Personal information

Name: Øyvind Sandbakk
Date of birth: 05.05.1981
Sex: Male
Nationality: Norwegian

Education

2011	Ph.D. in Human Movement Science, Department of Human Movement Sciences, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Norway
2006	M.Sc. in Sport Science and Physical Education, Nord-Trøndelag University College, Norway

Positions

2024- current	Sports Director at Norges Toppidrettsgymnas/Norwegian School of Elite Sports (NTG)
2020- current	Professor II at the School of Sports Sciences, UiT The Arctic University of Norway (UiT)
2016-2024	Professor with the Department of Neuromedicine and Movement Science, Faculty of Medicine and Health, NTNU and Centre Director, Centre for Elite Sports Research, Faculty of Medicine and Health, NTNU
2017-2020	Head of Research and Development at the Norwegian Top Sport Centre (Olympiatoppen)
2015-2016	Associate Professor, Department of Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine and Health, NTNU
2011-2015	Postdoctoral fellow, Department of Neuroscience, Faculty of Medicine and Health, NTNU
2008-2017	Research consultant/Project leader (part-time, 20-50%) at Olympiatoppen
2007-2008	Swedish Wintersport Research Centre, Faculty of Health Sciences, Mid-Sweden University

Other professional activities and commissions of trust

- **Editor-in-chief** (2021–2026) of the International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance.
- **Associate editor and Editorial board membe**r: International Journal of Sports Physiology and Performance (2017-2021) and PLOS ONE (2016-2020).
- **Chairman of the board** for the Norwegian Cross-country skiing Coach Association (2010-2024), Myra Center for Athlete Development (2024-).
- **Executive board member** at the Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Oslo, Norway (2017-current), the Norwegian Sport Tech (national sport-technology network) (2019-present), and Sport Matters (international network) (2020-present). Member of the Norwegian sports evaluation committee established by the Norwegian Ministry of Culture (2015-2017). The committee developed 2 reports giving advice on future sport politics.

Publications

>280 scientific peer-reviewed publications, >10 scientific book chapters, 5 books and 4 major reports, >150 scientific conference proceedings in report, >300 oral presentations at public information research seminars, >200 popular science publications (magazines, newspapers, etc.), 20-30 attendances in media each year (2010-present). Citations: ~10 000, h-index: 50, i10-index: 175 (Google scholar, Øyvind Sandbakk, March. 2026). Evaluation of 15 PhD-thesis, 7 Professor-evaluation.

A detailed overview of scientific publications can be found here:
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Oyvind_Sandbakk

Supervision

- 6 postdoctoral fellows at NTNU and UiT.
- 27 PhD candidates based at NTNU (16), at UiT (5), Nord University (2), University of Paderborn (2) and Manipal University (1). Main supervisor of 17.
- >100 MSc candidates at NTNU, UiT, Nord University and Manipal University.

Teaching

- Teaching in exercise physiology and training and performance at Master and Bachelor level in Human Movement Science, NTNU, and at NTNU's Top Coach Education program 2015-t.d.
- Main responsible of content-development and teaching "Training and performance" (7.5 credits) at the bachelor's in human Movement Science, NTNU. 2014-t.d.
- Main responsible for development of the PhD course "Applied Research in Sports and Rehabilitation - Optimization of the Knowledge Translation" (5 Credits). Starts in 2017.
- Main responsible for development and teaching the coach education course "Coach development program" (30 Credits) 2012-2016.
- Member of the evaluation board of the master's in human Movement Science and the Top Coach program. 2015- t.d.

