Psychology and Psychiatry

Clinical psychology, basic psychology, psychiatry

Panel 3
To the Research Council of Norway

The members of the Review Panel 3 for the Evaluation of Norwegian clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research at Norwegian universities, institutes and other research units, submit the following report. The committee was unanimous in its assessments, conclusions and recommendations. None of the panel members has declared any conflict of interest.

Hedvig Söderlund, Department of Psychology, Stockholm University acted as scientific secretary of the evaluation committee.
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1. General Description

The Research Council of Norway has appointed three evaluation panels to evaluate those research efforts in Norway, which are related to studies on clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research at Norwegian universities, institutes and other research units. Three panels were formed and appointed. These are:

1) Clinical medicine
2) Public health services and health-related research
3) Psychology and Psychiatry

This report constitutes the document of Panel 3. The panel appointed by the Research Council of Norway includes the following persons:

Professor Lars-Göran Nilsson, chairman, Department of Psychology, Stockholm University
Professor Claus Bundesen, Department of Psychology, University of Copenhagen
Associate professor Agneta Herlitz, Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm
Professor Heikki J. Lyytinen, Department of Psychology, University of Jyväskylä
Professor Raben Rosenberg, Department of Biological Psychology, Basic Psychiatric Research Institute, Psychiatric Hospital in Aarhus
Professor Raimo K. R. Salokangas, Department of Psychiatry, University of Turku
Professor Peter J. Tyrer, Faculty of Medicine, Neuroscience and Psychological Medicine, Imperial College School of Science, Technology and Medicine, London
Professor Anne-Liis von Knorring, Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, University Hospital, Uppsala

Doctor Hedvig Söderlund, panel secretary, Department of Psychology, Stockholm University (currently: Rotman Research Institute, Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care, Toronto)

The panel members received self-evaluations from all research units involved in April 2003 to read as a preparation for a meeting with representatives of each research unit to be evaluated. This meeting took place in Oslo, May 18-24, 2003. The written reports sent to the panel members, the self-evaluations, were extensive and structured with various rubrics, with a wide variety of clarity and focus. The research council provided additional information at the time of the meeting in Oslo. This information included, among other things, information about earlier evaluations of research in biological science, reports on recruitment needs in social sciences (Rekrutteringsbehov i samfunnsvitenskapleg forskning; Rapport 15/98, Norsk institutt for studier av forskning og utdanning), and research recruitment to medicine and health science (Forskerrekruttering til medisin og helsefag; Rapport 5/99), and reports from publication and citation indices (Medical Research in Norway – Bibliometric indicators, NIFU skrifserie nr 9/2003). These indices were presented at an aggregate national level; of considerable interest when comparing research production in quantity and quality between countries, but were of little help for the present evaluation. Panel 3 requested such citation analyses at a more detailed level. This request was turned down because of the cost and labor involved, and as it seemed, because one of the three panels explicitly expressed that such
analyses were of no value in an evaluation of this sort. It was also the case that only two out of the three interview sessions had taken place, which would mean that one panel would have access to the information prior to the interviews whereas the other panels would only have received it after the interviews. The Panel 3 members regret that this request was rejected, and have thus done the evaluation without bibliometric data.

At the time of the closing of the Oslo meeting in May 2003, the committee summarized the impressions made during the meeting and discussed briefly evaluations and the first ranking made of the research establishments evaluated. A progress plan was outlined, involving a serial mailing list in which the draft of the report was going to rotate. Due to some failures to forward comments and text additions on time, this strategy was abandoned, and the report was sent out in parallel. Several drafts of the report were circulated. The comments and additions appearing in these draft rounds were discussed and then integrated to a “final” version, which was rotated in several steps.

We evaluated research in psychology and psychiatry at Bergen, Oslo, Tromsø, and Trondheim and we have seen the research activities at these universities cover a wide range of important topics such as biological psychology, epidemiology, cognitive psychology, cognitive neuropsychology, genetics, social psychology, health psychology etc. Among the many groups evaluated there are indeed excellent groups, for example, on memory and biological psychology, and several groups do research according to international standards.

We have noticed some neglected areas of research, which seems to be due to a lack of initiatives and efforts at a national, structural level. For example, some research topics in psychiatry are not possible to study, as the adequate equipment is not available. The most obvious lack in this regard is that there is no PET (positron emission tomography) centre in Norway. Equipment for fMRI (functional magnetic resonance imaging) is available, but to a lesser extent than one would wish. The existing research in both psychology and psychiatry with a neuroscience orientation would certainly benefit if such equipment was available for research at each university.

The individual research groups were ranked according to a schedule based on the following criteria:

**Excellent** Research at a very high international level: of great international interest with broad impact and with publications in internationally leading journals; the researchers are among the leaders in the field.

**Very good** Research at a high international level; of international interest with impact within its sub-field and with publications in internationally leading journals; the researchers are among the leaders in the sub-field.

**Good** Research at a good international level with publications in internationally well known specialized journals; the researchers have a good international reputation within their sub-fields.

**Fair** Research that only partly meets good international standard and only partially published in well known international journals.

**Weak** Research of insufficient quality without national or international scientific interest.
2. Overall Summary of Evaluation/General Conclusions

The Research Council of Norway invited Panel 3 to evaluate Norwegian research on psychology and psychiatry (clinical psychiatry, clinical psychology, and basic psychology) on the basis of self-evaluations submitted by the university departments, institutes and other research units selected by the Research Council of Norway, and a week-long meeting with these research organizations. At this meeting, which took place in Oslo, May 18-24, 2003, we had the pleasure of meeting representatives for all research departments/institutes/units/groups that we were evaluating.

Overall, we have attempted to evaluate the quality of the research carried out, including also evaluations of the research training conducted at each site, and the organizations and leadership styles adopted at these research establishments. In our review we have disregarded undergraduate teaching and potential connections with the industrial and political communities. The overall conclusions are that research on psychology and psychiatry in Norway shows large qualitative differences within each of these two disciplines. There are research groups that maintain front line research in a worldwide perspective, and there are groups that are involved in research activities that are basically unproductive. One major reason for this lack of progress in some research environments, we think, is an inward looking attitude to research with no or very little interest in what is going on in the international scientific community at large. Another broad problem for some of the groups is the lack of focus in research problems, illustrated by a diffuse interest in many subjects; this could be addressed by having better scientific leadership.
3. General Recommendations

There is no doubt that excellent, very good, and good research in psychology and psychiatry is being conducted in Norway. As an overall recommendation, Panel 3 suggests that the successful research units in Bergen (Department of Biological and Medical Psychology), Oslo (Cognitive Psychology and Neuropsychology), and Trondheim (the Center of Excellence on Biology of Memory) take on a greater responsibility to guide and encourage less successful units as how to organize and conduct research. There are some structural problems that can be seen in most groups, even in the most successful groups, although in the latter these problems are not sufficiently serious as to affect ongoing research efforts. The Panel 3 members feel that these problems will have to be corrected before long, for the benefit of Norwegian research in psychology and psychiatry in the future. In the following we outline some problems that are prominent and how they can be overcome or avoided.

Age distribution. Apart from Tromsø, an aging staff dominates the age distribution. It seems important that measures are taken so that younger researchers are appointed to central research positions. If this is not done, there will be a gap in a well functioning group structure when the older colleagues retire.

Double competence. It seems as if the requirement of double competence is mostly profitable for clinical work, and not so much for international research of high standard. There is no doubt that this requirement hinders or delays adequate and specialized research training, and Panel 3 recommends that this requirement is removed.

Research training. There seems to be a general idea among Norwegian psychology students that it is clinical practice of psychology that is “the real thing”, and that a research career may come afterwards, on top of the clinical practice. Similar structure is reported from psychiatry; the clinical career comes first and on top of that the research career. Given that it takes several years to become a clinician and to get clinical experience, potential candidates for doctoral studies are therefore rather old. At this point there are many of these candidates that have families to support, and the doctoral student salary is usually considerably lower than the clinician salary. For this reason, many persons choose not to go into research. On the whole, the priority of clinical practice has thus lead to rather few and quite old doctoral students. Nevertheless, the gap in salaries implies that those who actually go into research are highly motivated, and those who are not really interested quit.

It thus seems as if the rate of new PhD dissertations is quite low in some research groups, although in some of these groups there is a considerable number of available supervisors. The departments are recommended to require a greater responsibility by their professors to take on more supervision in order to promote a higher output of PhD students.

In general, there is a large number of professors and associate professors that are quite old (over 50) and who block positions for younger researchers. There are some post-doc positions, although not so numerous, that PhDs can take for some years before being promoted to associate professor or professor II. At some institutes, there is the possibility of turning vacant professorships into post-doc positions, and this is sometimes done. The panel recommends a more proactive approach in developing and promoting the careers of junior research staff. At present such staff remain in junior positions for too long and by the time they are promoted to senior positions they may have lost the creative cutting edge of their youth.

National and international mobility. Several researchers in the various institutes in Norway are known nationally, but not internationally. This seems to be due to the tradition of writing books in Norwegian and publishing articles in national journals rather than aspiring for
international publications. This state of affairs is probably closely linked to the fairly low mobility in Norway – nationally and internationally. Several institutes train their own researchers and their own clinicians, and the employment of staff originating from other universities in Norway or from other countries is not very high. Nevertheless, certain sections of psychology and psychiatry have a more international tone and publications, as well as more international mobility. Also, several institutes are now advertising vacant positions in international or at least Scandinavian forums.

**Collaboration.** Collaboration within and across departments occurs at several units, but this pattern is very uneven. Too many rely still on projects involving only one senior member without younger collaborators. Even more uneven is the international collaboration, but several departments have such collaboration – mainly with other European countries and the U.S.A., but some departments also have connections with Africa.

**Teaching load.** One issue that seems to be a problem at many institutes and departments is that teaching takes away much time from research. The newly established master program has also increased the need for teachers, and has thereby added further to the teaching load.

**Lack of technicians.** An issue that is often brought up is the lack of technicians and the lack of resources for such support. Research that is conducted in hospitals can get some support from technicians employed by the hospital in question. Some departments receive additional funds for technical support for each of their doctoral students or post-doc positions, but this funding is not sufficient. The panel recommends that funds for technical support to researchers outside hospitals should be increased.

**Inward attitude to research.** This is a basic and serious problem and should not be part of any research community. This critique does not apply to most research groups, but the problem is and will be devastating to Norwegian research in these two disciplines if continued. The basic features of this problem are a parochial lack of interest in scientific interchange with the international scientific community, with respect to international publications in peer-reviewed journals, and even a lack of interest in participating in scientific exchange of ideas at international conferences. We were very surprised to note that some groups claimed that their interests were entirely concerned with matters relevant to Norway and Norwegian culture alone and that these were allegedly confined within national borders. The panel recommends that researchers should be encouraged to incorporate a greater international perspective into their research objectives, not ignoring the strengths of their local scene or following the latest trends elsewhere in an uncritical way, but having greater awareness of their actual and proposed work in an international context.

**Research focus.** In several departments, research is characterized by a large number of small and dispersed topics. The research questions of many groups are thus very fragmented with apparently little interest in trying to bridge the gaps between sub-groups for the benefit of interaction and mutual benefits. It is not fully clear to us whether this is a fundamental feature of these groups or whether it is a result of administrative ambitions of universities or departments to form an attractive organization of a department. Other slices through such departments and other compartmentalizations might have been more successful if partitioning of departments must be made. It is possible that some of the existing groups that explicitly state that they have very little in common within the groups eventually will develop towards well-functioning units. However, there is a considerable risk that, without a major change in attitudes, many years will pass by in an unhealthy state of affairs with little benefit for the members of such groups. The panel recommends that the research units should be encouraged to focus their research more strongly.
**Scientific leadership.** The problems evolving from the issue of fragmentation as described in the previous point is related to the somewhat surprising lack of interest in scientific leadership. It is in several of the research groups as if there is some degree of pride that there is a flat organization with no person as a natural scientific leader. Such a flat organization may have social, political and democratic advantages, but the members of the present panel do not think that it is the right solution to a research group with ambitions towards acquiring a front-line research position. There are many stages in developing a successful research group when the advice, guidance and decision of a scientific leader is of utmost importance: e.g., utilization of economic resources in optimal ways, collaborations with other groups or units within or outside the department, critical moves to adequate funding for the group as a whole. It was easy to get the impression at the meeting in Oslo and in reading through the self-evaluations, at least in some of the research groups, that more senior researchers do not want to take the responsibility of scientific leadership. Often, younger researchers appeared as group leaders with the underlying message that it was their turn now to take on this role. In the opinion of this panel, scientific leadership should be based on scientific competence and experience rather than on some principle of rotation of labor.

