

**Research Strategy for
Section for Clinical Substance Use and Addiction Research
(Section RUSFORSK),
Department of Research and Development, Oslo University Hospital (OUS)
2025 – 2027**

The revised strategy builds on the strategy from 2018–2021. In addition to existing background documents described in the previous strategy, the Government's Action Plan for Clinical Studies has been added, and OUS and KPHA have revised their own strategies. These documents have been incorporated into the revision of RUSFORSK's strategy for 2025–2027. The strategy will be evaluated annually, and a comprehensive strategic process is planned for 2023 to develop a new strategy effective from 2024

RUSFORSK Vision:

Improved understanding and treatment of substance use and addiction disorders

Strategic mail goals 2025-2027

1. The research section shall produce substance use and addiction research of high international quality

The section shall generate substance use and addiction research that is anchored at and operated by OUS. Projects should be conducted with the aim of obtaining external funding and thereby enabling the hiring of additional staff. The projects should use multiple methodological approaches, including effectiveness studies of clinical interventions, observational studies, and the utilization of clinical and demographic registries

2. Research projects should benefit clinical practice

The section aims to promote a positive attitude toward research within the clinic. Research questions and results should, as far as possible, be relevant to the clinical operations where the projects are conducted. If ARA is a data provider for a project, the department should as a rule also be involved in the entire research process, including article writing.

Research should be organized and conducted in a way that is enriching for clinical work. Additional tasks related to research must be accompanied by additional resources. There should be close collaboration with clinical environments during both the planning and implementation phases.

Clinicians involved in data collection should receive training and supervision in research methodology and be listed as co-authors if they wish and meet the Vancouver authorship criteria. At the start of projects, researchers should provide teaching on the knowledge background and knowledge gaps in the field to highlight the project's relevance. Researchers should keep clinicians updated during the course of the project and involve clinical units when celebrating project milestones. When a project is completed, the results should be communicated back to the clinic, preferably in the form of educational presentations.

Efforts should be made to facilitate career paths where clinicians involved in research and who perform well can eventually move into combined positions with opportunities for academic education and advancement.

3. All projects should include user involvement

Users should be involved in the planning and implementation of research projects as well as in the dissemination of results. The section should be affiliated with a user council that can be consulted and included in the research process. The council should be broadly composed and represent experiences with different types of substances and various aspects of the support system, as well as experience as relatives. Funding for the council should be included in the operating budget.

4. The research section shall contribute to national and international research collaboration

Research projects should be of such scale and quality that they need to be conducted across multiple units. Researchers should seek collaboration with researchers and clinicians in both mental and somatic health services within and outside of OUS, with primary care, and with other substance use research and treatment units outside of OUS.

The section shall collaborate with universities, colleges, and other centers of expertise, as well as with international academic environments. Employees in the section should participate in relevant networks. Researchers in the section should seek adjunct positions at relevant institutions

5. The research section shall be a visible actor and contribute to research dissemination

The section is responsible for communicating results to the clinic's staff and users. It shall collaborate with OUS's communication departments for both internal and external dissemination, as well as use its own channels for research communication.

The section shall be a visible actor in the Norwegian professional community through presentations at conferences and publications in national academic journals. It shall contribute to public education and facilitate staff participation in public debates on substance use and addiction.

Communication strategy

The section should be perceived as accessible and relevant. In addition to the section's research strategy, a separate communication strategy shall be developed targeting KPHA staff, patients, managers, and the general public. One of the section's employees will be given special responsibility for communication work.

Evaluation

The strategy outlines main goals and strategic priorities through 2027. The strategy will be operationalized through an annual action plan with specific measurable objectives and activities. These outcomes will be evaluated through the development of an annual report that will be made publicly available.