
- University of Maastricht, Netherlands, Prof. Erik Biessen
- University of Calgary, Canada, Prof. Michel Hill
- Clinical Research Faculty, University of Manchester, Prof. Ben Parker

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Research Council of Norway
- The Foundation Dam

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 18

Selected publications:

Alternative complement pathway in carotid atherosclerosis: Low plasma properdin levels associate with long-term cardiovascular mortality. Louwe MC, Michelsen AE, Holm S, Edsfeldt A, Skagen K, Lekva T, Olsen MB, Bjerkeli V, Schjørlie T, Stø K, Kong XY, Dahl TB, Nilsson PH, Libby P, Aukrust P, Mollnes TE, Ueland T, Skjelland M, Goncalves I, Halvorsen B. J Am Heart Association, 2025.Feb4:14 (3). PMID:39868499

Postpartum levels of circulating fetal microchimeric cells are lower after early onset preeclampsia. Jacobsen DP, Fjeldstad HE, Olsen MB, Sugulle M, Schjørlie T, Skjelland M, Halvorsen B, Staff AC. J Reprod Immunol, 2025 Dec 172. PMID: 40957384

Carotid intima-media Thickness may be an early biomarker for cardiovascular risk in patients treated with ketogenic dietary therapy. Haavardsholm K, Zamani M, Skjelland M, Ramm-Petersen A, Skagen K. Epilepsia Open. 2025 Dec;10 (6). PMID:41026111



Oslo Stroke Clinical Research Group



Group Leader

Else Charlotte Sandset, Consultant Neurologist, OUH
(else@sandset.net)

Senior Researcher, The Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation and UiO

Group members

- Maren Ranhoff Hov, MD, PhD
- Karianne Larsen, MD, PhD
- Rajiv Advani, MD, PhD
- Guri Hagberg MD, PhD
- Kristian Lundsgaard Kraglund, MD, PhD
- Lasse Ormel, MD, PhD
- Mona Guterud, paramedic, post doc
- Lars Alteheld, MD
- Helge Fagerheim Bugge MD, Post doc
- Kim Schulz, PhD-Student
- Helle Eilertsen, MD, PhD-student
- Vilde Teigene Måløy, PhD student

Affiliated members

- Hannah Bekkeseth, MD, PhD student (Sykehuset Innlandet)
- Annette Huuse Farmen, MD, PhD (Sykehuset Innlandet)
- Kathika Dehli Kurz, MD; PhD (Stavanger Universitetssykehus)
- Svenja Skansem, MD, PhD student (Helse Fonna)
- Pål Morberg (SNLA/Sykehuset i Vestfold)
- Håkon Ihle-Hansen (Vestre Viken)
- Jørgen Ibsen, (Vestre Viken)
- Dag Ferner Netteland (NK)
- Espen Saxhaug Kristoffersen (AHUS)
- Karoline Skogen (KRN)
- Silje Holt Jahr (AHUS)
- Ingrid Hustad (SNLA)

Study nurses/coordinators

- Maren Hauge
- Mia Dagsvik



Research profile and aims

The aim of the research group is to improve care in all points of the stroke treatment chains. All projects should have direct implications for clinical practice.

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Research Council of Norway
- The Foundation Dam
- SNLA, Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

The highlight of 2025 was the start of the Safe Intravenous Thrombolysis Factor Xa study (SIFT) with Dr Guri Hagberg as the principal investigator. We completed the OCEANIC Stroke study, with Kristian Kraglund as the PI and Else Charlotte Sandset as the National Coordinator and Steering Committee member.

Maren Ranhoff Hov completed her visiting fellowship in Australia, establishing strong collaboration with the Australian Stroke Alliance. We have multiple innovative projects planned regarding prehospital stroke detection and diagnostics. We are continuing our focus on developing and improving care at all points in the stroke care pathway, and in that regard, we have started observational pilot studies on the use of Optic Nerve Sheath Diameter measurements in acute stroke patients in our neuro-intermediate care. Furthermore, we completed a study on transcranial ultrasound in the helicopter.

Else Charlotte Sandset chaired the Scientific Committee at the European Stroke Organisation Conference, and the group members were represented in both the invited and the scientific part of the programme. Helle Eilertsen presented the results of STATICH study in the final plenary session. Helle Eilertsen, Silje Holt Jahr and Else Charlotte Sandset contributed to the ESO/EANS guidelines on intracerebral haemorrhage.

Selected publications:

Ibsen J, Hov MR, Tokerud GE, Fuglum J, Linnerud Krogstad M, Stugaard M, Ihle-Hansen H, Lund CG, Hall C. Prehospital computed tomography in a rural district for rapid diagnosis and treatment of stroke. *Eur Stroke J.* 2025 Mar;10(1):84-91. doi: 10.1177/23969873241267084. Epub 2024 Sep 28. PMID: 39340436; PMCID: PMC11556544.

Fagerheim Bugge H, Guterud M, Larsen K, Toft M, Hov MR, Sandset EC. Presenting symptoms and diagnostic accuracy of prehospital stroke scales for patients with suspected mild minor stroke. *Eur Stroke J.* 2025 Aug 11:23969873251360592. doi: 10.1177/23969873251360592. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40785620; PMCID: PMC12339492. 2024 May 16;390(19):1745-1755. doi:





10.1056/NEJMoa2313040

Steiner T, Purruker JC, Aguiar de Sousa D, Apostolaki-Hansson T, Beck J, Christensen H, Cordonnier C, Downer MB, Eilertsen H, Gartly R, Gerner ST, Ho L, Holt Jahr S, Klijn CJ, Martinez-Majander N, Orav K, Petersson J, Raabe A, Sandset EC, Schreuder FH, Seiffge D, Al-Shahi Salman R. European Stroke Organisation (ESO) and European Association of Neurosurgical Societies (EANS) guideline on stroke due to spontaneous intracerebral haemorrhage. *Eur Stroke J.* 2025 Dec;10(4):1007-1086. doi: 10.1177/23969873251340815. Epub 2025 May 22. PMID: 40401775; PMCID: PMC12098356.



Headache and Stroke



Group Leader

Anne Hege Aamodt, MD/PhD, FEAN, FESO

Professor, Senior Consultant, Dept of Neurology, OUH, Rikshospitalet,
NorHEAD, Department of Neuroscience and Movement Science, NTNU,
Institute of Population Health, Faculty of Health and Life Sciences, University of
Liverpool, UK

a.h.aamodt@medisin.uio.no / anhaam@oushf.no /

anne.hege.aamodt@ntnu.no

Group members

- Marion Boldingh, MD, PhD, postdoc
- Brian Enriquez, MD, PhD defence 30 October
- Stephen Ryan, MD, PhD defence 4 June
- Thor Skattør, MD, PhD defence 18 June, post doc thereafter
- Barbara Ratajczak-Tretel, MD, PhD
- Jesper Sørmark, MD, PhD student
- Anna Tancinova Lambert, MD, PhD defence 22 June, senior researcher thereafter
- Burcu Bezgal, MD, PhD student
- Linn Heitmann, MD, PhD student
- Jon André Totland, MD, PhD student
- Siv Pigniatello, MD, PhD student
- Ansar Roy, research nurse
- Christina Kefaloykos, research nurse
- Helle Skalleberg, research nurse
- Kristine Jacobsen, research nurse
- Marcus Boateng, medical student
- Silvia Allegretta, Department of Psychology, NTNU
- Rikke Puggaard, University of Copenhagen

Research profile and aims

Our research aims to conduct high-quality translational and clinical research within cerebrovascular diseases and headache disorders, generating new knowledge and improving diagnostics, treatment, and long-term outcomes for patients with stroke and headache. The research integrates clinical trials, advanced neuroimaging, biomarkers, artificial intelligence, and precision medicine approaches in close collaboration between clinical and research environments. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, the group has also been involved in clinical trials and studies on neurological complications.



Main research areas:

- Reperfusion therapy, neuroprotection, and precision medicine in acute ischemic stroke
- Atrial fibrillation, inflammation, and cryptogenic stroke
- Artificial intelligence(AI) and advanced imaging in stroke diagnostics
- Visual impairment and visual pathway dysfunction after stroke
- Moyamoya angiopathy and cerebral vascular disorders
- Headache disorders and novel migraine treatment
- Neurological complications following COVID-19

Ongoing projects

- 2026 – 2029; Basel University Hospital-Treat-CAD. Role : National lead (NL)
- 2026 – 2029; Aarhus UH – Euro-CBI: Role.NL
- 2025 – 2029; OUH-ILLUMINATE trial. Role: Coordinating Investigator (CI). Funder: HSØ 9 M NOK. Novo Nordisk 16 M NOK. Unifor Univ. Of Oslo 1.2 M.
- 2024 – 2027; OUH; NorMig, placebo-controlled RCT testing dual therapy with CGRP monoclonal antibodies and onabotulinumtoxin. Role: CI. Funder: HSØ 9 M NOK. HN:3.2 M NOK
- 2023; Cerebriu, Denmark – AQWUS – Automatic quantification of Wake-Up Stroke. Role: Partner, contribution with images and clinical data from OSCAR. Collaboration with CRAI, OUH.
- 2021 – 2026; OUH; AI-STROKE: Optimizing Acute Ischemic Stroke Diagnostics Using Artificial Intelligence Study. Norwegian multi-centre observational study. Role: Project leader.
- 2020 – 2026; OUH; Ten CRAOS, RCT of tenecteplase in CRAO, 8 participating countries in Europe and Australia. Role: Project leader.
- 2020 – 2026; OUH; the Norwegian study of Nervous System manifestations and sequelae in COVID-19 (NeuroCOVID). Role: Project leader.
- 2020 – 2026; OUH; StrokeVIS. Observational single-centre study of visual impairment after stroke. Role: Project leader.
- 2017 – 2024; OUH; NOR-FIB 2, The Norwegian Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke Study. Role: Project leader.
- 2026 OUH; NOR-FIB Follow-up study, The Nordic Atrial Fibrillation and Stroke Study. Multi-centre observational study, 256 patients in Norway, Sweden and Denmark. Role: Project leader.
- 2015-; OUH; OSCAR Oslo Acute Reperfusion Stroke Study. 1200 EVT patients at OUH. Role: Project leader.
- 2015-; OUH; OSCAR Oslo Acute Reperfusion Stroke Study. 1200 EVT patients at OUH. Role: Project leader.





Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Dept of Cardiology, OUH, Prof. Dan Atar
- Research Institute of Internal Medicine, OUH, Prof. Bente Halvorsen
- Dept of Ophthalmology, OUH, Prof. Morten Carstens Moe
- Dept of Neurology, St. Olavs Hospital/Dept of Neuromedicine and Movement Science, NTNU, Erling Tronvik
- Dept of Neurology, Haukeland University Hospital, Prof. Øivind Torkildsen, Marte Bjørk
- Dept of Behavioural Medicine, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, UiO, and Psychosomatic and C-L psychiatry, adult, Div. of Mental Health and Addiction, OUH, Prof. Birgitte Boye
- Dept of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, Prof. Mona Beyer, Computational Radiology and Artificial Intelligence, Prof. Atle Bjørnerud
- Dept of Clinical Medicine, The Arctic University of Norway, A/Prof. Agnethe Eltoft

International

- University of Calgary, Canada, Prof. Mayank Goyal, Michael Hill
- University of Copenhagen, Denmark, A/Prof. Thomas C. Truelsen
- Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark, Prof. Claus Z. Simonsen
- Helsinki University Hospital, Finland, A/Prof. Petra Ijäs
- Karolinska University Hospital, Sweden, A/Prof. Michael Mazya
- National Hospital for Neurology and Neurosurgery, University College London Hospital, UK, Prof. Manjit Matharu
- Danish Headache Centre, Prof. Henrik Schytz
- Besta Neurological Institute, Milan, Italy, Prof. Anna Bersano
- Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf, Germany, Prof. Götz Thomalla

Funding

- Klinbeforsk
- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Research Council of Norway
- The Foundation Dam
- Odd Fellow
- EU grants
- Nasjonalforeningen





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 10

Selected publications:

Broocks G, , Bendszus M, Simonsen CZ, Thomalla G, Gizewski ER, Aamodt AH, Krajina A, Pierot L, Zelenák K, Fuentes B, Hill MD, Kemmling A, Vandewalle L, Wouters A, Lemmens R, Demeestere J, Gellißen S, Fiehler J, Meyer L, Knip H. Edema Reduction Mediates Thrombectomy Benefit in Large Core Stroke: Secondary Analysis of the TENSION Trial. *Eur Stroke J* 2026; In press

Ryan SJ, Jørstad AKEL, Moe MC, Skjelland ME, Rowe FJ, Jørstad ØK, **Aamodt AH** Validation of the Vision Impairment Screening Assessment (VISA) in Acute Stroke Care: A Prospective Diagnostic Accuracy Study. *Eur Stroke J* 2026; In Press

Sarraj A, Thomalla G, Yoshimura S, Huo X, Costalat V, Zaidat OO, Arquizan C, Johns H, Yogendrakumar V, Churilov L, Pujara D, Sitton CW, Liebeskind DS, Inoue M, Majoie C, Beenen L, Abdulrazzak MA, Chaturvedi A, Singh S, Parsons MW, Denis A, Sakai N, Nguyen TN, Albucher JF, Kasab SA, Hassan AE, Abraham M, Rai A, Henon H, Sun D, Yamagami H, Subtil F, Bonekamp S, Uchida K, Yuan G, Gory B, Smith W, Ortega-Gutierrez S, Blackburn S, Sheth SA, Marnat G, Liu L, Shirakawa M, Fiehler J, Jensen M, Shindo S, Nogueira RG, Grandhi R, Jabbour P, Hussain MS, Dippel D, Wang Y, Yazawa Y, Simonsen CZ, Wang Y, Chen M, Hill MD, Grotta JC, Lapergue B, Jovin TG, Yoo AJ, Bendszus M, Campbell BCV, Morimoto T, Miao Z; ATLAS Investigators. Endovascular thrombectomy for patients with large-core ischaemic stroke presenting up to 24 h after onset (ATLAS): a systematic review and individual patient data meta-analysis with central imaging adjudication. Aamodt AH in the TENSION Study Group. *Lancet*. 2026 May 7:S0140-6736(26)00876-7. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(26)00876-7. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 42107392.