![Bar chart](attachment:image.png)

Figure 1. Overall distribution of grades among the departments/groups (N=23).
4.1 UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

4.1.1 Faculty of Psychology

The faculty is since 1990 divided into four departments, and out of these four, it is the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology, the Department of Clinical Psychology, and the Department of Psychosocial Science that will be evaluated here. In general, the aims of the faculty are to stimulate and promote research within psychology, health and education. In 1999, five research groups were created on the basis of applications, all consisting of national or international networks, with much collaboration with the Faculties of Medicine, Dentistry and Social Sciences. It was intended that at least one of these groups should be able to compete for a Center of Excellence that was financed by the Research Council of Norway. One of the research groups was among the finalists, and was awarded with additional postdoctoral and doctoral fellowship positions by the University of Bergen and of the Faculty of Psychology.

Another way to promote research has been to make research funding mainly dependent on productivity. An emphasis has been put on national and international collaboration across disciplines and departments.

4.1.1.1 Department of Clinical Psychology

Description of the department

The department has six professors, five associate professors, two professor II:s, and four doctoral students. The present organization dates back to 1990, when three smaller units were merged into one unit. Between 1998 and 2002, six PhD students successfully defended their thesis, and the department reports a fair number of international peer-reviewed publications embedded in CVs. The Faculty of Psychology has commissioned the department to operate three outpatient clinics (Outpatient Clinic for Children, Outpatient Clinic for Adolescents and Adults, and Outpatient Clinic for Adults and the Elderly).

Research strategies and priorities

The most extensive research areas are psychotherapy/psychological treatment, health psychology/behavioral medicine, and clinical geropsychology. More recently, research is also conducted within clinical supervision, trauma psychology, and psychology and law.

No explicit plan of action has yet been formulated to improve research, but issues that will be raised in the future are: defining the department’s high-priority areas of research, generating more research on the data generated in the three clinics, ensuring autonomy for individual staff members while also building research groups that can compete for external grants, strengthening internal and external collaboration, stimulating low-productive staff members in research, and protecting research time in spite of growing teaching load.

Training and mobility

The professional training program in psychology is constructed to integrate research and practice. The three clinics that are run by the department are most useful for this purpose, and they provide training and clinical supervision.

For the professor II positions, some people have been hired from abroad. It is necessary that clinicians working with patients within the department’s outpatient clinics speak Norwegian, which limits the possibility to employ people from abroad for these positions.
National and international collaboration

In spite of language difficulties of when recruiting international colleagues to a clinical psychology department in Norway, the department has collaboration with a few international researchers. There are also several interdisciplinary projects with other departments and universities in Norway and in Scandinavia.

Scientific quality and relevance

The psychotherapy research of the group has focused on fairly large prospective naturalistic studies on psychodynamic oriented therapy and has contributed to evaluation of the role of this treatment modality in ordinary clinical settings. Recently, cognitive behavioral oriented techniques are studied in controlled trials and the disorders studied have been extended to blood-phobia, dental phobia, sleep disturbances and chronic pain. The theoretically broad approach to psychotherapeutic theories and techniques are a strength, but the naturalistic orientation, especially in earlier studies, imposes limitations in an era of evidenced based clinical research.

Health psychology/ behavioral medicine is interdisciplinary and focuses on psychosocial aspect of heart disease and treatment as well as on hereditary diseases with a major project on ethics and life quality in persons with genetic risks. The activities are in line with international health research.

Research in clinical geropsychology, clinical supervision and trauma psychology and psychology and law also mirrors the department focus on important themes in modern health psychology applying a multidisciplinary approach eventually with Scandinavian or international collaborators. Research on psychology and law is theoretically oriented applying qualitative methods.

Among the strengths of the research activities are the broad area of interests, including important problems in psychotherapy and health psychology. Among the weaknesses is the naturalistic orientation in early studies. Furthermore, there is an uneven balance between international and national publications. The research would benefit from a stronger methodological approach and a more international orientation.

Evaluation and recommendation

This group is part of a strong faculty with high self-esteem. As a result, the clinical psychology group appears as the little brother. A problem that is shared with other faculties is that double competence is needed (clinician and researcher), and that research therefore is delayed. This group and others would benefit from a change where researchers only would need a PhD and no clinical training. Otherwise this group is going in the right direction and they have the right priorities. For example, they seem to have an open-minded atmosphere in regard to therapeutic interventions. A suggestion is to collaborate with other departments, such as the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology. Related, the advantage of having international researchers affiliated with the department would increase if the collaboration was tied to research projects. As it appears now, the international researchers appear to work independently from the department. Also, it would be valuable to make an effort to recruit young scientists as professors in order to decrease the average age of tenured professors. The panel’s overall impression is that research in this group is good.
4.1.1.2 Department of Biological and Medical Psychology

Description of the department

The department has six professors (of whom one works 20%), five associate professors, two professor II positions, and nine doctoral students. Fourteen PhD students graduated in the last five years, and the department reports a large number of international publications that can be extracted from attached CVs.

The department is divided into three units (Unit of Cognitive Neuroscience, Unit of Physiological Psychology, and Unit of Clinical Neuropsychology). There are two prominent research groups: Cognitive Neuroscience, run by the Unit of Cognitive Neuroscience, and Stress and Health, run by the Unit of Physiological Psychology. The Unit of Clinical Neuropsychology runs an outpatient clinic, which is helpful when training students and psychologists that are specializing in clinical neuropsychology and in clinical research.

Research strategies and priorities

The Cognitive Neuroscience group got highly ranked in the selection for the RCN Centers of Excellence in 2002, which has lead to financial support of the Faculty of Psychology and to the establishment of the Bergen Mental Health Research Center (BMHRC). The center will be a multidisciplinary center including cognitive neuroscience, clinical psychiatry, basic neuroscience and functional genomics. The Cognitive Neuroscience group has also built up functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) in Norway and is the leading research group in fMRI. The fMRI research will also be a priority for the next years.

The department is doing research within the fields of health psychology/behavioral medicine, mental health, stress, and cognitive neuroscience.

Training and mobility

The department has a steady production of PhD dissertations. The majority of the PhDs go to other departments within the faculty, and few go abroad. People are unwilling to move for promotion to professorship; most people prefer to wait for a promotion rather than applying for positions elsewhere.

National and international collaboration

The department has extensive collaboration within and outside Norway, and is part of several networks such as PSYGUT-net (Norway), the National Back Pain Network, the Nordic Neuroimaging Network, the International Network for Subjective and Unexplained Health Complaints (INSUHC), and the MacArthur Foundation Mind-Body network (USA).

Scientific quality and relevance

Researchers at the Unit of Cognitive Neuroscience have made excellent contributions to the study of hemispheric asymmetry, auditory attention, language processing, and psychiatric disorders. One major contribution is the development of new experimental techniques based on a classical behavioral paradigm, "dichotic listening." These techniques have been used to great advantage in studying hemispheric asymmetry (e.g., the so-called "right ear advantage" has been shown to serve as an index of left hemisphere temporal lobe functional integrity), attentional effects on auditory processing, and attentional/executive deficits in schizophrenia. Researchers at the Cognitive Neuroscience Unit also pioneered fMRI research in Norway and
have made excellent contributions in the areas of language functions and psychiatric disorders.

Researchers at the Unit of Physiological Psychology have made highly recognized contributions to research on stress with the role of limbic brain structures for avoidance and emotional behavior as a prominent theme. This research has led to a new definition of "coping" and the so-called "cognitive activation theory of stress" as well as learning models of helplessness and a major psychobiological model of ulceration and gastrointestinal problems in animals.

Evaluation and recommendation

The Department of Biological and Medical Psychology has made good use of the support it has received. It has achieved a high international level in its research. As a whole, the research in the department is excellent.

4.1.1.3 Regional Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry (RCCAP)

Description of the centre

The center has one professor, four associate professors (of whom one is 50%, one is 60%, and one is 20%), four professor II:s (20 %), five PhD students, and one half-time postdoctoral fellowship (to be filled). The center has produced four PhD theses during the last five years, and a large number of international peer-reviewed publications.

The RCCAP is a governmentally funded research institute, initiated in 1995, and organized under Health/Work/Lifestyle/Childhood/Society (HALOS). HALOS is one of the eight departments of Unifob, which supports externally funded research groups and is owned by the University of Bergen.

Research strategies and priorities

The research at RCCAP is conducted in the areas of child neuropsychiatry, intervention studies, epidemiology, developmental psychopathology, infant development, and mental health. Of these areas, the main focus has been on epidemiology and the Children in Bergen project. Because of the center’s youth, all academic research positions have not yet been filled, and there is still a full professorship in child and adolescent psychiatry lacking.

Training and mobility

The center has been successful in recruiting a reasonable number of PhD students since its start. There is some Nordic mobility, and three of the people working at or with the center obtained their academic degrees in other Nordic countries (Denmark and Sweden). One has a PhD from the US.

National and international collaboration

The center heavily relies on collaboration given its small size, and collaborates with other departments within the university, hospitals in the region, child protection services and other Norwegian universities. There is also collaboration with researchers in other countries, such as Sweden, Denmark, the UK and the USA.

Scientific quality and relevance
The center has recently started its own projects and has been successful in finding funding for research. “Barn i Bergen” project is a well planned study that has started with low dropout rates and the project seems to be very promising. Other projects are quite scattered out, but there is a line of research focusing on neuropsychiatry and developmental psychopathology. Reports have been published in international journals.

**Evaluation and recommendation**

This group has been slow in the start, but is now developing in the right direction. Acknowledging the group’s relative youth, it has produced a good number of PhDs. Thus, the panel thinks the group is good, although it is a fairly vague in its research profile. The panel believes that a good suggestion for the group is to focus on a large project, such as the “Barn i Bergen” (Children in Bergen) project.

### 4.1.1.4 Department of psychosocial science

**Description of the department**

The department has eleven professors, twelve associate professors, three professor II:s, two assistant professors, and five doctoral students. It consists of eight sections of different psychology fields: cognitive psychology, developmental psychology, personality psychology, preventive psychology, psychometrics, school and educational psychology, social psychology, and work and organizational psychology.

**Research strategies and priorities**

Four research areas are emphasized within the department: basic psychology, school and education, health psychology and organization and leadership. The research within health psychology is one of the stronger areas considering the number of researchers and international publications. One aim of the department is to have more collaboration within the different sections, and within the department.

**Training and mobility**

Between the years 1998 and 2002, six doctoral students were recruited to the department. According to an evaluation of the doctoral program at the Faculty of Psychology, the department has been leading the recruitment of doctoral students who finish their dissertation within the prescribed time frame. The recent strategy statement for research is ambitious and interesting, although a statement about mobility would have been appropriate.

**National and international collaboration**

Several researchers have international collaboration, often resulting from sabbatical years spent as visiting scholars in the country in question, or from foreign researchers working at professor II positions. The department is responsible for student exchange programs with universities in Europe and in the USA, which has also contributed to international collaborations.

Individual researchers at the department have national collaboration with other departments within the faculty, other faculties, and with hospitals.

