

# PhD Supervisor Workshop

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**Date:** 12-13 October 2015

**Place:** [Radisson Blue Royal Garden Hotel](#), Trondheim

[REGISTER HERE](#). Deadline: 1 September 2015. NB: Max 30 participants!

## Highlights:

- *Improve your supervision skills and strategies*
- *Learn how to recruit good candidates and build a research group*
- *Develop your career plan and think strategically about supervision*
- *Discuss everyday challenges with other supervisors in your field*

**About the program:** The workshop is organized by the [Norwegian Research School in Neuroscience \(NRSN\)](#) and the [Norwegian Research School in Medical Imaging \(MedIm\)](#). The program is tailor-made for supervisors in the early stages of their career and will focus on challenges that are particularly relevant in the fields of neuroscience and medical imaging. Special guest is Professor Robert Harris from Karolinska Institutet in Stockholm, who will introduce participants to 'Intended Learning Outcomes' as a tool for efficient project planning and supervision.

**Target group:** The workshop is intended for researchers at post-doc level and above who are working in the field of neuroscience or medical imaging. All participants must have some experience with PhD supervision in order to attend. There is a maximum of 30 participants, and we give priority to the main supervisors of PhD students who are members of NRSN or MedIm. If your student is not yet a member, (s)he can register now via [registration form NRSN](#) or [registration form MedIm](#). International applicants may participate against a course fee of 3000 NOK and must pay for their own travel and accommodation. Local applicants will be prioritized.

**Practical arrangements:** There is no course fee, and NRSN/MedIm will cover the costs of travel, accommodation and meals. To stimulate networking, also those living in Trondheim are welcome to stay in the hotel at our cost. Participants are asked to make their own travel arrangements, and we will reimburse the expenses after the event.

**Preparations:** Prior to the workshop we will send a brief questionnaire to the participants' PhD candidates where we ask them to assess the strengths of their supervisors and identify potential for improvement. The questionnaire will form the basis of an informal assignment at the beginning of the workshop, where participants get to know each other and reflect upon their qualities as supervisors.

**Questions?** Please contact Hanne Lehn, [hanne.lehn@ntnu.no](mailto:hanne.lehn@ntnu.no), or Randi Kallar Devold, [randi.k.devold@ntnu.no](mailto:randi.k.devold@ntnu.no).

*Preliminary program – changes may occur.*

## Monday 12 October

09:30-10.00: Arrival, coffee

10:00-10:15: **Introduction**

*Hanne Lehn, Coordinator MedIm and NRSN*

Brief presentation of the research schools and the aims of this workshop

10:15-11.15: **Ice breaker: What type of supervisor are you?**

Informal assignment with discussion of the participant's qualities as supervisors, based on a questionnaire administered to their candidates prior to the workshop.

11:15-11:30: Break with snack

11:30-12:15: **PhD education and academic careers**

*Speaker TBA; representative from NIFU - Nordisk institutt for studier av innovasjon, forskning og utdanning*

Presentation of a recent evaluation of the PhD education in Norway; challenges in the current system and implications for PhD supervisors. Special focus will be on career prospects and the role of a network.

12.15-13.00: **International cooperation - role of the PhD supervisor**

*Prof. Björn Gustafsson – Acting Dean, Faculty of Medicine, NTNU*

Björn Gustafsson will discuss the importance of internationalization in research, with examples of successful approaches. How can PhD supervisors help their candidates to establish international cooperation? What are the benefits – both for the candidates and their supervisors?

13.00-14.00: Lunch

14.00-15.00: **Ethical challenges in PhD supervision**

*Prof. May Thorseth – Head of Programme for Applied Ethics, NTNU*

Presentation of ethical guidelines for medical research, and relevant resources for PhD supervisors. Discussion of selected cases of ethical dilemmas, with special focus on the relationship between supervisor and candidate.

15.00-15.15: Break

15:15-17:15: **'Intended Learning Outcomes' as a tool for PhD supervisors**

*Prof. Robert Harris - Central director of doctoral education, Karolinska Institutet*

'Intended Learning Outcomes' as a tool for project planning, and for motivation, monitoring and evaluation of PhD candidates. Participants will work in groups to define relevant learning outcomes for their candidates.

17:15-17:45: Break with snack

17:45-18:30: **Advice from a PhD supervisor and his student**

*Prof. Menno Witter, Professor at the Kavli Institute of Systems Neuroscience, NTNU*

*Ingrid Heggland, PhD student at the Kavli Institute of Systems Neuroscience, NTNU*

Menno Witter will present his approach to supervision and what he considers to be success factors and pitfalls, and his PhD student will share *her* opinion on his supervision. Participants will discuss different approaches to supervision.

19:30- Dinner at [Una Pizzeria e Bar](#), Solsiden

## Tuesday 13 October

09.00-10.30: **Recruitment of PhD candidates**

*Nora Gullbekkhei – Head of office, Kavli Institute of Systems Neuroscience, NTNU*  
How do you find the best PhD candidates and build a motivated and effective research group? Presentation of formal regulations and strategies for evaluation and selection of candidates, with practical examples and recommendations. Participants will work in groups to discuss and improve their own recruitment strategies.

10.30-10.45: Break

10.45-12.00: **The nitty-gritty of PhD supervision**

*Prof. Tone F. Bathen, Head of MR Cancer group, NTNU*  
Participants will discuss everyday, practical challenges that are common for supervisors in neuroscience and medical imaging, and possible solutions to these. Examples include interdisciplinary collaboration, cultural differences, division of labor among co-supervisors, training in generic skills, writing process.

12.00-13.00: Lunch

13.00-14.30: **Conflict resolution**

*Roar Eriksen - Psychologist and senior adviser HES, NTNU*  
Supervisors will learn how to prevent and solve potential conflicts in the interaction with their PhD candidates, such as mismatch in personalities, poor group dynamics, culturally based misunderstandings, and academic disagreements.

14.30-15:00: Break with snack

15.00-15.45 **Funding opportunities and career planning**

*Boukje Ehlen – EU adviser, Faculty of Medicine, NTNU*  
Overview of relevant EU funding schemes and advice on career strategy, how to improve your CV and write a good proposal.

15:45-16:00: **Wrap-up discussion**

Participants are encouraged to reflect upon what they have learned in the workshop and how to make use of this in their daily work. How can they improve their competence as supervisors?

16:00: Departure