



ANNUAL REPORT 2024

University of Gothenburg Centre for Person-Centred Care – GPCC

www.gpcc.gu.se

Approval of the report

This annual report has been prepared by the Centre Director and approved by the GPCC Steering Committee.

GPCC continues to expand its research and collaborations. In 2024, the centre hosted the first-ever international scientific conference on person-centred care. In addition, the centre hosted the conference Learning about Person-centred Care in Higher Education (LearnPCC), and in 2025, GPCC established a dedicated ACTA series in collaboration with the University of Gothenburg Library. These initiatives reflect GPCC's commitment to advancing research and utilisation in person-centred care.

GPCC continues to be a leading actor in research, utilisation, and innovation on person-centred care. Recent expansions include a stronger focus on governance, digitalisation, and precision health/medicine, contributing to robust, evidence-based models for future healthcare. International collaborations, research projects, and practical implementation strategies are essential to strengthen this further—especially regarding integrating healthcare, social care, and prevention across different countries and contexts.

Brief background of GPCC

GPCC, established in 2010, is a national research centre focusing on clinical and applied research. GPCC aims to conduct high-quality research on person-centred care and has been continuously supported by the Swedish government's strategic research initiative (SFO) in healthcare. The research aims to implement and evaluate person-centred care at a micro-, meso- and macro level to support people's handling of chronic illness. GPCC operates based on the knowledge triangle—research, education, and innovation—where these activities are interconnected and continuously generate knowledge exchange. More than 200 national and international researchers from various disciplines collaborate to create a national centre of excellence in person-centred care. The centre includes experts in healthcare sciences, educational sciences, medicine, political science, public administration, law, health economics, governance research, and cultural studies, all working to produce world-class research.

In addition to clinical research, innovation and practical application are integrated from the outset. The centre develops tools that facilitate person-centred care, rehabilitation, and social care, ensuring that research findings translate into evidence-based, sustainable improvements in healthcare. GPCC has started a university-owned (via GU Ventures) non-profit organisation (Personcentrer i Göteborg AB/SVB) for strategic development in person-centred governance and the multi-stakeholder collaboration platform PCP4.

Added Academic Value

Research at GPCC has continued to contribute to academic development through interdisciplinary collaborations. Sixty-five original articles were published in scientific journals during 2024.

GPCC has also strengthened its collaboration with international research networks and initiated new strategic initiatives.

Collaborations

Expanded Strategic Collaborations:

GPCC has deepened its partnerships at national and international levels:

EU & WHO: Together with policymakers GPCC has contributed to global strategies promoting person-centred care. Future work should clarify specific projects, pilot programs, expected results, and focus areas (e.g., care, social services, prevention, policy).

Regional and Municipal Partnerships: On 23 January, a proposal for a new Social Services Act was adopted, which is proposed to take effect on 1 July 2025. In response to the new Swedish social services act, GPCC collaborates with regions and municipalities to create integrated governance models, ensuring seamless care between healthcare and social services.

Global Research: For example, the GPCC collaborates with researchers from Stellenbosch University, the University of South Africa (UNISA), and the University of Pretoria in South Africa. Additionally, it partners with institutions in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, including the Evangelical University in Africa and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the DRC.

Activities and communication

Strategic Initiatives:

In 2024, GPCC launched three major strategic initiatives focused on:

- *Governance in Person-Centred Healthcare: Integrating person-centred principles into organisational structures, management processes, and policy development.
- * Precision Health and Precision Medicine: Exploring how person-centred care models can adapt to technological advancements, ensuring tailored diagnostics, treatment, and health promotion.
- * Digitalisation and Innovation: Leveraging e-health, AI, and digital tools to enhance care delivery and patient engagement. Practical applications are developed through the PCP4 platform and the university-owned Personcentrering i Göteborg AB/SVB.