**Scientific quality and relevance**
There is a moderate output in international journals. The research is widely spread and diverse. Some research groups have mostly published their work in national governmental reports and popular articles.

Evaluation and recommendation

The group has a heavy teaching burden, which has given them many professor positions. It is a little difficult to assess the research profile of this group since it has many small projects. In order to publish in more quoted journals, the group needs to stimulate and perhaps reorganize their research. The panel thinks research in this group is good.

4.1.2 Faculty of Medicine

4.1.2.1 Department of Psychiatry

Description of the department

The department has five professors, one associate professor, three professor II:s, and one person close to becoming a professor. They have three Ph.D. students, and one physician who is doing research without having entered the formal Ph.D. program. The number of publications has increased drastically the last five years, and between the years 1998 and 2003 they had 4, 3, 9, 29, and 18 international publications per year.

Research strategies and priorities

The explicit research strategies of the department are to have various locus research groups. The largest group focuses on neuroscience with collaborative research including cognitive neuroscience, molecular genetics, basic neuroscience, sleep physiology, fMRI, and general practice. A Bergen Mental Health Research Centre has been established. The Bergen-Oslo project is a major clinical project on cognition in schizophrenia and affective disorder. Two large epidemiological studies are undertaken, and a study on Early Treatment and Intervention on Psychosis Study (TIPS) was started in 1992. Research on psychobiological factors in gastrointestinal conditions is part of a National Norwegian Research Group. Preclinical studies on neuroleptic drugs focuses on the role of glutamate.

Training and mobility

Mobility is not very high, but they have recruited one person from Sweden and one person has left the department for a position elsewhere.

National and international collaboration

Researchers within the department acknowledge having too little collaboration within the department, and explain it by the different focuses in psychiatry (e.g., bipolar disorders, schizophrenia) which make it difficult to collaborate. However, they see the necessity to collaborate more to keep up their research.

Scientific quality and relevance

There is a moderate output of publications in international journals from various areas of psychiatry. In collaboration with other department researchers of the Department of
Psychiatry have published excellent articles on basic neurobiochemical and neuroimaging psychiatry as well as on anxiety and psychosomatic disorders. Recently, also psychogeriatric research has been a growing area. Because of scattered location of units and loose administration, there have been too many projects devoted to small topic areas. Focusing on fewer areas and strengthening the administration would help the Department of Psychiatry to achieve breakthroughs in psychiatric science.

Evaluation and recommendation

The panel considers this department good to very good. They do not seem to fully have developed their potential, although they have improved over the years. A suggestion is to undertake more seminars, collaboration, and to have co-supervision of PhD students in order to get a more scientific environment. Also, they need a head of department that is a research director. The department needs a common strategy, and they could collect similar research interests under some area of severe mental disorders. If they focus more on clinical research, this could possibly be done in the new center.
4.2 UNIVERSITY OF OSLO

4.2.1 Faculty of Social Sciences

4.2.1.1 Department of Psychology

The Department of Psychology at the University of Oslo is the oldest psychology department in Norway, and in the present evaluation 54 persons are included. The department is responsible for four educational programs: the professional school, the BA program, the MA program, and the PhD program. The division of the department into five groups only took place six months ago and several groups still remain unsettled. Although some groups were considered unfocused and diverse, this recent reorganization should be borne in mind when reviewing their performance.

Group 1: Clinical psychology - psychotherapy and development

Description of the group

The group of clinical psychology has five professors, five associate professors, three professor II positions, and fifteen PhD students. During the last five years, nine people have successfully defended their theses. Not all thirteen professors have PhD students, although most of them have supervised previously. The publication rate is about one per person and per year.

Research strategies and priorities

A recently defined goal of the group is to establish a laboratory for studying treatment processes within the therapy room (i.e. develop methods for recording, coding and analyzing interaction). This investment will imply concentration from the group members on common research themes, and a start has already been made with the start of recording in several projects.

The group also aims at collaborating with different treatment institutions outside the university, and to initiate research on such social issues as divorce, immigration and drug abuse.

To reduce the time required for a degree in clinical work as well as in research (Ph.D.), the “dual competence” program has been introduced, and this degree can be achieved within the department.

Research in the group is conducted within five areas: conceptual analyses for theoretical understanding of psychological disorders and psychological interventions, child development and maladjustment, and healing and rehabilitation processes in psychotherapy and naturalistic settings, psychotherapy process and outcome, construction and use of assessment instruments for psychological disorders, and professional development of psychotherapists.

Training and mobility

All professors but one in the department have graduated in Oslo, and most of the Ph.D.s move on to other departments in Oslo. There appears to be limited effort to recruit staff from other countries. Mobility is thus rather low – nationally and internationally, and the average age of tenured staff is high.

National and international collaboration
The group takes part in collaborative networks nationally and internationally and some of this is impressive (e.g., with the Collaborative Research Network of the Society of Psychotherapy Research), but it is rather limited and more attention is paid to national collaboration such as in the Norwegian Multisite Study of Process and Outcome in Psychotherapy coordinated by the Department of Psychology. This project suffers somewhat from being a naturalistic study with no clear hypothesis testing.

Scientific quality and relevance

The research work carried out by this group is traditional and in some cases out-dated (e.g., observational studies of clinical practice in areas where much is already known and better research designs are needed) and, although worthy, lacks vision and enterprise. Better integration with a small number of research themes would help to concentrate on the important components.

Evaluation and recommendations

Research in this group seems to be performed as an additional task after other activities and is mostly used for the PhD theses; the projects consequently are limited. Much of the time is consumed by teaching and clinical work. One of the problems in such situations is the accumulation of much data, but little direction and planning in its analysis. Thus, for example, the multisite study could yield important conclusions, but its lack of direction makes us fear that its output will not do justice to the time and energy expended on it. Greater international input would be valuable; this should be much more than invited visits from acknowledged experts. The panel grades this group as fair to good. Our recommendation is that a clearer direction and tighter leadership is needed to develop the potential that lies within the group.

Group 2: Epidemiology, genetics and mechanisms

Description of the group

The group of epidemiology, genetics and mechanisms has five professors, three associate professors, and ten PhD students. In the last five years, five or six people have successfully defended their thesis, and the group has had around 80 international peer reviewed articles and chapters.

The group is a disparate one of energetic researchers who have made considerable advances in epidemiology and genetics of mental disorders, personality disorder and neurocognitive science, and are among the most cited researchers in Norway. All are self-confident researchers in their relevant spheres and have the capacity to obtain funding and complete studies successfully. However, the age of the senior researchers in this group is relatively high, with a mean just below 50 years (range 40 to 62 years), and there are no obvious successors to carry on their work.

Research strategies and priorities

The group aims at building up a strong research group that can compete with good international research, and to attract larger funds. The group will also try to get a Center of excellence if there will be another occasion to apply.

The standing of the researchers in their respective fields is high and so they have relatively little difficulty in making the case for their work as a priority. However, their focus
is on specific projects and there is little evidence of an overall research strategy that could lead to potential long-term gains.

Training and mobility

There are only a few junior researchers in the group and a training program designed to recruit young researchers has been initiated only recently. This is unfortunate as this group has much to offer new researchers.

As in many other places, there is some national mobility with for example new PhDs going to other Norwegian universities. International mobility is, however, rather low.

National and international collaboration

The group has good national links (e.g., with the Department of Psychiatry, and with the Department of Biological and Medical Psychology in Bergen) and is keen to develop greater international collaboration but, although already possessing international recognition, has not established firm links with other equivalent researchers elsewhere. This would be more likely to follow if there was a long-term research strategy.

Scientific quality and relevance

In general, the quality and quantity of research on epidemiology, genetics, and neuropsychology of schizophrenia and major depression is very high. Important results in this group within the last years are the mapping of personality disorders in the community and the finding that cognitive deficits in schizophrenia are relatively stable and, thus, not declining over longer periods in time. In addition, the finding that apraxia and pathological emotional reactions serve as predictors in stroke rehabilitation is of importance, as is the results stressing the predictive power of personality disorders for long-term psychological outcome. The group has been successful in conducting large studies, but also in taking advantage of already existing registers. Thus, the fMRI studies on schizophrenia and the epidemiological studies of personality disorder carried out by members of the group are of outstanding quality and are leaders in their fields. This is reflected in the status of the international journals in which these studies are published and their wide citation rates.

Evaluation and recommendations

This is a group noted for its good research and many international high-quality publications. However, the research is focused on the projects of certain senior researchers, and the panel would like to see more effort put into planning for the next generation to continue research. Those who have obtained their PhD can have some difficulty in finding a foothold in this environment, and the long-term prospects of this group would be improved if some plans were made for younger people to carry out research. Despite these concerns, however, the panel considers research in this group to be very good to excellent, and our suggestions are aimed at preserving this level of excellence for the future.

**Group 3: Developmental psychology**

**Description of the group**

The group of developmental psychology consists of six professors, three associated professors, one post-doctoral fellow and six PhD students. In the last five years, the group had
37 peer-reviewed publications in English, and three graduate students defended their PhD thesis.

Research strategies and priorities

The group does research on typical and atypical development and education, the interaction between biology and environment, social cognition, language and communication, cultural psychology, and moral, identity and antisocial behavior.

To conduct longitudinal developmental studies, the group aims to develop an appropriate framework including technical equipment, methodological competency and administrative resources. The group also wishes to increase international collaboration through initiating pooled data studies and arranging international workshops and seminars.

Training and mobility

The department recognizes the relative absence of younger workers but does not have a clear plan to remedy this.

Mobility is quite low, but the group has a post-doctoral fellow that is externally funded from Sweden. Most PhD students come from clinical work, they finish their PhD thesis, and then go back to clinical work.

National and international collaboration

The group has collaboration with a neuropsychologist within the department, with pediatricians, child neurologists, and infant mental health services in Oslo, and with researchers in the USA. There are relatively few common projects within the department.

Scientific quality and relevance

The largest center for developmental psychology in Norway, the Developmental psychology research group, displays a large variation in research topics, methodologies, and theoretical focus. A first impression indicates that the group publishes a large number of articles. However, a careful inspection of the publications shows that most of them are book chapters or Norwegian technical publications (e.g., Tidsskrift for Norsk Psykologforening, Läkertidningen, Skolepsykologi). Although international peer-reviewed publications exist, they do so to a much lesser extent, and only rarely so in high impact journals. On the positive side, however, is a trend towards a greater ratio of high quality research produced in later years.

Evaluation and recommendations

This group has a high rate of publications, but there are relatively few (less than one per year) in refereed journals and only two members of the group contribute most of these. For a group that considers itself to be at the forefront of child psychology in Norway, this is unsatisfactory and too many of the department members appear to be marking time. This group would benefit from stronger leadership, more focus, and possible fusion with another group. A suggestion is also to recruit more professor II:s from outside, and to get additional assistance in doing research and in supervising PhD students. To attract post-docs, more international collaboration and publishing are of great importance. Because of these concerns the ranking of the group is rated as fair to good.
Group 4: Social psychology, health and organisational psychology

Description of the group

There are four full professors, seven associate professors (one works only 20%), one adjunct professor, and five or six PhD students in the group. Many of these are approaching retirement age. Between 1999 and 2001, three persons have obtained their PhD, and in the last five years the group has had twelve international publications.

Research strategies and priorities

There is no clear research strategy or policy in the group. There is a wish to strengthen theory-driven social psychology, but no obvious means of achieving this with present personnel and collaborations.

Nevertheless, two goals of the group are to recruit new people to the group given the forthcoming generation shift, and to structure collaboration with applied, multidisciplinary social research institutions outside the university. The unit has not formulated any real strategies of common nature for the future because the research interests within the group are divergent. Somewhat surprisingly, the group states that there is no need for any research leadership in the group because of its heterogeneity.

Main areas of interest are basic theoretical social psychology (including the psychology of language, ideologies and prejudice), health (e.g., patient and family reactions to diagnosis of serious illness) and organizational psychology (e.g., effective functioning in leadership groups).