ERGO - Epilepsy Research Group of Oslo



Group Leader for ERGO and Translational Epilepsy Research

Kjell Heuser, Senior Consultant, Dept. of Neurology, OUH
(kheuser@ous-hf.no)



Group Leader for Ergo and Clinical Epilepsy Research

Erik Taubøll, Professor, Dept. of Neurology, OUH and UiO
(erik.tauboll@medisin.uio.no) /OUH (erik.tauboll@ous-hf.no)

Group Members

- Kjell Heuser, Senior Consultant, **Group leader**; translational epilepsy research, **from March 2025, Group leader of Ergo.**
- Erik Taubøll, Senior Consultant, Professor. **Team leader ERGO and Group leader for Clinical Epilepsy Research until March 2025.**
- Dag Aurlen, Senior Consultant, PhD, Stavanger. **Project Leader**; epilepsy and cardiology
- Jon Andreas Næsgaard, PhD fellow, translational epilepsy research
- Cecilie Gjessing Nome, PhD candidate, TLE/translation, ERGO-Letten Research Center
- Monika Mochol, MD, PhD, postdoc (combined with NCMBM)
- Sigrid Svalheim, Senior consultant, PhD, Long-term side effects of ASMs
- Toni Berger, MD, PhD, specialty registrar
- Alba Gonzalez; MD, PhD fellow; Epilepsy and cardiology
- Helle Hermann, Senior Consultant, MD, PhD; deep brain stimulation for epilepsy
- Line Sveberg, Consultant, PhD; Women and epilepsy/autoimmune epilepsy
- Ketil Berg Olsen, Senior Consultant; Status epilepticus
- Line Bedos Ulvin, Senior Consultant, PhD fellow; Status epilepticus
- Hild F. Sødal, Senior Consultant, PhD fellow; post-traumatic epilepsy project
- Agnes Balint Bjørke, MD, PhD fellow, TLE project
- Ylva Østby, Neuropsychologist, TLE project
- Maren Ranhoff Hov, MD, PhD, MD PhD, Dep Neurology and Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation, The Prehospital seizure control – PreCtrl - study
- Ingrid Hustad, MD, PhD fellow, Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation, The Prehospital seizure control – PreCtrl - study
- Morten Horn, The Prehospital seizure control – PreCtrl – study, Status epilepticus registries
- Sofie Bloch Mangaard, PhD fellow, Status Epilepticus, Odense University Hospital, Denmark
- Andrea Bolle, PhD fellow, Status Epilepticus, Odense University Hospital, Denmark

Associate Group Members

- Rune Enger, Head of Letten Research Center, Institute of Basic Medical Science, UiO
- Bjørnar Hassel, Department of Neurohabilitation, UiO/OUH
- Leif Gjerstad, MD/PhD Prof. emeritus, OUH/UiO
- Pål Gunnar Larsson, Department of Neurosurgery, OUH



Research profile and aims

ERGO has been active in epilepsy research for about 25 years and consists of two groups. Ergo is now lead by Kjell Heuser, who has taken over after Erik Taubøll in spring 2025. The group has two main research areas:

- Translational Epilepsy Research. Group leader Kjell Heuser
- Clinical Epilepsy Research. Group leader Erik Taubøll

The many research projects are closely linked and are therefore referred to collectively.

ERGO focuses on:

- Neuron-glia interactions and brain hyperexcitability. Investigating how astrocytes and other glial cells regulate neuronal networks and contribute to brain hyperexcitability and epileptic
- Epileptogenesis and molecular mechanisms of epilepsy Studying genetic, epigenetic, and transcriptional changes during the transition from a healthy brain to chronic epilepsy.
- Status epilepticus and neuroprotection. Clinical and translational research focused on mechanisms of neuronal injury, predictors of outcome, and strategies for effective seizure termination.
- Innovative technologies for seizure prediction and control. Developing advanced experimental systems combining imaging, electrophysiology, and artificial intelligence to detect and prevent seizures.

Short description of our focus areas

Astrocyte-driven Brain Hyperexcitability as a Novel Treatment Target for Epilepsy

GliaLab/Letten Centre, Institute of Basic Medical Sciences, University of Oslo, combining expertise in epilepsy research and advanced in vivo imaging

AI-driven Optogenetic Closed-loop Seizure Control

This project aims to develop experimental systems capable of predicting and interrupting seizures in real time. Approximately one third of patients with epilepsy remain resistant to current treatments, motivating the development of new technological approaches.

We are developing a **closed-loop seizure control system** integrating neuronal recordings, calcium imaging of neurons and astrocytes, and machine-learning algorithms to detect early signatures of seizure activity. When predictive patterns are detected, the system triggers optogenetic stimulation to suppress seizure activity. This work combines **Neuropixels recordings, mini-two-photon microscopy, and artificial intelligence-based signal analysis**, and is conducted in collaboration with the **GliaLab at the University of Oslo**.





Status Epilepticus: Mechanisms, Prognosis, and Neuroprotection

Status epilepticus is a life-threatening neurological emergency associated with significant morbidity and mortality. Our group conducts both **clinical and experimental research** aimed at improving understanding and treatment of this condition.

Clinical projects focus on **predictors of outcome, treatment strategies, and long-term prognosis**, often through multicenter collaborations and international research networks.

Parallel experimental studies investigate mechanisms of neuronal injury during prolonged seizures, particularly the role of neuroinflammation and age-related vulnerability of the brain. The overall goal is to develop **brain-protective treatment strategies and improve early seizure termination**.

Is epilepsy a progressive disease ?

The Pro-TLE study is a prospective longitudinal study investigating whether temporal lobe epilepsy represents a progressive neurological disorder. Patients with newly diagnosed temporal lobe epilepsy undergo detailed clinical, neuropsychological, and MRI examinations at diagnosis and are followed for up to ten years. The project aims to identify long-term structural and functional brain changes and predictors of disease progression. We also focus on progressive cognitive and behavioral changes during epileptogenesis in this patient group.

These data provide important insights into the natural history of epilepsy and may help guide treatment strategies and long-term patient management.

Genetics, Epigenetics, and Molecular Mechanisms of Epileptogenesis

This research theme investigates molecular mechanisms underlying the development of epilepsy. Using experimental models and high-throughput transcriptomic approaches, we study gene expression and epigenetic regulation during epileptogenesis.

Recent work from our group generated **a stage-resolved neuron–glia transcriptional atlas of epileptogenesis**, revealing a temporal shift from early neuronal stress responses to chronic glial inflammatory and remodeling processes.

These findings highlight the central role of glial cells in sustaining epileptic networks and identify potential molecular targets for **antiepileptogenic therapies**.

Mechanisms of epileptogenesis and effects of anti-seizure drugs studied in zebrafish

Studies of the effect of various anti-seizure drugs on gene expression related to immune genes in zebrafish have recently been completed. Further studies of mechanisms involved in epileptogenesis and the effect of both different antiseizure medications (ASMs) and anti-inflammatory drugs on these processes in zebrafish are starting up in the end of 2025. This is a collaboration between the Epilepsy Research Group in Oslo ERGO, OUS, and Norwegian Centre for Molecular Medicine (NCMM), UiO Project leaders are Monika Mochoł, Camila Esguerra (NCMM), Erik Taubøll (ERGO).





Traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic epilepsy

Possible predictive values of various clinical, genetic and inflammatory parameters, measured immediately after traumatic brain injuries are studied. Defining a prognostic factor or score already immediately after trauma will have major clinical implications. This is a joint project with groups primarily in the USA and Italy.

In addition, studies have been carried out on early post-traumatic seizures based on databases at the Department of Neurosurgery, and studies based on the national trauma registry in recent years. Project leaders are Hild Flatmark Sødal (ERGO, Department of Neurology-OUH), Erik Taubøll (ERGO, Department of Neurology-OUH) and Eirik Helseth (Department of Neurosurgery-OUH).

Prehospital seizure control – PreCtrl

The purpose is to describe pre-hospital treatment of patients with seizures to subsequently standardize national guidelines and improve time to control in acute and pre-hospital seizure management. We also plan to implement a new model for standardizing competence, communication and treatment for prehospital seizure assessment. This is a collaboration with the Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation and Division for pre-hospital services, OUS. Project leader is Maren Ranhoff Hov, Erik Taubøll and Morten Horn from ERGO are co-supervisors for this project.

Other fields of interest

The group is also involved in projects related to epilepsy and cognitive impairment, ketogenic diet and in a project related to the introduction of digital communication between patients and healthcare personnel. Individual researchers are also involved in other studies, with their own collaboration partners nationally and internationally. In addition to these main areas, the group also has interests in epilepsy and endocrinology, women and epilepsy, ketogenic diet, epilepsy and dementia, and genetics in epilepsy.

Most important national and international collaborators

The Epilepsy Research Group of Oslo (ERGO) maintains extensive national and international collaborations spanning clinical epileptology, basic neuroscience, and translational research.

Locally, we collaborate closely with **GliaLab and the Letten Centre at the Institute for Basic Molecular Sciences, University of Oslo**, which provide expertise in astrocyte biology and advanced in vivo imaging. Through the Status Epilepticus Forum we have international collaborators include research groups at **Odense University Hospital (Denmark), Frankfurt and Marburg (Germany), the University of Gothenburg (Sweden), the University of Helsinki (Finland), the University of Bonn (Germany)**. We are also part of the **ILAE Consortium on Complex Epilepsies**, and **PI of the Sense II /AROUSE study**, a large **European registry study** collecting real-world data on status epilepticus to improve treatment strategies and patient outcomes. Through these collaborations and participation in international networks and multicenter studies, including status epilepticus registries and collaborative projects, we aim to advance understanding and treatment of epilepsy and status epilepticus.





National

- Institute of Basic Medical Science, UiO (GliaLab)
- NORMENT
- Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation
- National Centre for Epilepsy
- Stavanger University Hospital
- Østfold Hospital Trust

International

- Odense University Hospital, University of Southern Denmark, Denmark
- Frankfurt, Marburg, Bonn (Germany)
- University of Gothenburg (Sweden)
- University of Helsinki (Finland)
- IRCCS – Mario Negi Institute for Pharmacological Research, Milan, Italy
- CURE program (USA)

ERGO is also part of :

- ILAE Consortium on Complex Epilepsies
- European SE registries and multicenter studies

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Ph.D. dissertations:

Cand.med. Line Bédos Ulvin. Dissertation for phd 27.11.25, University of Oslo. “Recent trends in status epilepticus – with a special focus on outcome prediction and diagnosis”. Main supervisor Kjell Heuser.

Organisation of international congresses

Our research group organized the 3rd Nordic Status Epilepticus Meeting in Oslo, 22-23 May, 2025 with over 100 in-person and over 200 digital participants from 20 countries.

Peer-reviewed original research articles: 4

Abstracts, national/international: 3

International reviews: 0

National publications: 2

Selected publications

Sødal HF, Balosso S, Vezzani A, Pasetto L, Bonetto V, Columburo SF, McCarter R, Mc Carter R, Helseth E, Taubøll E, Klein P. Inflammatory proteins as acute biomarkers of post-traumatic epilepsy. *Front Neurol.* 2025;16:1720112. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2025.1720112.





Cornwall CD, Kristensen SB, Ulvin LB, Heuser K, Taubøll E, Strzelczyk A, Knake S, Rosenow F, Beier CP. Trajectories of long-term survival after status epilepticus.2695. *Epilepsia*. 2025 Aug;66(8):2790-2802. doi: 10.1111/epi.18428.

Shirzadi M, Farmen AH, Dahl-Hansen E, Kolstad E, Revdal E, Skogan AH, Heuser K, Aaberg KM. Oppdatert anfallsklassifikasjon for epilepsi. *Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen*. 2025 Dec 28;145(1). doi: 10.4045/tidsskr.25.0585.

Speakers at international congresses

Erik Taubøll. What is the relationship between reproductive hormones and epilepsy? Sex and hormonal influences on seizures and epilepsy. In: Controversial discussion session 5. 36th International Epilepsy Congress, Lisbon, August 31, 2025

Erik Taubøll. Gender aspects in the treatment of complex epilepsy. In: 2nd Nordic Masterclass on Epilepsy 2025. "Treatment of complex epilepsies". Copenhagen, September 18, 2025.

Erik Taubøll. Effect of Seizures and Epilepsy on the Reproductive Endocrine System. IN: AES-NINDS Epilepsy Benchmark Symposium, Area IV: Comorbidities of Epilepsy – Where Are We and Where Will We Go? American Epilepsy Society Meeting, Dec 7, 2025.

Kjell Heuser. What makes seizures stop? - a superficial look into the molecular basis of seizure termination. 3rd Nordic Status Epilepticus meeting, Oslo, May 2025

Ingrid Hustad. How can prehospital seizure management be improved? From protocols to implementation. The preCTRL study. 3rd Nordic Status Epilepticus meeting, Oslo, May 2025

Morten Horn. The need for a standardized measure for acute treatment. The concept of TTC; time to control. 3rd Nordic Status Epilepticus meeting, Oslo, May 2025

Hild Flatmark Sjødal. Biomarkers to predict early and late posttraumatic seizures after traumatic brain injuries. 3rd Nordic Status Epilepticus meeting, Oslo, May 2025

Sofie Bloch Mangaard, Odense-Oslo. The interplay between age, inflammation and neuronal damage in SE. Consequences for treatment? 3rd Nordic Status Epilepticus meeting, Oslo, May 2025





Funding

- One phd candidate and 1 50% postdoc from South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- UiO – NCMM and Østfold Hospital Trust, 1 postdoc (50%)
- Internal, OUH, 2 PhD (1 clin stip, 1 D-position)
- Norwegian Air Ambulance Foundation, 1 PhD (collaboration ; NAAF and ERGO)
- Lundbeck foundation

See our website for updated information: [OUH - ERGO - Dept of Neurology](#)



Multiple Sclerosis (MS) – Clinical and epidemiological MS-studies



Group Leader

Elisabeth Gulowsen Celius, Professor and Consultant of Neurology (MD/PhD),
Department of Neurology, OUH and Institute of Clinical Medicine, UiO
(e.g.celius@medisin.uio.no/ uxelgu@ous-hf.no)

Group members

- Elisabeth Gulowsen Celius, MD/PhD, Professor, Dept of Neurology, OUH/UiO
- Pål Berg-Hansen, MD/PhD, Consultant, Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Cecilia Smith Simonsen, MD/PhD, Dept of Neurology, Drammen Hospital
- Heidi Øyen Flemmen, MD/PhD fellow, Consultant, Skien Hospital/OUH
- Line Broch, MD, PhD fellow, Consultant, Drammen Hospital/OUH
- Kamilla Brekke, MD, PhD fellow, Sykehuset Vestfold / UiO
- Harald Myklebust, MD, PhD fellow, Drammen hospital/UiO
- Anne Høgset, MD, Dept of Neurology, OUH/UiO
- Anna Bjerkreim, MD/PhD, Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Erik Grønnestad, MD, Dept of Neurology, OUH

Associated Group Members

- Piotr Sowa, MD/PhD, Consultant, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Elaine Nilsen, MD, Consultant, Department of Radiology, Drammen Hospital
- Lars Skattebøl, MD, PhD-student, Dept of Neurology OUH
- Wibeke Nordhøy, PhD, Dept of Radiology, OUH
- Marte Wendel- Haga, MD/PhD, Consultant Kysthospitalet and Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Tone Berge, PhD, professor, Dept of Neurology, OUH and Oslo Met
- Chiara Capelletti, PhD, Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Binyam Bungudo, PhD, Postdoc, NTNU

We are working closely together with all the members of the other MS subgroups.

This year we have had one student connected to our subgroup, writing student thesis:

- Anniken K. Jørgensen, medical student (Celius)

Research profile and aims

This research group at the Department of Neurology, OUH and UiO, aims to identify characteristics and susceptibility factors of MS, and to contribute to a better understanding of the disease and development of better treatments. We perform genetic, immunological, clinical, epidemiological, environmental, MRI and translational studies of MS in collaboration with national and international research partners and networks.



