



GÖTEBORGS  
UNIVERSITET

ANNUAL REPORT 2025

University of Gothenburg Centre for Person-Centred Care – GPCC

[www.gpcc.gu.se](http://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.

In 2025, GPCC has focused on strengthening its international collaborations, expanding its network of scientific advisors, and further consolidating its organisational structure in preparation for the upcoming national evaluation and future strategic directions.

A series of strategic meetings and internal workshops have been conducted to refine GPCC's long-term positioning, with a particular emphasis on governance for health, in line with international frameworks such as those promoted by the World Health Organization. This includes advancing person-centred care not only at the clinical level, but as a guiding principle for system-level transformation, policy development, and cross-sectoral coordination.

During the year, GPCC has also strengthened its international engagement through formal collaborations and agreements with leading academic and policy institutions, and initiated work towards establishing WHO collaborating centres within the field of person-centred care. In parallel, ongoing collaborations with international patient, professional, and policy networks have been further developed.

In parallel, the GPCC working group for GCPCC 2026 (Global Conference on Person-Centred Care) has been actively developing the conference, building on the strong momentum of the first-ever GCPCC in 2024, which was initiated and delivered by GPCC. Since its launch in Gothenburg in 2024, GCPCC has been organised in collaboration with Vitalis, the largest eHealth conference in the Nordic region, together creating a major international meeting place for more than 6,000 delegates. Guided by the 2026 theme, Person-Centred Care: Bridging Practice, Organisation and Governance, GCPCC 2026 will further advance the integration of practice, organisation, and governance in person-centred care.

The centre has also secured competitive funding and initiated the development of regional and national Living and Policy Labs for person-centred health and social care, aimed at enabling co-creation, implementation, and policy innovation across sectors. These initiatives reflect GPCC's commitment to advancing research and utilisation in person-centred care.

## 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 patient and carer representatives and 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.

### Added Academic Value

GPCC's research continues to contribute to academic development through interdisciplinary collaboration and high-quality scientific output. In 2025, a total of 99 original articles were published (source GUP).

Increasingly, GPCC's academic contributions extend beyond traditional outputs, influencing policy development, governance models, and implementation strategies in person-centred health and social care.

On 8-9 September GPCC and the Artistic Faculty at the University of Gothenburg, together with Gothenburg City Theatre, hosted a fully booked evening of theatre arts which explored how theatre can deepen the understanding of patient encounters in healthcare. The evening was held in conjunction with Victoria Brattström defending her doctoral thesis *When Life is at Stake*. The film material where she explores healthcare encounters with the help of professional actors was screened and discussed.

### Collaborations

#### Expanded Strategic Collaborations:

GPCC's strategic partnerships continued to strengthen the centre's role as an international and national hub for person-centred care research, policy development, and implementation. GPCC has deepened its partnerships at national and international levels: EU & WHO: GPCC collaborates with policymakers and international actors, including initiatives aligned with the World Health Organization, contributing to the development of global strategies for person-centred care. This work focuses on integrating person-centred approaches into policy frameworks, health system governance, and sustainable models of care and prevention. At the European level, collaboration with the European Social Network supported knowledge exchange and policy dialogue on leadership and system transformation in health and social care. Partnerships with the University of Maastricht, University of Navarra, and the University of Plymouth further broadened GPCC's engagement in informal care, equity, inclusion, and access to care for underserved groups. Internationally, collaborations with Duke University and Duke-Margolis Institute for Health Policy, the University of Sydney and Sydney Policy Lab, and Swinburne University of Technology together with Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre advanced work on value-based healthcare, person-centred governance, and precision health in oncology.

GPCC also contributed to cross-border and global communities of learning through the South Africa–Sweden University Forum, collaboration with Stellenbosch University, the International Community of Practice for Person-centred Practice, and the Scandinavian

More Home Dialysis initiative. Together, these partnerships connect research excellence with practical and policy-oriented impact across diverse contexts.

Partnerships such as DEMSAM and the Swedish branch of Health Promoting Hospitals and Health Services strengthened the bridge between research, practice, and capacity building. Collaboration with the Swedish Disability Rights Federation and the Swedish Association of Health Professionals reinforced GPCC's work in education, leadership, and public engagement. In addition, the partnership with the City of Helsingborg highlighted GPCC's role in supporting implementation and evaluation of person-centred care in municipal health and social care. Collectively, these strategic partnerships have expanded GPCC's reach, increased its societal relevance, and created stronger conditions for sustainable transformation of health and welfare systems.

**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.

**Transformation Alliance OMTÄNK:** GPCC initiated the development of the competitive sustain.gov funded research/innovation project and plays a central role in the national transformation alliance OMTÄNK, a large-scale collaboration involving regions, municipalities, national authorities, and patient and professional organisations. The initiative is coordinated in collaboration with Experio Lab and Karlstad University and aims to accelerate the transition towards person-centred health and social care. OMTÄNK brings together a broad range of stakeholders to co-create sustainable models for health and social care, with a strong focus on governance, policy development, and implementation. Through this collaboration, GPCC contributes scientific expertise, methodological support, and strategic leadership in the development and evaluation of person-centred approaches at system level. During 2025, the alliance has further developed its structure and working methods, including the use of policy labs and co-creation processes to address complex challenges in health and social care.

