

Research Strategy

2023-2027

Research Unit in Geriatric Department,
Aarhus University Hospital, Denmark



HEALTH
AARHUS UNIVERSITY



AARHUS
UNIVERSITY
HOSPITAL

midt
Central Denmark Region

Vision

Together, we take geriatric research into to the highest level to improve older people's lives and health.

Guiding principles

- ✓ We conduct holistic research with and for all older patients
- ✓ We create and lead national and international research projects
- ✓ We build an excellent research environment across disciplines and specialties
- ✓ We create the best development opportunities for students and all talented researchers

Values

Ambition: We are researchers who strive to conduct high-quality research that creates improvements for the benefit of older patients and the world around them.

Collaboration: We are collaborative and inclusive of partners across specialties and disciplines.

Generosity: We are welcoming and make it our business to include others in our research.

Creativity: We do our utmost to create better solutions to complex clinical challenges.

Description of the research unit

The research unit is under the management of the Department of Geriatrics at Aarhus University Hospital (AUH) and the Department of Clinical Medicine at Aarhus University.

The research unit consists of 1 research manager/associate professor, 1 clinical associate professor, 3 external associate professors, 1 educational responsible pre-graduate associate professor, 6 PhDs and 7 PhD students (6 with main supervisor from the unit). The research group is interdisciplinary and collaborates with patients/relatives and with researchers in other specialties, hospitals, regions and countries. The research is supported by operating funds in the department and foundation funds, respectively.

The unit is physically located at AUH, where research offices with PC workstations and meeting facilities are established.

Journal Club is held on the first Thursday of the month from 14.00-15.30 with the participation of the unit's researchers and students as well as guests from outside. The purpose of the Journal Club is to give presentations on relevant research topics and methods and to discuss ideas, ongoing projects and draft articles.

Quarterly research committee meetings are held where the department management, and the research leaders inform each other about new initiatives and discuss current issues.

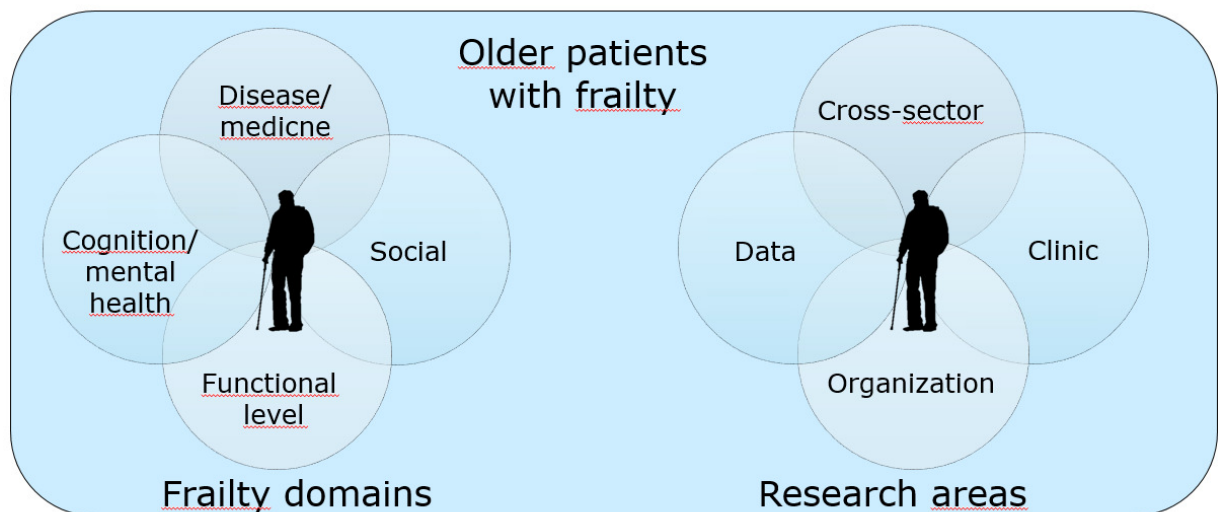
Overall research areas

The research topic is "the older patient" with special focus on the geriatric field, where patients are often defined as 75+ years old with multimorbidity, frailty and/or physical and cognitive impairment.

The research unit and department management jointly assess the direction of the overall research areas. Clarifying the areas will provide strategic direction and ensure that junior researchers can more easily see themselves as part of the research group and part of something bigger.