Ongoing projects

- The BOT-project. Epidemiology in Buskerud, Oslo, Telemark and Vestfold.
- Age-MS. HSØ funded project on ageing in MS. Cecilia Smith Simonsen, Line Broch, Anne Høgset, Anne Bjerkreim, Elaine Nilssen, Lars Skattebøl
- Line Broch, PhD: Fatigue in Multiple Sclerosis. PostDoc project
- Kamilla Brekke, PhD: Multiple sclerosis and aging – a real world, population-based cohort study. Supervisor: Cecilia Smith Simonsen, Elisabeth G. Celius, Brit A Blaauw
- Harald Myklebust, PhD: Multiple sclerosis and cognition. Supervisor: Cecilia Smith Simonsen, Elisabeth G. Celius
- Anne Høgset: Socioeconomic factors in MS. Supervisor: Elisabeth G. Celius, Cecilia Smith Simonsen
- Cecilia Smith Simonsen, Line Broch, Heidi Ø. Flemmen, Chiara Cappelletti, Lars Skattebøl, Einar Høgestøl, Ina Brorson, Tone Berge: Menopause in MS.
- Anna Bjerkheim and Lars Skattebøl: Cerebrovaskulær sykdom ved Multipel Sklerose
- Erik Grønnestad og Elisabeth G. Celius: Blærefunksjon ved MS. Samarbeid med Henriette Veiby Holm, Urol.avd.,RH og Thomas Glott, Sunnaas.
- Hanne F. Harbo, Steffan D. Bos, Pål Berg-Hansen, Tone Berge, Elisabeth G Celius, Mona Beyer, Einar A. Høgestøl, Synne Brune, Goran Petrovski, Dragana Drobnjak Nes, Sigrid Aune de Rodez Benavent: MultipleMS - partner in EU Horizon 2020-project (Harbo Oslo PI)
- Einar A. Høgestøl, Hanne F. Harbo, Dan Rinker, Elisabeth Celius, Piotr Sowa, Mona K Beyer: MAGNIMS collaboration on various MRI projects
- Elisabeth G. Celius: Lemtrada PASS, international observational study (Sanofi). EGC national investigator
- Elisabeth G. Celius: CLAD Cross, an international study on switch to cladribine (Merck). EGC member of steering group and national investigator.
- Elisabeth G. Celius, Pål Berg-Hansen, Åshild Skardhamar, Lars Skattebøl, Elisabeth Gjefsen , Ingrid Anne Lie and Synne Brune: HERCULES – an international trial of tolebrutinib (Sanofi). EGC PI.
- Elisabeth G. Celius, Pål Berg-Hansen: Observasjonsstudie ofatumumab ved MS(COMB). Novartis. EGC national investigator
- Anti-CD20 - cladribine switch. Observation study led by prof Gobi, Switzerland in collaboration with Prof. Fredrik Pihl, Karolinska, Stockholm and Prof. Elisabeth G. Celius, OUH. EGC national investigator.
- Elisabeth G. Celius, Paul Lillrank, Aalto University and Ragnhild Halvorsrud, SINTEF: PATHWAY: A toolkit for managing and communicating patient pathways
- Gro O. Nygaard, Hanne F Harbo and Oslo MS Research Group: NOR-MS. Norwegian multicenter study of cladribine and rituximab (NOR-MS)
- Tilde H. Rasmussen, Gro O. Nygaard, Marton König, Elisabeth Gulowsen Celius, Hanne F Harbo, Ingeborg Aaberge (FHI), Audun Aase (FHI), Åslaug R Lorentzen (SSHF), Lars L Skattebøl: Vaccine responses in MS patients





Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Rigmor Lundby, Piotr Sowa, Wibeke Nordhøy, Div. of Radiology and Nuclear Med., OUH
- Øivind Torkildsen, Stig Wergeland and Jan Aarseth, Haukeland University Hospital
- Heidi Ormstad, Universitet Sør-Øst/OsloMet
- Kristina Gervin and Kaja Selmer, FoU dept, Div of Clinical Neuroscience, OUH
- Ragnhild Halvorsrud, SINTEF
- Henriette Veiby Holm, Urol.,
- Thomas Glott, Sunnaas Hospital
- Rune Høglund, Ahus and UiO

International

- Ingrid Kockum, on behalf of the MultipleMS consortium
- Mara Rocca and Rosa Cortese, on behalf of the MAGNIMS consortium
- The International MS Genetics Consortium
- Stephen Sawcer, University of Cambridge, UK
- Sergio E. Baranzini, University of California, San Francisco, US
- Nordic MS genetics consortium (Hillert, Olsson, Kockum, Oturai, Sørensen, Saareala)
- Tobias Granberg, Fredrick Piehl, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
- Paul Lillrank, Aalto University, Finland

Funding

- The Research Council of Norway
- University of Oslo
- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority grant
- Vestre Viken Hospital
- Odd Fellow Foundation
- Oslo MS foundation
- National MS Society of Norway
- Sykehuset i Vestfold
- Legeforeningens kvalitetsfond

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 9

Selected publications:

Simonsen CS, Moen MH, Celius EG.: Lower threshold for hormone therapy in women with multiple sclerosis. Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen. 2025 Apr 17;145. doi: 10.4045/tidsskr.25.0070.

Simonsen CS, Flemmen HØ, Broch L, Brekke K, Myklebust H, Berg-Hansen P, Brunborg C, Celius EG.: Reduced childbirth rates in multiple sclerosis from the prodromal phase: Evidence from a population-based cohort study. Mult Scler. 2025 Apr;31(4):398-407. doi: 10.1177/13524585251315077.





Simonsen CS, Flemmen HØ, Broch L, Myklebust H, Berg-Hansen P, Brunborg C, Celius EG.: The influence of menopause on multiple sclerosis. Eur J Neurol. 2025 Jan;32(1):e16566. doi: 10.1111/ene.16566.

Invited lectures at international congresses:

Several national and international meetings and conferences

Social Media; Facebook: «Multippel Sklerose Forskningsgruppen Oslo»



Multiple sclerosis (MS) - Therapeutic trials and vaccine studies



Group Leader

Gro Owren Nygaard, Researcher and Consultant of Neurology (MD/PhD),
Department of Neurology, OUH and UiO (g.o.nygaard@medisin.uio.no /
uxgryg@ous-hf.no)

Group members

- Marton König, MD/PhD, Postdoc and Consultant, OUH
- Einar August Høgestøl, MD/PhD, Researcher and Resident, Dept of Neurology, OUH, Associate Professor Dept of Psychology, UiO
- Lars L. Skattebøl, MD/PhD fellow, Resident, Dept of Neurology, OUH, UiO
- Mathias H. Øverås, MD/PhD fellow, Resident, Dept of Neurology, OUH, UiO
- Synne Johannesen, Study nurse, Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Tilde Harriðsleff Rasmussen, MD/PhD fellow, Dept of Neurology, OUH, UiO
- Piotr Sowa, MD/PhD, Consultant, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Rigmor Lundby, MD/PhD, Consultant, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Marte Wendel-Haga, MD/PhD, Consultant Kysthospitalet and Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Line Fjærvoll Sundland, MD/PhD fellow, SØK and Dept of Neurology, OUH, UiO

Associated Group Members*

- Mona K Beyer, MD/PhD, Professor, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine UiO/OUH
- Elisabeth Gulowsen Celius, MD/PhD, Professor, Dept of Neurology, OUH/UiO
- Hanne Flinstad Harbo, MD/PhD/MHA, Professor and Head of Dept of Neurology, OUH/UiO
- Tone Berge, MSc/PhD, Head of Section – Neuroscience Research Uni, FOU dept, OUH, Professor, OsloMet
- Nils Bolstad, MD/PhD, Head of tumor marker group, Division of clinical medicine, Dept of medical biochemistry, OUH
- Åge Winje Brustad, PhD student, Tumor marker group, Division of clinical medicine, Dept of medical biochemistry, OUH.
- Henning Hoel Rise, MSc/PhD fellow, Department of Neurology, OUH, UiO
- Dragoljub Blagojevic, MD/PhD fellow, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Eirik Sandvik Gulbrandsen (MSc), PhD fellow UiO, Dept. of FoU, OUH

*There is considerable overlap between the different MS research groups and most participants are members of more than one group

Research profile and aims

Therapeutic trials and vaccine studies in multiple sclerosis (MS) research group at the Department of Neurology, OUH and UiO, aims to perform clinical studies in close collaboration with basal scientists. This translational focus is maintained in all ongoing studies. We aim to contribute to better treatment of persons with MS and to a better understanding of the underlying mechanisms of the disease. We perform clinical, immunological, MRI and genetic studies of MS in collaboration with national and



international research partners and networks.

Ongoing projects

- NOR-MS: a national multicenter non-inferiority study of two highly efficient MS therapies; cladribine and rituximab (national coordinator)
- NevroVAX: a national study of immune responses to vaccines in persons with MS (founder, collaborator)
- OVERLORD MS: local PI and responsible for the primary endpoint of the national multicenter non-inferiority study of two highly efficient MS therapies (ocrelizumab and rituximab), lead from Haukeland University Hospital
- HMAS for MS at OUS: a prospective study of persons with MS treated with stem cell therapy at OUH (leader of expert group)
- NORSEMAN MS: clinical study randomizing progressive MS patients to NAD or placebo (local PI, not initiated)
- IMPROVE MS: 5 years extension of NOR-MS (HSØ scholarship, main supervisor, not initiated)
- IMPROVIZE MS: imaging chronic active lesions in MS (HSØ scholarship, co supervisor, not initiated)
- Back to the B-ginning: the source of pathogenic B cells in MS (HSØ scholarship, co supervisor, not initiated)
- epiNOR-MS: personalized MS treatment (DAM scholarship, co supervisor, initiated)
- Personalized rituximab-treatment (DAM scholarship, co supervisor, initiated)
- EBV-MS: partner in an EU Horizon project, with active role in WP2: clinical studies.

TAF0: collecting saliva from pwMS treated with MS (local PI)

TAF1: clinical study randomizing patients treated with natalizumab to placebo or Tenofovir Alafenamide Fumarate (TAF) as add-on treatment (local PI)

TAF2/TARGET MS: clinical study randomizing patients treated with cladribine to placebo or TAF as add on-treatment (planning stage) (international coordinator)

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Øivind Torkildsen, Prof Haukeland/UiB
- Kjell-Morten Myhr, Prof Haukeland/UiO
- Trygve Holmøy, Prof AHUS/UiO
- Fridtjof Lund-Johansen, Ludvig Munthe, Jon Torgils Waage, Dept of Immunology, OUH
- Siri Mjåland, Asia Wolf, FHI
- Trygve Bergeland, Kappa biosciences
- Johanna Gehin, David Warren Dept of Medical Biochemistry, OUH
- Andreas Lossius, Inst of Basic Medical Sciences, UiO
- Mona Beyer, Rigmor Lundby, Piotr Sowa, Atle

International

- Pablo Villoslada, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Spain, on behalf of the Sys4MS consortium
- Stephen Sawcer, University of Cambridge, UK
- Tobias Granberg, Fredrick Piehl, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
- Kaj Blennow and Henrik Zetterberg, Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Gothenburg, Sweden
- EBV-MS Consortium





Bjørnerud, Wibeke Nordhøy, Frode Tuvnes, Div. of
Radiology and Nuclear Med., OUH

- Trygve Holmøy, Dept of Neurology, Ahus
- Stig Wergeland and Jan Aarseth, Haukeland
University Hospital
- Åslaug Lorentzen, Stine Schikora-Rustad, Ingild
Leknes, Åse Mygland, Dept of Neurology, Hospital of
Southern Norway, Kristiansand
- Clinicians from collaborating hospitals in Tromsø,
Trondheim, Stavanger, Skien, Drammen, Tønsberg,
Lillehammer and Fredrikstad
- Lars Westlye and Esten, Dept of Psychology, UiO and
NORMENT, OUH
- Mathias Toft, Dept of Neurology, UiO/OUH
- John-Anker Zwart, FOU, OUH/UiO

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority (NOR-MS, Nevrovax post doc, IMPROVE MS (NOR-MS extension), IMPROVIZE MS (imaging, chronic active lesion))
- The Research Council of Norway (NOR-MS)
- University of Oslo (research position)
- Dam Foundation (Nevrovax PhD, epiNOR-MS, personalized MS treatment)
- Odd Fellow Foundation (NOR-MS, Nevrovax)
- Oslo MS foundation (NOR-MS)
- CEPI (Nevrovax)
- Kappa (Nevrovax)
- EU Horizon (EBV-MS)





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Berg Helland G, Gunnarsdottir G, **Sowa P**, Advani R (2025)
Mineralizing Microangiopathy Presenting as Pediatric Stroke: A Case Report
Case Rep Neurol, 18 (1), 62-68
DOI 10.1159/000549988, PubMed 41567702.

Bjaalie J, Løberg M, Haugaa K, Nebb H, **Harbo HF** (2025)
Innovation - the final leg in the research relay race
Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen, 145
DOI 10.4045/tidsskr.25.0553, PubMed 41292362

Bøen E, Myren S, **Wendel-Haga M**, Koht J, Svalheim S, Sveberg L, Doan TP, Andreassen O, Boye B, Elvsåshagen T (2025)
Funksjonell nevrologisk lidelse
Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen, 145 (9)
DOI 10.4045/tidsskr.24.0574, PubMed 40844349

Social Media; Facebook: «Multippel Sklerose Forskningsgruppen Oslo»



Multiple Sclerosis (MS) – Imaging studies



Group Leaders

Einar August Høgestøl, Associate Professor and Medical Specialist in Neurology, MD/PhD, Psychological Dept., UiO (einaan@uio.no) and Dept. of Neurology, OUH (until 14/10 -25) (eiaand@ous-hf.no) and Senior consultant, Dept. of Neurology, Akershus university hospital (since 15/10-25) (eiaand@ahus.no)

Group members

- Hanne Flinstad Harbo, MD/PhD/MHA, Professor & Consultant, Department of Neurology OUH, UiO
- Gro Owren Nygaard, MD/PhD, Consultant, Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Lars L. Skattebøl, MD/PhD fellow, Resident, Dept of Neurology, OUH, UiO
- Gisle Berg Helland, MD/PhD fellow, Department of Neurology, OUH
- Henning Hoel Rise, MSc/PhD fellow, Department of Neurology, OUH, UiO
- Dragoljub Blagojevic, MD/PhD fellow, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH

Associated Group Members

- Piotr Sowa, MD/PhD, Consultant, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Rigmor Lundby, MD/PhD, Consultant, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Mona K Beyer, MD/PhD, Professor, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine UiO/OUH
- Wibeke Nordhøy, PhD, Physicist, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Synne Brune, MD/PhD fellow, Resident, Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Liv L Furevik, MD/PhD fellow, Consultant, Division of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH

This year we have had three medical students connected to our group, writing student theses:

- Daniel Aakhus, UiO (Høgestøl, Beyer)
- Temin Pasic & Torstein Bueide (Høgestøl, Rise)

* There is considerable overlap between the different MS research groups and most participants are members of more than one group

Research profile and aims

The research group “Imaging studies of MS” at OUH and UiO, aims to integrate imaging studies in our ongoing translational projects. We aim to investigate new advanced imaging methods to exploit the vast data incorporated in the MRI scans that our study participants undergo. We have our own MRI lab at Domus Medica 4 at Gaustad for advanced processing of MRI data. Our aim is to help establish new imaging biomarkers for improved precision medicine in MS care.



Ongoing projects

We have several ongoing projects where we collaborate extensively with local and international partners. We are, furthermore, active associated members of the Magnetic Resonance Imaging in MS Consortium (<https://www.magnims.eu>), International MS Genetics Consortium ([International Multiple Sclerosis Genetics Consortium – IMSGC](https://www.internationalmultiple sclerosis.org)) and partners with the WISDOM project (<https://emsp.org/projects/wisdom/>), an EU 2020 project.

In **WISDOM**, we follow up on the previous MultipleMS project ([Home - MultipleMS](#)). The consortium has more than 20 academic partners and aims at developing novel personalized medicine approaches for MS patients. We are working actively in the MRI working group to be a part of the ongoing and future imaging work related to this project.