Training and mobility

This group has one PhD student from France through the Erasmus program, and five students involved in doctoral studies. Three of the staff members had long careers outside the university in Oslo before they were employed in this group. There is currently a vacant professorship that is being advertised internationally. Also, to attract foreign student lectures are being planned in English. Twenty-four of their students are going abroad next year.

National and international collaboration

This group is searching for collaboration, but seems to have difficulty in finding it. Even though some members of the group have national and international collaboration, no good links that aid productivity have been established, and it is unfortunate that some members of the group regard the consequent isolation as a virtue, since it allows them to follow a ‘Norway-only’ policy.

Scientific quality and relevance

The research output is low in this group. We were only able to identify 12 publications in peer-reviewed journals from the 12 members of the group over a five-year period, an average of one per member. This is not an acceptable output from a well-resourced group. Most of the papers published are of limited parochial interest and no good international journals are represented.

Evaluation and recommendations
Because of the low research output, the panel considers this group to be weak. To improve, the group needs to undertake more empirical research and develop a clear strategy. The current position is very unsatisfactory and unless the appointment of a new professor is followed by a radical shift of direction it would probably be preferable for this group to consider merging with one of the other groups in the department. Although there is an understandable wish to maintain social psychology as a ‘stand alone’ discipline, it has so far been failing to attract new blood and is therefore in danger of atrophy and decay if change is delayed.

**Group 5: Cognitive psychology and neuropsychology**

**Description of the group**

The group of cognitive psychology and neuropsychology has seven professors, three associate professors, three post-doctoral fellows, and ten doctoral students. During the last five years, the group published 100 articles in international peer-reviewed journals, and between the years 1999 and 2001 three PhD students graduated.

**Research strategies and priorities**

The group conducts research in basic cognitive psychology (e.g., human perception, memory, and decision-making), in brain imaging of cognitive processes (through means of event related potentials, ERP, and functional magnetic resonance imaging, fMRI), in cognitive psychology of mental disorders (e.g., brain injury and schizophrenia), and in applied psychology (man-machine interaction and eyewitness psychology).

The group disposes an ERP laboratory and aims at further developing it to integrate cognitive and brain related methodologies. It also aims at receiving long-term funds from COE or other sources.

The retirement of senior researchers should not be a problem since the group has planned for this and these researchers have been teaching the younger their work. In the last two years there has been a replacement of two former staff members with four new persons, and this will continue for at least another year and a half. The organization of the group is informal and there is no formal leader of the research.

**Training and mobility**

There is a larger amount of persons going abroad than there are persons coming from abroad to them. However, they did recruit a person from Lund, Sweden, into the ERP laboratory, and there is in general an active recruitment from Scandinavia.

During the doctoral and post-doctoral period, five persons have spent time in US laboratories to learn the most recent fMRI and ERP technology.

**National and international collaboration**

This group has extensive collaboration with universities in Norway, Sweden, Germany, Italy, and the US. They also have collaboration within the department with the Group of Developmental Psychology, and the group also tries to collaborate with Clinical Psychology. The fMRI studies are conducted in collaboration with scientists in Germany and the US since they lack MRI and PET (positron emission tomography) cameras for non-clinical use.

**Scientific quality and relevance**
The group has made outstanding contributions to the study of basic cognitive functions. For example, by applying methods and concepts of spatial vision to problems of attention and memory, the group has made excellent contributions to understanding the build-up of high-fidelity, high-capacity pictorial representations in human memory. These contributions are widely recognized in the international scientific community. Other important and highly recognized contributions include work on relations between visual, verbal, and motor representations in memory and cognition (e.g., representations of "subject-performed tasks"); electrophysiological studies of brain activity during processing of pictorial information; and studies of altered cognitive processing associated with mental disorders such as schizophrenia and major depression.

Evaluation and recommendations

The panel considers the publications of this group to be of very high standard, and the group seems solid, homogenous, and focused. It further appears to be a true group, in which people with different competencies complement each other. The older researchers teach the younger ones, and they thus have strategies for transition when the older retire. The panel rates this group as excellent. The group would benefit strongly from establishment of an fMRI brain imaging facility in Oslo.

4.2.1.2 Regional Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, Regions East and South (R.BUP)

Description of the center

The institute was established only in 1998 and has three departments devoted to administration, education and research. There are five full-time researchers and two post-doctoral fellows in the research department. The group also has four professor II part time positions (total=0.6 position), and twelve PhD students (of whom three are also affiliated with the University of Oslo: two with the Institute of Psychology, one with the Department Group of Psychiatry. Three are also affiliated with Sogn Centre for Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, and two with Nic Waals Institute). The center has published 27 international peer-reviewed articles in the last five years, and three persons completed their PhD’s successfully.

Research strategies and priorities

This center receives annual funding from the government and aims at improving mental health care for children and adolescents, and the research naturally involves programs of treatment interventions. There is therefore an emphasis on evaluation, methodology, specific treatments and outcomes. Researchers at R.BUP are also involved in epidemiological research as well as in research on various clinical disorders (e.g., anxiety, eating, and language- and communication disorders).

To strengthen the research milieu, the center has employed qualified persons on part-time contracts to provide support in for example statistics and supervision. A Forum of Qualitative Research was formed in 2000 to increase knowledge about qualitative research methods.

Training and mobility

Because the unit is so young there has been little movement away from the unit. A number of good research workers have been attracted to the unit and morale is good. There is
a particular interest in studying and improving measuring instruments and this is particularly useful for those developing small research projects and new researchers.

National and international collaboration

This group has a natural collaboration with two large clinical institutions (SSBU and NWI), and has also worked well with international collaborators in the UK and Germany and has recruited an external editor, Professor Bryan Lask, to help with publications. There is a website and a refreshing openness in the department with regard to new views and initiatives.

The group has initiated several networks, and in addition to the above-mentioned Forum for Qualitative Research, the group has also created a network for projects within quality control and evaluation of services in child and adolescent psychiatry, and another network for research-coordinators and research-leaders in the region.

Scientific quality and relevance

The focus of the group is to improve clinical research and evaluation and they have maintained this well. They have published good papers in high impact factor journals such as the Journal of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry and Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica and the work on ethnic aspects of behavioral difficulties is of a particularly high standard.

Evaluation and recommendations

This group has achieved many things in a short period of time. Their production is satisfactory given the limited time period. It would probably be good if this group could become less dependent on government and do more work that they want to do themselves. They would also need someone with more research qualifications, but their collaboration with international colleagues has compensated for this. They might now be in a position to plan some large studies with considerable external funding. The organization is somewhat confusing, and parts of the child and adolescent psychiatry research are within the faculty of medicine. More collaboration with CAP at the medical faculty is recommended. The panel rates this group as good.
4.2.2 Faculty of Medicine

4.2.2.1 Department group of psychiatry

Description of the department group

The Department group of Psychiatry (IPSYK) is organized into nine department
groups at four hospitals and one psychosocial centre for refugees. There are twelve permanent
full time research positions, six part-time positions, four post-doctoral fellows (of which three
are externally funded) and nine and a half PhD students (eight and a half are externally
funded). In the last five years the group has had about 250 international peer-reviewed
publications, and 32 PhD students have graduated (five of these did not emanate from IPSYK,
but collaborated with or were supervised by someone at IPSYK).

Research strategies and priorities

There are many subjects covered by the researchers, but the recognition that a clear
theme is necessary for the longer term has led to ‘psychotic disorders’ being selected as the
main research topic, and clinical problems in substance abuse being selected as the second.
The group recognizes that some project areas in the past have been minor and insufficiently
linked to a common theme.

The department group aims at developing closer collaboration with neurobiological
research groups, and specifically so in their university hospitals. It also aims at increasing
funding and amount of hospital funded tenured professorships, postdoctoral position and
recruitment positions.

Training and mobility

There has been a good flow of doctoral fellows over the past five years (32) and the
department satisfies a lot of demands through it wide variety of research interests. However,
the existing staff is stretched by administrative and teaching commitments and is having
difficulty in finding sufficient time to carry out research.

Because of the lower salaries in research as compared to clinical work, many of the
MDs that obtain PhDs go back to clinical work after their defense. The portion of clinically
trained doctors doing research has decreased from 50 to 30%. Geographical mobility is not
very high, as in other areas of Norway.

National and international collaboration

There are good links with a number of well-respected international institutions
(McGill University, Canada; Cassel Hospital, UK; Department of Psychiatry, University of
Edinburgh, UK; University of Lübeck; Germany; Universities of Pennsylvania and Yale, US),
and these have been productive in research development. There are also good links within
Norway and the TIPS project demonstrates both the national and international collaborative
components.

Scientific quality and relevance

The quality of publications of those who are research active is very good with an
international output of around 35-40 articles per year. The work published on the treatment
and epidemiology of common mental disorders in general and liaison psychiatry is
particularly noteworthy and has been well cited in the international literature.
Evaluation and recommendations

The panel encourages the department’s current efforts to focus research. It is also in favor of the plan to develop clear themes of research which attempt to integrate the many strands of activity currently within the department. The success of this depends on strong leadership and the achievement of consensus between the members, which will be handicapped to some extent by the wide geographical spread of the groups.

The scientific production is high but uneven. As part of the reorganization around themes those who have been less productive might be encouraged to retrain or diversify into other areas such as teaching and training. Although the group has chosen ‘psychotic disorders’ as its main theme it appears to have greater strengths in its work on anxiety and depression in different clinical populations and this might be a second overarching theme. Collaboration between child & adolescent psychiatry research (mainly suicide research) and RBUP would improve the research area. The panel rates this group as good to very good.

4.2.2.2 Department of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine

Description of the department

The department has four professors (including one external), one associate professor (20%), one professor II (20%), four external postdoctoral fellows, and eleven PhD students. Thirteen persons have obtained their PhDs in the last five years, and the department has about 27 international publications per year.

Research strategies and priorities

The three areas of major research endeavor are quality of life research, clinical communication and mental health research. These have all been productive, and particularly positive is the focus on clinical communication, a subject that is now realized to be closely related to outcome in many disorders, partly as a consequence of the outcome of this group’s work. The TIPS project assessing the merits of early detection of schizophrenia is an excellent example of good international cooperative research led from Norway.

Training and mobility

Ten to fifteen doctoral and post-doctoral candidates work at the department and there is a good program of training for them. There is a deficit of middle-ranking staff and this appears to be a national problem because of salary differentials. However, there are currently no positions vacant for associate professors and this needs to be remedied.

Considering extensive collaboration with foreign universities hospitals in Norway, the panel expected to see more of mobility among staff and students.

National and international collaboration

The senior members of the group are well known internationally and have established a good network of collaboration with researchers in the United States (Richard Lane, Richard Frankel, Don Lipsitt, Alex Zautra, Dave Moriarty and Thomas McGlashan) and with European partners.

Since five of the permanent scientists also hold hospital positions, there is collaboration with different academic departments at these hospitals in projects on subjective health and
quality of life. Other projects are conducted in collaboration with various departments at different Norwegian hospitals.

Scientific quality and relevance

There is an excellent spread of good publications in international journals in which the work on the cohort of patients with rheumatoid arthritis, the methodology of first episode psychosis research, and the influence of communication factors on outcome is prominent. The follow up studies of physicians’ mental health in Norway is proving fruitful and further publications are likely to be of even greater interest.

Evaluation and recommendations

This is a productive department with good publications in strength and depth. Their strategy of development is sound but there are some doubts about their future sources of funding. The department is relatively small but may have gained in coherence as a consequence. They have many PhDs, and have been successful in getting external funding. The panel thinks the group is very good to excellent. A higher rating would be given if there was an outstanding area of work in which the department is clearly an international leader.

