

MISSION AND VISION

Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences

MISSION

The Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences of the University of Antwerp promotes public health through education, research and services about which it communicates transparently at all times. It reflects on medicine and health through evidence-based action and opts for an open, interdisciplinary approach. The faculty has a strong international dimension. In the Antwerp region, it inspires and encourages collaboration and network building in healthcare, for which it takes the initiative.

The faculty emphasises the following in its various tasks, i.e. education, research and services:

- a link between education, research and clinical practice;
- an interdisciplinary approach;
- an international dimension.

The faculty's **core values** are:

- acquiring and developing knowledge and skills, critically reflecting upon them and taking action whilst being critical throughout;
- contributing to the organisation's openness, which is aimed at collaboration;
- striving for quality in the broadest sense.

Important **target groups** for the faculty include students, lecturers, researchers, staff members, alumni, healthcare professionals and society in the broadest possible sense, both on a regional and international level.

The faculty's **key disciplines** are medicine, health, healthcare and health sciences.

VISION

1. Vision on the core values

The faculty has the following vision on its core values:

- *acquiring and developing knowledge and skills, critically reflecting upon them and taking action whilst being critical throughout*

The emphasis is on building knowledge and gaining insight, as well as on using this knowledge and insight to improve and develop best practices (transformative role).

The faculty conducts fundamental as well as applied research. Insights from fundamental research are translated into clinical applications (translational research).

- *contributing to the organisation's openness, which is aimed at collaboration*

Collaboration relates primarily to the faculty's disciplines: Medicine, Nursing and Midwifery, Epidemiology, Rehabilitation Sciences and Physiotherapy. The collaboration between these disciplines generates added value and is encouraged in the organisation of education, research and services. Additionally, the faculty also invests in partnerships with other faculties and institutions.

Collaboration also relates to the organisation of the healthcare system, all of its stakeholders and the connecting role which the faculty wishes to play within this framework. The stakeholders are the Antwerp University Hospital (UZA), GP networks, the network of internship supervisors and other stakeholders.

- *striving for quality in the broadest sense*

The faculty strives for the highest quality in terms of education and research, which is assured by internal and external quality control systems, while also paying attention to the overall quality of healthcare systems. It does so based on eight dimensions which define the concept of responsible care: patient orientation, safety, effectiveness, efficiency, timeliness, equity, continuity and integration.

2. Vision on key disciplines

The faculty has a broad vision of *medicine*. Medicine relates to curative patient care as well as to disease-oriented prevention for the population. Patient safety and quality of care are a priority in this vision on medicine and integrated care.

The faculty applies the concept of *health* as defined by the World Health Organization: "Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity." Attention is paid to the individual level as well as to the population level.

Healthcare consists of all the activities aimed at improving public health. *Health sciences* comprise research and the knowledge of health, as well as the application of this research and this knowledge to improve public health, prevent and/or cure disease, and enhance people's physical and mental well-being.

The faculty is active on all levels of health and healthcare.

The faculty puts its vision (core values and key disciplines) into practice by developing various disciplines and by pursuing its core tasks, i.e. education, research and services.

Education and research have no boundaries, making them international by nature. As a result of globalisation, the faculty pays special attention to healthcare in a global context (*global health*).

Healthcare being regionally organised, the Antwerp region commands the faculty's main attention. However, the action radius for the faculty's various tasks extends beyond this region to neighbouring regions and southern parts of the Netherlands.

3. Education

The faculty organises student-oriented, activating, inter-professional and internationally oriented education. The faculty trains students with an emphasis on acquiring, incorporating and developing the skills and knowledge required to take on a professional role at the level of junior practitioner.

4. Research

The faculty conducts innovative societal and interdisciplinary research aimed at (inter)national excellence. The faculty encourages fundamental and applied research and its valorisation. Collaboration is a crucial prerequisite, within the University of Antwerp as well as with other universities, research institutions and other organisations on various levels of the healthcare system. The translational aspect is very important: insights from fundamental research are translated into clinical practice. The close relationships with the Antwerp University Hospital (UZA), as well as the collaboration with clinical services in the region and the stakeholders in primary healthcare, are crucial in this framework.

5. Services

The faculty is the catalyst connecting the various stakeholders with the aim of improving the overall quality of the healthcare system in the wider Antwerp region.

The faculty takes on a management role in the healthcare of the future, based on policy-oriented service, expertise and advice. It aims to ensure that primary, secondary and tertiary care, as well as acute, chronic and geriatric care, and organised prevention and mental healthcare, are all better aligned.

6. Antwerp University Hospital (UZA)

UZA and the Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences rally physicians, paramedics, students and management around common objectives.

UZA is the university hospital which has been exclusively selected as a partner to play a central role in healthcare, specialist training and applied research by offering:

- clinical, customer-oriented patient care of the highest possible quality;
- high quality academic training for students in all healthcare professions/disciplines;
- groundbreaking scientific research.

7. Personnel

The faculty creates a challenging work environment, with opportunities for further professional development for its staff members.