**Living and Policy Lab for Person-Centred Health and Social Care:** GPCC has initiated the development of regional and national Living and Policy Labs as a strategic platform for co-creation, implementation, and policy innovation. The initiative brings together academia, public sector actors, industry, and civil society to jointly develop and test person-centred solutions in real-world settings. The Living and Policy Lab support GPCC's ambition to strengthen governance for health by enabling collaboration across organisational and sectoral boundaries. It provides a structured environment for translating research into practice, developing policy-relevant knowledge, and scaling person-centred approaches within healthcare, social care, and preventive services. During 2025, the initiative has been further developed through external funding and strategic partnerships, forming a key component of GPCC's work on system-level transformation and societal impact.

**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 Congo,

including the Evangelical University in Africa and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in the DRC.

## Activities and communication

### Strategic Initiatives:

Building on previously established strategic directions, GPCC has during 2025 further advanced its work within three interconnected areas: governance, precision health, crisis preparedness, and digitalisation.

A particular focus has been on strengthening governance for person-centred health and social care, including the development of models that support system-level transformation across organisational and sectoral boundaries.

These initiatives are closely linked to GPCC's efforts to integrate research, policy, and implementation, and are operationalised through platforms such as PCP4 and the emerging Living and Policy Lab in Gothenburg.

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

## Organisation

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 for patients and relatives/carers (PC) 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. The person council serves as a valuable advisory body to the GPCC steering group, providing insights based on its extensive experience of the Swedish healthcare system and policy landscape as well as own and other's experience with chronic illnesses. The PC members active engagement enables GPCC to remain attuned about ongoing debates and emerging trends, effectively serving as a horizon scanning resource. The PC significantly contributes to GPCC's broader mission by advising on specific research projects and facilitating connections with key interest holders. Their input also helps in disseminating research results to the wider patient community. By bridging the gap between academic research, practical healthcare, and policymaking, the council contributes to innovative insights in person-centred care getting effectively

communicated and that GPCC remains at the forefront of both research and practical implementation in healthcare. During 2025 we continued developing the work on following up on council member's advice and document how their advice influenced research projects and steering group activities using an impact log. After a set period of time, the PC planning committee follows up and communicates the results back to the PC. By creating feedback loops, transparency increases and the PC members feel more seen and heard and we can draw learnings from this process – together.

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 2025 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

GPCC Annual Report 2025

### **Internal communications:**

9 internal newsletters

### **Database:**

- GPCC database to help locate person-centred care research (launched September 2024): aims to facilitate access to GPCC research articles. Updated in November 2025 to include a total of 604 scientific publications.

### **Hosting and contributing to conferences and events:**

PCC Learning Digital Network Lunch: Promoting self-compassion in higher education (6 March)

Vetenskapsfestivalen: Visualisera för att engagera (3 April)

Vitalis: Opening keynote moderator Axel Wolf (19 May) and Workshop om policylab som förändringsagent för personcentrerad hälso- och sjukvård samt omsorg! (21 May)

PCC Learning Digital Network Lunch: Patients' knowledge as a part of healthcare education: A theoretical inquiry based on standpoint theory. (3 June)

Minikonferens om implementering av patientlagen och möjliggörande av personcentrerad vård, Book launch (10 June)

Frihamnsdagarna: Känner du till Patientlagen? – en lag utan genomslag (28 August)

Frihamnsdagarna: Om plastikkirurgi och valfrihet vid bröstcancer- en studie i Göteborg där patientförening och forskare jobbar tillsammans (29 August)

Stadsteatern: Iscensättning av forskningsmaterial: När livet – och hälsan – står på spel (Victoria Brattström) (8 Sept)

Bokmässan: Möjliggörande av personcentrerad vård (26 Sept)

Kvalitetsmässan: Personcentrerad vård och "patientens rätt" som en integrerad del i hälso- och sjukvårdens kvalitetsstyrningen (11 Nov)

Kvalitetsmässan: Resilient vård under exceptionella omständigheter (12 Nov)

Almedalen 2025: GPCC hosted one seminar and participated in several other seminars and roundtable discussions arranged by others, including Cancer Mission Day, with patient law being the most debated topic.

### **PPI presentations & contributions:**

Linköpings universitet, patientråd (12 Mars)

FOUUI Psykiatri psykos, Sahlgrenska Universitetssjukhuset (21 maj)

EUPATI fellows (30 juni)

Sahlgrenska Comprehensive Cancer Centre (10 september)

Kunskapsstyrningens Lärandeträff Stockholm (21 oktober)

ICoP Symposium (6 november)

Kunskapsstyrningens Nätverksträff för patient- och närståendeföreträdare (11 November)

### **External communication and events:**

GPCC website: Visits increased from 29,248 in 2024 to 36,661 (+25%), Views increased from 62,023 in 2024 to 73,358 views (+18%).