4.2.2.3 Modum Bad, centre for therapy and research, training and counseling

Description of the center

Modum Bad is a private foundation located 80 km outside Oslo. The Research Institute is one of several units and was created in 1985 through means of personal and organizational gifts. The other units of Modum Bad are the Psychiatric hospital, the Outpatient clinic, the Centre for burned-out health professionals, and the Marriage/family Research and Development Centre.

The Research Institute has two professor competent researchers in full positions. One of these is also professor II at Institute of Psychology, University of Oslo. Two professors and one associate professor are linked to the institute on part-time basis (20%). There are four PhD students. Between the years 1998 and 2002 they had 22 papers in international journals, and 3 graduate students defended their PhD theses.

Research strategies and priorities

The center was mainly created to enhance the quality of hospital treatment, and the research focus should be the assessment and treatment of mental disorders, and the relation between psychotherapy and pastoral care. Some of the center’s present research areas are the treatment of anxiety disorders, follow-up studies of psychiatric patients, treatment of eating disorders, existential issues in psychiatry, and exercise and mental health. The areas that the center prioritizes are those that focus on treatment development, evaluation and improvement.

The center plans to increase the number of full time research associates from three to five, and it wishes to have at least one larger follow-up and evaluation study at every clinical unit. It also wishes to collaborate with other research milieus, having master students from other localities writing their theses on Modum Bad material.

Training and mobility

Mobility seems low at the center with most scientists emanating from the Oslo region.
National and international collaboration

The group has established collaboration nationally (Dep. of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine and the Institute of Psychology at the University of Oslo, Ullevål University Hospital, and the Psychology Departments in Trondheim and Tromsø) as well as internationally (US and UK).

Scientific quality and relevance

There is a moderate output of publications in international journals from a wide area of psychiatry and its boarder. The centre has achieved scientific results of high level especially on anxiety disorders and psychotherapy research. In relation to small size of the scientific staff, the area of its scientific interest seems to be too extensive. The centre has a good and supportive environment to work, thus increasing the number of scientific staff and focusing on fewer areas of research would help the centre to raise both quality and quantity of its scientific activity. Collaboration with both national and international centers is also important in developing research work and in recruiting young researchers.

Evaluation and recommendations

The group is quite small, has a secure situation and does not seem so ambitious. Their research does not show so much progress over the years, and they would benefit from getting some new blood into their area. However, the production rate in this group is similar to that of good, larger groups, and on the whole the research is rated as good.
4.3 UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY, TRONDHEIM (NTNU)

4.3.1 Faculty of Social Science and Technology Management

4.3.1.1 Department of Psychology

The department was established in 1967, and is unique in the sense that it offers an open and academic program of psychology studies. The professional psychology program is quite new, and the first students graduated in 1999. This has created an emphasis on basic psychological disciplines and basic research. Applied research is still sparse. The scientific staff has undergone a dramatic increase in size during the last ten years, and has increased from 9 people in 1993 to about 50 people today.

The department is, together with another department, responsible for an outpatient clinic that consists of units for clinical adult psychology, clinical child psychology, and clinical neuropsychology. The department also has a research group that was given Center of Excellence status in 2002.

After the year 2000 the seven research sections were transformed into five. The department as a whole has presented a strategic plan for 2000-2003. All the goals have not yet been reached, but the mere ambition to do so is promising. In contrast to most other departments and units involved in this evaluation, the department of psychology in Trondheim has ideas about research leadership and seems to argue for a more prominent role of such leadership at the department and in each section. The section for biological, cognitive and clinical neuropsychology, and especially the research group on biology and memory should be serving as a role model for other sections and research groups.

4.3.1.2 Section for biological, cognitive and neuropsychology

Description of the section

The group has seven professors and three associate professors. There are three PhD students in the subgroup The Biology of Memory, elected Center of Excellence in 2002, and there are two PhD students outside this group. They have two post-docs, of which one belongs to the institute. Between the year 1999 and 2001, two PhD students graduated, and the publication rate (2.1 per position and year) is beyond the ideal rate set by the faculty (2.0).

Research strategies and priorities

Research topics of the group include the biology of memory, developmental neuropsychology (e.g., perceptuo-motor coordination), learning theories, biological rhythms, spatial memory, and encoding of sensory information.

A goal of the department as a whole has been to coordinate individual research efforts into larger umbrella-projects, in order to improve funding possibilities. One of the prioritized areas of the department is neuroscience, and it will continue to be so. Biological psychology is a nationally prioritized area, and much funding has been used for its development. Further, the department aims at obtaining more assistantships. There is, however, not much indication yet about success in getting support (e.g. CE working as a model) to other parts of the department from the superior expertise of the CE group not only in research, but also in organizing successful collaboration.

Training and mobility
This group has one PhD student coming from Ghana, and the other PhD students coming from Norway. The postdoctoral fellows are from abroad. The PhDs that graduated last year have moved to England (as a post-doc) and to Ghana (as a lecturer). Four of the present PhD students are from psychology, and the fifth comes from another field.

**National and international collaboration**

Within Norway, this group has interdisciplinary collaboration (e.g., biology, medicine, philosophy) with the Medical Technical Research Centre (MTFS), the Faculty of Medicine at NTNU, the Central Hospital of Aust-Agder, the Technical Cybernetics at NTNU, and the OECD Halden reactor project. The group has collaboration with several countries in Europe, with Ghana, and has attracted post-doctoral fellows from all over the world. It has also engaged scientists from various countries (e.g., US, UK, Holland) as professor II (20% positions).

**Scientific quality and relevance**

It is clear that the work done by the section of biological, cognitive and neuropsychology is of very high scientific quality, especially the work emanating from the Centre for the biology of memory. The research from the Center for biology of memory is not only at the forefront in the scientific world, but they are also quantitatively very productive. Their high research standard is exemplified by publications in high-impact journals, such as Science, Nature, Neuron, Journal of Neuroscience, and PNAS. With a new technology, this group has made it possible to measure signals in neuronal networks “online”. By having chronically implanted microelectrodes in the hippocampus and other memory related areas, signals can be recorded while the animal is performing a memory task. Other groups within the section for biological, cognitive and neuropsychology also maintain a high scientific standard in areas such as perceptuo-motor learning, biological rhythm, and olfaction.

**Evaluation and recommendation**

The publications of the group are impressive, although not always so recent. The panel considers the Section for biological, cognitive and neuropsychology to be very good, and the Center of Excellence to be excellent. On the whole, the group is therefore considered very good to excellent. A recommendation is to take more advantage of the intellectual power in the center of excellence.

**4.3.1.3 Section for health, vocational, and organisational psychology**

**Description of the section**

The group has two professors (of which one retire in the summer 2004), three associate professors, and six PhD students. In the last three years there was no PhD student who graduated since no funding was available. The group has produced publications in international peer-reviewed journals although not yet to level the panel would like to see.

**Research strategies and priorities**

Research in the group is conducted within the areas of cancer care, suicidal behavior, health, safety and work, and attitudes to the environment, moralistic reasoning and individualistic orientation in Norway and Brazil. However, the group does not consider itself as a research unit, but more as a teaching unit.
Again, the department aims at coordinating individual research efforts into larger common projects.

Training and mobility

In spite of being a rather small group, it has succeeded in attracting several doctoral students. There is some international mobility among these students with one coming from Ghana, one coming from India, and one coming from Uganda.

National and international collaboration

In Norway, this group is part of a suicide prevention network, and also collaborates with many persons from other scientific areas in other departments and universities. The group has extensive collaboration in Europe, and also collaborates with persons in America, Australia, Brazil, Ghana, South Africa and Uganda.

Scientific quality and relevance

It appears that research has not earned a high priority in this unit, although some senior staff members have produced good work. The wide coverage of expertise expected from a so-titled unit must pose a challenge to the formation of sufficiently strong research groups. Collaboration (including international) is also reported to exist, but with a few exceptions (e.g., WHO/EURO Multicentre Study on Suicidal Behaviour) this has, as yet, not led to too many visible results. The range of interests is wide, methodological skills are expressed as strengths, as is the recruitment basis of students as research fellows and assistants. Thus, it is surprising that so few staff members are active in the writing of high quality (internationally refereed) scientific journals.

Evaluation and recommendations

The panel thinks this group is fair, since research does not seem as prioritized as teaching. Also, there is no apparent aim of the research. To strengthen the unit’s scientific quality, it has to organize its work in such a way that administrative and teaching duties are not so overwhelming that too little time is allocated to research. Taking into account the small size of the unit, research also requires more focus so that the noted low level of available resources can be used with good results towards extending the funding opportunities, and possibly also the staff available for research efforts.
4.3.1.4 The section for social psychology and community psychology

Description of the section

This group has three professors, four associate professors, three professor II:s, and seven doctoral students. Persons in tenure position have about five publications per year in international journals. The group had one PhD graduate in 2002, and will have another one next year.

Research strategies and priorities

Research in the section involves studies on health promotion, attitude-behavior relationships, risk and safety, marginality and deviation, conflict management, communication, and group processes. The group is the organizer of an annual conference on Social and Community Psychology (since 1999).

Training and mobility

The section has had a high production of master theses, and has a good number of doctoral students. Mobility is good with employees and PhD students from Oslo, Tromsø, Germany, Netherlands, and Sweden.

National and international collaboration

The section has teaching and research exchanges with universities in Norway as well as in Australia, Great Britain, Netherlands, South Africa, and Sweden.

Scientific quality and relevance

The style of research involvement differs from many other units. The group does not appear to place the focus so much on hypothesis testing, but rather thinks of research as a way to improve society. Focusing on applied rather than fundamental research may also to be an explicit goal because one of the listed weaknesses from the side of the representatives of the unit was “minimal time for research applications”. A substantially high proportion of the research is reported in national series and may not be so readily available in contrast to the publication mediums that good scientific results would earn. The most visible efforts related to research have been spent on the organization of annual conferences. These especially support the local younger staff members, graduate, and postgraduate students, who form the majority of the audience. Thus, attempts to strengthen postgraduate training can be appreciated. With the exception of a few researchers – who focus on safety and risk issues, and often prefer publication forums that are less widely available – the staff members are not very active in terms of publishing, and relatively few publications have reached a refereed forum. Also, some senior members appear to follow publication traditions of other social sciences which may lower their potential scientific impact. The expression of interest in research encompasses a wide area of social psychology, but published results cover a relatively narrow area.

Evaluation and recommendations

The panel considers this group fair to good, and recommends that they publish more in international journals. This group, as well as the Section for health, vocational, and organisational psychology, seem to make more “comments” than real empirical research.
Also, it is individual researchers who do their own research rather than integrating the work of several persons.

4.3.1.5 Section for developmental and clinical child psychology

Description of the section

The group has three professors, two associate professors, two professor II:s in clinical child psychology, and three PhD students. There are international publications in good journals although the amount of these is still at a relatively low level in developmental psychology and higher in clinical child psychology.

Research strategies and priorities

Research within developmental psychology is focused on social cognitive development and life-span research, and within clinical child psychology there are several longitudinal projects studying depression and other mental health problems. The section runs and administers an outpatient clinic where 24 student therapists conduct video-recorded therapies with 24 children/adolescents every term, and data from these therapeutic encounters are used for research.

Training and mobility

There is some national and international mobility with a few employees having doctoral degrees from Oslo and Sweden.

National and international collaboration

The group has close collaboration with scientists at the Faculty of Medicine, NTNU, at the Central Hospital of Aust-Agder, and with scientists in Brazil, the Netherlands, Sweden, the UK, and the US.

Scientific quality and relevance

The group conducts research in many areas, including behavioral problems in adolescents, suicide attempts in adolescents, visual acuity in persons with developmental psychopathology, language intervention studies, family therapy, and parenting problems - to mention a few. Some of the research conducted within this group is of very high quality and is published in widely distributed journals. For example, the finding that sex differences in the prevalence of depressed mood can be explained by increased developmental challenges for girls has reached a large audience. The research done on the epidemiology of suicide in youngsters is also of very good quality. Unfortunately, there does not seem to be much collaboration among the researchers in this group, and the most important findings are a result of a few people's efforts.

