



# BETTER PUBLIC HEALTH

Strategy 2018–2025

Department of Public Health and Nursing (ISM)

## About the Department of Public Health and Nursing (ISM)

The Department of Public Health and Nursing (ISM) is responsible for teaching, research, innovation and dissemination in community medicine and general practice, nursing and public health. Important research areas include public health and the prevalence and causes of diseases, the consequences of illness and treatment, research on health and welfare services, and population-based health surveys. Ethics, communication and applied scientific methods play a key role in all these areas.

The Department also emphasizes research and experimental development in teaching and subject didactics. The Department's activities include a variety of disciplines such as general practice, occupational and social medicine, nursing, health and welfare services, health communication, the distribution and causes of diseases (epidemiology), health-promoting and preventive health work, global health, and ethics. The Nord-Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT) plays a vital role in the Department's research and dissemination activity, and data collection for HUNT4 ends in 2019.

ISM is responsible for key aspects of the programme of professional study in medicine, the entire Bachelor of Nursing programme and the further education programmes in nursing, the MSc programme in public health, the MSc programme in global health, the specialization in healthcare, childhood and youth development for teacher education in vocational subjects, as well as a variety of courses at PhD, master's and bachelor's degree level. The Department hosts the Unit for Healthcare Simulation.

The vision and strategy for the Department of Public Health and Nursing build on the main principles and direction in [NTNU's strategy](#) and [the strategy for the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences](#). Annual action plans will help to put the strategy into operation and realize the main objectives for 2025. Action plans and initiatives are developed as part of the annual planning and budgeting process.



Photo: Geir Mogen/HUNT/NTNU

## VISION:

### Better public health

Better public health is the Department's vision and our contribution to realizing NTNU's vision, Knowledge for a Better World. ISM aims to develop knowledge, skills and solutions that promote good health from a regional, national and global perspective. ISM aims to contribute to knowledge that reduces health disparities and to promote a more equitable distribution of knowledge and resources. Climate issues are among the most important challenges facing modern society, and they will present health challenges as well.

## VALUES

ISM supports NTNU's core values as described in the University's strategy: **creative, critical, constructive, respectful**. In addition, the Department emphasizes the dimension of **showing solidarity**.

## SOCIAL MISSION

ISM has a particular responsibility for education, research, innovation and dissemination in nursing, as well as community medicine, general practice and public health at the national and global level. The Department aims to develop knowledge and expertise and to contribute to value creation of high quality for the benefit of health services and public health, as well as to develop new knowledge contributing to a fairer world, in line with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals.

## CHALLENGES

The Department's arena for education is very broad: the entire health and care sector in addition to the general population with demographic and social variations. A greater number of more complicated tasks will be assigned to primary care, and the education that ISM offers must provide health professionals of the future with strong skills in interdisciplinary cooperation in and between the levels of the health care system. Increased recruitment of health personnel into primary care is needed, and ISM has a special responsibility to prepare students for important tasks in this part of the health sector.

Primary health services need greater knowledge and competence to equip them to handle the many tasks that will be assigned to them. ISM has a special responsibility to contribute research and development within health-promoting and preventive initiatives as well as in the population's use of and benefit from health and care services. This also includes knowledge about the organization, efficiency and quality of services. Most health challenges and their solutions arise outside the health sector, so ISM believes it is important to contribute knowledge about public health in general both to society in Norway and to the world.

Health services have a great shortage of health professionals, and through its programmes of study, ISM will contribute highly competent health personnel.

The Department aims to educate graduates with critical thinking skills, and has employees who participate actively in public debate.

## VISION FOR ISM 2025

High quality is a hallmark of ISM's activities in education and they help to make NTNU an attractive partner nationally and internationally

- ISM develops the quality of education and contributes knowledge and skills of value to health services
- High quality characterizes our graduates and they are sought-after in their fields of expertise regionally, nationally and internationally
- ISM is highly active in research, innovation and education for better public health.
- ISM has several internationally leading communities of expertise in research and education
- ISM is an attractive partner for internationally recognized research and educational institutions.
- In cooperation with users, health services, the business community and other stakeholders, ISM develops knowledge that influences the development of society.
- For issues in public health policy, ISM's employees contribute expert knowledge about holistic and sustainable priority setting, especially in primary health care.
- ISM has a culture of innovation, especially in health, and the Department is a national leader in education and research on public health.





