

# FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES

Health for a better world  
Norwegian University of Science and Technology – NTNU



## Guide to readers

The vision and strategy of the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences give concrete form to NTNU's strategy. The strategic goals are further developed in the departments' own strategies and priorities.

The strategy consists of three parts, where parts 2 and 3 comprise the strategic goals.

In Part 1, "challenges" describes the changes in society that the Faculty must address. "Main objectives 2025" describes where the Faculty wants to be at the end of the strategy period.

Part 2 describes the goals within the core tasks. The strategy defines three "cross-cutting priority areas" that are relevant for all the three core tasks. Part 3 describes the goals for these areas. Annual action plans will help to put the strategy into operation and realise the main objectives for 2025, as described in Part 1. Action plans and initiatives are developed as part of the annual planning and budgeting process.

The document ends with a brief fact sheet about the Faculty.

Strategy for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences at NTNU

Adopted by the Faculty Board April 25, 2018.

Photo front page: Ole Ekker

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VISION

VALUES

SOCIAL MISSION

CHALLENGES

MAIN OBJECTIVES 2025

01





# HEALTH FOR A BETTER WORLD

- is the Faculty's vision and our contribution to realizing NTNU's vision Knowledge for a Better World. We aim to develop knowledge, skills and solutions that contribute to good health from a regional, national and global perspective. The vision also expresses our aim to enable a fairer distribution of knowledge and resources.

## VALUES

NTNU's values serve as a guide for all staff and students. These values should characterise our thinking and behaviour:

- Creative
- Critical
- Constructive
- Respectful

See more about the values in NTNU's strategy:  
[www.ntnu.edu/strategy-2018-2025](http://www.ntnu.edu/strategy-2018-2025)



## SOCIAL MISSION

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (MH) is responsible for research, innovation, education and dissemination and outreach in the field of medicine and health sciences. The Faculty has a particular responsibility for basic research and the education of PhD candidates.

We will develop knowledge, competence and value for society, in medicine and health sciences, in accordance with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.



## CHALLENGES

The health and care services sector is the Faculty's most important arena for education and research. Changes in demography, technology and economy have a major impact on the sector. To face the challenges of the future, teaching methods, professional training and research must be adapted to enable students and researchers to meet patients in new arenas and across the range of health services.

Active and informed users and their families will place increasing demands on the health and care services. Prevention, empowerment and health promotion must be emphasised in education and research to help curb growth in the need for health services. Development of knowledge will provide the basis for setting priorities and choosing solutions.

Unreliable sources of information and fake news challenge the factual basis and understanding of knowledge. The Faculty must educate graduates with critical thinking skills, and students and staff must participate actively in the social debate.

Competition for research funds, students and staff is increasing. This calls for continuous quality improvement and greater international collaboration.

To meet the challenges of global health, teamwork across traditional disciplinary boundaries is needed.



## MAIN OBJECTIVES 2025

The quality of our activities is consistently high, and at least one group in each department has an internationally leading position.

We are an attractive partner for internationally recognised research and educational institutions.

The knowledge that we create in cooperation with users, health services, the business community and other stakeholders influences the development of society.

Our academic activities provide an evidence base for coherent and sustainable priorities in health policy.

We educate outstanding graduates who are attractive in their respective fields on the national and international labour market.

We have established a culture of innovation in health.

We have strengthened our commitment to research, innovation and education for better global health.

Our students and staff contribute to positive social development in the cities and regions in which we are active.

## CORE TASKS

# 02





# EDUCATION AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT



Photo: Mariana Bryk

We educate competent and respectful graduates with critical thinking skills and a capacity for innovation and lifelong learning. Our programmes of study create students who are confident in their professional skills and facilitate teamwork skills across professions. Our programmes of study reflect NTNU's main profile in science and technology.

## OUR GOALS

- We recruit competent, motivated students to an inclusive learning environment of high quality
- Students contribute to the Faculty's academic activity and development
- Student active and innovative teaching methods characterise our programmes of study
- All our programmes of study are research-based and socially relevant
- Graduates are skilled in using digital solutions for better health and care services
- Our PhD-training is at a high international level
- Structures and professional communities have been established for continuous development of our teaching competence and our education management
- We have increased the number of teaching staff members with recognised teaching merit



# RESEARCH



Our research activity ranges from basic and translational to clinical and applied research. Our research is of high quality and promotes health and prevents disease locally and globally. There is close collaboration between clinical practice and basic research. NTNU's main profile in science and technology characterises our research.