Project management experience

2017-2020 Head of Research and Development at Olympiatoppen, Norway (~0.7 MEUR/year budget). *Olympiatoppen is the Norwegian Top Sport Centre responsible for elite sport across all disciplines in Norway.*

2015-2024 Research coordinator or Centre director, Centre for Elite Sports Research (NTNU) (~0.4 MEUR/year from the Norwegian Ministry of Culture; ~0.1 MEUR/year from Olympiatoppen). *This is the national centre for research on elite sport in Norway.*

2018-2020 Head of "Beijing 2022" (~0.9 MEUR from the People's Republic of China). *Beijing 2022 is a unique Chinese-Norwegian collaborative research and development project on winter sport.*

2018-2022 Board member, responsible for NTNU's scientific contribution and work-package leader for AutoActive, an RCN-funded IKTpluss project (~1.6 MEUR). *This project aims to develop methods, tools and knowledge for improving sport performance and patient rehabilitation effectiveness utilizing wearable technology.*

2015-2018 Board member, responsible for NTNU's scientific contribution and work-package leader for Forsprang 2018, an RCN-funded BIA project (~0.7 MEUR). *This project was a research-driven innovation project together with the sports industry and elite sports society in Norway aiming to develop better skiing equipment and technological analysis tools.*

2015-2018 Board member, responsible for NTNU's scientific contribution and work-package leader for EmPower, an RCN-funded BIA project (~1.0 MEUR). *This project was a research-driven innovation project together with the skiing industry and elite sports society in Norway aiming to develop better skiing equipment and technological analysis tools.*

2013-2016 Board member, responsible for NTNU's scientific contribution and work-package leader for Ski innovation, an RCN-funded BIA project (~0.8 MEUR). *This project was a research-driven innovation project together with the skiing industry and elite sports society in Norway aiming to develop better skiing equipment.*

2019-present	In the project leader group and work package leader for *The Female endurance athlete* (FENDURA)-project. Research Grant from Tromsø Forskningsstiftelse (3.3 MEUR). *This project focuses on developing ground-breaking knowledge on exercise physiology in women.*
2018-2020	Head of the scientific committee for the Nordic Winter Sport Conference
2015-2019	Head of the scientific programme at the International Ski Federation's Coaches Seminars (2015, 2017, 2019), Trondheim, Norway
2010-2019	Head of the annual conference for the Norwegian Cross-country skiing Coach Association
2010-2024	Responsible for 10-20 seminar per year within NTNU, the Norwegian Top Sport Centre (Olympiatoppen) and various sport federations
2016	Head of the IOC Coaches Programme, Youth Olympic Games 2016, Lillehammer, Norway

Major national and international research collaborations

- Research and innovation in Norwegian elite sports: The Norwegian Top Sport Centre (Olympiatoppen), non-governmental organization, Norway
- National multicenter studies in elite endurance sports: Norwegian School of Sport Sciences, Bergen University College, Nord University, Høgskolen Kristiania, Agder University
- The Female endurance athlete (FENDURA): UiT The Arctic University of Norway, Tromsø, Norway
- Implementation of new technology to understand the demands of elite sports: SINTEF, Norway
- Integrative physiology and biomechanics in winter sports: Swedish Winter Sport Research Centre, Mid-Sweden University, Sweden
- Neuroscience and elite sports performance: University of Paderborn, Germany
- Research and innovation in XC skiing: Central administration of sport, Chinese Government, China

Organization of scientific meetings

2018-2020	Head of the scientific committee for the Nordic Winter Sport Conference
2015-2019	Head of the scientific programme at the International Ski Federation's Coaches Seminars (2015, 2017, 2019), Trondheim, Norway
2010-2019	Head of the annual conference for the Norwegian Cross-country skiing Coach Association
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2016	Head of the IOC Coaches Programme, Youth Olympic Games 2016, Lillehammer, Norway

Dissemination and Outreach

He had widescale dissemination and outreach over the last 10 years, with more than 200 popular science publication, an average of 25-30 yearly attendances in the media (TV, radio, newspapers) and active cooperation with Norwegian Broadcasting (NRK). As an example, he has been scientific advisor for the development of the successful concept "Vitenskapen bak medaljen" (Science behind the medal) at NRK, as well as for the popular-science programmes Newton and Schrødingers Katt.

In addition, his roles as project leader and head of research and development in Norwegian top sports (Olympiatoppen) over more than 10 years provided him the responsibility for implementing research-based innovative solutions in the successful Norwegian elite sport system and for working on a daily basis with some of the world's best coaches and athletes.