Based on an overall assessment of the current interests and specialisations in the unit, four main areas have been selected for strengthening:

- Cross-sectoral research - e.g. hospital at home, telemedicine and transitional care
- Clinical research - e.g. orthogeriatrics, infections, falls and assessment tools
- Data-driven research - e.g. medicine optimisation and geriatric epidemiology
- Healthcare organization - e.g. education and forms of collaboration



Goals for the Research Unit

Production and visibility

We want to make our research visible by publishing peer-reviewed articles in indexed journals and participating in national and international meetings and conferences. We want to create evidence for decision makers/policy makers.

Objective: To conduct research of high professional standard and productivity

Actions	Performance goals
Ensure more regular research time for researchers	Hire an academic assistant by the end of 2023
Ensure access to legal and statistical support	Establish permanent contacts
Ensure access to systematic literature search, data management and language revision	Establish permanent contacts
Increase the number of peer-reviewed publications (currently 8 publications per year)	Increase to minimum 15 publications annually during the period
Increase the number of all publications~ (currently 18 publications per year)	Increase to minimum 25 publications annually
Fundraising by following the annual cycle	Increase to minimum 5 mill. annually during the period

~ Conference abstracts, book chapters and peer-reviewed articles

Interdisciplinarity

We want a broad representation of disciplines in our research to be able to embrace the entire patient situation. This interdisciplinarity is already seen as a great benefit in the clinical work around the patient.

Objective: To contribute to increasing evidence in the treatment, care and rehabilitation of frail older people across the healthcare system.

Actions	Performance goals
Ensure interdisciplinary research with collaborative research	Hire two professors (doctor and nurse)
Strengthen research in physiotherapy and occupational therapy	Adding a research leader in physiotherapy and occupational therapy

Implementing research

Choosing relevant research topics increases the likelihood of subsequent implementation of the results in the clinic. Implementation takes place in ongoing dialogue between researcher, research manager and department management.

Objective: To conduct relevant research that is in demand by clinical staff and ensure the possibility of implementing new knowledge.

Actions	Performance goals
Collaborate with Senior Councils from Central Denmark Region and municipalities on new projects	At least 90% of all intervention studies must involve Senior Councils in the planning phase
Involve the Council on Aging in the conceptualization of research projects and keep the council informed of new research results	2 annual events at AUH
Collaborate with the Communication Department at AUH on the dissemination of research results	Minimum 6 annual posts on AUH Intra and other relevant forums
Keeping clinical staff in the Department of Geriatrics informed about new research results and involving them in generating ideas for new research	1 annual G-academy on research
Keeping the management of the Department of Geriatrics informed about new research results	2 annual events for department management and heads of department

Guidance

Guidance of young researchers is of great importance for the dynamics of the unit and helps to ensure future research in the department.

Objective: To be a dynamic and committed research department that can educate and attract talented students and researchers.

Actions	Performance goals
Offer teaching at AU	Teaching in the medical program Teaching in the health science master's program
Main supervisor function for the research unit's associate professors and professors	6 PhD students annually 1 research year student annually

	6 bachelor and thesis students annually
Co-supervision in own and other specialties	4 PhD students annually
Ensure supervisors' further training in teaching and supervisory competences	Main supervisors are expected to participate in relevant courses via AU or Central Denmark Region
Ensure high expertise and continuity within specific research topics	At least 1 FTE postdoc affiliated with the department
Ensure a good research environment with unified office facilities, meeting rooms and social activities. Focus on clear leadership and building daily routines and traditions that can support a good psychological work environment	Fulfilment of other performance goals

Cross-sectoral collaboration

The research unit has a long tradition of participating in professional communities for cross-sectoral research. Currently, we collaborate with e.g. Liver Gastrointestinal Diseases, Department of Oncology and Urinary Tract Surgery at AUH, regionally and nationally. We also have research collaborations with the Research Unit for General Medicine, Aarhus, and Public Health Science.

Objective: To collaborate with other research environments at AUH, regionally, nationally and internationally and across sector boundaries.

Actions	Performance goals
Ensure participation in research collaborations for new PhD studies, e.g. via the Centre for Intersectoral Research and international partners	At least 80% of research projects are in collaboration with other research environments at AUH, regionally or nationally
	At least 30% are cross-sectoral
	At least 20% of projects are with international researchers.