## OUR GOALS

- We have strengthened our collaboration with the health services – especially in the integrated university hospital which makes us outstanding in clinical research with great benefits in practice and fast integration of new knowledge
- The volume and quality of our basic and translational research have increased
- We stimulate bold research aimed at groundbreaking discoveries
- We provide up-to-date research infrastructure of high quality
- We exploit the advantages of our closeness to the technological disciplines, the Nord-Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT), biobanks and the Helseplattformen
- We have strengthened our user involvement and teamwork with user organisations
- Interdisciplinarity and cooperation with international leading environments have increased, through several EU projects among other initiatives



# INNOVATION

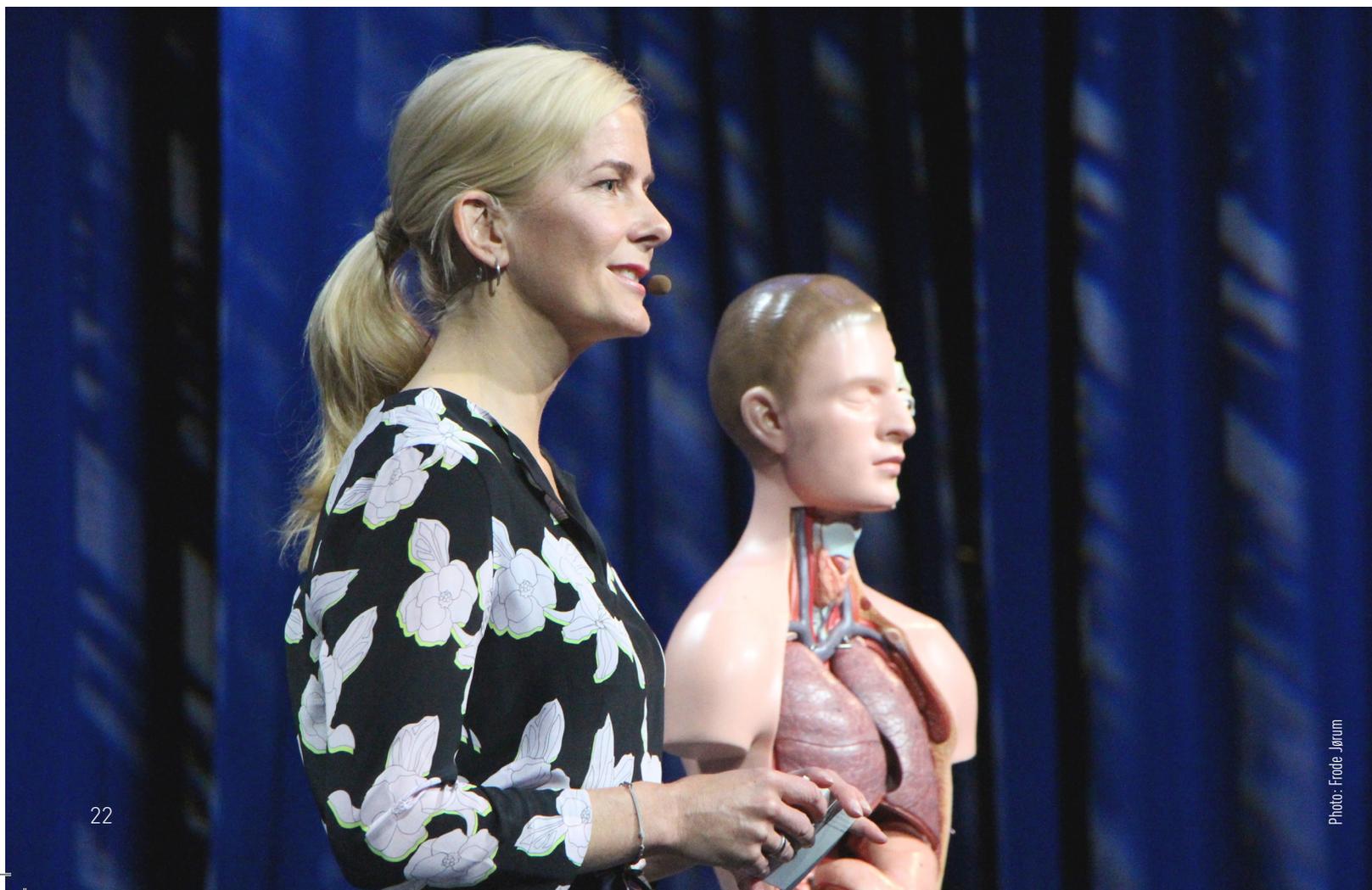


In cooperation with business and industry, the public sector and health services, we develop new services, products and new ways of working. Innovation and inventive activities contribute to value creation and better health from a global perspective.

## OUR GOALS

- We pave the way for active partnership with the business community
- Students and staff have strong innovation skills
- Students from different programmes of study participate actively in innovation and entrepreneurship
- Our student-driven Centre for Innovation is at the forefront in Norway
- Commercialisation projects and our start-up companies from staff and students have increased
- We realise more of the potential in the close collaboration between NTNU and SINTEF to develop solutions in health technology and digitalisation

# DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH



We communicate new knowledge to relevant audiences in a way that provides insight and sparks debate.

## OUR GOALS

- We make our knowledge visible and accessible through scientific and popular communication channels
- We use innovative measures, arenas and media to strengthen our reputation and recruit talented staff and students