Evaluation and recommendations

This group is considered good by the panel, although the significant research is made by only a few persons in the group. There seems to be some administrative difficulties that should be solved. However, there has been good progress in the epidemiological area.
4.3.1.6 Section for personality, adult clinical psychology and psychometrics

Description of the section

This group consists of four professors, four associate professors, two professor II:s (will soon be three), and six doctoral students. The research section has produced two PhD theses in the last five years. There is a relatively low rate of publications in international journals, as a result of, as claimed, high teaching and administrative duties.

Research strategies and priorities

Research areas are development of methods for the treatment of resistant anxiety disorders, psychotherapy process research, treatment of personality disorders and change mechanisms. Further, there is work on the implications of personality traits for work and health, and studies in forensic psychology. This group also has access to the clinic, and this constitutes a therapy database of 8,000 hours of recorded therapy.

Training and mobility

The amount of effort put into training of graduate students seems to be on a promising upward trend. Despite good collaborations nationally and internationally, mobility is not very high.

National and international collaboration

The different research projects are carried out in collaboration with other scientists at NTNU (at the Department of Psychology, and at the Department of Neuroscience and Movement), with psychologists and psychiatrists at the Regional Secure Units in Trondheim, Bergen and Lund, Sweden, and with scientists in the UK and the US.

Scientific quality and relevance

Research in anxiety disorders focuses on cognitive treatment of social phobia, generalized anxiety disorder and obsessive-compulsive disorder and several projects are planned including a placebo-controlled study comparing psychotherapy and SSRI and an international forensic study on neuropsychiatric disturbances among criminals. There has been a large teaching and administrative workload and a period necessary for building up the clinical programs are reasons for a low rate of publications. The topics chosen are relevant but significant effort should be made to strengthen the outcome of research.

Evaluation and recommendations

This group seems to have enormous amounts of data, but not quite have any hypotheses regarding the outcome. The panel considers it fair.
4.3.2 Faculty of Medicine

4.3.2.1 Department of Neuroscience

Description of the department

There are currently one professor, one associate professor and one associate professor (20%) in psychiatry, in behavioural medicine there are one professor and one associate professor, and in child and adolescent psychiatry (RBUP) there are one full-time professor and one professor (20%), both in social work. In total, the department has 16 PhD students within the fields of psychiatry and psychology. Five persons at the department defended their PhD thesis during the last five years. There are national and international articles represented in the lists of publications attached with a relatively large variability in the amount of international articles accomplished by the senior researchers.

Research strategies and priorities

Within psychiatry, research is conducted in psychotherapy processes and outcome, various disorders (e.g., anxiety, phobias, personality disorders), forensic and acute psychiatry. Behavioral medicine is studying traumatic stress, medical teaching, stress, mind-body interaction and humor. Depression and behavioral problems are studies within RBUP.

In 1999, the decision was made to start a project on the treatment of behavioral disorders, which included two diagnostic entities, Conduct disorder and Oppositional defiant disorder. After screening, the subjects were diagnosed and assessed with regard to various behavioral characteristics before the intervention, which lasted four months. The subjects were again assessed with regard to their behavioral characteristics immediately after the intervention, and again, after one year.

Training and mobility

The department has a good number of PhD students, and there has been a steady production of PhD theses. The unit of adult psychiatry runs the Division for Research & Development at the Østmarka Psychiatric Hospital, and this offers training in various basic aspects of research.

There is some national and international mobility. Many of the new doctors leave Trondheim for Oslo, and when the senior researchers retire the department will attempt to recruit new staff from Scandinavia. The majority of the professors are also recruited from abroad.

National and international collaboration

The department has extensive collaboration with hospitals and universities in Norway (e.g., University Hospital in Trondheim, the Psychology Department in Trondheim, Modum Bad) as well as with universities in the US, the UK, and Sweden.

Scientific quality and relevance

The written self-evaluation of the department is very brief and not very informative. However, from the written material and the interview session, it seems clear that the department "has had a broad approach to research in psychiatry and behavioural medicine." A few members of the department have been very active in research. Among the most important publications are an article from an epidemiological study of eating disorders in Norwegian
psychiatric institutions, an article on one-session group treatments of spider phobia by direct
or modeled exposure, works on posttraumatic stress disorder, and works on the role of
personality factors such as sense of humor in coping with stress. Other members of the
department have been less active in research, and at least one member appears to have no
publications from the past 5 years.

Evaluation and recommendations

This department seems to be lacking focus, which may be due to lacking leadership.
There are some persons who have had good publications, but this is not evenly spread. The
panel thinks this department is weak to fair, and to improve they need leadership and
direction. A recommendation is to advertise internationally for a strong leader.

4.4 UNIVERSITY OF TROMSØ

4.4.1 Faculty of Social Sciences

4.4.1.1 Department of Psychology

This is the youngest department in Norway; it has grown from three researchers in 1990
to 24 at present, with a planned total of 33. There are thirteen professors (two more to be
employed), eleven associate professors, six professor II:s, and five PhD students. In the last
three years there have been three PhD dissertations, and in average every professor doing
research has had one international publication per year.

It has a novel structure, with a Board (Institutstyret) elected by both the staff and
students in the department.

4.4.1.2 Cognitive / Biological psychology

Description of the group

There are four professors in biological psychology, one professor in cognitive
psychology and four associate professors in cognitive psychology.

Research strategies and priorities

The group has an interesting mix of research interests, including perception of objects,
faces and space, human operant behavior, work stress/decision making, psychometrics,
psychological effects of seasonal changes, and, despite their variation, there is a common
cognitive organizational theme.

Training and mobility

Training is an important component of this young department and has pursued with
enthusiasm, with nine doctoral students at present supervised by an informal set of relevant
staff members. Staff seems to come to Tromsø fairly early in their careers and then leave for
other universities in the south of the country, and mobility is consequently rather greater than
at other departments. However, as the department grows in status retention rates may be
greater.

National and international collaboration
Collaboration has been a necessity in the growth of the department and the associations with research projects in six other countries illustrates this. There are also excellent links with other Norwegian universities, which is a strong component of the department.

Scientific quality and relevance

The researchers in the group have many good publications, some of which are widely recognized internationally. The psychopharmacological work on substance P and amphetamine, and the attributes of the nocebo and placebo response are of special significance. An example of a publication that has had strong international impact is an early article on lateralization of categorical and coordinate spatial functions based on a study of unilateral stroke patients. More recent prominent contributions include work on brain-damaged patients suffering from spatial neglect, work on visual processing of faces and objects, work on the placebo effect, work on inhibition of reflexes, and work on the neurobiology of sexual behavior.

Evaluation and recommendations

The panel thinks research in this group is very good. The research environment seems generally stimulating and the group appears to have a creative atmosphere. All of the professors appear to be productive. The employment of foreign researchers has probably contributed to the creative atmosphere. Thus the group seems to have benefited from being able to recruit more quickly and efficiently than has been possible at otherwise comparable institutes in Norway. To improve even further, the panel recommends that the group attempts to focus the research more strongly.

4.4.1.3 Developmental psychology / Clinical and personality psychology / Social and health psychology

Description of the groups

These groups have eight professors and seven associate professors. Research topics in the groups include quality of life, acculturation, sexual behavior and condom use, consumer judgments and behavior, values, and stereotypes associated with weight. There is also a general theme of personality and function illustrated by research into identity development in adolescence, eating disorders and personality, alcohol abuse among Russian adolescents, psychological effects of war, personality and coping, and rehabilitation of schizophrenic patients.

Research strategies and priorities

There is a clear strategy set by the University of Tromsø to maximize the advantage of the geographical position of the region by carrying out research into work on seasonal and light variation, Sami disorders, multicultural issues and fisheries research. The department has not been able to adhere to this closely because of the need to provide a good teaching and training environment. Nevertheless, members of the department have been able to exploit the special position of Tromsø in their work (e.g., the work on infant sleep, cognitive variation and beliefs in circannual human rhythms) and their current strategy appears to be a good compromise.

Training and mobility
As with others in Tromsø there is a high degree of mobility with recruitment of young researchers and the departure of more senior ones for promotion. There is a fluid relationship between work in different disciplines and one of the strengths of the department is the extent to which members from different groups collaborate in each other’s work.

National and international collaboration

This is excellent and has been stimulated further by the establishment of the Northern Norwegian Psychiatric Research Centre and links with researchers in eight other countries.

Scientific quality and relevance

The groups have many good publications, for example on the personality styles of adolescents and the relationship between eating disorders and personality. The close collaboration with other departments has also been very productive.

From the list of research topics studied at the department, it is clear that not all research is conducted within a group, but rather by individual researchers at the department and often in collaboration with colleagues from other national and international universities. Although results rarely are published in high-impact journals, researchers at the department are quantitatively very productive and active.

Evaluation and recommendations

It is apparent that these groups have developed a good research atmosphere, creating active and productive researchers. The groups are good to very good, and have the potential to improve further with larger studies reinforced by their collaborative links, and with more doctoral students. They may need to limit their scope of work to improve their quality further at the expense of quantity. Worth noticing, is that the department has a relatively strong social psychology group, otherwise rarely seen in Norway.
4.4.2 Faculty of Medicine

4.4.2.1 Institute of Clinical Medicine

Departments of Clinical Psychiatry and Child and Adolescent Psychiatry

Description of the departments

The departments comprise two of the 19 in the Institute of Clinical Medicine (IKM). The adult psychiatry group has two professors (one only working 20%), two associate professors and four assistant professors (all working only 20%), and eight PhD students, and the child psychiatry group has four professors (of whom two are part time) and five PhD students.

Research strategies and priorities

In child psychiatry, the research is closely linked to clinical child psychiatric practice and learning disability, and is mainly applied research. The adult psychiatry group has carried out a series of studies related to health services research and seasonal depression and this has turned out to be very valuable in research terms.

Training and mobility

There is high quality staff in the departments, but promotion tends to occur late as double competency in clinical and research work is expected. Keen students are attracted to the work of the groups in spite of geographical, accommodation, and funding limitations.

National and international collaboration

There are excellent collaborative links with other Norwegian and European groups and the joint work with Russian colleagues is of especial interest.

Scientific quality and relevance

The quality of research and publications is remarkably high despite the other pressures on the research staff, most of whom are limited in the amount of time they can spend on research because of other commitments. The research on seasonal affective disorder has been of particular interest as it conflicts with other studies carried out in areas with less seasonal variation.

Evaluation and recommendations

This is a small and young department with a creative atmosphere and much potential. They have an excellent pragmatic attitude towards research and promote good dissemination through seminars and conferences. This is strongly supported by the panel, which thinks this department at present is good. Given the department’s attitude towards research and its efforts to improve it, it is likely to improve its rankings if it maintains this approach at the next evaluation. The child and adolescent group should collaborate more with the adult psychiatry one, particularly in studies of late adolescence and early adult life.
Appendix A: Terms of reference

Evaluation of clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research in Norway

Terms of reference

I Introduction

The Division of Medicine and Health at the Research Council of Norway has decided to evaluate research activities in clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research in Norwegian universities, university hospitals and relevant research institutes. The reports of the evaluation panels, including an overall summary, will form the basis for the future strategy of the Research Council in this area.

The objective of the evaluation

The objective of this evaluation is to review the overall state of clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research in Norwegian universities, university hospitals and relevant research institutes.

Specifically, the evaluation process will:

- Offer a critical review of the strengths and weaknesses of the above fields, both nationally and at the level of individual research groups and academic departments. The scientific quality of the research will be reviewed in an international context.
- Identify departments which have achieved a high international level in their research, or which have the potential to reach such a level.
- Identify areas of research that need to be strengthened in order to ensure that Norway in the future possesses necessary competence in areas of national importance. A key aspect is to enable the Research Council of Norway to assess the situation regarding recruitment in the above scientific fields.

