



RESEARCH STRATEGY 2026-2031

DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL DENTISTRY

UNIVERSITETET I BERGEN



DEPARTMENT OF CLINICAL DENTISTRY

The Department of Clinical Dentistry has active research environment in clinical research, infection and inflammation, biomaterials, and regenerative dentistry of high international standard.

VISION AND STRATEGIC GOAL

To be a nationally leading and internationally recognized hub for translational oral research that enhance clinical care, strengthens public health, fosters innovation and educates researchers in oral health sciences.

RESEARCH ORGANISATION AND PRIORITIZATION

Structure:

- Consolidate the research groups under TOR into broader thematic clusters to:
 - foster synergy
 - increase critical mass
 - improve research excellence
- Dedicated research leadership team
 - Director of research
 - Research group leaders with cross-cutting mandates
 - A research strategy committee for coordination and performance review

Focus areas:

- Translational tissue engineering and regenerative medicine
- Bioactive and safe biomaterials
- Oral infections and inflammation
- Patient-centred clinical and public health research in oral health
- Education in dentistry
- Register-based research

The themes are aligned with faculty and UiB institutional strategies, SDG3-5, 9-13 and national oral health priorities.

EXCELLENCE AND RESEARCH QUALITY

- Excellence is defined using international benchmarks:
 - Top-tier publications

- High citation impact
 - Competitive grant capture
 - Translational relevance
 - Societal impact
- Institutionalize annual research quality reviews using DORA-compliant metrics.
- Support and celebrate excellence and high-impact outputs while strengthening structured mentoring and group integration.

EXTERNAL FUNDING

- Increase applications for large, multi-partner, interdisciplinary grants.
- Leverage successful precedents from Tissue Engineering group across all themes.
- Expand strategic collaboration with:
 - Industry (national and international)
 - Health authorities and NGOs
 - Academic partners in underserved oral health areas
- Available research funding advisor within the faculty to identify and streamline grant preparation and support early-career researchers.

RESEARCH EDUCATION

- Strengthening TOR's role towards the research school
 - Standardize PhD supervision guidelines and mentor training in alignment with the strategy of the faculty
 - Networking and expanding international research exchange
 - Integrate early exposure to research for undergraduates and clinical trainees/postgraduates

- Highlight departmental contributions to PhD programs in UiB reporting and increase visibility of research training achievements.
- Promote the establishment of a national research school in oral health.

DISSEMINATION AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

- Prioritize open access (gold standard) for all research.
- Develop knowledge translation pathways:
 - Policy briefs
 - Public reports
 - Patient engagement sessions
- Institutionalize impact assessments, especially for projects on:
 - Regenerative therapies
 - Safe biomaterials
 - Clinical research
- Use case studies as tools for stakeholder engagement and policy dialogue.

COLLABORATION

- Expand structured long-term partnership through MOUs and joint grants.
 - Benchmark collaboration using measurable outcomes:
 - Joint publications
 - Funding
 - Impact
 - Facilitate and prioritize more cross-group collaboration within TOR to eliminate silos.
 - Use available research seed funds to initiate interdisciplinary projects.
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RECRUITMENT

- Develop and maintain a succession plan for key retiring academics.
- Recruit faculty with interdisciplinary profiles to bridge research groups.
- Implement dual career tracks to optimize workloads (“teaching-heavy” vs. “research-heavy”).
- Improve visibility internationally to attract top researchers and postdocs:
 - Publications
 - Dissemination
 - Networking

INFRASTRUCTURE

- Secure long-term investment in critical infrastructure
- Promote shared core facilities across faculty and inter-institutional collaborations.
- Include sustainability in all infrastructure plans.

MONITORING AND EVALUATION

- Conduct biannual internal strategy reviews and align with faculty/institutional plans
 - Track key indicators:
 - Research output and impact
 - Grant success rate
 - PhD progression and satisfaction
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- Collaboration indices
- Diversity and inclusion metrics