- Employees and students contribute actively to a knowledge-based public debate
- We inspire interest in health education and research among children and young people

**CROSS-CUTTING  
PRIORITY AREAS**

# 03



## INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

### OUR GOALS

- By developing common goals for research, innovation and education, we strengthen our collaboration at the integrated university hospital, St. Olav's Hospital
- Collaboration with the Central Norway Regional Health Authority and local health authorities is developed further
- Collaboration in the Trondheim University Municipality is strengthened and used as a basis for similar collaboration in Gjøvik, Ålesund and Levanger
- HUNT provides a basis for research and innovation projects across NTNU's academic community and together with external partners

## INTERNATIONALISATION

### OUR GOALS

- We have strengthened our collaboration with internationally recognised and relevant communities in research and education
- We contribute to knowledge and build research and education competence in low- and middle-income countries
- We offer several internationally oriented programmes of study
- International exchange among our students and staff has increased

# ORGANISATION

## OUR GOALS

- Our leadership at all levels is open and transparent, facilitating an effective flow of information, dialogue and involvement
- International employees are integrated in practical, social and academic contexts
- We have increased the number of academic staff members with doctoral degrees
- We are an attractive employer and recruit the most qualified applicants to our positions
- We have relevant skills and effective systems for technical and administrative support, adapted to our academic activity
- We have improved gender balance, equality of opportunity and diversity among students and staff
- We place a major focus on health, safety and environment, to develop an attractive environment for work and learning
- Organisational and academic cooperation between campuses in Trondheim, Ålesund, Gjøvik and Levanger is strengthened
- Staff and students contribute to the development of the campus