NOR-MS (<https://www.ous-research.no/nor-ms>): an ongoing national randomized controlled trial to compare the effect of the off-label drug rituximab against cladribine for use in relapsing remitting MS patients. We have also been funded for a 5-year follow up called IMPROVED-MS

OVERLORD-MS (<https://helse-bergen.no/kliniske-studier/okrelizumab-versus-rituksimab-som-behandling-for-tidlig-attakvis-multipel-sklerose-overlord-ms>): an ongoing national randomized controlled trial to compare the use of two anti-CD20 drugs (ocrelizumab and rituximab) for newly diagnosed patients with MS. We are the MRI reading center and running the advanced MRI analyses in this project.

MAGNIMS Consortium (<https://www.magnims.eu>): We are leading a project investigating multishell diffusion weighted imaging in MS in normal appearing white matter and in lesions. We are also leading a new project with aims of following up people with MS treated with autologous hematopoietic stem cell treatment with advanced MRI from before treatment initiation and with follow-up for two years, with the main aim to investigate the evolution of chronic active lesions using a new MRI sequence to visualize and measure this process. In addition, we are contributing to several ongoing and previous projects.

- Lars L Skattebøl, PhD fellow: Advanced MRI analyses in the prospective randomized open-label blinded endpoint multicenter non-inferiority Norwegian study of Oral Cladribine and Rituximab in Multiple Sclerosis (NOR-MS). Supervisors Gro Nygaard, Einar A. Høgestøl, Hanne F Harbo
- Gisle Berg Helland, PhD fellow: BRAKE - Brain age after stroke in working-age adults. Supervisors: Einar A. Høgestøl, Guri Hagberg, Anne Hege Aamodt, Hanne F. Harbo



- Dragoljub Blagojevic, PhD fellow: Improved visualization and detection of chronic active lesions with quantitative susceptibility mapping. Supervisors: Wibeke Nordhøy, Einar A. Høgestøl, Rigmor Lundby, Gro O. Nygaard
- Liv Lygre Furevik, PhD fellow: COBRA - The Norwegian study of nervous system manifestations and sequelae after COVID-19 (NeuroCOVID). Supervisors: Marion Boldingh, Mona Beyer, Einar A. Høgestøl
- Line Sundland: IMPROVE MS: Improved long-term treatment of multiple sclerosis: safety and efficacy after five years in persons randomized to oral cladribine or rituximab. Supervisors: Gro O. Nygaard, Åslaug Lorentzen, Einar August Høgestøl
- Tone Berge, Hanne F. Harbo, Einar August Høgestøl, Pål Berg-Hansen, Elisabeth G Celius, Rigmor Lundby: WISDO - partner in EU-project (Berge Oslo PI)
- Hanne F. Harbo, Einar A. Høgestøl, Sigrid de Rodez Benavent, Steffan Bos, Tone Berge, Synne Brune, Elisabeth G Celius, Mona Beyer: Sys4MS- Biotek 2021/NFR Project. (Harbo Oslo PI)
- Einar A. Høgestøl, Hanne F. Harbo and others: Brain age in MS with Tobias Granberg, Karolinska Institute, Sweden
- Einar A. Høgestøl, Hanne F. Harbo, Elisabeth Celius, Piotr Sowa, Mona K Beyer: MAGNIMS collaboration on various MRI projects
- Einar A. Høgestøl, Hanne F. Harbo, Elisabeth Celius, Piotr Sowa, Mona K Beyer: NORMENT collaboration on various MRI projects
- Gro O. Nygaard, Hanne F Harbo, Einar A. Høgestøl and more: NOR-MS. Norwegian multicenter study of cladribine and rituximab (NOR-MS) collaboration on various MRI projects
- Gro O. Nygaard, Einar A. Høgestøl and others: EBV-MS project (<https://www.uib.no/en/ebvms>).
- Gro O. Nygaard, Rigmor Lundby, Einar A. Høgestøl, Mathias Øverås, Hanne F. Harbo: OVERLORD-MS

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Mona K. Beyer, Rigmor Lundby, Piotr Sowa, Atle Bjørnerud and Bradley MacIntosh, Div. of Radiology and Nuclear Med., OUH
- Lars Westlye and Nils Inge Landrø, Dept of Psychology, UiO
- Ole A. Andreassen, Lars T. Westlye, Tobias Kaufmann, Torbjørn Elvsåshagen, Ivan Maximov, Dag Alnæs, Esten Leonardsen, NORMENT, OUH/UiO
- Øivind Torkildsen, Stig Wergeland, Kjell-Morten Myhr and Jan Harald Aarseth, Haukeland University Hospital
- Geir Ringstad, Per Kristian Eide and Erik Melin, Div. of Radiology and Nuclear Med., OUH

International

- Ingrid Kockum, on behalf of the MultipleMS consortium
- Mara Rocca, Christina Einzinger, Frederik Barkhof, on behalf of the MAGNIMS consortium
- Pablo Villoslada, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Spain, on behalf of the Sys4MS consortium
- Tobias Granberg, Fredrick Piehl, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
- Hanneke Hulst, Leiden University, Netherland





Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- University of Oslo
- European Commission: WISDOM project grant number 101137154
- European Commission/The Research Council of Norway: Sys4MS - Biotek 2021
- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority grant
- Odd Fellow Foundation, Forsberg and Aulie, Ingrid and Fritz Nilsen, UNIFOR
- Oslo MS Foundation

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 11

Selected publications:

Skattebøl Lars, Nygaard Gro O, Leonardsen Esten H, Kaufmann Tobias, Moridi Thomas, Stawiarz Leszek, Ouellette Russel, Ineichen Benjamin V, Ferreira Daniel P, Muehlboeck J-Sebastian, **Beyer Mona K, Sowa Piotr,** Manouchehrinia Ali, Westman Eric, Olsson Tomas, **Celius Elisabeth G,** Hillert Jan, Kockum Ingrid, Harbo Hanne F, Piehl Fredrik, Granberg Tobias, Westlye Lars T, **Høgestøl Einar A.** " Brain age in multiple sclerosis: a study with deep learning and traditional machine learning," *Brain Communications: (2025)* <https://doi.org/10.1161/SVIN.124.001494>

Høgestøl Einar A., Rinker Daniel A, Maximov, Ivan, **Sowa, Piotr, Celius Elisabeth, Hope** Tuva R., Bjørnerud Atle, Sofia Fuaad M, de las Heras Eloy Martinez, Solana Elisabeth, Llufríu Sara, Gamez, Juan Francisco Corral, Farre, Julio Alonso, Pareto, Deborah, Collorone Sara, Pagani Elisabetta, Gonzalez-Escamilla Gabriel, Groppa Sergiu, Sastre Rovira Àlex, Toosy Ahmed, Filippi Massimo, Rocca Maria Assunta, Westlye Lars T, **Harbo Hanne F. Beyer Mona K.** "A cross-sectional multicentre study of multishell diffusion MRI in multiple sclerosis," *Multiple Sclerosis and Related Disorders (2025):* 13524585241253077, <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.msard.2025.106435>

Korbmacher Max, Lie Ingrid Anne, Wesnes Kristin, Westman Eric, Espeseth Thomas, Specht Karsten, Andreassen Ole A., Westlye Lars Tjelta, Wergeland Stig, Myhr Kjell-Morten, Torkildsen Øivind, **Høgestøl Einar A.,** " Multimodal predictors of disability progression and processing speed decline in relapsing-remitting multiple sclerosis." *Scientific Reports (2025).* <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41598-025-17894-2>

Social Media: Facebook: «Multippel Sklerose Forskningsgruppen Oslo»





Publikumsversikt

De siste 90 dagene: 25. des.–24. mars ▼

2 003 Totalt antall følgere ⓘ

+2,8 % fra de siste 90 dagene



54

Netto følgere ⓘ



9

Personer som har sluttet å følge ⓘ

☐	Forhåndsvisning ⓘ	Visninger ⓘ ↕	Seere ⓘ ↕	Samhandling ⓘ ↕	Nettofølgere ⓘ ↕	Eksponering ⓘ ↕	Kommentarer
☐	 SAFE-MS sender ut invitasj... Publisert · 8. nov. 2024	30 182	--	104	12	13 960	36
☐	 https://www.nrk.no/vestlan... Publisert · 23. des. 2025	15 943	9 196	131	10	10 166	35
☐	 Vi gratulerer overlege i Dra... Publisert · 18. nov. 2025	14 141	9 383	299	7	10 149	46
☐	 En gang i uken har vi overor... Publisert · 19. des. 2025	9 759	6 114	162	6	6 766	3



Multiple Sclerosis (MS) – Molecular and immunological studies



Group Leader

Tone Berge, Head of Section, Neuroscience Research Unit, Dept. of Research and Innovation, Div. of Clinical Neuroscience, OUH (tone.berge@ous-research.no/tonebe@ous-hf.no) and Professor, OsloMet. Research group web page: <https://ous-research.no/mims>

Group members

- Hanne Flinstad Harbo, Professor and Dean at the Medical Faculty (MD/PhD/MHA), UiO
- Chiara Cappelletti (PhD), Researcher and engineer, OUH
- Mirna Jarovic (Bsc), Engineer OUH
- Synne Brune-Ingebretsen (MD, PhD), Consultant of neurology, OUH
- Linda M. Pedersen (MSc, PhD), Researcher, OUH
- Eirik Sandvik Gulbrandsen (MSc), PhD fellow UiO, Dept. of FoU, OUH
- Anna Maria Eriksson (PhD), Head of Section, Department of Research, Østfold Hospital

Associate members*

- Gro O. Nygaard (MD, PhD), Researcher and Consultant of Neurology, OUH
- Elisabeth Gulowsen Celius (MD, PhD), Professor UiO, Consultant of Neurology OUH
- Einar August Høgestøl (MD, PhD), Researcher OUH, Associate Professor UiO
- Mathias H. Øverås (MD), PhD fellow UiO, Dept of Neurology, OUH
- Steffan D. Bos (Msc, PhD), Researcher Cancer Registry of Norway
- Ina S. Brorson (Msc, PhD), Post doc, UiO
- Kristina Gervin (MSc, PhD), Senior Researcher OUH

*There is considerable overlap between the different MS research groups and most participants are members of more than one group

Research profile and aims

The molecular and immunological MS studies research group aims to identify and characterize genes and biological pathways important for MS disease onset, progression and treatment response. By performing molecular studies in selected immune cells, we aim at contributing to understand the biological significance behind MS susceptibility genes identified through global “omics” approaches. Additionally, we aim at identifying novel biomarkers, which in the future will guide the clinicians in the follow-up of people with MS, being an important step towards precision medicine.

Ongoing projects

- NOR-MS: a national randomized controlled trial to compare the effect of the off-label drug rituximab against cladribine for use in relapsing remitting MS patient, PI: Nygaard.
 - PhD candidate: Mathias Øverås, supervisors: Nygaard, Berge and Harbo
 - PhD candidate: Lars L. Skattebøl, supervisors: Nygaard, Harbo and Høgestøl



- MS-breMS: Multi-omics strategies to identify biomarkers for treatment response in multiple sclerosis. PI: Berge.
- epiNOR-MS: Identification of epigenetic biomarkers for treatment response in Multiple Sclerosis - implications for precision medicine. PI: Berge
 - PhD candidate: Eirik S Gulbrandsen, supervisors: Gervin, Berge and Nygaard.
- IMPROVE MS: Improved long-term treatment of multiple sclerosis: safety and efficacy after five years in persons randomized to oral cladribine or rituximab, PI: Nygaard
- Tenofovir alafenamide fumerate (TAF) therapy in people with MS. EU project headed by Neuro-SysMed Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen, Norway with Berge as coordinating investigator, Nygaard as medical monitor and Dr. Marton König as PI from Oslo in one of the work tasks.
 - PhD candidate: Bence Henics, supervisors: König, Nygaard and Thorkildsen.
- MS-EV-DIM-MS: Molecular signatures from extracellular vesicles for improved decision-making and treatment of multiple sclerosis. PI: Berge.
- Single-cell transcriptomics to understand progression in persons with multiple sclerosis, PI: Berge
- Multiple sclerosis and aging – a real world, population-based cohort study. PI: Cecilia Simonsen
- MultipleMS/WISDOM – an EU project led by Karolinska Institute in Stockholm – aims at developing novel personalized medicine approaches for MS patients. Norwegian PI : Berge
- International MS Genetics Consortium (IMSGC), aiming at identifying genomic components increasing the risk for disease onset and progression. Norwegian PI: Harbo
- Magnetic Resonance Imaging in MS (MAGNIMS), a European network for research on MRI in MS. Norwegian PI : Harbo
- PhD project: BRAKE – Brain age after stroke in working-age adults.
 - PhD candidate Gisle Berg Helland, Supervisors: Høgestøl, Guri Hagberg, Anne Hege Aamodt and Harbo

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Mathias Toft, Dept of Neurology, UiO/OUH
- John Anker Zwart, FOU OUH/UiO
- Alicia Llorente, Inst of Cancer Research, OUH
- Hans-Christian Aas, Core Facility for Flow cytometry, OUH
- Marton König, OUH
- Kaja Selmer, FOU OUH
- Cecilia Smith Simonsen, Vestre Viken Hospital, Drammen
- Mona Beyer, Neuroradiology, OUH
- Piotr Sowa, Neuroradiology, OUH
- Øyvind Thorkildsen, Haukeland University Hospital, Bergen
- Åslaug Lorentzen, Sørlandet Hospital, Kristiansand
- Magnar Bjørås, OUH and NTNU

International

- Pablo Villoslada, Hospital Clinic of Barcelona, Spain
- Stephen Sawcer, University of Cambridge, UK
- Ingrid Kockum and Maja Jagodic, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
- Jeanette Lechner-Scott and Vicky Maltby, University of Newcastle, Australia
- IMSGC
- MAGNIMS





Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- EU horizon, MultipleMS/WISDOM and TAF
- University of Oslo
- Oslo University Hospital
- Odd Fellow Foundation
- The MS association
- Halvor Høies fond
- Anders Jahres foundation
- The DAM foundation

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 11

Selected publications:

Anna M Eriksson, Nora Emini, Hanne F Harbo, Tone Berge. *Is DEXI as Multiple Sclerosis Susceptibility Gene?* Int. J. Mol. Sci. 2025, 26(3), 1175.

Lars Skattebøl, Rigmor Lundby, Mathias H Øverås, Piotr Sowa, Elisabeth G Celius, Hanne F Harbo, Wibeke Nordhøy, Einar A Høgestøl, Gro O Nygaard. *Quantitative susceptibility mapping of paramagnetic rim lesions in early multiple sclerosis: A cross-sectional study of brain age and disability.* Neuroimage Rep. 2025, 21;5(3):100277.

Einar A Høgestøl, Daniel A Rinker, Ivan Maximov, Piotr Sowa, Elisabeth G Celius, Tuva R Hope, Atle Bjørnerud, Fuaad M Sofia, Eloy Martinez de Las Heras, Elisabeth Solana, Sara Llufríu, Juan Francisco Corral Gamez, Julio Alonso Farre, Deborah Pareto, Sara Collorone, Elisabetta Pagani, Gabriel Gonzalez-Escamilla, Sergiu Groppa, Jaume Sastre-Garriga, Àlex Rovira, Ahmed Toosy, Massimo Filippi, Maria Assunta Rocca, Lars T Westlye, Hanne F Harbo, Mona K Beyer; MAGNIMS study group. *A cross-sectional multicentre study of multishell diffusion MRI in multiple sclerosis.* Mult Scler Relat Disord. 2025, 98:106435.

Other publications

Social Media;

Facebook: «Muttippel Sklerose Forskningsgruppen Oslo»



Brain plasticity and neuropsychiatry



Group Leader

Torbjørn Elvsåshagen; MD., PhD; Department of Neurology, OUH (telvsaha@ous-hf.no) S
Department of Behavioral Medicine, UiO (torbjorn.elvsashagen@medisin.uio.no), and
Section for Precision Psychiatry, Division of Mental Health and Addiction, OUH.