Further, the evaluation aims to:

- provide the institutions concerned with the knowledge required to raise their own research standards
- provide the institutions concerned with feedback regarding the scientific performance of individual departments, as well as suggestions for improvements and priorities
- improve the knowledge base for strategic decision-making by the Research Council
- function as a platform for future work on developing clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research
- represent a basis for determining future priorities, including funding priorities, within and between areas of research.

More generally, the evaluation is designed to reinforce the role of the Research Council as advisor to the Norwegian Government and relevant ministries.
**Organisation**
Evaluation panels will be established for each of the following subfields:
- Clinical research (clinical medicine, clinical odontology, clinical pharmacology)
- Public health and health services research (public health, epidemiology, psychology, behavioural research, health services research, ethics, health related social science etc.)
- Psychiatry and psychology (clinical psychology, basic psychology)

**II Mandate for the evaluation panels**
The panels are requested to make use of the self-assessments provided by the institutions in the evaluation of the overall state of clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research. The panels are requested to write a report with a set of specific recommendations for the future development of the field, including means of improvement when required. The panels are requested to evaluate scientific activities with respect to their quality, relevance and international and national collaboration, bearing in mind the resources available. The panels are further requested to evaluate the way in which clinical research, epidemiology, public health research and health services research and psychology are organised and managed.

The conclusions of the panels should lead to a set of recommendations concerning the future development of clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research in Norway.

**1. Scientific quality and relevance**
Specific aspects to be considered:
- International position of Norwegian clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research.
- Quality of the departments and appropriateness of their funding.
- Strong and weak areas.
- Relevance of the research.
  - Which fields of research have a strong scientific position in Norway and which have a weak position?
  - Is Norwegian clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research ahead of scientific developments internationally within specific areas?
  - Are the results currently being produced, e.g. number of fellowships awarded and articles published, reasonable in terms of the resources available?
  - Is there a reasonable balance between the various fields of Norwegian clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research?
  - Are research areas absent, over- or underrepresented in any particular field?
  - Is Norwegian clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research being carried out in fields that are regarded as
    - particularly relevant by the international research community?
    - relevant to the needs of the Norwegian society?
    - relevant to the needs of the (Norwegian) health sector?
    - relevant to the needs of Norwegian industry?
2. The institutional situation with regard to:

- **Organisation, academic career structure, scientific leadership, gender and age**
  - Are the academic departments adequately organised and is the size and organisation of the research groups reasonable?
  - Is scientific leadership being exercised in an appropriate way?
  - Do the departments have strategies with specific plans for their research, and are such plans being followed up?
  - How is the career path for young researchers?
  - Does the department face a depletion problem?
  - How is the balance between men and women in academic positions?

- **Graduate and postdoctoral contacts, training and mobility**
  - How are graduates employed after completion of higher degrees?
  - Is recruitment to doctoral training programmes satisfactory, or should greater emphasis be put on recruitment in the future?
  - Is there a satisfactory degree of national and international mobility?
  - How ambitious/demanding is the research culture among young researchers?

- **National and international contacts and collaboration**
  - Is there a reasonable degree of co-operation and division of research activities at national level, or could these aspects be improved?
  - Is there sufficient contact and co-operation among research groups at national and international level?
  - Does the department maintain sufficient contact with the public sector and industry?
  - Is there sufficient co-operation in the use of laboratories, expensive equipment and larger data collections?
  - Do research groups take part in international programmes or use facilities abroad, or could utilisation be improved by introducing special measures?
  - What roles do Norwegian departments/research groups play in international co-operation in individual subfields of clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research?
  - Is there an adequate degree of national and international mobility?
  - How is the collaboration with relevant industry?

3. Financial support

Specific aspects to be considered:

- **The general financial situation for clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research**

- **The balance between positions, projects and equipment**

- **The review process**
4. Interchange of knowledge and technology between clinical practice and industry

5. Specific panel-related issues and questions

Clinical research (clinical medicine, clinical odontology, clinical pharmacology)

- To what extent are conditions provided for combining clinical practice and clinical research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between basic disciplinary research, epidemiology and clinical research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between public health and clinical research?

Public health and health services research (public health, epidemiology, psychology, behavioural research, health services research, ethics, health related social science)

- How close is the contact and interaction between basic disciplinary research, epidemiology and clinical research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between public health and clinical research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between research in this area and the social science research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between research in this area and the health services and other user groups?

Psychology and psychiatry (clinical psychology, clinical psychiatry, basic psychology)

- To what extent are conditions provided for combining clinical practice and clinical research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between basic disciplinary research, epidemiology and clinical research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between psychology and psychiatry research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between psychology and social science research?
- How close is the contact and interaction between psychiatry and somatic medicine?

6. Future developments and needs

7. Miscellaneous

Are there any other important aspects of Norwegian clinical, epidemiological, public health, health-related and psychological research that ought to be given consideration?
Appendix B: CVs of the panel members

Name: **Lars-Göran Nilsson**
Date of birth: July 14, 1944
Present position: Professor of Psychology, Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

**Education**
1964  Studentexamen (matriculation examination), Söderhamns högre allmänna läroverk
1968  Fil.kand. examen (B.A.), University of Uppsala
1971  Fil.lic. examen (M.A.), University of Uppsala
1973  Fil.dr. examen (Ph.D.), University of Uppsala
1975  Docent, University of Uppsala

**Research fields**  Memory, aging, dementia, longitudinal research

**Awards**
2003  Doctor Honoris Causa, Turku University
2003  Wilhelm Wundt-William James Award

**Membership in academic and professional committees**

- 1984-  Psychonomic Society, USA
- 1985-  Swedish Psychological Association
- 1985-  National Committee for Psychology, Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
- 1985-  European Society of Cognitive Society
- 1985-  Society of Neuroscience, University of Umeå
- 1986-1994  Collegium of the Medical Faculty, University of Umeå
- 1987-1996  European Behavioural Pharmacology Society
- 1987-  The Neuro Club, Karolinska Institute, Stockholm
- 1999-2001  Network for Neural Mechanisms of Memory and Learning, European Science Foundation
- 1988-2000  International Union of the Psychological Sciences (IUPsyS)
- 1988-1996  International Neuropsychological Society
- 1989-  American Psychological Society, Charter Member
- 1989-  Royal Swedish Academy of Science, Elected member
- 1990-  Academia Europaea, Elected member
- 1992-1996  International Society for the Study of Behavioral Development
- 1993-  Finnish Academy of Letters and Sciences, Elected member
- 1994-  Royal Skyttean Society, Elected member
- 2000-  Nobel Prize Committee for Economics
Name: Claus Bundesen
Date of birth: January 26, 1948
Present position: Professor of Cognitive Psychology, University of Copenhagen

Education
1986: Dr. phil. in Psychology, University of Copenhagen
1972: Mag.art. in Psychology, University of Copenhagen

Research fields
Cognitive Psychology

Awards
Grant from The International Human Frontier Science Program Organization
Grants from the Danish Research Council for the Humanities
Grant from the Danish Research Councils for the Natural Sciences, Medicine, and the Technical Sciences

Membership in academic and professional committees

Head of the Danish Graduate School of Psychology (Dansk Forskerskole i Psykologi). Member of the Board of Directors and Chairman of the Programme Committee of the School.

Director of the Center for Visual Cognition under the Danish Research Council for the Humanities

Member of the Executive Committee of the European Society for Cognitive Psychology

Member of the Executive Committee of the International Association for the Study of Attention and Performance

Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Cognitive Psychology

Member of the editorial board of the Psychological Review

Member of the editorial board of Psychological Research / Psychologische Forschung

Member of the editorial board of Visual Cognition
Name: Agneta Herlitz
Date of birth: February 16, 1962
Present position: Associate professor, Aging Research Center, Karolinska Institutet, Sweden

Education

1982 Studentexamen (matriculation examination), Djursholms Samskola
1968 Fil.kand. examen (B.A.), University of Umeå
1991 Fil.dr. examen (Ph.D.), University of Umeå
1993 Legitimerad psykolog, (clinical psychologist), University of Umeå
1996 Docent, University of Stockholm

Research fields

Cognitive functions, with special emphasis on memory functions, in normal aging and in the dementia process. Sex differences in cognitive functions and the role of sex hormones (estrogen and testosterone) for these differences.

Membership in academic and professional committees

American Psychological Association
International Neuropsychological Society
Name: Heikki J. Lyytinen
Date of birth: June 24, 1946
Present position: Professor of Developmental Neuropsychology
Director of Child Research Centre, University of Jyväskylä
Chair of the Board of Niilo Mäki Institute
Chair of the Board of Agora Centre, University of Jyväskylä
Co-director of the Centre of Excellence “Human Development and Its Risk Factors”

Education
1984: Ph.D. University of Jyväskylä, Finland

Research fields
Psychophysiological study of energetic & cognitive aspects of behaviour. Developmental neuropsychology of learning disabilities, especially dyslexia and attention disorders. Experimental methodology including single case experimental designs. Longitudinal study of atypical child development and factors affecting cognitive development – specifically prospective study of dyslexia.

Awards
Awards from Nyyssönen Foundation and Kone Oy Foundation,
Wolmar Schildt Award

Membership in academic and professional committees

Founding member and the chair of the European research network of “Learning Disorders as a Barrier to Human Development” and action funded by the European Union (titled COST A8, 1992-1999)

Head of Marie Curie Training Centre located in the Centre of Excellence of Human Development and Its Risk Factors in the University of Jyväskylä financed by EU (2000 – 2004).

Member of:
-Society for Psychophysiological Research
-International Organisation of Psychophysiology
-International Neuropsychological Society
-New York Academy of Science
-International Dyslexia Society (Member of the Scientific Board)
Name: **Raben Rosenberg**  
Date of birth: February 21, 1946  
Present position: Medical Director, Department of Biological Psychiatry, Institute for Basic Research in Psychiatry, University Hospital of Aarhus.

Professor of Biological Psychiatry and Psychopharmacology, University of Aarhus, Denmark (Full Professorship).

**Education:**  
1970 University of Copenhagen, Denmark: M.D.  
1987 Diploma (licence) as a Psychiatrist.

**Research fields**  
Author (or editor) of several publications (books, articles a.o.) within biological psychiatry, neuropsychiatry and psychopharmacology (anxiety and affective disorders), biophysics (membrane transports), drug abuse (incl. benzodiazepines and cannabis) and philosophy of science including qualitative research methods.