One of GPCC's core missions is to utilise knowledge, and in 2024, the centre focused on strengthening its presence in external events, ensuring active participation in national and international forums related to person-centred care. These activities included:

- *GPCC initiated and hosted the successful first Global Conference on Person-Centred Care (GCPCC) 2024.
- * Initiated and hosted the International Conference Learning about Person-centred care in Higher Education (LearnPCC)
- * Contributed to and participated in scientific conferences, policy discussions, and collaborative initiatives with healthcare organisations, government bodies, and patient advocacy groups.
- *Workshops, roundtable discussions, and knowledge utilisation initiatives to promote person-centred care principles across different healthcare sectors.

The details of all specific events and activities are included in the Appendix 1.

Organisation

Strategic organisational development:

- A working committee ('Arbetsutskott') was formed in 2024 to streamline project oversight.
- Two senior R&D coordinators were appointed to support strategic organizational initiatives.
- The Steering Committee consists of experts with diverse disciplinary backgrounds: nursing, medicine, psychology, law and applied information technology, and in addition patient representatives.

Steering committee

Centre Director Axel Wolf serves as the Chair for the Steering Committee, and is responsible for the centre.

The GPCC Steering Committee is responsible for the strategic leadership and development of the centre, as well as its resource allocation. The committee meets approximately seven times yearly and is supported by scientific advisors, and patient representatives.

Established in 2016, GPCC's person-council is an advisory group that engages in ongoing dialogue with the GPCC steering group. Comprising people with extensive lived experience in Swedish healthcare as patients and/or informal carers and/or patient advocates, the council brings together a broad spectrum of expertise spanning inpatient and outpatient care. In 2024, person-council members contributed and played an essential role in the global conference, for example in co-organizing pre-conference workshops, evaluating research posters, and staffing GPCC's exhibition booth. In addition to these hands-on contributions, the council also served as a valuable advisory council for the GPCC steering group, offering insightful advice and input based on their extensive experience within the Swedish healthcare system and its policy landscape. The person-council members active engagement enables GPCC to remain attuned about ongoing debates and emerging trends, effectively serving as a horizon scanning resource. The person-council significantly contributes to GPCC's broader mission by advising on specific research projects and facilitating connections with key stakeholders. Their input also helps in disseminating research results to the wider patient community. By bridging the gap between academic research, practical healthcare, and policy-making, the council contributes to innovative insights in person-centered care getting effectively communicated and that GPCC remains at the forefront of both research and practical implementation in healthcare.

The Drafting Committee prepares matters for the steering committee and works operationally within the centre. The steering committee members are listed alphabetically in Appendix 2.

GPCC's budget, excluding external research funding for 2024 amounted to 28.7 million SEK, funded by:

Government grants: 24.1 million SEK.

Vice-Chancellor's co-financing: 4.6 million SEK.

Resources have been allocated across ongoing and new projects and strategic initiatives for further development of person-centred care, see Appendix 3.

Appendix 1

New Collaborative Events

- GPCC's partnership with Vitalis and the successful First Global Conference on Person-Centred Care (GCPCC) 2024, with future events planned for 2026.
- Strengthened ties with WHO and International Confederation of Midwives, European Midwifery Association, Laerdal and United Nations Population Fund.
- Inclusion of the Interreg Home Dialysis Project and collaboration on policy lab development.

Key developments and reports

In 2025, GPCC, in collaboration with the University of Gothenburg Library, established a report series on research in person-centred care. The series was incorporated into the university's ACTA series and was named *ACTA UNIVERSITATIS GOTHOBURGENSIS - Gothenburg Series in Person-Centred Care*. The series is aimed at researchers, practitioners, patient representatives, and decision-makers. It seeks to understand better how care can be more individually tailored and effective. GPCC's ACTA series is multidisciplinary and is expected to inspire and support stakeholders in the healthcare sector in their efforts to improve care quality from a person-centred perspective. So far, two reports are available, and an additional four reports are planned.

In addition, several new developments and reports has been launched.