Group Members

- Asma Belhadi, PhD, UiO
- Isak Bjørn, OUH
- Britta Bürker, MD, PhD, OUH/UiO
- Erlend Bøen, MD, PhD, OUH
- Guro Dunvoll, MSc, PhD research fellow, OUH/UiO/OsloMet
- Torfinn Hynnekleiv, MD, OUH and Innlandet Hospital Trust
- Katalin Juhasz, MD, Akershus University Hospital
- Verónica Mäki-Marttunen, PhD; OUH
- Kåre Osnes, MD, PhD, Diakonhjemmet Hospital
- Anne Gro Parnemann, PhD research fellow, OUH/UiO
- Torunn Søyseth, MSc, OUH
- Nathalia Zak, MD, PhD, OUH

Associated Group Members

- Stein Andersson, PhD, Professor, UiO
- Atle Bjørnerud, PhD, Professor, OUH
- Birgitte Boye, MD, PhD, Professor, UiO
- Torgeir Moberget, PhD, UiO
- Nina Bang; M.Sc., PhD. research fellow; NTNU

Research profile and aims

Our group conducts research in the fields of adult brain plasticity and neuropsychiatry. Plasticity – the capacity for change – is increasingly recognized as an intrinsic property of the adult brain and may play important roles in the etiologies and treatments of neurological and psychiatric illnesses. Neuropsychiatry recognizes that the brain and mind are one, that mental illnesses are disorders of the brain, and that psychiatric symptoms are commonly found in neurological disorders. One important goal of neuropsychiatric research is to bridge the gap between neurology and psychiatry.

Among the main aims of our current research are:

- To examine the role of brainstem and thalamus regions in neuropsychiatric and neurological disorders
- To examine whether structural and functional brain plasticity are core characteristics of the human sleep-wake cycle
- To increase our understanding of how novel schizophrenia- and bipolar disorder-associated genetic variants affect synaptic function and plasticity



Ongoing projects

- Brainstem and thalamus volumes: genetic architectures and roles in neuropsychiatric and neurological disorders
- FuNDamenThal: The roles of the thalamus in the pathophysiology of functional neurological disorder
- Sleep-wake-dependent brain plasticity in health and depression
- Genes, synaptic function, and stem cells in bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, and autism spectrum disorder: from pathophysiology towards personalized medicine
- Neuropsychiatry and coping in heart and lung transplantation
- Non-invasive human LTP-like plasticity – examining robustness, functional significance and clinical utility of a novel biomarker

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Prof. Ole A. Andreassen, UiO/OUH
- Prof. Erik Jönsson, UiO
- Prof. Srdjan Djurovic, UiO/OUH
- Prof. Gaute Einevoll, NMBU/UiO
- Dr. Tuomo Mäki-Marttunen, Tampere University
- Prof. Gulowsen Celius, Prof. Harbo, Ass. Prof. Einar Høgestøl, dr. Gro Nygaard; MS groups, OUH
- Dr. Marte Wendel-Haga, Vestfold Hospital Trust, Kysthospitalet
- Dr. Sigrid Svalheim and Dr. Line Sveberg, OUH
- Prof. Uta Sailer, UiO
- Prof. Silje Endresen Reme, UiO
- Prof. Per Olav Vandvik, UiO
- Ass. Prof. Sverre Myren, NTNU
- Dr. Thanh Doan, NTNU

International

- ENIGMA groups (Enhancing NeuroImaging Genetics through Meta-Analysis)
- EURONET-SOMA: European Research Network on somatoform disorders; group leader: Prof. Bernd Löwe, Uni Hamburg-Eppendorf, Abt. Für Psychotherapie und Psychosomatische Medizin, Germany
- Director Marta Bianciardi, Martinos Center for Biomedical Imaging/Harvard Medical School, USA
- Ass. Prof. David L. Perez, Harvard Medical School, USA

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- Norwegian Competence Center for Sleep Disorders
- Oslo University Hospital
- Throne-Holst Foundation
- Ebbe Frøland Foundation





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Doctoral thesis: 1

Atle Bråthen Pentz:

"Investigations on psychosis pathophysiology using mismatch negativity, genetics, imaging and cortical spheroids"

Principal supervisor: T. Elvsåshagen. Dissertation 11.04.25

Peer reviewed original research articles: 40

Selected publications:

Mäki-Marttunen V, et al.:

"Neuromodulatory influences on propagation of traveling waves along the unimodal-transmodal gradient"

Cereb Cortex 35(2025). <https://doi.org/10.1093/cercor/bhaf183>

Dietze LMF, et al.:

"White matter microstructure in obesity and bipolar disorders: an ENIGMA bipolar disorder working group study in 2186 individuals"

Mol Psychiatry 30, 1770-1779 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41380-024-02784-2>

Smeland O, et al.:

"A genome-wide analysis of the shared genetic risk architecture of complex neurological and psychiatric disorders"

Nat Neurosci 28, 2439-2450 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41593-025-02090-2>



Cognitive Health Research group (CoHR)



Group Leader

Ira Ronit Hebold Haraldsen, MD/PhD, OUH (iharaldse@ous-hf.no)

Group Members

- Vebjørn Anderson, BSc, PhD candidate., ass. coordinator, OUH
- Catherine Faye, project manager and recruitment officer, OUH
- Lone Holmen, engineer, administration, OUH
- Christoffer Hatlestad-Hall, PhD, cand.psychol., postdoctoral researcher, OUH
- Ana Perez, cand. psychol., PhD candidate, OUH
- Ramesh Upreti, PhD candidate, OUH
- Nora K. Stang, MSc student, PhD candidate (from Aug 2024)
- Henrik Normannseth, cand.psychol., researcher
- Li Meng, PhD, Post-doc, OUH
- Lucas Gemein, Post-doc, OUH

Research profile and aims

Our aims include contribution to development of novel and innovative methods for early detection, prevention, diagnostics and treatment of neurological diseases associated with cognitive health issues.

Currently, our focus is primarily centred on development of accessible and next generation AI-models in identifying and estimate dementia in people at risk. Also, the group focus on the development of functional biomarkers of neurodegeneration with the EEG-based functional brain network models with deep learning (DL) and classic machine learning (ML) artificial intelligence methods to identify crucial features of the normal and pathological aging and its changing brain's functional integrity. Furthermore, our group wishes to innovate different predictive algorithms for the prediction of dementia and other neurodevelopmental diseases.

We are an international group of researchers coming from a variety of diverse educational backgrounds, including medicine, psychology, artificial intelligence, mathematics, physics, robotics, and biological science. Our multidisciplinary approach to the brain-behaviour relation unravelling efforts allows us to conduct research across various systems and cognitive levels; from molecules to cells to cognitive systems to behaviours.

Our broad research method portfolio includes: Electrophysiological (EEG) source reconstruction and network modelling; event-related potential (ERP) techniques; positron emission tomography (PET) and radiochemistry; neuropsychological assessment; mathematical algorithm development. Also new focus area includes prediction of health economic models when it comes to introducing DL artificial intelligence-based tools in supportive medical decision making.



Ongoing projects

- eBRAIN-Health - Digital twins for disease modelling
- AI-Mind – Intelligent digital tools for screening of brain connectivity and dementia risk estimation in people affected by mild cognitive impairment (Project lead)
FluidX-AD – A novel test trio to detect peptide biomarkers in saliva and blood for enhanced diagnosis and management of Alzheimer's Disease (Project lead)
- HSØ – Plasma Biomarkers for Dementia Risk in Mild Cognitive Impairment: Insights from the AI-Mind Innovation Study. (Project lead)
- HSØ - MCI:3-net: Risk assessment of dementia using EEG and network science - functional brain connectivity, patient similarity networks, and deep learning approaches

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Per Magnus, FHI
- Uta Sailer, UiO
- Mathias Toft, UiO/OUH
- Randi Borgen, OUH
- Beate Rygge, Digital Life Norway
- Klas Pettersen, NORA
- Jan Bjaali, UiO, EBRAINS
- Siv Fjellkårstad, HelseDir
- Harry Hallock, DNV
- Erik Christensen, Prediagnostics
- Tormod Flatby, Ahus
- Anne-Kristin Solbakk, UiO
- Ainar Drews, UiO
- Gard Thomassen, UiO
- Marte Roa Syvertsen, Vestre Viken
- Hugo Hammer, OsloMet

International

- Fernando Maestu, Madrid, Spain
- Paolo Rossini, Rome, Italy
- Camillo Mara, Rome, Italy
- Hanna Renwall, Helsinki, Finland
- Americo Cicchetti, Rome, Italy
- Tim Govers, Radbooud, The Netherlands
- Jeanette Müller, Zurich, Switzerland
- Petra Ritter, Berlin, Germany
- Laura Hughes, Cambridge, UK
- James Rowe, Cambridge, UK
- Hanna Renvall, Helsinki, Finland
- Victor Jirsa, Marseilles, France
- Huifang Wang, Marseilles, France
- Karolina Jarawka, Roche
- Stéphane Epelbaum, Eli Lilly Europe, France
- Andreas Keller, Saarland University, Germany
- Francesca Cormack, Cambridge, England

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Selected publications:

Vermeulen RJ, Andersson V, Banken J, Hannink G, Govers TM, Rovers MM, Rikkert MGMO (2025) Limited generalizability and high risk of bias in multivariable models predicting conversion risk from mild cognitive impairment to dementia: A systematic review, *Alzheimers Dement*, 21 (4), e70069, DOI [10.1002/alz.70069](https://doi.org/10.1002/alz.70069), PubMed [40189799](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40189799/)

Tveitstol T, Tveter M, Hatlestad-Hall C, Hammer HL, Engemann DA, Haraldsen IRJH (2025) Assessing the robustness of deep learning based brain age prediction models across multiple EEG datasets, *IEEE Trans Biomed Eng*, PP (in press), DOI [10.1109/TBME.2025.3639477](https://doi.org/10.1109/TBME.2025.3639477), PubMed [41329579](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41329579/)





Tveter M, Tveitstøl T, Hatlestad-Hall C, Hammer HL, Haraldsen IRJH (2026)
Uncertainty in deep learning for EEG under dataset shifts, Artif Intell Med, 174, 103374
DOI [10.1016/j.artmed.2026.103374](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.artmed.2026.103374), PubMed [41650580](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41650580/)

Funding

- Horizon 2020: H2020-SC1-BHC-06-2020
- EU Horizon:
 - HORIZON-HLTH-2024-DISEASE-03
 - HORIZON-INFRA-2021-TECH-01-01
- Helse Sør-øst:
 - Postdoctoral project (project lead: Christoffer Hatlestad-Hall): *MCI:3-net: Risk assessment of dementia using EEG and network science - functional brain connectivity, patient similarity networks, and deep learning approaches*
 - PhD project (project lead: Mathias Toft): *Plasma Biomarkers for Dementia Risk in Mild Cognitive Impairment: Insights from the AI-Mind Innovation Study*





Department of Research and Innovation

The overarching goal of the Department of Research and Innovation is to help facilitate high quality research across the departments at the Division of Clinical Neuroscience.

There are four sections; the neuroscience research lab, the neuroscience registry and biobank, the research unit for musculoskeletal health (FORMI), which also encompasses patient and public involvement in research and the clinical trial unit which facilitates industry-sponsored clinical trials.

Each unit in the department constitutes a research group.

The Department of Research and Innovation is headed by Professor John-Anker Zwart.



Musculoskeletal health



Group Leader

Kjersti Storheim, MD/PhD, Professor OsloMet, Head of Section for Research and Communication Unit for Musculoskeletal Health; FORMI, OUH
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Group members

- Lars Christian Haugli Bråten, MD/Postdoctoral fellow, OUH
- Elisabeth Gjefsen, MD/PhD fellow, OUH
- Ingrid Heuch, MD/Senior Researcher, OUH
- Margreth Grotle, Professor, OUH/OsloMet
- Synne Øien Stensland, MD/ Senior researcher, OUH and NKVTS
- Maren Caroline Frogner Werner, MD/Postdoctoral fellow, OUH
- Eira Ebbs, Msc/PhD fellow/research coordinator, OUH
- Kathrine A Vadøy, User representative
- Ingrid Fjeldheim Bånerud, Msc/Administrative, OUH
- Mads Peder Rolfsen, MD/PhD fellow, OUH
- Amy Martinsen, Msc/PhD fellow/Research coordinator, OUH
- Marianne Mørk, Msc/PhD fellow, OUH
- Gøril Brevik Melbye, Msc/Phd fellow, OUH
- Iris Fortes Corona, MSc/Administrative, OUH
- Monica Baumann- Larsen, MD/PhD, OUH and UiO
- John Anker Zwart, Professor, OUH/UiO
- Sverre M Mjønes, PhD fellow, AHUS
- Simran Kaur, MD/PhD fellow, AHUS and UiO
- Ingrid Antoinette Ter Woerds Christensen, RN/Msc
- Marianne Cecilie Johansen Nævra, RN/PhD fellow, OUS and UiO

Associated Group Members

- Olaf Fjeld, MD/post.doctoral fellow, OsloMet and OUH
- Vibeke Siewers, Research coordinator, OUH
- Ørjan Nesse Vigdal, PhD, OsloMet
- Christian Hellum, MD/PhD, OUH
- Rikke M Killingmo, PT, PhD, OsloMet
- Håvard Furunes, MD/PhD, Innlandet Hospital
- Tore Solberg, MD/PhD, UNN
- Lise Grethe Kjønø, PT/PhD fellow, OsloMet
- Maria Torheim Bjelkarøy, PhD/Administrative

Research profile and aims

The focus of our research group is to generate research-based knowledge that improve the health and care of people who have, or are at risk for, musculoskeletal health conditions. Our research priorities



include clinical trials evaluating the effectiveness and cost-benefit of treatments for musculoskeletal conditions, as well as population health and prevention strategies, registry studies, health literacy and coping mechanisms , user involvement in research and dissemination. Our team is multidisciplinary and include a wide range of methods ranging from epidemiology and randomised placebo – controlled trials to laboratory science and genetics.

Ongoing projects

Clinical trials

- BackToBasic; TNF alfa blocker treatment of chronic low-back pain with Modic changes, a randomized double blind multicenter placebo-controlled trial
- The NORwegian Degenerative spinal STENosis-trial (the NORDSTEN-study); a multicentre study embracing two RCTs evaluating different surgical technics and one observational cohort in patients with spinal stenosis with or without degenerative slip
- The MI-NAV project: Can Motivational Interviewing facilitate Return-to-Work in sicklisted people with musculoskeletal disorders? A randomized trial within NAV
- The Lumbar Interbody Fusion vs. Multidisciplinary Rehabilitation (LIFEHAB) trial; a multicenter RCT evaluating the effect of fusion surgery versus multidisciplinary rehabilitations in patients with chronic low back pain and degenerative changes seen on MRI
- Epigenetic and molecular biomarkers in chronic low back pain and Modic changes. A case-control study in patients with or without Modic changes scheduled for elective surgery in the lumbar spine
- The Lumbar Adjacent Segment Stenosis (LASS) trial. A randomized multicenter trial to assess the effect of decompression alone versus decompression with extended fusion in patients with LASS following fusion surgery.
- The Zoledronic Acid for Modic BACK pain (ZAMBA) study. A randomized multicentre trial to Zoledronic acid on disability in patients with chronic low back pain and type 1 (oedema) Modic changes and to investigate the underlying biological mechanisms of Modic changes.
- The AIM-study (Antibiotics In Modic changes); antibiotic treatment of chronic low-back pain with Modic changes, a randomized double blind multicenter placebo controlled trial.

