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SERAF strategy 2020-2025

Vision:

SERAF will contribute to the development of the knowledge base within substance abuse treatment in Norway, through clinic-based substance abuse research, with a focus on increasing the understanding of which types of treatments and interventions provide relevant treatment results.

SERAF's research and knowledge production shall contribute to establishing a solid knowledge base within SERAF's focus areas. SERAF should appear as a natural party to look to for statements or partnerships for others who utilise the knowledge base to which we have contributed.

SERAF will contribute to a knowledge base based primarily on the Norwegian situation, substance abuse treatment and programmes in the substance abuse field.

SERAF will also focus on Nordic co-operation and comparison and help to establish a knowledge base on common features and effects of Nordic substance abuse treatment.

SERAF will participate in relevant international collaborations, both as a leading main partner and as a participating partner.

SERAF shall have a size (funds and employees) that gives us a robust staff over time, and that provides sufficient academic community (in terms of numbers) within employee groups; Administration, Senior Researcher, Postdoc Researcher and PhD Researcher.

Practical means/approaches:

- Maintain and thereby fulfil expectations in relation to external basic funding from the Directorate of Health
- Be part of important national and international research collaborations within our focus areas
- Retain and attract strong researchers, including prioritising the recruitment of researchers and postdocs over PhD candidates.
- Attract external funding for research and project realisation within our focus areas
- SERAF should annually apply to one or more sources for project funding for one or more projects
 - Researcher project, Postdoc, PhD, other types of project funding
- SERAF should be in the driver's seat for large calls for proposals such as SFF and KG Jebsen etc.
- Of SERAF's limited operating funds, activities that promote the possibility of new external funding for SERAF will be prioritised.
- Facilitate that projects that collect data and / or enter into collaboration should also facilitate that other SERAF projects can benefit from the activity ("try to do 2 things at the same time")

Expectation of employees:

Being part of SERAF is an advantage when seeking funding and collaboration, based on our strong history and track record. Everyone who is part of SERAF (uses SERAF data or SERAF facilities) and thus benefits from the SERAF advantage must therefore also expect that it will be necessary at times to contribute to solving SERAF's common tasks in order to achieve SERAF's overall goals and to maintain our advantage.

SERAF's researchers are therefore expected to contribute to SERAF's joint tasks based on needs at any given time, this may include tasks that are fairly fixed and predictable such as the implementation of data collection and production of SERAF's annual Status Report for LAR, in addition to ongoing teaching and responsibility for SERAF's course activities.

Other tasks include, but are not limited to; application work for external funding and preparation of reports / knowledge summaries on behalf of the Norwegian Directorate of Health, i.e. also tasks that may come with less predictability and shorter deadlines.

Within SERAF's projects and based on SERAF's research groups, funding for PhD fellows must be applied for and supervision of these fellows is the responsibility of the project groups.

SERAF's current professional priorities

Thematic prioritisation:

- Opioid addiction and treatment of opioid addiction
 - LAR treatment and related projects (mortality, crime, health service utilisation etc.)
 - AgeSUD (ageing among LAR patients)
 - Mothers in LAR and their children
- Prescription drugs with deformative potential
 - "Opioid epidemic"
 - Chronic pain and opioid treatment
- Heroin-assisted treatment
 - Treatment outcomes and cost benefit, collaboration with Denmark and Norwegian clinics
- Overdose prevention
 - The naloxone project
 - Toxicology and mortality
- Health and living conditions among prison inmates
 - PriSUD (Norway and the Nordic region)

Methodology and prioritisation:

- Establishment and follow-up of treatment cohorts within the focus areas
- Use of national health registers as a methodological platform (exposure and outcomes) in research
- Register links
- eHealth service
 - Change (behavioural change programme)
 - App-based interventions and e-learning

Future academic prioritisation and focus areas at SERAF:

- Join and establish new thematic areas that are forward-looking and contemporary
- Heroin treatment, Chronic pain and opioids; trauma and intoxication, daily meaningful activity as a tool
- Method development for utilisation across projects
- Register links, eHealth, Complementary methods (qualitative), cost-benefit
- Nordic co-operation with a focus on using Nordic registers

Goals for SERAF

Every year, SERAF:

- Be a key partner for public authorities in terms of the knowledge base for our prioritised thematic areas
- Apply for external funding for one or more projects
- Publish scientific articles that can contribute to improving substance abuse treatment in Norway
- Prioritising quality over quantity in terms of counting edges for research
- Deliver knowledge-based teaching/lectures at different levels and in a range of arenas
- Participate in national and international collaborations as an important and solid research partner
- Be visible in the media as a knowledge provider/actor in the field of substance abuse
- Engage in collaboration and interaction with user organisations in the field of substance abuse
- Produce a national annual status report for LAR
- Be a stimulating professional environment for all groups of employees