Photo: Ole Ekker

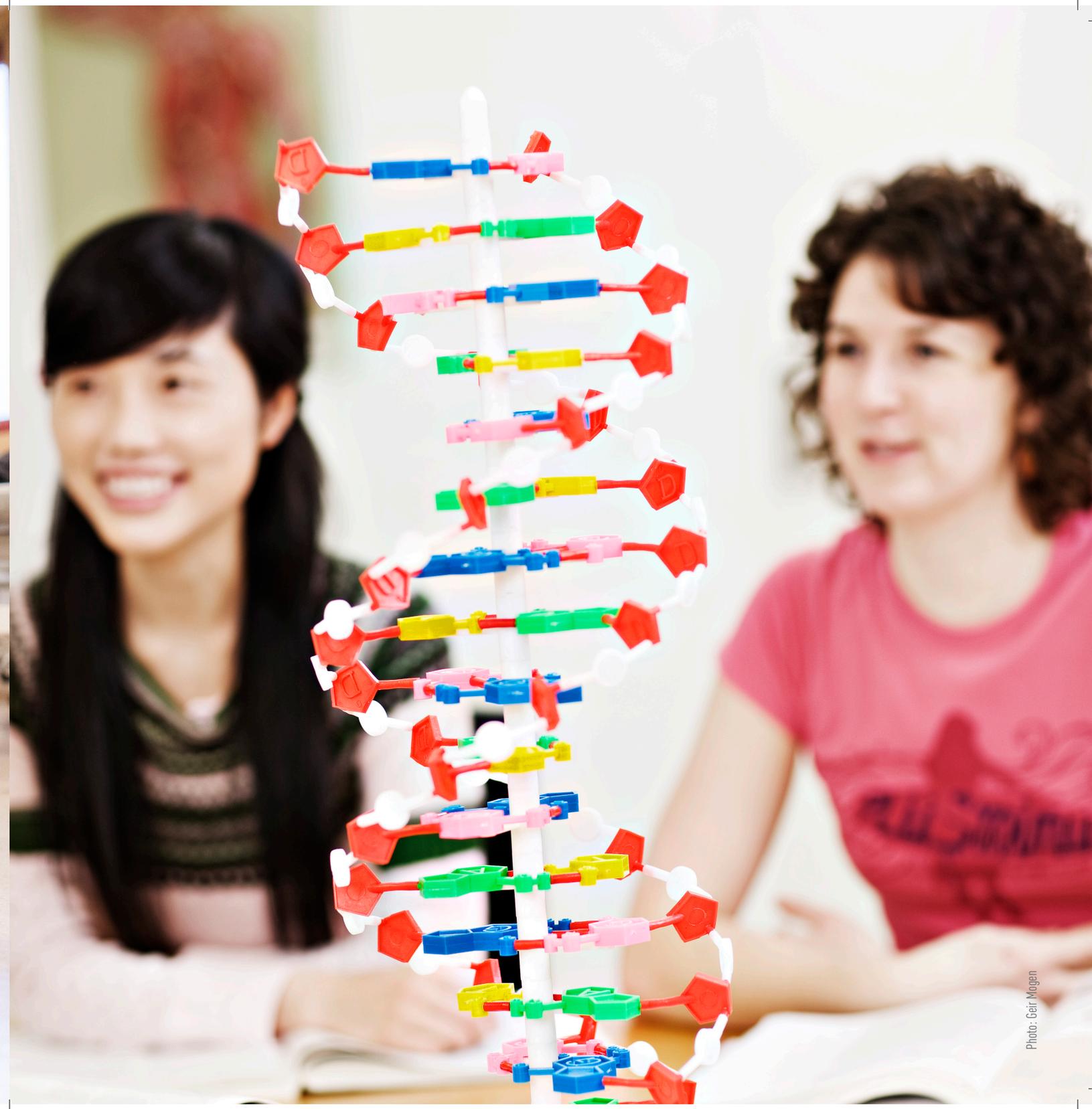


Photo: Geir Mogen

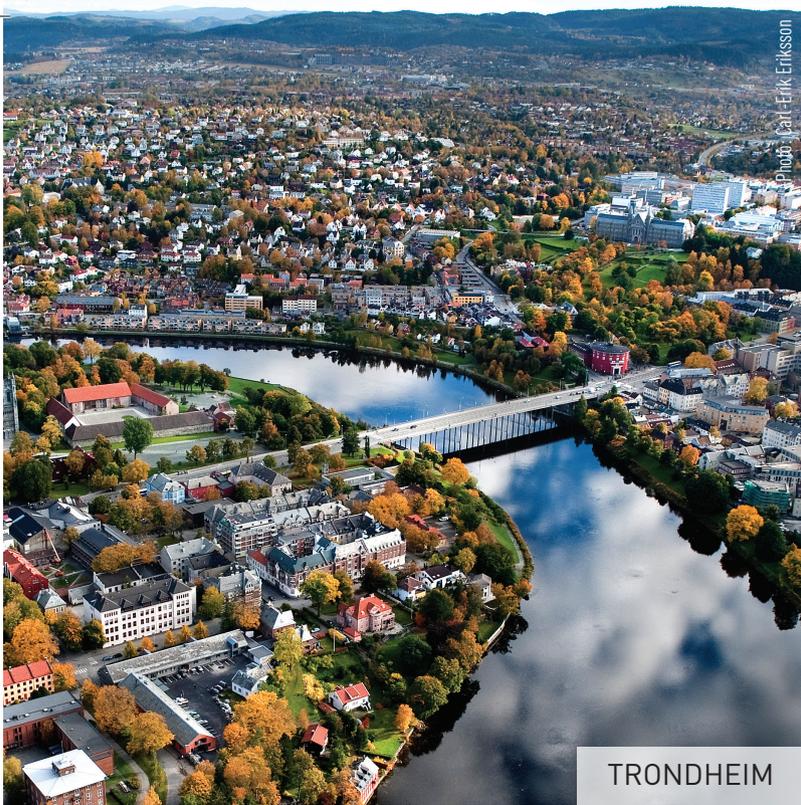


Photo: Carl-Erik Eriksson

TRONDHEIM



Photo: Photoshot by Wikiregionen

GJØVIK

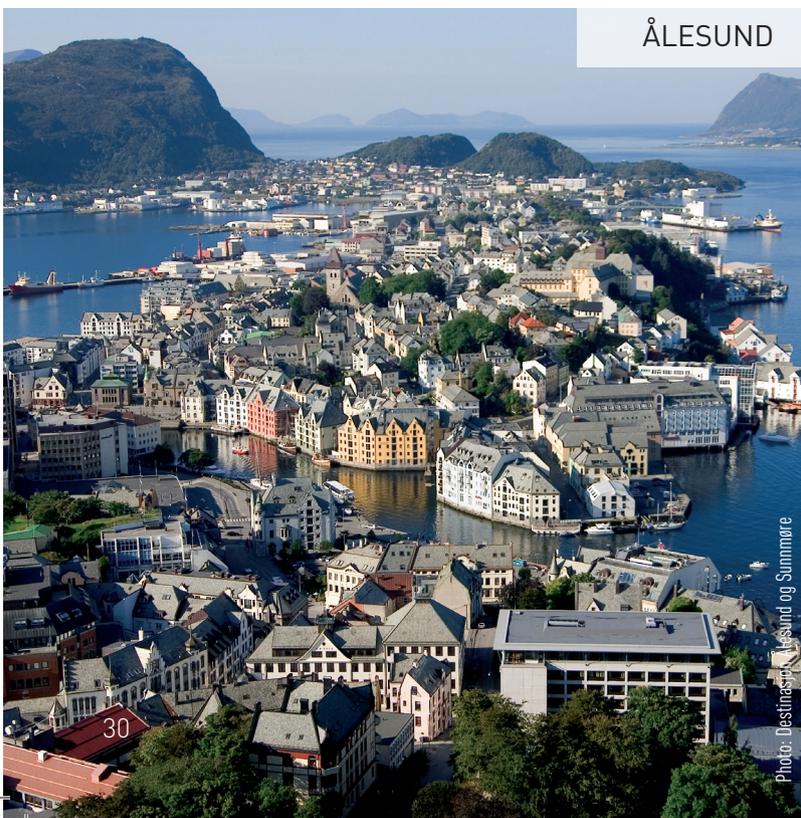


Photo: Destinasjon Ålesund og Sommere

ÅLESUND

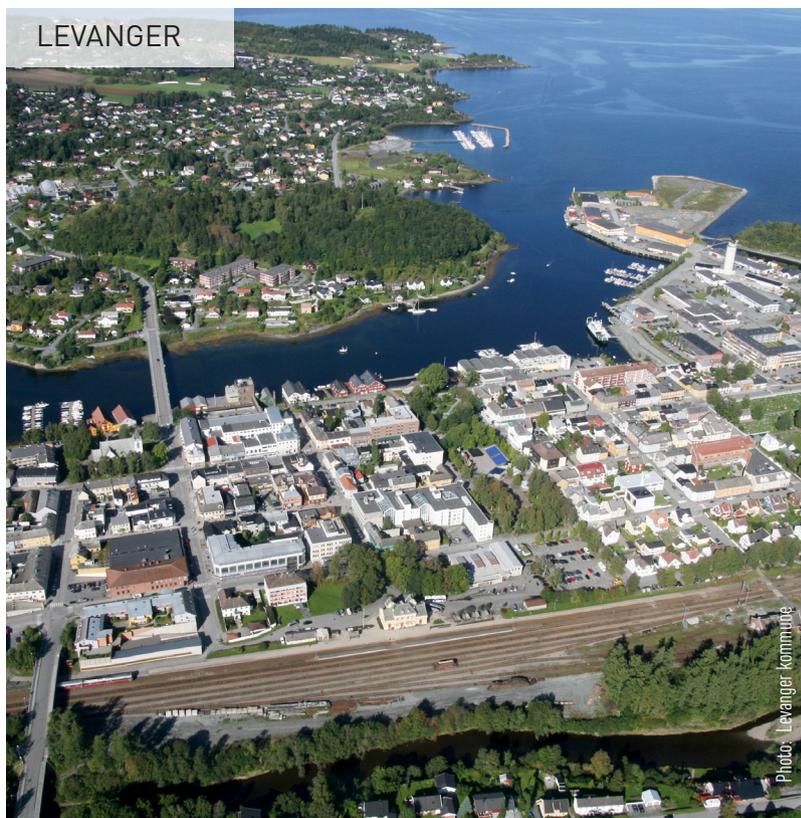


Photo: Levanger kommune

LEVANGER

# THE FACULTY OF MEDICINE AND HEALTH SCIENCES (MH) IN BRIEF

We have activities at various locations in Trondheim, Gjøvik, Ålesund and Levanger. In total about 1800 people work at the Faculty, many in combined posts with the health services. In 2018, the Faculty's activities represent a total turnover of about NOK 1.4 billion. Of this, external funding totals almost NOK 500 million.

We offer a range of programmes of study in medicine and health disciplines, as well as many programmes from bachelor to master and PhD levels, and continuing further education. In total there are about 6500 students at the Faculty.

Our research community includes centres of excellence and centres for research-driven innovation, several K. G. Jebsen centres, large EU projects and the research centre for the Nord-Trøndelag Health Study with its biobank. In 