Epidemiology and registry studies

- Childbirth, hormonal factors and low back pain - a prospective epidemiological survey, using data from HUNT
- Killing pain? Use of analgesic, sedative and anxiolytic medication and the development of psychiatric illness in adolescents and young adulthood, in relation to trauma
- PATHWAY: children's pathways after trauma for health and well-being through adolescence and young adulthood
- Back Pain in Elderly (BACE). A prospective cohort study of older people visiting primary care with a new episode of back pain





- RETAIN FORCE: Resilience and Engagement through TargetING Frontline health workers' Occupational Risk and Characteristics in health Emergencies, The Covid Hospital Cohort study.

Mixed methods

- Cross cultural validation of outcome measurement tool and evaluation of treatment options for patients with plantar fasciopathy
- People with intellectual disabilities and vulnerabilities for harmful sexual behavior and abuse
- Applying Artificial Intelligence in Developing Personalized and Sustainable Healthcare for Spinal Disorders (AID-Spine)
- Nothing About Us Without Us: Research Priorities from Patients with musculoskeletal diseases - A James Lind Alliance project for Public and Patient Involvement (PPI)
- "Skjelettnett": network for user representatives who want to contribute to increased quality and relevance of research on musculoskeletal health conditions

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- UiO and OUH: Div. of Orthopaedic surgery; Christian Hellum, Mads P Rolfsen, Filip Dolatovski, Sverre Mjølnes, Dept of Clinical Neurophysiology; Kristian Bernhard Nilsen, Dept of Physical Med. and Rehab.; Jens Ivar Brox, Dept of Clinical Microbiology; Karianne Gammelsrud, Dept of Medical Genetics; Benedicte A Lie, Norw. Center for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies; Grete Dyb
- UiB and Haukeland University Hospital: Ansgar Espeland, Ivar Austevoll, Per M Kristoffersen, Kari Indrekvam, Frode Rekeland, Magnhild Dagestad, Thomas E Kadar, Jörg Assmus, Andreas Seip, Janne Haaland Harkestad
- NTNU and St. Olav Hospital: Gunn Hege Marchand, Fredrik Granviken, Sivert Hammer, Janne Birgitte B Børke
- UiS and Stavanger University Hospital: Clemens Weber, Eric Franssen
- The Arctic University of Norway and University Hospital of North Norway: Tore Solberg, Gunnstein Bakland
- OsloMet: Britt Elin Øiestad, Anne Therese Tveter, Tarjei Rysstad, Alexander Tingulstad, Rikke M Killingmo, Henriette Jahre, Bjørnar Berg, Per Solvang, Kaja Smedbråten, Maren Hjelle Guddal
- Norwegian Institute of Public Health: Karin Magnusson, Svetlana Skurtveit

International

- Sahlgrenska Academy, Sweden; Helena Brisby
- Linköping University, Sweden; Allan Abbott
- University of Southern Denmark, Denmark; Jan Hartvigsen, Stine Clausen
- University of Sydney, Australia; Chris Maher
- Monash University, Australia; Rachel Buchbinder
- Erasmus MC, Rotterdam, the Netherlands; Bart Koes, Alessandro Chiarotto
- Vrije Universiteit, Amsterdam, the Netherlands; Raymond Ostelo, Mauritz van Tulder





- REMEDY, Diakonhjemmet Hospital: collaborators in WP7
- Østfold Hospital Trust: Anne J Haugen, Lars Grøvle
- Møre and Romsdal Hospital Trust, Ålesund: Erland Hermansen, Jørn Aarøen
- Akershus University Hospital: Oliver Grundnes, Sverre Mjønes, Simra Kaur
- Sykehuset Innlandet Gjøvik: Håvard Furunes
- Sykehuset Vestfold Trust: Bjørn Bergene
- Ryggforeningen i Norge: Thor Einar Holmgard, Inger Ljøstad, Kathrine Antonsen Vadøy
- Rådet for muskelskjeletthelse
- MUSS ([Muskelskjelettsatsingen MUSS](#))

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Research Council of Norway
- Foundation Dam
- Sophies Minde Foundation
- OUH

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 26

Selected publications:

Gjefsen E, Bråten LC, Ponzi E, Dagestad MH, Marchand GH, Kadar T, Bakland G, Haugen AJ, Granviken F, Flørenes TW, Vetti N, Grøvle L, Nilsen AT, Lunestad A, Holmgard TE, Valberg M, Bolstad N, Espeland A, Brox JJ, Goll GL, Storheim K, Zwart JA (2025)

Efficacy of a Tumor Necrosis Factor Inhibitor in Chronic Low-Back Pain With Modic Type 1 Changes: A Randomized Controlled Trial. Arthritis Rheumatol, 77 (5), 615-623

DOI [10.1002/art.43073](#), PubMed [39624017](#)

Seip A, Hellum C, Fagerland MW, Solberg T, Brox JJ, **Storheim K**, Hermansen E, Weber C, Brisby H, Banitalebi H, Furunes H, Indrekvam K, Ljøstad I, Austevoll IM (2025)

Surgeon Recommendation and Outcomes of Decompression With vs Without Fusion in Patients With Degenerative Spondylolisthesis. JAMA Netw Open, 8 (1), e2453466

DOI [10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2024.53466](#), PubMed [39777439](#)





Dagestad MH, Vetti N, Haugli Bråten LC, **Gjefsen E**, Grøvle L, **Gervin K**, Haugen AJ, Bakland G, Marchand GH, Kadar T, **Storheim K**, **Zwart JA**, Assmus J, Espeland A (2025)
Modic Change Edema in Chronic Low Back Pain Treated With Infliximab or Placebo: The BackToBasic Trial. Spine (Phila Pa 1976), 50 (16), 1091-1101
DOI [10.1097/BRS.0000000000005391](https://doi.org/10.1097/BRS.0000000000005391), PubMed [40358067](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40358067/)



Headache and pain



Group Leader

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Group members

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- Sigrid Børte, Postdoctor, OUH
- Helene Engstrand Lier, PhD fellow, OUH
- Maria Bengtson Argren, PhD fellow, OUH
- Zhilwan Gadan, PhD fellow, OUH
- Anette Tryti, PhD fellow, OUH
- Ingrid Antoinette ter Woerds Christensen, PhD fellow, OUH
- Elisabeth Gjefsen, MD/PhD, OUH
- Espen Saxhaug Kristoffersen, MD/PhD, Associate professor, UiO
- John Anker Zwart, MD/PhD, OUH/UiO

Research profile and aims

Our research group aims to advance the understanding and treatment of headache and pain disorders through an integrated and translational approach that combines clinical studies, large-scale genomics and transcriptomics, and population-based epidemiology. We conduct clinical trials and use extensive registry and biobank data to identify disease mechanisms and translate these findings into improved diagnostics and treatments. Our work is highly interdisciplinary, involving close collaboration between experts in clinical medicine, molecular biology and quantitative science across national and international networks.

Ongoing clinical trials

- OmaMig Pilot: An open-label, phase IIa, single arm pilot study evaluating the potential clinical benefit and safety of omalizumab in adults with episodic migraine.
- EpisodicStatinMig. A multicentre, triple blind, placebo controlled, parallel group study of atorvastatin in episodic migraine. EudraCT Number 2022-502176-23-01. Role: Local PI. Sponsor institution: St. Olav's Hospital, Trondheim, Norway
- Chronic StatinMig. A multicentre, triple blind, placebo controlled, parallel group study of atorvastatin in chronic migraine. EudraCT Number 2022-502177-42-02. Role: Local PI. Sponsor institution: St. Olav's Hospital, Trondheim, Norway
- Chronic CandClus. A phase 3 randomized, placebo-controlled, triple blind, crossover study of Candesartan in adults with chronic cluster headache.
- Episodic CandClus. A phase 3 randomized, placebo-controlled, triple blind parallel-group study of Candesartan in adults with episodic cluster headache.



Other ongoing projects

- Norwegian Centre for Headache Research – NorHEAD (www.ntnu.edu/norhead)
- NorHead Research Registry and Biobank
- HUNT All-In Neuropsychiatry
- A Norwegian population study on the epidemiology and social impact of headache disorders (popHEAD)
- Decipher mechanisms and improve the treatment of chronic pain through large-scale genetic analysis (DecipherPain)
- Headache biomarkers
- Genetic aspects of chronic low back pain and its comorbidities
- Translating molecular insights into improved treatment for headache disorders (GenTranslate)
- The Role of Chiropractors in the Diagnosis and Treatment of Headache in Primary Healthcare

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- UiO and OUH: Dept of Clinical Neurophysiology; Kristian Bernhard Nilsen, Norw. Center for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies; Prof. Grete Dyb
- NTNU and St. Olav's Hospital: NorHEAD: Erling A Tronvik; HUNT center for molecular and clinical epidemiology: Prof. Bjørn Olav Åsvold
- UiB, Bergen: Marte Helene Bjørk
- Ahus: Espen Kristoffersen, Kjersti Vetvik
- University Hospital of North Norway: Dr. Linn Steffensen

International

- Leiden University Medical Center, Dpt's of Human Genetics and Neurology, the Netherlands; Prof. Arn van den Maagdenberg, Gisela Terwindt
- Karolinska Institute, Dept. of Neuroscience, Sweden; Prof. Andrea Belin
- University College London (UCL); Prof Manjit Matharu
- Institute for Molecular Medicine Finland; Matti Pirinen
- Queensland University of Technology, Australia; Prof. Dale Nyholt
- Danish Headache Center, Denmark; Thomas Folkman Hansen
- Vall d'Hebron University Hospital and Quirón Hospital, Dept of Neurology, Spain; Dr. Patricia Pozo Rosich





Consortium participations

- CCG - International Consortium for Cluster Headache Genetics (www.clusterheadachegenetics.org)
- IHGC - International Headache Genetics Consortium (www.headachegenetics.org)
- GO - Genetics of Osteoarthritis (www.genetics-osteoarthritis.com)
- GSCAN - GWAS & Sequencing Consortium of Alcohol and Nicotine use (gscan.sph.umich.edu)
- CHARGE consortium (www.chargeconsortium.com)
- SSGAC - Social Science Genetic Association Consortium (www.thessgac.org)
- PGC - Psychiatric Genetics Consortium; PTSD Workgroup (www.med.unc.edu/pgc)
- PGC - Psychiatric Genetics Consortium; Alzheimer's disease Workgroup (www.med.unc.edu/pgc)
- PGC - Psychiatric Genetics Consortium; Bipolar Disorder Workgroup (www.med.unc.edu/pgc)
- PGC - Psychiatric Genetics Consortium; OCD & Tourette Workgroup (www.med.unc.edu/pgc)
- PGC - Psychiatric Genetics Consortium; ADHD Workgroup (www.med.unc.edu/pgc)
- PGC - Psychiatric Genetics Consortium; Major depressive disorder Workgroup (www.med.unc.edu/pgc)
- PGC - Psychiatric Genetics Consortium; Anxiety Workgroup (www.med.unc.edu/pgc)

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Research Council of Norway
- Forskningsstiftelsen ELIB
- OUH

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 12

Selected publications:

Martinsen AE, Børte S, Spildreorde M, Brumpton BM, Heuch I, Zwart J-A, Winsvold BS. Insights into Chronic Low Back Pain Etiology: Population-based genome-wide Association Study Identifies 18 Risk Loci. *Spine (Phila Pa 1976)* 2025;50(13):881-889.

Engstrand H, Argren MB, Zwart JA, Tronvik E, Winsvold BS. The burden of high-frequency episodic migraine and chronic migraine in the population-based PopHEAD study. *Cephalalgia*. 2025 Dec;45:3331024251406103.

Argren MB, Engstrand H, Husøy AK, Kristoffersen ES, Toft M, Pripp AH, Zwart JA, Winsvold BS. Prevalence of headache disorders in Norway: results from the population based PopHEAD study. *J Headache Pain*. 2025 Nov;26:271.



Neurogenetics research group



Group Leader

Kaja Selmer, MD/PhD, Scientist, OUH (k.k.selmer@medisin.uio.no)

Group members

- Kristina Gervin, PhD, Senior scientist, OUH
- Fridny Heimisdottir, MD, PhD fellow, OUH
- Mari Spildrejorde, Post-doc, OUH
- Inger-Lise Mero, MD, PhD, OUH
- Mathilde Minet Kinge-Rasmussen, MD, PhD fellow, OUH
- Siri Lynne Rydning, MD, PhD, OUH
- Sjur Prestsæter, MD, PhD fellow, OUH
- Jeanette Koht, MD, PhD, OUH
- Ying Sheng, PhD, Bioinformatician, OUH
- Chantal Tallaksen, MD, Prof. Emeritus, UiO/OUH
- Eirik Sandvik Gulbrandsen, MSc, PhD fellow, OUH
- Chiara Cappelletti, PhD, Researcher, OUH
- Silje Lahlum, MSc, OUH
- Hanne Håberg Mørk, MSc, OUH

Associated group members

- Emilie Willoch Olstad, Post-doc fellow, UiO
- Iselin Wedding, MD, PhD, OUH
- Magnus D. Vigeland, PhD, Senior Researcher, OUH
- Ida Stenshorne, MD, PhD, OUH
- Magnhild Kverneland, PhD, Clinical Nutritionist, OUH

Guest researchers

- Emmanuel Adewuyi, PhD, Australia

Research profile and aims

The aim of the group is to identify and characterize the underlying causes, biomarkers and predictors of neurological disease, with a focus on epilepsy, movement disorders, and musculoskeletal disease and pain. With the access to detailed clinical and molecular data from clinical trials and large population databases, we aim to translate our results into knowledge enabling personalized treatment for the patients.

Ongoing projects

- TeraEpi: Teratogenicity of anti-seizure medication: the roles of epigenetics and folic acid supplements



- Epilepsy in Children: The Impact of the Gut Microbiota and Epigenetics in Successful Dietary Treatment
- FORCE: Focal Refractory Childhood Epilepsy - A study of surgical treatment in Norway – aetiology and prognostic factors
- Dietary treatment of adult patients with epilepsy: Epigenetic and metabolomic biomarkers
- BIOJUME: Biology of Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy. Genetics and epigenetics of juvenile myoclonic epilepsy
- Clinical and molecular characterization of hereditary ataxia and hereditary spastic paraplegia
- BRUFUS: User involvement in research of rare disorders
- Deciphering molecular causes of pain: A study of neuropathic pain (part of REMEDY and DOLORISK)
- epiNOR-MS: Identification of epigenetic biomarkers for treatment response in MS
- UiO:RealArt: Real world – artificial worlds: Improving causal inference in perinatal pharmaco-epidemiology using machine learning approaches on real-world and artificial data
- UiO:RWE: Capitalizing on Norwegian Health Data for Rapid Generation of Real-World Evidence on Effectiveness and Safety of Pharmaceuticals
- NorEpiNet: Nordic network for personalized treatment of epilepsy
- ReMeDy: Center for Rheumatic and Musculoskeletal Diseases
- MS-breMS: Molecular signatures for treatment response in MS patients

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Bergen epilepsy research group; BERG
- Complex epilepsy research group
- National Centre for Rare Epilepsy-Related Disorders
- Dept. of Microbiology, OUH/UiO
- NervOUS1, neuropediatric research group
- National Advisory Unit on Rare Disorders, OUH
- Patient organizations: Norsk epilepsiforbund; Norsk forening for arvelig spastisk paraparese og ataksi; Rådet for muskelskjeletthelse
- Diakonhjemmet Hospital

International

- Filadelfia epilepsy hospital, Denmark
- University College London, UCL, UK
- The BIOJUME consortium
- The SPATAX network

Funding

- The Research Council of Norway
- UiO: Life Science
- Novo Nordic Foundation
- DAM Foundation
- The National Advisory Unit on Rare Disorders
- Barnestifelsen, OUH
- Norsk Epilepsiselskap
- Epilepsiforbundet
- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- NordForsk
- MS forbundet





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 19

Selected publications:

Paternal valproate use and impact of shared genetic susceptibility on child neurodevelopment Olstad EW, Nordeng HME, Bjørk MH, Selmer K, Gervin K. *Sci Rep.* 2025 Nov 7;15(1):39033. doi: 10.1038/s41598-025-23377-1. PMID: 41203668 Free PMC article.