- Towards state of the science in person-centred care (December 17, 2024), a comprehensive report summarising current knowledge on person-centred care.
- The patient involvement standard has been available online since November 22, 2024. Due to requests from Swedish patient organisations, the Patient Involvement in Healthcare standard is now freely accessible.
- New material on person-centred conversations released (November 19, 2024) which is developed in collaboration with GPCC. This material supports the transition to a person-centred healthcare system.
- A large-scale study on person-centred care in elderly care, municipal healthcare, and disability support was initiated in Helsingborg.

Health-promoting meetings

- Update of educational material (October 29, 2024): GPCC and HFS are collaborating to update training materials focused on health-promoting encounters.
- Development of a national online hub for patient and public involvement in research and innovation: Workshops were held in Stockholm and Gothenburg to shape the national platform.

A new article on increasing patient and public involvement in healthcare governance was published in BMJ Open on September 26, 2024. It provides an overview of patient, family, and public participation in healthcare governance.

- New GPCC database to help locate person-centred care research (September 25, 2024): A newly launched database aims to facilitate access to GPCC research articles.

Hosting and contributing to conferences and events

Initiating and hosting the First Global Conference on Person-Centred Care (GCPCC) (May 13-16, 2024) with the theme *Innovations for health in changing societies*: The first-ever global conference on person-centred care, held at the Swedish Exhibition and Congress Centre in Gothenburg, welcomed delegates from 29 countries.

Initiating and hosting Learn GPCC

Almedalen 2024: GPCC hosted three seminars and one roundtable discussion, with patient law being the most debated topic.

WHO and EU Conference on Transforming Healthcare Education (May 31, 2024): A conference that prepares healthcare students for person-centred practice.

GPCC at GoCo Founding Partner Session (March 6, 2024): A deep dive into future sustainable and efficient healthcare systems.

Vetenskapsradion Coverage (January 18, 2024): GPCC was featured in a special report on the role of person-centred care in the future of healthcare.

These key developments and events reflect 'GPCC's continued commitment to advancing person-centred care nationally and internationally.

External communication and events

GPCC website

29,248 Visits (10% increase from the previous year), 62,023 views (6% increase from the previous year).

Social media

LinkedIn: Increased from 402 to 1902 followers (+500%). Approx. 75,000 views, 2,300 reactions, 80 comments, 75 re-posts.

Facebook: 1,490 followers, 27,300 views, 46,200 reach, 3,600 interactions.

Newsletters

5 External international newsletters.

6 External national (Sweden) newsletters.

Participation in external events

GPCC at Framtidens Hälso- och Sjukvård 2024.

GoCo Founding Partner Session: Seminar on person-centred care in a digital era.

Forskningsfrukost Nära vård: Föreställningar om personcentrerad vård.

GPCC at World Cancer Day: Close The Care Gap.

GPCC at U-CARE Venue 2024.

GPCC at VFU + Sjuksköterskedagarna 2024.

GPCC at the 6th Nordic Conference in Nursing Research.

GPCC at the 30th International Conference on Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services, Hiroshima, Japan.

Podcasts and media contributions

Podcasts:

Ensuring Value in Precision Medicine – Axel Wolf, GPCC & Oskar Ahlberg, Riksförbundet Sällsynta Diagnoser.

Self-Monitoring in Healthcare – Magnus Røjvall, Capio & Axel Wolf, GPCC.

Person-Centred Care at All Levels – Axel Wolf, 'SKR's Näravårdpodden.

Radio appearances:

Future Healthcare: Technology & Knowledgeable Patients – Vetenskapsradion, January 16, 2024.

Opinion pieces:

The Patient Movement is Valued in Words, Not in Action – Dagens Medicin.

A Long Way to Person-Centred Care – Dagens Medicin.

Education & outreach

New educational material: "How Can Conversations in Healthcare Be Made More Person-Centred?"

Exhibition: Person-Centred Care at 'SKR's National Conference on Local Healthcare.

Appendix 2

Members of the GPCC Steering Committee in 2024:

Axel Wolf, Centre Director, is a professor in anaesthesia nursing at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Senior Consultant Nurse at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Chair of the Steering Committee and the Drafting Committee. Member of the Project Development Group.