*Photo: Geir Otto Johansen/NTNU/St. Olavs hospital*

## EDUCATION AND LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Graduates with all or part of their higher education within the Department's areas of responsibility are to be competent and well prepared for working life. We therefore emphasize further development of learning methods, teaching methods and arenas with active student participation. To improve interdisciplinary competence, we will expand and benefit from our cooperation with other stakeholders such as the Norwegian Labour and Welfare Administration (NAV), the specialist health service, the municipality of Trondheim and other municipalities in the region. We are committed to developing, applying and evaluating a system to ensure high quality in practical clinical training.

ISM has key tasks in the programme of professional study in medicine with responsibility for general practice as a major subject, as well as community medicine and knowledge about health and welfare services. We also coordinate and provide teaching in medical ethics, behavioural sciences in medicine, global health and scientific methods. The Department contributes to the management and coordination of the study programme in medicine and practice in primary health care. ISM plays an important role in preparing for national tests in medicine.

Together with the Department of Health Sciences in Gjøvik (IHG) and the Department of Health Sciences in Ålesund (IHÅ), ISM is responsible for the bachelor's degree programme in nursing and coordination of the further education programmes in anaesthesia, theatre, intensive care, paediatric, cancer and advanced clinical nursing at all three NTNU locations. ISM also offers further education in midwifery and public health nursing together with IHÅ. Practical training involves all aspects of the health services in which nurses can have a role. In collaboration with IHG and IHÅ, the Department will contribute to establishing a master's degree programme in clinical nursing, which is based on several further education programmes.

ISM is responsible for two master's degree programmes: MSc in Public Health and MSc in Global Health. We recruit broadly, but especially from the health and welfare sector. The programmes of study are to be research-based and socially relevant, providing students with skills in critical reflection and the opportunity for specialization in thematic elective courses. ISM has been assigned responsibility for coordination and quality assurance of methods teaching for all master's programmes at the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (MH). The Unit for Healthcare Simulation offers skills training and simulation exercises for the Faculty's programmes.

ISM is responsible for several courses at PhD level – both compulsory courses and elective courses in methods. The Department emphasizes close follow-up and strong skills in supervision for our PhD candidates.

## **Our goals**

### **Overarching goals**

- ISM has a positive and inclusive learning environment
- ISM will further develop quality of education and learning methods with active student involvement
- ISM has further developed interdisciplinary arenas to prepare our graduates for working life
- ISM has good schemes for student exchange
- ISM offers up-to-date programmes of study that are in demand in the health care system

### **Bachelor's degree programmes**

- The programmes of study from ISM are sought after, attracting motivated and talented students
- ISM helps nursing students to graduate with strengthened generalist skills
- Nurses with an education from ISM are in demand in the health care system
- Teachers of vocational subjects who are educated at ISM are sought-after in the school system as well as in training programmes in the working world

### **Medical school**

- ISM helps medical students to graduate with strengthened generalist skills
- ISM has integrated its subject areas in NTNU Link, the decentralized course of study starting in the 3rd year of medical school
- ISM coordinates and develops three thematic strands that are embedded and integrated throughout the programme of study (health promotion and disease prevention; scientific competence; professionalism and communication).

### **Master's degree programmes and further education programmes**

- The master's degree programmes at ISM are in demand and have high numbers of applicants
- The master's degree programmes at ISM are of high quality
- The master's degree programmes at ISM include courses relevant to working life, and graduates are sought after in their professions.

## PhD

- ISM recruits motivated and talented PhD candidates with a lively intellectual curiosity
- ISM promotes high project quality through active efforts in connection with admission and ensures that research is anchored in the Department's strategy
- ISM works actively to achieve supervision of high quality
- ISM emphasizes close follow-up and supervision of candidates
- ISM makes active efforts to ensure the completion of high-quality PhD projects within the time and funding constraints.



Photo: Anne-Line Bakken/NTNU

## RESEARCH

The Department's research activity ranges from population studies to clinical and patient-centred research. It includes research on the population's use and experience of health and welfare services. Our research must support the goal of effective, high-quality services in health, care and welfare by making a useful contribution to planning and organizing health services as well as preventive and health-promoting initiatives both nationally and globally. The Department emphasizes interdisciplinary and cross-professional research, and we have a special responsibility for research aimed at the knowledge needs of primary healthcare.