Insights Into Chronic Low Back Pain Etiology: Population-Based Genome-Wide Association Study Identifies 18 Risk Loci.

Martinsen AE, Børte S, Spildrejorde M, Brumpton BM, Heuch I, Zwart JA, Winsvold BS. *Spine (Phila Pa 1976).* 2025 Jul 1;50(13):881-889. doi: 10.1097/BRS.0000000000005254. Epub 2025 Jan 3. PMID: 39812312

Modic Change Edema in Chronic Low Back Pain Treated With Infliximab or Placebo: The BackToBasic Trial.

Dagestad MH, Vetti N, Haugli Bråten LC, Gjefsen E, Grøvle L, Gervin K, Haugen AJ, Bakland G, Marchand GH, Kadar T, Storheim K, Zwart JA, Assmus J, Espeland A. *Spine (Phila Pa 1976).* 2025 Aug 15;50(16):1091-1101. doi: 10.1097/BRS.0000000000005391. Epub 2025 May 13. PMID: 40358067 Free PMC article. Clinical Trial.



Research group for applied neurophysiology



Group Leader

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Neurophysiologist, OUH (kristian.bernhard.nilsen@ous-hf.no)

Group members

- Daniel Gregor Schulze, MD/PhD fellow, OUH
- Line Bedos Ulvin, MD/Phd fellow, OUH
- Hoang Oanh Pauline Do, MD/PhD student, OUH
- Øystein Dunker, Msc/PhD fellow, OUH
- Tomasz Szymon Szczepanski, MD/PhD student, OUH
- Tarun Arora, Phd fellow, OUH
- Sara Maria Allen, Msc, OUH
- Jørn Klepp Thorgersen, Msc, OUH
- Bettina Kjøge Wilhelmsen, Msc, OUH
- Anub Mathew Thomas,
- Nora Hognestad Haaland, MD, PhD student, OUH
- Gernot Hlauschek, MD, PhD student, OUH
- Liza Marie Norum Wanda, MSc, OUH

Research profile and aims

Our ambition is to better patient care through increased understanding of the nervous system. We will take the lead within method development and application of new methods in clinical neurophysiology.

We are currently involved in both basic research, clinical trials and innovation projects at Department of Neurology and Department of Research and Innovation, both in the Neuroscience Clinic at OUH/UiO.

In collaboration with national and international partners in Healthcare, industry and science, we work for better neurodiagnostics.

Ongoing projects

- EPIC-AI
Enhancing Prognostication and Improving reliability of EEG assessments in Coma after Cardiac Arrest with Artificial Intelligence
- The VIKING project
The world's largest database for clinical neurophysiological studies. And a study of the trust to AI decision support systems among patients and health care professionals



- The ENTRAPME project – Improved diagnostics for nerve entrapments using machine learning
- The DIGMINE project - Digital gold mining in historical neurophysiological data for more precise diagnostics
 - NEUDAG (part of the DIGMINE+ research group)
Implementing new methods for neurophysiological diagnostics by using and implementing historical data to create reference limits and validate these against the most commonly encountered diseases
- Neurological home hospital
Innovation study funded by South-Eastern Health Authority. 2022 – 2024
- Can People with Charcot-Marie-Tooth Disease improve their balance with added haptic input? (CIBAH1)
Investigating the role of haptic input on improving balance in people with Charcot Marie Tooth (CMT) disease.
- Innovation studies
 - Wearable Electrophysiology Mobility Solutions in Parkinson's Disease (WEBSPD)
Innovation project developing wearable electrophysiology solutions for improving walking and balance in people with Parkinson's Disease.
- Motor neurons – can they be counted? (MUNE and NI study)
Study of new methods for diagnostics and follow-up of neuromuscular disease
- Tak-861
Clinical Studies of Treatment of Narcolepsy
- EEG learning platform
- PETRA
Multicenter randomized controlled study (PETRA-NMD) evaluating personalized exercise-based treatment for people with rare neuromuscular disorders, assessing effects on clinical outcomes and exploratory biomarkers.





- Identifying Novel Imaging biomarkers in epileptogenesis post traumatic brain injury
Studying the glymphatic system and its abnormalities as potential predictor for epilepsy after traumatic brain injury by using an advanced machine learning MRI post processing tool.
- NOR-CACTUS
Clinical project, in collaboration with Diakonhjemmet, evaluating a stepwise treatment strategy for mild to moderate idiopathic carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), using ultrasound-guided corticosteroid injection, scheduled assessment, and surgery if needed, compared to primary surgical treatment, aiming to achieve non-inferior long-term outcomes while reducing adverse events and overall surgical interventions.

Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Stavanger University Hospital;
Marie Bu Kvaløy
- Haukeland University Hospital,
Bergen; Tom Eichele
- NTNU og St. Olavs
Universitetssykehus, Trondheim;
Petter Moe Omland
- Universitetssykehuset Nord-
Norge; Sissel Løseth, Andreas
Dybesland Rosenberger
- Diakonhjemmet Hospital;
Hilde Berner Hammer, Ulf Sundin
- Research group of Orthopaedic
Traumatology, OUH;
Tore Fjalestad
- Department of Research and
Innovation, OUH;
John-Anker Zwart
- Neurogenetics Research Group,
OUH; Kaja Kristine Selmer
- The National Institute of
Occupational Health in Norway;
STAMI;
Dagfinn Matre
- Helse Førde HF; Kristoffer Noszka

International

- University of Oxford, UK;
David Bennett
- Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark;
Hatice Tankisi
- David Geffen School of Medicine at UCLA - Los
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Joe Jabre
- Leiden University Medical Center;
Martijn Tannemaat
- Uppsala Universitetssykehus; Sverige; Anna
Punga
- Harvard Medical School, USA;
Seward Rutkove, Brandon Westover
- University of Alberta, Canada; Kelvin Jones
- Lund University; Erik Westhall
- Monash University, Australia; Patrick Kwan





- Helse Fonna, Haugesund; Kirsten Solstrand
- Sykehuset Vestfold, Tønsberg; Anders Horsdal
- Sykehuset Innlandet; An- Magritt Dimmen
- Hospital of Southern Norway, Kristiansand; Håvard Larsen
- Møre og Romsdal Hospital, Ålesund; Janne Marit Ertresvåg
- Møre og Romsdal Hospital, Ålesund; Janne Marit Ertresvåg, Audun Olav Dahlberg
- Nord Trøndelag Hospital, Anna Grav
- Nordland Hospital, Bodø; Diana Hristova
- Universitetet i Oslo; John-Anker Zwart
- OsloMet; Anis Yazidi
- University of South-Eastern Norway; Mohsen Toorani
- Norwegian Centre for E-health Research; Gro-Hilde Severinsen
- Østfold University of Applied Sciences and Norwegian Council for Digital Ethics; Leonora Onarheim Bergsjø
- Oslo Centre for Biostatistics & Epidemiology (OCBE); Andrew Reiner
- Section for rare Neuromuscular disorders and EMAN, OUH; Kristin





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Erik Taubøll
- Department of Clinical &
Biomedical Engineering, OUH;
Christian Tronstad
- Department of Physics, UiO;
Ørjan Martinsen
- Norwegian School of Sport
Sciences; May Grydeland
- The VIKING consortium;
Naimahmed Nesaragi,
Sampsa Lohi, Uliana Brobakken,
Haukur Tyr Gudmundsson,
Denesha Kandiah Mahenthra
- Inven2; Elin Melby
- TSD; Ainar Drews
- OsloMet; Per Koren Solvang
- UiO Growth House;
Nicolay Bérard-Andersen

Funding

- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authority
- The Research Council of Norway
- National network for precision medicine (NorPrem)
- Foundation DAM
- SPARK Norway
- UiO Growth House
- National Center for Rare Disorders
- Stiftelsen ALS Norge
- Takeda Development Center Americas





Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles:

Selected publications: 4

Arora T, Thorgersen JK, Jones KE, Allen SM, Schulze DG, Dunker Ø, Tankisi H, Nilsen KB. Test-retest measurement properties of the MScanFit method for motor unit number estimation in individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis. Clin Neurophysiol. 2025 Oct;178:2110940. doi: 10.1016/j.clinph.2025.2110940. Epub 2025 Jul 17. PMID: 40716120.

Bondjers K, Hyland P, Atar D, Christensen JO, Nilsen KB, Reitan SK, Rosseland LA, Wentzel-Larsen T, Wøien H, Zwart JA, Dyb G, Stensland S. Burnout trajectories among healthcare workers during a pandemic, and predictors of change. BMC Health Serv Res. 2025 May 27;25(1):757. doi: 10.1186/s12913-025-12802-w. PMID: 40426176; PMCID: PMC12107841.

Fossmo HL, Ellefsen-Martinsen M, Ørstavik K, Arora T, Frich JC, Robinson HS. Psychometric Properties of MFM32 in Myotonic Dystrophy Type 1. Arch Phys Med Rehabil. 2025 Nov 3:S0003-9993(25)01004-4. doi: 10.1016/j.apmr.2025.10.013. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 41192792.





Department of Neurohabilitation

The Department of Neurohabilitation with multidisciplinary staff, including consultants in neurology and psychiatry, psychologists with specialities in clinical neuropsychology and habilitation psychology, physiotherapists, nutritionists and case workers with various professional backgrounds.

The department provides care to a wide variety of patient groups with complex disabilities, including intellectual disabilities and other acquired and congenital disorders, also including rare conditions, genetic conditions and neurological conditions.

The Department of Neurohabilitation is headed by Lotta Fladby Tholander.



Intellectual disability and neurohabilitation



Group Leader

Bjørnar Hassel, Professor, Dept. of Neurohabilitation, OUH
(bjornar.hassel@ous-hf.no) and UiO (bjornar.hassel@medisin.uio.no)

Group Members

- Sigrun Hope, MD, PhD, OUH
- Anne Katrin T. Holmøy, MD, OUH
- Kathrine Haggag, MD, OUH
- Jutta Rummel, MD, OUH
- Alma Sikiric, MD, OUH
- Daniel Dahlberg, MD, OUH
- Marleen van Walsem, PhD, OUH
- Emilie Bull, Cand psychol, UiO
- Petter Emhjellen, Cand psychol, OUH

Research profile and aims

The aim of the Intellectual disability and neurohabilitation research group is 1) to conduct research that will lead to improvement of the quality of life of persons with developmental disabilities, 2) to investigate mechanisms behind brain dysfunction and damage that leads to developmental disability.

In collaboration with the municipality of Oslo, various departments at OUH and OsloMet, we investigate the use of sensors for autonomic responses as a means of communication for developmentally disabled persons who are unable to express their needs verbally or otherwise.

In collaboration with various departments at OUH, we investigate mechanisms that underlie fatigue cerebral palsy and other conditions, i.a., after abscess.

Ongoing projects

- Wearable sensors for autonomic responses as a means of communication for persons with developmental disability who lack the ability to express themselves
- Fatigue in cerebral palsy: The underlying mechanisms in the brain.
- Fatigue in brain abscess patients after successful treatment of the brain infection.
- Mechanisms of seizure generation and cell death during brain abscess formation, a preventable cause of developmental disability
- Mechanisms of cell death and seizure generation during formation of cystic brain tumors
- The metabolism of aldehydes, a source of neurodegeneration through formation of advanced glycation and products
- Barriers to proper handling of persons with intellectual disability and harmful sexual behavior



Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Emilie Bull, Terje Nærland, Ole Andreassen, KG Jebsens Center, UiO/OUH
- Christian Tronstad, Medical-technological department, OUH
- Cecilie Morland, OsloMet/Inst. of Pharmacy, UiO
- Mona-Elisabeth Revheim, Ebba Gløersen Müller, James Patrick Connelly, Div. of Radiology and Nuclear Medicine, OUH
- Bente Halvorsen, Research Institute of Internal Medicine, OUH
- Bærum municipality/Emma Hjorts Hjem
- Pål Gunnar Larsson, Ketil Olsen, Dept. of Neurosurgery, OUH
- Erik Taubøll, Dept. of Neurology, UiO
- Leiv Otto Watne, Dept. of Geriatrics, Ahus
- Øyvind Voie, Norwegian Defence Research Establishment, Kjeller
- Frode Rise and Kristian Sørnes, Inst. of Chemistry, UiO
- Farrukh Chaudry, Niels Christian Danbolt, Dept. of Anatomy, UiO

International

- Raymond Dingleline, Emory University, Atlanta, GA, USA

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Peer reviewed original research articles: 4

Selected publications:

Rogne AG, Sigurdardottir S, Raudeberg R, Hassel B, Dahlberg D. Fatigue and depression at 8 weeks and 1 year after bacterial brain abscess and their relationship with cognitive status. *Neuropsychol Rehabil.* 2025 Jul;35(6):1136-1159. doi: 10.1080/09602011.2024.2393361.

Emhjellen PE, Starrfelt R, Raudeberg R, Hassel B. Assessment of Developmental Prosopagnosia in an Individual with Tourette Syndrome and Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder: A Case Report. *Brain Sci.* 2025;15(1):56. doi: 10.3390/brainsci15010056.

Funding

- The Research Council of Norway
- Rebergs legat





Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital

The hospital's full continuum of care focuses on community re-entry, which for many people means returning to home, work or a supported, community living environment. The hospital also holds national responsibilities for rare congenital disorders and locked-in syndrome.

Our areas of expertise includes spinal cord injuries, severe multitrauma, traumatic brain injuries, stroke, cognitive challenges, pain, severe burn injuries, neurological illnesses and congenital disorders.