**Awards**  
Several national grants rewards

**Membership in academic and professional committees**

*Danish Psychiatric Association*  
1978-80 Secretary  
1994-96 Vice-president  
1996-98 President

*Danish Society for Biological Psychiatry*  
President

*Danish Medical Research Council*  
1999- Member  
2003- Vice-chairman
Name: Raimo Kalevi Rikhard Salokangas
Date of birth: Sep 12, 1944
Present position: 1992 - Professor of Psychiatry, University of Turku, University Central Hospital
1992 - Medical Director, Psychiatric Clinic, Turku
1995 - 99 Medical Director, Turku Psychiatric Clinic
2000 - Chief Doctor, Turku Psychiatric Clinic
1992 - Introducer for Discussion, Mental Health Board, Varsinais-Suomi Health District

Education
1971 Licentiate of Medicine, M.D., University of Turku
1973 Master of Social Sciences, M.Sc., University of Turku
1977 Doctor in Medical Science, Ph.D., University of Turku
1978 Specialist in psychiatry
1987 Specialist in psychogeriatry
1978 Docent in social psychiatry, University of Turku
1982 Docent in psychiatry, University of Turku
1984 Docent in psychiatry, University of Tampere
1992 Docent in social psychiatry, University of Tampere
1995 Authorised Psychotherapist, National Board of Medicolegal Affairs
2000 Special Competence in General Hospital Psychiatry, Finish Medical Association

Research fields
Schizophrenia and Affective disorders,
Development of Psychiatric Health Care System and Community Psychiatry,
Primary Care Psychiatry,
Early Detection of Psychoses,
Brain-imaging in Severe Psychiatric Disorders

Awards
1978 Martti Kaila Price
1998 Schizophrenia research Price of Norvartis Finland Oy

Membership in academic and professional committees
1971- Duodecim, Finnish College of Physicians
1973- Psychiatric Association of Finland
1975- Association of Social Medicine
1993- Member of Board, Psychiatric Association of Finland
1989- International Association of Psychogeriatry
1991 - Psychogeriatric Association of Finland
1992-4 Chairman of Psychogeriatric Association of Finland
1993- Association of European Psychiatrist
2000-4 President of the Finnish Psychiatric Association
Name: Peter Julian Tyrer
Date of birth: August 13, 1940
Present position: Professor of Community Psychiatry and Head of Department of Psychological Medicine, Division of Neuroscience and Psychological Medicine, Imperial College School of Medicine, London; Honorary Consultant Psychiatrist in Rehabilitation, Brent, Kensington, Chelsea and Westminster Mental Health NHS Trust (NHS funded)

Education:

1962 B.A. (Cantab.)
1966 M.B., B.Chir. (Cantab.)
1968 M.R.C.P. (London)
1970 D.P.M. (England)
1973 M.R.C.Psych.
1975 M.D. (Cantab.)
1979 F.R.C.Psych.
1993 F.R.C.P. (London)
1993 M.F.P.H.M. (Royal College of Physicians)
1999 F.F.P.H.M. (Royal College of Physicians)
1999 F.Med.Sci. (Academy of Medical Sciences)

Research fields

Author of 23 books, 99 book chapters and 285 original articles, mainly on community psychiatry, neurotic and personality disorders, and psychiatric treatment in all forms. Special interest in the classification and treatment of common mental disorders (mood and neurotic disorders), personality disorders, psychological and pharmacological treatments for self-harm, neurotic disorders and severe mental illness, methodology of complex interventions and health services research.

Awards

1962 First Class Honours, Natural Sciences Tripos, University of Cambridge
1965 John Simon Prize in Social Medicine, St Thomas's Hospital, London
1973 Research Prize and Bronze Medal, Royal College of Psychiatrists
1986 Andrew Woods Professor and Medallist, University of Iowa (Department of Psychiatry)
Appendix C: Letter to the institutions

Til adressaten
se vedlagte adresseliste

Vår saksbehandler/telefon Vår ref. Oslo, 01.11.02
Deres ref.

Fagevaluering av forskning innenfor de kliniske fagene, de samfunnsmedisinske fagene, helsefagene og psykologi – informasjonsmøte


Bakgrunn og hensikt

Hensikten med evalueringen er å:
• Styrke grunnlaget for forskningspolitiske råd til regjeringen og berørte departementer.
• Bedre plattformen for forskningsstrategiske beslutninger både i Forskningsrådet og i forskningsmiljøene selv.
• Få råd om tiltak som kan gi økt kvalitet og effektivitet innen klinisk-, samfunnsmedisinsk-, helsefaglig- og psykologisk forskning.

Se vedlagte utkast til mandat for evalueringen.

Forslag til panelmedlemmer
Evalueringen vil bli gjennomført ved hjelp av tre evalueringspanel:
Panel 1: Klinisk forskning (klinisk medisin, klinisk odontologi, klinisk farmasi/farmakologi)
Panel 2: Samfunnsmedisinsk- og helsefaglig forskning (samfunnsmedisin, epidemiologi, atferdsforskning, helsetjenesteforskning, etikk, helse relatert samfunnsforskning)
Panel 3: Psykologi og psykiatri (klinisk psykologi, klinisk psykiatri og basal psykologi)

Panelene vil bli satt sammen av internasjonalt anerkjente fageksperter som til sammen har kompetanse innen de ulike delene av de tre fagområdene.

internasjonalt anerkjente forskere, både kvinner og menn, som er habile i forhold til de norske fagmiljøene. Forslaget til eksperter må inneholde navn, adresse og en kort beskrivelse av aktuelt forskningsområde/er. Det er en fordel med kandidater som dekker flere kompetanseområder. Presiser gjerne om noen av de foreslåtte også er egnet til å lede det aktuelle panelet.

Plan for evalueringen - Egenvurderinger fra instituttene
Panelene vil basere sine vurderinger og anbefalinger på egenvurderinger fra instituttene, på CVer og publikasjonslister for de vitenskapelig ansatte og på møter (intervjuer) med representanter fra fagmiljøene.


Informasjonsmøte

Kontaktpersoner
Spørsmål i tilknytning til evalueringen kan rettes til:

- Rådgiver Berit Nygaard (kliniske fag), Området for medisin og helse, telf. 22037174, e-post: bn@forskningsradet.no
- Rådgiver Arthur Aamodt (samfunnsmedisin/helsetjeneste), Området for medisin og helse, telf. 22037084, e-post: aam@forskningsradet.no
- Prosjektleder Malena Bakkevold, telf. 64972872/95750533, e-post: post@malena.no

Med vennlig hilsen
Norges forskningsråd

Hans M Borchgrevink
Direktør
Medisin og helse

Gro E M Helgesen
Avdelingssjef
Medisin og helse

Vedlegg:
- Utkast til mandat for evalueringen
- Adresseliste
Fagevaluering av klinisk, epidemiologisk, samfunnsmedisinsk, helsefaglig og psykologisk forskning – Timeplan og retningslinjer for høringsmøtene

Vi viser til kontakt per brev og e-post om evalueringen og tidspunkt for høringsmøtene.


For å oppnå likebehandling forutsettes det at timeplanen holdes av alle parter.

Informasjon og inntrykk fra høringsmøtene må betraktes som tilleggsinformasjon til det materialet som allerede er innsendt fra instituttene/enhetene og som utgjør hovedmaterialet for evalueringen.

Forberedelser

Hvert høringsmøte vil ha en todelt oppbygging med innledning/presentasjon fra det aktuelle instituttet/enheten og påfølgende spørsmål fra panelet.

Panelet er godt kjent med det innsendte materialet. Punkt 6 i egenvurderingen er omtale av instituttets/enhetens sterke og svake sider. Leder av panelet ønsker at presentasjonen især konsentres om dette punktet, samt at sterke/svake sider i tillegg ses i et framtidsperspektiv. En slik analyse går under betegnelsen SWOT-analyse hvor akronymet står for “Strenghts” (styrke), ”Weaknesses” (svakhet) - i dag - og ”Opportunities” (muligheter) og ”Threats” (trusler) - i framtiden. Vi er oppmerksomme på at framtidsperspektivet har en naturlig kobling til både nåtid og fortid. Hvilke forskningsincitamenter er viktige? Gjør framstillingen så konkret og oversiktlig som mulig – og husk at den skal være på engelsk.

Forholdet mellom innledning og høring skal være i størrelsesorden 20 – 80. Konkret betyr dette at dersom et institutt/enhet står oppført med 1,5 time i timeplanen så skal innledningen (SWOT-analysen) utgjøre maksimalt 18 minutter av møtet. For å sikre tilstrekkelig tid til spørsmålstillings forbeholder panelet seg retten til å avbryte innlederne dersom de går ut over den skisserte tidsrammen.
Vi anbefaler at innlederne benytter lysark slik at informasjonen kommer tydelig fram. Ta med 10 kopier av presentasjonen (på engelsk) slik at denne er tilgjengelig for panelet i det videre arbeidet.

**Deltakelse**
Det er nødvendig å begrense antallet deltakere under høringsmøtene. Maksimalt antall deltakere fra deres institutt/enhet er satt til 2 personer. Forskningsrådet dekker reiseutgifter (ikke kost og overnatting) for inntil 1 deltaker. Høringsmøtene for de største instituttene/enhetene vil gå over flere timer. Institutt/enheten bestemmer selv om deres representanter skal delta under hele høringsmøtet eller om de skal komme til ulike tidspunkt.

Vi ber om at liste over instituttets/enhetens representanter med navn og tittel sendes rådgiver Arthur Aamodt per e-post innen fredag 9 mai, se adresse nedenfor.

**Praktiske forhold**
Alle intervjuer finner sted på Radisson SAS Plaza i Oslo (Sonja Henies pl 3, Oslo 0134, City Center, tlf: 22 17 10 00). Hotellet ligger i gangavstand fra Oslo Sentralstasjon.

Generelle spørsmål i tilknytning til høringsmøtene rettes til:
- Rådgiver, Arthur Aamodt, tlf 22 03 70 84, e-post: aam@forskningsradet.no
- Prosjektleder Malena Bakkevold, tlf 64 97 28 72, mobil 95 75 05 33, e-post: post@malena.no

Praktiske spørsmål rettes til:
- Prosjektsekretær Vibeke Natalie Torp, tlf 22 03 74 98, e-post: vnt@forskningsradet.no

Panel 3 ser sammen med Forskningsrådet fram til en viktig og hektisk uke og takker for arbeidet som blir lagt ned i denne forbindelse fra instituttenes/enhetenes side.

**Med vennlig hilsen**  
**Norges forskningsråd**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gro E M Helgesen</th>
<th>Arthur Aamodt</th>
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<tr>
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**Vedlegg**
Timeplan for panel 3
### Appendix D: Time Schedule for Panel 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon</td>
<td>0900 – 0915</td>
<td>Panel’s 15 minutes</td>
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<tr>
<td>19 May</td>
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<td><strong>University of Bergen</strong></td>
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<td>2003</td>
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<td>0915 - 0930</td>
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<td>0930 - 1045</td>
<td><em>Department of Clinical Psychology</em></td>
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<tr>
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<td>1045 - 1100</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1100 - 1215</td>
<td><em>Department of Biological and Medical Psychology</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1215 - 1315</td>
<td>Lunch</td>
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<td>1315 - 1400</td>
<td><em>Regional Centre for Child and Adolescence Psychiatry, Region West</em></td>
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<td>1400 - 1415</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1415 - 1630</td>
<td><em>Department of Psychosocial Science</em></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>1900</td>
<td>Dinner</td>
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<td><strong>University of Oslo</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>0900 - 1015</td>
<td><em>Group 1: Clinical psychology, psychotherapy and development</em></td>
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<td>1015 - 1030</td>
<td>Break</td>
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<td>1030 - 1145</td>
<td><em>Group 2: Epidemiology, genetics and mechanism</em></td>
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<td><em>Group 3: Developmental psychology</em></td>
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<td>1415 - 1530</td>
<td><em>Group 4: Social psychology, health and organisational psychology</em></td>
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<td>1545 – 1700</td>
<td><em>Group 5: Cognitive neuropsychology</em></td>
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<td>Break</td>
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<td>1715 - 1800</td>
<td><em>Regional Centre for Child and Adolescence Psychiatry, Regions East and South (R.BUP)</em></td>
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<td>1015 - 1115</td>
<td>Section for health-, vocational- and organisational psychology / Section for social- and community psychology</td>
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<td>1130 - 1230</td>
<td>Section for developmental- and child clinical psychology / Section for personality-, adult clinical psychology and psychometrics</td>
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<td>1500 – 1600</td>
<td>Developmental psychology / Clinical- and personality psychology / Social- and health psychology</td>
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<td>Modum Bad, centre for therapy and research, training and counselling</td>
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<td>1830</td>
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<td><em>Break</em></td>
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<td>1045 - 1215</td>
<td><em>Continuing – Department Group of Psychiatry</em></td>
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<td><em>Department of Behavioural Sciences in Medicine</em></td>
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|          | 1045 - 1200   | *Department of Child and adolescent psychiatry (ABUP) /  
|          |               | *Department of Clinical Psychiatry*                         |
|          | 1200 - 1300   | *Lunch*                                                     |
|          | 1300 - 1400   | *Summing up before departure*                               |