Karin Ahlberg – Professor, Head of Department, Institute of Health and Care Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. Senior Consultant Nurse at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Representative of the host 'institution's leadership.

Jana Bergholtz – PhD in Geosciences, EUPATI fellow, patient representative and researcher, GPCC. Leader of the strategic focus area: Development of partnerships between patient representatives/general public and healthcare organisations and decision-making systems.

Eric Carlström – Professor in Health Sciences focusing on leadership and healthcare organisation, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. PhD in Public Administration with an economic focus. Senior Consultant Nurse at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Member of the Drafting Committee.

Matilda Cederberg – PhD in Health Sciences, Licensed Psychologist at Sahlgrenska University Hospital, Psychiatry Psychosis. A representative for junior researchers.

Helena Filipsson Nyström – Senior Physician and Professor in Internal Medicine and Endocrinology, Institute of Medicine, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg.

Håkan Hedman – President of the Swedish Kidney Association, Honorary Doctor, and member of the Research Ethics Council at Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. Chair of "GPCC's Person Council for patients and families. Patient representative.

Thomas Lindroth – Associate Professor and Section Head at the Department of Applied Information Technology, University of Gothenburg. Leader of the strategic focus area: Development, adaptation, and evaluation of person-centred care.

Stina Mannheimer – MD and Specialist in General Medicine, PhD student at the Institute of Health and Care Sciences, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. Representative for early-career researchers.

Ulf Petrusson – Professor of Law, Department of Law, University of Gothenburg. Affiliated Professor, Chalmers University of Technology. Director, Institute for Innovation and Societal Change, School of Business, Economics and Law, University of Gothenburg. Leader of the strategic focus area: Enabling the transition to person-centred healthcare and care.

Joakim Öhlén – Professor in Nursing, PhD in Health Care Pedagogics, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. Senior Consultant Nurse at Sahlgrenska University Hospital. Member of the Drafting Committee and representative of the research school *SHIFT CARE*.

Adjunct members:

Stefan Nilsson – Professor in Nursing and Registered Nurse with a Specialist Nursing Degree in Pediatric and Adolescent Care, Sahlgrenska Academy, University of Gothenburg. Senior Consultant Nurse at Queen Silvia's Children's Hospital at Sahlgrenska University Hospital.

Administration: Jeanette Tenggren Durkan – Administration, Communication, Events, and Collaboration Coordinator. Helén Wärnsäter – Finance Coordinator.

Appendix 3

For the financial year 2024, the centre for person-centered care received SEK 24.1 million in grants directly via the government approval document to University of Gothenburg. In addition, the principal co-financed the centre with SEK 4.6 million, which gave a total allocation of SEK 28.7 million. The grant increased by SEK 970,000 compared to the previous year.

In the budget process, it was also decided to use part of the balanced capital before 2024. The budget for 2024 was therefore set at costs of SEK 35.9 million, which gave a deficit of SEK 7.2 million.

The budget/ forecast was distributed according to the following items

(SEK thousand):

Ongoing projects	20 097
Doctoral students and postdoctoral fellow	796
New professors	1 275
Overall business	13 728
Total:	35 896

The amount for the ongoing projects was distributed between nineteen different projects. The project that received the largest allocation was Interreg Hemdialys, which received SEK 2.5 million. Review received a grant of SEK 1.7 million. IHOPE and Mutual Meetings for Students received about SEK 1.5 million each. Three projects received funding about SEK 1.2 million. The remaining project's funding was between SEK 200,000 and 1 million.

The centre ended the year with a deficit of SEK 4.1 million which is to be compared with a budgeted deficit of SEK 7.2 million. Surpluses are within three ongoing projects. The funds set aside for a new doctoral student and a new postdoctoral fellow have not been consumed together with the funds allocated to new professors.

January 1th 2024, the balanced capital of the centre amounted to SEK 8.6 million. Balanced capital at the end of 2024 amounted to SEK 4.5 million. The difference of SEK 4.1 million thus corresponded to the negative result for the year.