

Department of Microbiology and Infection Control

Escmid Collaborative Centre – No. 193

Description of the department

The activities of the department include diagnostics, research, teaching and residence training. The department is primarily responsible for microbiological services within Akershus University Hospital, but also has a regional role in providing microbiological services for primary medical care in the region. The department is also responsible for Infection Control in the hospital.

Twenty years ago Akershus University Hospital was a regional hospital, but the hospital has expanded and is now Norway's largest primary hospital, caring for 10% of the population. In 2002 it also became a University hospital. It is also one of Norway's newest hospital; the present hospital building was finished in 2008 – see picture below.

Our department has a wide range of up-to-date diagnostic tools available and have a high degree of automatization which might be of interest for many (not bacteriology). Our department provides modern multidisciplinary diagnostics, with a close follow-up of each patients, in collaboration with the hospitals clinicians. The laboratory covers most fields of diagnostics within medical microbiology except mycobacteria, due to its historical role as a small laboratory. The department also houses the National reference laboratory for HPV.

Around 65 persons currently work in the department, including 6 consultants in microbiology and 2 in training.

The one who comes to our hospital can expect to see a typical northern European disease pattern with seasonal fluctuations, e.g. airway infections in the winter. In addition we do have some migration problems in the catchment area of our hospital.)

Research interests

The research at the department focuses at research in the fields of HPV, staphylococcal infections including MRSA and invasive infections, meningococcal infections, antibiotic resistance (e.g. mathematical modelling and ESBL studies – persistence, epidemiology, and treatment options), Infection Control (stewardship studies) and cooperative studies with the clinical departments (e.g. pneumonia in Children and Helicobacter pylori – outcome and resistance). The research ranges from molecular genetics, including next generation sequencing, to conventional diagnostics.

National reference laboratory for human papillomavirus (HPV)

Our department has had the national reference laboratory for HPV since 2007, and do advanced HPV-genotyping on a large variety of platforms.

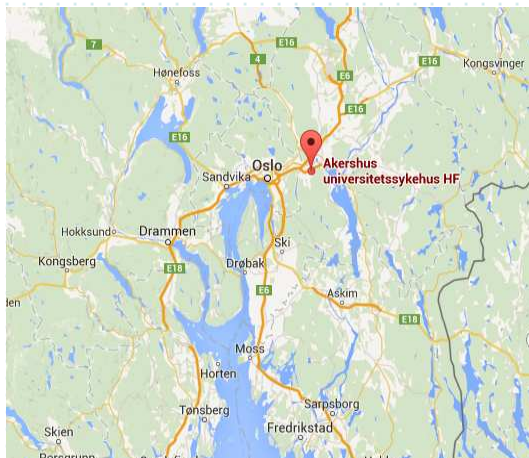
We aid other laboratories with verifying diagnostic tests and have a wide range of diagnostic tools available.

Research is directed towards applying Next Generation Sequencing as a diagnostic tool, the vaccine surveillance and integration studies of HPV into the host genome. We cooperate closely with the Department of pathology.



Where is Akershus University Hospital?

Akershus University Hospital is situated just outside Oslo, the capital of Norway. Coming from Oslo airport (Gardermoen) you will pass the hospital on the way to Oslo.



What can a visitor expect from a one-day, up to one-week and up to one-month visit to the department:

For one day

General impression of a multidisciplinary microbiological laboratory of an academic hospital.

For up to one week

General impression of a multidisciplinary microbiological laboratory of an academic hospital, with a more detailed information on the different disciplines. Clinical patient discussions with specialists from other medical fields or special focus on new technology.

For up to one month

All of the above, but within depth introduction on the different subjects and possibility of active participation in activities of choice.

The ESCMID Observer should be prepared to give a short presentation of him-/herself and the parent department. The presentation can touch on special fields of interest, or provide the audience with an understanding of the background of the visitor, especially pertaining to health care system, organisation of CM, ID and Infection Control to epidemiological peculiarities in their home country.

Contact details

Contact person in department:

Mr Prof Dr Truls Leegaard;

E-mail: tle@ahus.no; Phone: +47-90646265

Head of department:
Merete Holth

Address of institution:

Mail: Akershus University Hospital,
Post Box 100, 1478 Lørenskog
Visiting address: Sykehusveien 25,
1478 Lørenskog

Website:

<https://www.ahus.no/avdelinger/diagnostikk-og-teknologi/mikrobiologi-og-smittevern>

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