Social media

LinkedIn: Followers: Increased from 1,902 to c:a 2,900 (+52%). Slight increase on 81,000 views, 2,400 reactions, 107 comments, 79 re-posts.

Facebook: Followers: Increased from 1,490 to 1,579 followers, Views: Increased from 27,300 in 2024 to 94,470 views (+246%), Interactions: Increased from 3,600 in 2024 to 5,366 interactions (+49%).

Newsletters 6 External international newsletters. 7 External national (Sweden) newsletters

### **Participation in external events:**

Forskningsfrukost Nära vård: Ett livsstilsverktyg för personcentrerad prevention och hälsofrämjande arbete (7 Feb)

Samka:s konferens Medverkan med mening (23 April)

Cancerfondens heldagskonferens Möjlighet att leva väl (23 October)

SKR:s Nära vård - Framtidsdagen 2025 (27 Nov)

### **Printed media:**

#### **Dagens Medicin Opinion 251201**

[Patientens rättigheter måste omfatta hela vårdkedjan](#)

#### **Dagens Medicin 251120**

[Ojämn tillgång till personcentrerad palliativ vård i Sverige](#)

#### **Äldre i Centrum 251015**

[Nytt sätt att mäta patientens upplevelse av vård i hemmet](#)

#### **Kvalitetsmagasinet 251028**

[Experten om personcentrering – ”Vi måste bli mer kvalitetsdrivna - inte prisdrivna”](#)

#### **Mogrensstiftelsen 2025**

[Så kan patientens berättelse bli nyckeln till bättre vård](#)

#### **Dagens Medicin Opinion 250605:**

Personcentrerad vård handlar om strävan efter partnerskap, Jana Bergholtz, Helena Filipsson Nyström, Stefan Nilsson, Eric Carlström, Joakim Öhlén och Axel Wolf, GPCC

**Vårdfokus 250416**

Personcentrering inom psykiatrin kan ge bättre vård vid suicidalitet

## Appendix 2

### Members of the GPCC Steering Committee in 2025

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.

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

Annika Lindström – Autism Sweden. Vice Chair of the GPCC Person Council for Patients and Relatives. Patient representative.

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.

## Scientific Advisors

GPCC is supported by an international panel of scientific advisors with expertise spanning person-centred care, policy, ethics, clinical research, and health systems transformation. These advisors contribute to GPCC's strategic development and its key focus areas.

David Edvardsson, Professor of Nursing, Swinburne University of Technology, Australia. Expert in person-centred care and the development and evaluation of interventions. Advisor for the strategic focus area *Enabling the transition to person-centred health and social care*.

Kate Harrison Brennan, Professor of Practice and Academic Director, Sydney Policy Lab, University of Sydney, Australia. Honorary Associate, Sydney Law School. Leads national policy partnerships related to primary prevention and mental health.

Anneka Knutsson, PhD, Midwife and Senior Lecturer, Institute of Health and Care Sciences, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Expert in policy related to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR), with a focus on midwifery development and youth engagement. Advisor in global health and care.

Bengt Kristensson Uggla, Amos Anderson Professor of Philosophy, Culture and Management, Åbo Akademi University, Finland, and affiliated with the University of Gothenburg. Expert in personalism and ethics.

Philip Moons, Professor, KU Leuven, Belgium, and affiliated with the University of Gothenburg. Expert in measurement and evaluation of clinical interventions. Advisor for the strategic focus area *Development, adaptation, and evaluation of person-centred care*.

Maria Santana, Associate Professor in Public Health, University of Calgary, Canada. Expert in patient engagement and quality of care in person-centred healthcare. Advisor for partnerships between patients, the public, and healthcare systems.

Richard Sawatzky, Professor and Canada Research Chair in Person-Centred Outcomes, Trinity Western University, Canada. Expert in measurement of person-centred care.

Anders Rosengren, Professor of Medicine, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Conducts integrated clinical, bioinformatic, and experimental research on type 2 diabetes and leads initiatives on lifestyle-based prevention and treatment.

Jean-Lucien Rouleau, Professor and Cardiologist, Montreal Heart Institute, Canada. Former Scientific Director at CIHR, contributing to national strategies for patient-oriented research and public engagement.

Hilde Verbeek, Professor of Long-Term Care Environments, Maastricht University, Netherlands. Vice Chair of the Limburg Living Lab in Ageing and Long-Term Care.

#### Senior Advisors

Inger Ekman, Senior Professor in Nursing, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Former Director of GPCC and internationally recognised expert in person-centred care.

Karl Swedberg, Senior Professor in Cardiology and Nursing, University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Expert in clinical research design and evaluation of interventions.

### Appendix 3

For the financial year 2025, the centre for person-centred 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 2025 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
<b>Total:</b>	<b>35 896</b>

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 1st, 2025, the balanced capital of the centre amounted to SEK 8.6 million. Balanced capital at the end of 2025 amounted to SEK 4.5 million. The difference of SEK 4.1 million thus corresponded to the negative result for the year.