2014, May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser, together with John O'Keefe, were awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology for the discovery of the brain's navigation system.

The academic environments at NTNU, St. Olav's University Hospital and the Central Norway Regional Health Authority are our closest partners in education, research and innovation. Trondheim University Municipality is also an arena for cooperation. Other key partners include SINTEF, Nord-Trøndelag Hospital Trust, Møre og Romsdal Hospital Trust, Innlandet Hospital Trust, and the municipalities of Gjøvik and Ålesund.

## Departments

Our activities are organised in eight departments:

- Department of Health Sciences in Gjøvik (IHG)
- Department of Health Sciences in Ålesund (IHA)
- Department of Clinical and Molecular Medicine (IKOM)
- Department of Neuromedicine and Movement Science (INB)
- Department of Circulation and Medical Imaging (ISB)
- Department of Mental Health (IPH)
- Department of Public Health, General Practice and Nursing (ISM)
- Kavli Institute for Systems Neuroscience (KIN)

The Faculty hosts the strategic research area NTNU Health. The strategic area aims to encourage interdisciplinary and innovative solutions to future health challenges.

# ABOUT NTNU

NTNU – the Norwegian University of Science and Technology is an internationally oriented university, with headquarters in Trondheim and campuses in Ålesund and Gjøvik. NTNU has a main profile in science and technology, a variety of programmes of professional study, and great academic breadth that also includes the humanities, social sciences, economics, medicine, health sciences, educational science, architecture, entrepreneurship, art disciplines and artistic activities.

NTNU has eight faculties, the University Museum and University Library, more than 40 000 students and 7100 employees.

NTNU is committed to innovative education, especially increased use of learning methods with active student involvement and digitalization.

NTNU has four strategic areas of research in 2014–2023: sustainability, energy, oceans, and health. The university is also the host or partner for 35 large research centres. Two researchers at NTNU have received Nobel Prizes: May-Britt Moser and Edvard Moser (Physiology or Medicine, 2014).

Some 9 per cent of NTNU's students are international and we have a broad international network. NTNU has offices in Japan and Brussels (together with the University of Bergen and SINTEF).