ISM runs the Nord-Trøndelag Health Study (HUNT), which has conducted four large population surveys in the northern region of Trøndelag and is considering the next survey. The data material in HUNT consists of self-reported health data, physiological measurements and varied biological material. It is an extremely valuable source for increasing knowledge in health monitoring, causes and mechanisms of disease, treatment results, diagnostics, development of new medicines as well as research on health and welfare services.

## Our goals

- ISM offers an inspiring and attractive interdisciplinary research community with research support of high quality
- ISM improves the quality of research and has access to national and international funding sources (Research Council of Norway, EU, and others).
- ISM emphasizes socially relevant and sought-after health research, especially concerning major threats to public health both nationally and globally.
- ISM benefits from proximity to the HUNT health study and promotes knowledge about HUNT as the Department's most important research source
- ISM increases its commitment to innovative research in genetic epidemiology based on HUNT data
- ISM strengthens research on general practice
- ISM strengthens clinical research and research aimed at primary health care
- ISM increases clinical and nursing research





Photo: Mariana Bryk/NTNU

## INNOVATION

Innovation in public health and in the health services is vital for health promotion and prevention of disease as well as for better diagnosis and treatment of diseases in the future. ISM is open to cooperation with business and industry, the public sector and health services, for the development of new services, products, and forms of organization. Innovation and inventive activities contribute to value creation and better health from a global perspective.

### Our goals

- ISM prepares students to think creatively and innovatively for the benefit of patients
- ISM works together with health services on service innovation and testing of technological solutions
- ISM increases research on education and develop innovative teaching methods to prepare students for cross-professional teamwork
- ISM contributes to the efficiency and availability of HUNT data
- ISM engages with public-sector, voluntary and private-sector organizations that have an influence on public-health activities
- ISM works together with and contribute knowledge to the business community developing new diagnostics and new forms of treatment
- ISM strives to encourage innovative thinking and work methods in prevention-focused health efforts and the design of health services.

## **DISSEMINATION AND OUTREACH**

The Department will communicate knowledge about health, illness, preventive and health promotion actions to relevant audiences and to the public. This will take place through scientific channels and as popular science dissemination. The Department's employees will contribute to public debate with research-based knowledge. The Department's website will reflect ongoing educational and research activity at ISM.

### **Our goals**

- ISM has increased scientific dissemination of knowledge through open access communication channels
- ISM has increased its visibility and contributes actively in public debate
- ISM has informative and updated web pages about the Department's activity

## **INTERNATIONALIZATION**

### **Our goals**

- We strengthen research collaboration with internationally recognized environments to improve the quality and significance of our work
- We have increased international exchange and mobility among both students and staff
- Our research environment is highly attractive to international researchers
- We contribute knowledge that helps to build research and education skills in low- and middle-income countries
- Our international master's programme in global health is an important contribution to NTNU as an internationally recognized educational institution



*Photo: Anne-Line Bakken/NTNU*

## INTERDISCIPLINARY COLLABORATION

### Our goals

- ISM works in partnership with the University Hospital on education, research and innovation
- Our teamwork with the primary health care system in professional training is used to benefit patient- and practice-oriented research and innovation
- We collaborate across faculties and departments at NTNU to develop HUNT as a research source

## ORGANIZATION AND WORK ENVIRONMENT

### Our goals:

- ISM has a good work environment characterized by respect
- ISM has clear and competent leadership with a focus on information, dialogue, participation and co-determination
- ISM has a management structure tailored to the organization's needs and size
- ISM ensures active participation through the Extended Management Group and specialist units
- ISM is a sought-after workplace with highly qualified applicants, and is a learning organization
- ISM has a highly competent professional administration that provides good support functions for the Department's academic activity
- ISM has increased its commitment to gender balance among students and staff
- ISM promotes skills development and career guidance for its employees
- ISM continues strategic selection for recruitment positions
- ISM will increase its use of digital communication methods to reduce travel activity
- ISM increases research activity and quality through professional and targeted research support to the Department's researchers and management