

Joint research for health

Netzwerk Universitätsmedizin (NUM) – Network of University Medicine

What is the NUM?

The Network of University Medicine, or NUM for short, was founded in 2020 as a crisis response to the COVID-19 pandemic by the federal government of Germany. The aim of the alliance was to coordinate clinical COVID-19 research at academic medical centres across Germany. Today, scientists from all 36 centres work together on interdisciplinary research projects. The NUM aims to foster cooperation between clinical researchers wherever joint action and a coordinated approach can bring synergies, speed and other benefits. Research projects on diseases other than COVID-19 are now being carried out in the NUM as well.

36	participating German academic medical centres
13	completed large collaborative projects in the 1st funding phase (04/20 – 12/21)
26	further research and infrastructure projects being implemented in the 2nd funding phase (01/22 – 06/25)
approx. 390	million EUR funding volume since 2020
≈ 4.000	registered users on the central web platform
> 600	scientific publications resulting from the NUM

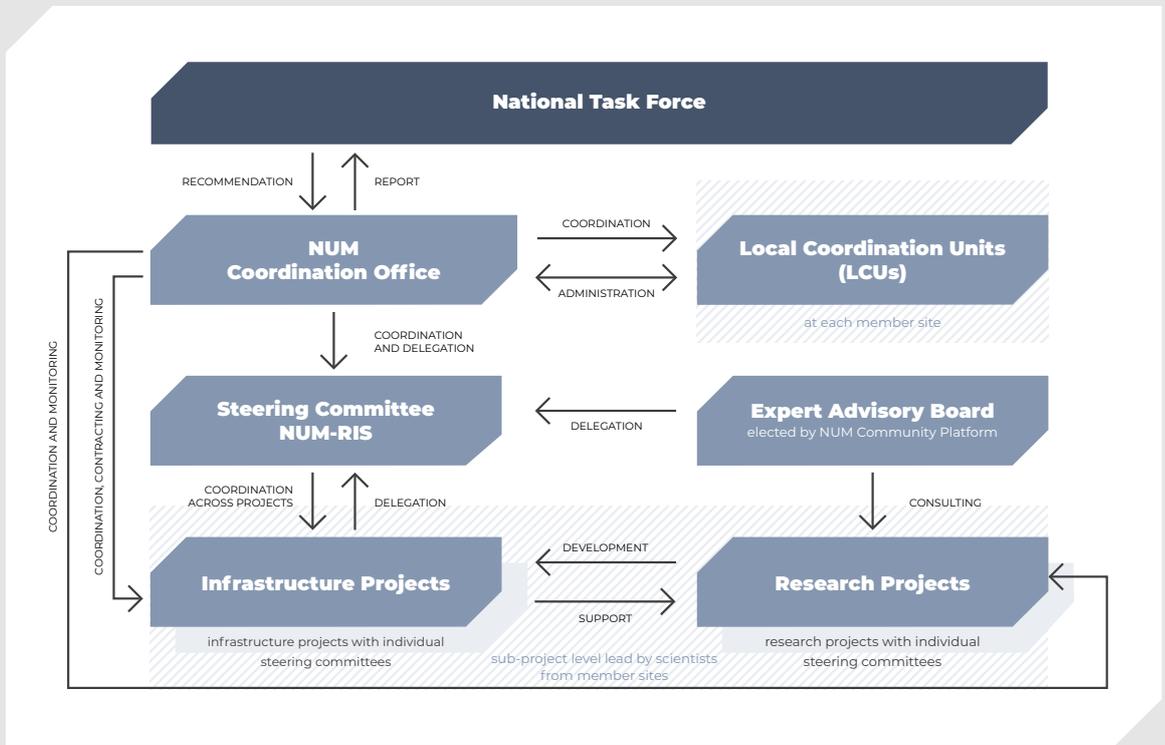
Goals and tasks

- Establish a nationwide, comprehensive study and data space for clinical research that includes data from routine patient care documentation as well as additional data collected, for example, in prospective clinical and clinical-epidemiological studies
- Prepare the biomedical research landscape for future pandemics and other major public health crises
- Create a central point of contact for clinical research at a national level that provides stakeholders with fast and efficient access to all academic medical centres in Germany



Network Partners:

- ◆ Uniklinik RWTH Aachen
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Augsburg
- ◆ Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin
- ◆ Universität Bielefeld mit Medizinischer Fakultät und UK OWL
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum der Ruhr-Universität Bochum
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Bonn
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Carl Gustav Carus Dresden
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Düsseldorf
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Erlangen
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Essen
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Frankfurt
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Freiburg
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Gießen und Marburg
- ◆ Universitätsmedizin Göttingen
- ◆ Universitätsmedizin Greifswald
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Halle
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Hamburg-Eppendorf
- ◆ Medizinische Hochschule Hannover
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Heidelberg
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Jena
- ◆ Uniklinik Köln
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Leipzig
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Magdeburg
- ◆ Universitätsmedizin Mainz
- ◆ Klinikum Mannheim Universitätsklinikum
- ◆ Klinikum der LMU München
- ◆ Klinikum rechts der Isar der Technischen Universität München
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Münster
- ◆ Universitätsmedizin Oldenburg
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Regensburg
- ◆ Universitätsmedizin Rostock
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum des Saarlandes
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Schleswig-Holstein
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Tübingen
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Ulm
- ◆ Universitätsklinikum Würzburg



Decentralized Parts of the Governance

LCUs:
Local Coordination Units

Steering Committee NUM-RIS:
Steering Committee for NUM Research Infrastructures

Organisation

The NUM is managed by a National Task Force, whose members include the Federal Ministry of Education and Research (BMBF) as the funding organisation, the Federal Ministry of Health (BMG), the DLR Project Management Agency, representatives from state-level government and from university medicine. The network is organised by a Coordination Office at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin. Each of the 36 member sites has set up a Local Coordination Unit (LCUs), which acts as a central point of contact for all matters relating to the respective location. The Steering Committee RIS (SC NUM-RIS) is responsible for the management and further development of the seven research infrastructures, each of which focuses on different types of clinical research data, including routine data from clinical care. The Expert Advisory Board brings the perspective of the NUM community to the NUM committees and projects.

Research Infrastructures at NUM

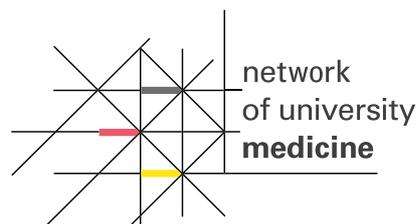
At the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Germany lacked the necessary platforms to collect treatment data and bio-samples across institutions in a structured manner, and make them available for scientific use. In order to solve this problem,

the NUM has either built the required platforms and infrastructures from scratch or expanded existing structures. These research infrastructures support the various research projects within the NUM with methodological expertise, data management and high-quality research data.

As medical research data is extremely heterogeneous, there is no “one size fits all” infrastructure that can be used for all clinical research data. The NUM has therefore set up research infrastructures for different types of data, different ways of obtaining data and different treatment settings. The NUM currently operates seven research infrastructures. To ensure that these partial solutions complement each other in the best way and are compatible at their interfaces, they all work based on the FAIR principles.

The research infrastructures are to be permanently operated and continuously developed via the NUM.

In the future, they are to be expanded into a platform for many types of clinical research questions. In the spirit of open science, the data and platforms will soon be available for broad use by the scientific community.



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