Specialized medical rehabilitation



Group Leader

Frank Becker, MD/PhD, Associate Professor, Dept. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, UiO/Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital (frank.becker@sunnaas.no)

Group Members

- Anne Catrine Trægde Martinsen, Professor, Director of Research, Sunnaas/OsloMet
- Hege Prag Øra, MD/PhD, Sunnaas/UiO
- Kristin Knudsen-Baas, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Claudia Nyberg, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Maria Ryssdal Kraby, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Marianne Yardley, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Erlend Solberg Dørum, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Svein Otto Fredwall, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Ariane Kwiet, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Lena Lande Wekre, MD/PhD, Sunnaas
- Thomas Glott, MD, Sunnaas
- Marianne Løvstad, PSYCH/PhD, Professor, Sunnaas/UiO
- Per Ola Rike, PSYCH/PhD, Sunnaas
- Sveinung Tornås, PSYCH/PhD, Sunnaas
- Solveig Hauger, PSYCH/PhD, Sunnaas/UiO
- Ingvil Laberg Holthe, PSYCH/PHD, Sunnaas/UiO
- Nina Marit Rohrer-Baumgartner, PSYCH/PhD, Sunnaas
- Daniel Løke, PSYCH/PhD, Sunnaas
- Knut Kolskår, PSYCH/PHD, Sunnaas
- Vegard Strøm, Cand. Scient/PhD, Sunnaas/Norwegian School of Sport Sciences
- Kirsti Skavberg Roaldsen, PT/PhD, Sunnaas / Karolinska Institute
- Arve I. Opheim, PT/PhD, Sunnaas/Region Västra Götaland
- Charlotta Hamre, PT/PhD, Sunnaas
- Ingrid Eitzen, PT/PhD, Sunnaas
- Vivien Jørgensen, PT/PhD, Sunnaas
- Ellen Høyer, PT/PhD, Sunnaas
- Matthijs Wouda, PT/PhD, Sunnaas/OsloMet
- Linda Rennie, PT/PhD, Sunnaas/OsloMet
- Anne-Marthe Sanders, OT/PhD, Sunnaas
- Edel Jannecke Svendsen, RN/PhD, Sunnaas
- Maribeth Caya Rivalsrud, SLT/ PhD, Sunnaas
- Gry Velvin, SW/PhD, Sunnaas



PhD fellows:

- Medical Doctor: Kristine Marie M. Vege, Jelena Simic, Helle Walseth Nilsen, Mona Strøm
- Psychologist: Dani Beck, Anja Schanke, Martin Matre, Line Sophie Eide
- Physiotherapist: Wiebke Höfers, Pia Wedege, Ann Marie Hestetun-Mandrup, Eivind Lundgard
- Social Worker: Jannike Vikan
- Occupational Therapist: Truls Johansen
- Dietician: Hanne Bjørg Slettahjell
- Movement scientist: Sandra Linnea Klund-Hansen

Research profile and aims

The overall research aim for our group is to improve everyday living of people with physical and/or cognitive impairments. Within the setting of specialized rehabilitation, especially neurorehabilitation, we are interested in all aspects of body functions, activities and participation that injury or disease may affect (cf. ICF – WHO's International Classification of Functioning, Disability and Health). Our research activities comprise both subacute and chronic stages, and are organized in five thematic research groups:

- Acquired Brain injuries
- Spinal cord injuries
- Movement dysfunctions
- Rare disorders
- Aphasia and register data

Ongoing projects

A large number of studies are ongoing, mainly within the following areas:

- Specialized rehabilitation interventions for patients with acquired neurological injuries, such as stroke, spinal cord injury or traumatic brain injury
- Rehabilitation technology, e.g. gaming, virtual reality, robot-assisted motor training
- Rehabilitation of acquired injuries in children and adolescents
- Rare disorders as e.g. Marfan's syndrome, achondroplasia





Most important national and international collaborators

National

- Oslo University Hospital
- OsloMet
- Norwegian Sport High School
- Haukeland University Hospital
- St. Olav Hospital
- University Hospital of North Norway
- Beitostølen Health Sport Center
- Hospitals in the South-Eastern Norway Health Region

International

- Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden
- Gothenburg University, Sweden
- Copenhagen University, Denmark
- Monash University, Melbourne, Australia
- Rusk Institute of Rehabilitation, NY, USA
- Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Högsbo, Sweden
- Schweizer Paraplegiker-Forschung AG, Switzerland

Funding

Main sources:

- The Norwegian Research Council
- South-Eastern Norway Regional Health Authorities
- DAM – Norwegian ExtraFoundation for Health and Rehabilitation
- Sunnaas Rehabilitation Hospital
- Birgit og Rolf Sunnaas Minnefond

Scientific production of the research group in 2025

Dissertations:

[Assistive Humanoid Robots for enhancing independence, autonomy, and the ability to engage in meaningful occupations. Perceptions and experiences in users with physical disabilities](#)

Linda Sørensen, Universitetet i Agder

[Pivotal moments in needs-supportive environments: Experiences of Active Rehabilitation camps for individuals with acquired brain injury](#)

Pia Wedege, Norges idrettshøgskole





Peer reviewed original research articles: 77

Selected publications:

Johansen, T., Matre, M., Løvstad, M., Olsen, A., Lund, A., Trægde Martinsen, A. C., ... & Tornås, S. (2025). Virtual reality in training of sustained attention, processing speed, and working memory after traumatic brain injury: a randomized controlled trial. *Archives of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation*, S0003-9993.

Sundet, A. S., Løvstad, M., Havnes, I. A., Andelic, N., Ustvedt, C., Månum, G., ... & Hauger, S. L. (2025). Rates and temporal onset of mental health disorders during inpatient rehabilitation after acute physical injury or illness: An observational cohort study. *PLoS One*, 20(12), e0338207.

Kraby, M. R., Toropchyna, M., Holtan, A., & Becker, F. (2025). Ukrainian war trauma patients abroad: the rehabilitation process in light of language barriers, cultural differences, war, and infection isolation. *Journal of Rehabilitation Medicine*, 57, 42929.



Publication list NVR research groups 2025

Includes ordinary journal articles and reviews only

Abbott A, Pedersen CF, Hedevik H, Parai C, Gorosito MA, Andersen M, Ingebrigtsen T, Solberg TK, **Grotle M**, Berg B (2025)
External validation of a prediction model for disability and pain after lumbar disc herniation surgery: a prospective international registry-based cohort study
Acta Orthop, 96, 512-520
DOI [10.2340/17453674.2025.44251](https://doi.org/10.2340/17453674.2025.44251), PubMed [40622239](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40622239/)

Allergodt K, Werlauff U, Dreyer P, **Ørstavik K**, Handberg C (2025)
Living and coping with adult-onset myotonic dystrophy type 1 from the perspectives of caregivers
Disabil Rehabil, 48 (3), 788-800
DOI [10.1080/09638288.2025.2547688](https://doi.org/10.1080/09638288.2025.2547688), PubMed [40842110](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40842110/)

Alroughani R, **Celius EG**, Gray H, Kasilingam E, Kruger P, Montague A, Oreja-Guevara C, Plant A, Pontaga M, Rieckmann P, Ritter L, Sumelahti ML (2025)
Guiding Multiple Sclerosis Care: An Update to the 2013 Consensus Statement from the MS in the 21st Century Steering Group
Neurol Ther, 15 (1), 61-77
DOI [10.1007/s40120-025-00849-0](https://doi.org/10.1007/s40120-025-00849-0), PubMed [41191274](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41191274/)

Alvsåker K, Hanoa R, Gran JM, Högvall LM, **Sogn CJF, Bech HC**, Olasveengen T (2025)
Impact of rehabilitation in the neurointensive care unit on long-term survival in patients with traumatic brain injury
Acta Anaesthesiol Scand, 69 (4), e70026
DOI [10.1111/aas.70026](https://doi.org/10.1111/aas.70026), PubMed [40099615](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40099615/)

Amland R, Selbæk G, **Brækhus A**, Rhodius-Meester HFM, Strand BH (2025)
Sex differences in life expectancy in dementia, mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and subjective cognitive decline (SCD)
Alzheimers Dement (Amst), 17 (3), e70177
DOI [10.1002/dad2.70177](https://doi.org/10.1002/dad2.70177), PubMed [40959580](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40959580/)

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Loudness dependence of the auditory evoked potential: temporal stability, associations to sociodemographic variables, and functional significance-implications for clinical research
Front Hum Neurosci, 19, 1507291
DOI [10.3389/fnhum.2025.1507291](https://doi.org/10.3389/fnhum.2025.1507291), PubMed [39981129](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39981129/)

Argren MB, Engstrand H, Husøy AK, Kristoffersen ES, **Toft M**, Pripp AH, **Zwart JA, Winsvold BS** (2025)
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J Headache Pain, 26 (1), 271
DOI [10.1186/s10194-025-02216-8](https://doi.org/10.1186/s10194-025-02216-8), PubMed [41299259](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41299259/)

Arora T, Thorgersen JK, Jones KE, **Allen SM, Schulze DG, Dunker Ø**, Tankisi H, **Nilsen KB** (2025)
Test-retest measurement properties of the MScanFit method for motor unit number estimation in individuals with Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis
Clin Neurophysiol, 178, 2110940
DOI [10.1016/j.clinph.2025.2110940](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinph.2025.2110940), PubMed [40716120](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40716120/)

Atai S, **Wiedmann M, Dahlberg D**, Bollerslev J, Heck A (2025)
Management of acromegaly beyond primary surgery: efficacy and safety of repeat surgery and radiotherapy
Acta Neurochir (Wien), 167 (1), 223
DOI [10.1007/s00701-025-06640-2](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00701-025-06640-2), PubMed [40824314](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40824314/)





Aukrust CG, Kamalo PD, Tembenu E, Mula C, Fjeld HE, Chapweteka BA, Bvalani R, Manda-Taylor L (2025)
Hydrocephalus, healing, and disrupted daily living: exploring maternal experiences at Queen Elizabeth Central Hospital in Blantyre, Malawi

Malawi Med J, 36 (4), 260-275

DOI [10.4314/mmj.v36i4.5](https://doi.org/10.4314/mmj.v36i4.5), PubMed [39877529](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39877529/)

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Alpha rhythm and Alzheimer's disease: Has Hans Berger's dream come true?

Clin Neurophysiol, 172, 33-50

DOI [10.1016/j.clinph.2025.02.256](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.clinph.2025.02.256), PubMed [39978053](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39978053/)

Bakketun CB, Roth LC, Bjørnstad DM, Ottersen OP, Jensen V, **Enger R** (2025)

The Impact of Aquaporin-4 Deletion on K⁺-Induced Astrocytic Swelling Depends on K⁺ Concentration

Glia, 74 (1), e70086

DOI [10.1002/glia.70086](https://doi.org/10.1002/glia.70086), PubMed [41017135](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41017135/)

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Long-range temporal correlations in violence and psychosis: An EEG-based study

J Psychiatr Res, 193, 188-197

DOI [10.1016/j.jpsychires.2025.11.013](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jpsychires.2025.11.013), PubMed [41319361](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41319361/)

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J Inherit Metab Dis, 48 (5), e70072

DOI [10.1002/jimd.70072](https://doi.org/10.1002/jimd.70072), PubMed [40751594](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40751594/)

Beijer D, Mengel D, Önder D, Wilke C, Träschütz A, Faber J, Timmann D, Boesch S, Vielhaber S, Klopstock T, van de Warrenburg BP, Silvestri G, Kamm C, **Wedding IM**, Fleszar Z, Harmuth F, Dufke C, Brais B, Rieß O, Schöls L, Haack T, Züchner S, Pellerin D, SPORTAX consortium, Klockgether T et al. (2025)

The genetic landscape of sporadic adult-onset degenerative ataxia: a multi-modal genetic study of 377 consecutive patients from the longitudinal multi-centre SPORTAX cohort

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DOI [10.1016/j.ebiom.2025.105715](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ebiom.2025.105715), PubMed [40273470](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40273470/)

Berman E, Pariente G, Erenburg N, Hamed R, **Landmark CJ**, Kovo M, Eyal S (2025)

Folate transfer across the placenta during late pregnancy in women with epilepsy: A cross-sectional, two-center study

Epilepsia, 66 (12), 4752-4763

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Predicting intraoperative meningioma consistency using features from standard MRI sequences: a preoperative evaluation

Acta Neurochir (Wien), 167 (1), 173

DOI [10.1007/s00701-025-06582-9](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00701-025-06582-9), PubMed [40542946](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40542946/)

Bjørneboe J, Brox JS, **Myhre K**, Taso M, Werner EL, Røe C, **Brox JI** (2025)

Referrals to the specialist health service for patients with neck or back pain

Tidsskr Nor Laegeforen, 145 (9)

DOI [10.4045/tidsskr.24.0324](https://doi.org/10.4045/tidsskr.24.0324), PubMed [40844353](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40844353/)



Bogale B, Solem IKL, Larsen AG, **Celius EG**, Halvorsrud R (2025)

Patient Pathways Inefficiencies in Neurology Care: Providers' Perspectives

Stud Health Technol Inform, 329, 1676-1677

DOI [10.3233/SHTI251159](https://doi.org/10.3233/SHTI251159), PubMed [40776176](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40776176/)

Bondjers K, Hyland P, Atar D, Christensen JO, **Nilsen KB**, Reitan SK, Rosseland LA, Wentzel-Larsen T, Wøien H, **Zwart JA**, Dyb G, **Stensland S** (2025)

Burnout trajectories among healthcare workers during a pandemic, and predictors of change

BMC Health Serv Res, 25 (1), 757

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Barriers and new opportunities in developing effective therapies for diabetic neuropathy: International expert consensus recommendations

Diabetes Res Clin Pract, 221, 112010

DOI [10.1016/j.diabres.2025.112010](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.diabres.2025.112010), PubMed [39855602](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/39855602/)

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Net Water Uptake at CT Predicts the Treatment Effect of Thrombectomy for Low ASPECTS Stroke

Radiology, 317 (2), e250708

DOI [10.1148/radiol.250708](https://doi.org/10.1148/radiol.250708), PubMed [41186468](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41186468/)

Brändl B, Steiger M, Kubelt C, Rohrandt C, Zhu Z, Evers M, Wang G, Schuldt B, Afflerbach AK, Wong D, Lum A, **Halldorsson S**, **Djirackor L**, **Leske H**, Magadeeva S, Smičius R, Quedenau C, Schmidt NO, Schüller U, **Vik-Mo EO**, Proescholdt M, Riemenschneider MJ, Zadeh G, Ammerpohl O, Yip S et al. (2025)

Rapid brain tumor classification from sparse epigenomic data

Nat Med, 31 (3), 840-848

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Busse JW, Genevay S, Agarwal A, Standaert CJ, Carneiro K, Friedrich J, Ferreira M, Verbeke H, **Brox JI**, Xiao H, Virdee JS, Gunderson J, Foster G, Heegsma C, Samer CF, Coen M, Guyatt GH, Wang X, Sadeghirad B, Malam F, Zeraatkar D, Vandvik PO, Zhou T, Xie F, Siemieniuk RAC et al. (2025)

Commonly used interventional procedures for non-cancer chronic spine pain: a clinical practice guideline

BMJ, 388, e079970

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Carcel C, **Sandset EC**, Ali M, Allende Echanez MI, Mosconi MG, de Souza AC, Dalli LL, Venturelli PM, Sakamoto Y, Nasreldin A, Yu AY, Walter S, Lannin NA, Drummond A, Caso V, Alladi S, Bushnell CD, Reeves MJ, Gall S (2025)

Addressing sex and gender differences in stroke risk and management: A scientific statement from the World Stroke Organization

Int J Stroke, 21 (3), 303-323

DOI [10.1177/17474930251393009](https://doi.org/10.1177/17474930251393009), PubMed [41131690](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41131690/)

Castillo JL, Aza A, Fernández M, **Rasmussen MS**, **Andelic N**, Verdugo MÁ (2025)

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Qual Life Res, 34 (9), 2701-2717

DOI [10.1007/s11136-025-04011-z](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11136-025-04011-z), PubMed [40613978](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/40613978/)

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Do enlarged white matter perivascular spaces reflect brain clearance dysfunction? Insights from intrathecal contrast-enhanced MRI

Neuroradiology, 68 (1), 241-251

DOI [10.1007/s00234-025-03877-7](https://doi.org/10.1007/s00234-025-03877-7), PubMed [41452367](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/41452367/)



Christensen J, Trabjerg BB, Wagner RG, Newton CR, Kwon CS, **Aaberg KM**, Trinkka E, Wiebe S, Cross JH, Vegrim HM, Vos T, Steinmetz J, Dreier JW (2025)

Prevalence of epilepsy: a population-based cohort study in Denmark with comparison to Global Burden of Disease (GBD) prevalence estimates

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