

**The University of Akureyri  
Institute of Health Sciences**

**Future View and Policy**

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On Monday the 7<sup>th</sup> of October 2002 a contract of collaboration was signed with Akureyri District General Hospital (FSA), wherein the Hospital is defined as a University Hospital. Halldór Jónsson, director, signed the contract on behalf of Akureyri District General Hospital (FSA) and Thorsteinn Gunnarsson, rector, on behalf of the University of Akureyri (HA).

The contract on collaboration discloses amongst other things that the contracting parties agree on establishing a research institute within the Department of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri. The institute is to bear the name the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri (HHA). The contract contains i.a. a provision on the role of the institute and the demands made of its employees.

In continuation of the contract, a regulation was drawn up for the Institute of Health Sciences.

The University Council approved the institute regulations on the 20<sup>th</sup> of June 2003 and they were published as Regulations no. 876 on the 20<sup>th</sup> of November 2003.

With the exception of the director, the first employees were hired by the Institute in spring of 2004. They are Thorvaldur Ingvarsson, specialist in plastic surgery and the manager of health care at Akureyri District General Hospital, who was hired for a professorial position and Alexander Smáráson, a specialist of gynecology, who was hired for the post of associate professor.

At the end of March 2004, the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri, in cooperation with the Faculty of Health held a symposium at Sólborg, entitled: Health Service at a Crossroads. Preventive Health Care; Why, for whom?

From the time it was established till 15 February 2005, Þórarinn Sigurðsson, dean of the Faculty of Health of the University of Akureyri, served as director of the Institute but Bjarni Jónasson was hired for the post of director. At the same time a contract was made between the Institute of Health Sciences and the Employment Development Society of Eyjafjörður District (AFE), according to which the Institute of Health Sciences assumes the management and supervision of the operations of a health cluster, included in the Growth Contract and supervised by the project manager of the Employment Development Society of Eyjafjörður District (AFE).

Work on the health cluster is an enormous project, whose main goal is to persuade companies in health and health related operations in Eyjafjörður District and adjoining regions to work together.

Their increased collaboration is designed to promote the consolidation of human resources, knowledge and power of the health sector, for the purpose of strengthening current operations, increasing innovations and facilitating the progress of new profitable projects.

At a meeting of the board of directors of the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri on 14 September 2005, it was decided to commence work on a future view and policy of the Institute for the coming years, within the framework provided by Regulations of the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri. The director was entrusted with work on this project. In this connection discussions were held with employees of Akureyri District General Hospital and the University of Akureyri.

The Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri approved at its meeting on 23 November 2005, the enclosed future view and the policy of the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri.

The Institute of Health Sciences is a common forum for the personnel of Akureyri District General Hospital and the University of Akureyri for furthering teaching, training and research in health sciences, dissemination of knowledge and promotion of research by the personnel.

In accordance with the regulation the main role of the Institute is as follows:

- a) To serve as a forum for research for personnel of Akureyri District General Hospital and the University of Akureyri as well as other health institutes on the basis of a more detailed agreement with them,
- b) To strengthen ties between research and teaching and coordinate research in the health sciences conducted at the University of Akureyri, Akureyri District General Hospital and other health science institutes,
- c) To promote teaching and training in scientific work procedures and provide students in graduate studies in health sciences, assistance in research work insofar as possible,
- d) To support collaboration with domestic and foreign research parties in the field of health sciences and strong relations to industry and life in this country,
- e) Attend to service projects in research in the field of health sciences,
- f) To publish and present conclusions of research in health sciences,
- g) To provide information and advice concerning issues related to health service,
- h) To manage and contribute to the holding of symposiums and conferences in the field of the health sciences,
- i) To hold or provide support for the giving of courses and lectures,

**Collaboration:** Collaboration is a prerequisite for achieving results in research and teaching.

**Results:** To make development possible in various phases of the health sciences, results in research and promotion must be achieved.

The Institute of Health of the University of Akureyri is to become an interdisciplinary research institute in the field of health sciences with a sound and positive image. An institute that offers advisory services on projects that require work within the health

Sector, while also contributing to further development of the Faculty of Health of the University of Akureyri and strengthening the operations of Akureyri District General Hospital as a University Hospital.

### **Unique Position**

Work will be done to create a unique position for the Institute of Health at the University of Akureyri as an interdisciplinary research institute in the health sector by publishing articles, research results, holding symposiums and conferences in the name of the Institute. The aim is to hold at least one major conference/symposium annually.

### **Service Projects**

Work will continue on the management and supervision of the operations of a health cluster in the Growth Contract of Eyjafjörður District.

### **Collaboration**

The Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri will work on strengthening collaboration and cooperation with the employees of the Akureyri District General Hospital, who are engaged in research by attracting more people to

join the ranks of the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri. Work will be carried out to establish closer connections between BSc. and BOT projects of students at the University of Akureyri and later on to link research by students in master's degree studies with the requirements of Akureyri District General Hospital. Introductory meetings will be held to promote the role of the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri and the benefit gained by working for the Institute of Health of the University of Akureyri. Possibilities will be explored of activating the Education and Research Committee of Akureyri District General Hospital to strengthen research activity of employees of Akureyri District General Hospital.

### **Facility**

Operational facilities within Akureyri District General Hospital and the University of Akureyri will be built, where collaborating parties of the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri will be able to conduct their research.

### **Information**

The Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri will emphasise that the research conducted there in the name of the Institute and its collaborating parties will be visible and accessible. For this purpose a website will be established, where these research data will be saved. The Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri will in a cooperative effort with its collaborative parties manage the development and safekeeping of health statistics in the district that will serve i.a. as a foundation for research operations.

### **Knowledge**

The development of knowledge within the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri will be furthered by utilising the authorisations for positions of employment at the command of the Institute and an effort will be made to broaden the knowledge base of the institute by obtaining more professional collaboration.

In order to increase the knowledge and competence of collaborative parties of the Institute of Health Sciences of the University of Akureyri, the Institute will promote the giving of courses and holding of conferences that will enhance the collective competence of these institutes, e.g. in methodology, ethics, statistics and the writing of articles.