

Personal details and date of CV

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Summary

Associate Professor of Healthcare Operations Management at the University of Helsinki with more than fifteen years of experience in teaching, research, and leadership in health and social care systems. My expertise combines Value-Based Health Care, and digital transformation with a strong focus on the sustainability of public services.

I have collaborated internationally with leading universities, including Erasmus University Rotterdam, home to Europe's largest research group in healthcare operations management, and the University of California, Berkeley focusing on Lean research in healthcare. I have also served in various leadership and expert roles in EU-funded projects advancing digital and value-driven healthcare management.

I am a founding member of the Helsinki Planetary Health research group, where my work focuses on the economic sustainability of health and social care systems. I have led or co-led numerous national projects funded by the Prime Minister's Office, Business Finland, and private foundations, and I supervise an active research group of doctoral and postdoctoral scholars. My overall aim is to advance data-driven, sustainable, and value-creating approaches to improving health and social care systems.

Academic CV

Degrees

Title of Docent, University of Jyväskylä (3/2023)

Doctor of Science (tech.), Helsinki University of Technology (2012), Industrial Engineering and Management

Master of Science (tech), Helsinki University of Technology (2004), Industrial Engineering and Management

Current employment

Associate Professor, Healthcare Operations Management, Helsinki University (2017-)

Visiting Professor, Aalto University (2019-)

Partner, Nordic Healthcare Group Inc (2/2016-)

Previous work experience

Director, Datawell Group, 2014-2015

Research Director, Aalto University, 2013-2014 (Researcher 2004-2017)

Director, Nordic Healthcare Group Ltd, 2005-2012

Researcher, University of Lausanne, (2012)

Project Leader, Instrumentarium Oyj/GE Healthcare Ltd 2003-2005

Research funding and grants

Participated in the research application team and operated as a PI/project leader:

- Implementation, Management and Benefits of Service Integration in Wellbeing Services Counties Project (Prime Minister's Office) 2025-2026, 150 000 €, UH subproject 60 000 €
- Predictive models for screening lung cancer (private companies) 2023-2025, 200 000 €
- Benchmarking outcomes, costs, care practices and pathways between Nordic countries 2023-2024 (private companies) 100 000 €
- Lääkärihelikopteritoiminnan kustannusvaikuttavuus 2021-2022 (Prime Minister's Office) UH subproject 30 000 €
- Digitaalisten palvelujen vaikuttavuus sosiaali- ja terveydenhuollossa 2022-2023 (Prime Minister's Office), UH subproject 90 000 €
- Bioprot 2022-2024 (Business Finland) UH subproject 150 000 €
- MASSE - PERSONALIZED CARE WITH MASS-PRODUCTION EFFICIENCY (Business Finland) 2019-2022, Total budget 7,45 m€ UH subproject 400 000 €
- Terveysthuollon palveluiden vaikuttavuusperustainen priorisointi (Effectiveness based prioritization of healthcare services) 2021-2022 (Prime Minister's Office) 300 000 €
- Kansallinen vaikuttavuuskeskus (National Outcomes Center) 2021 (Private funding), 100 000 €
- Value-based reimbursement of occupational Health (KELA) 2019-2020, 170 000 €
- Outcomes based management in Social and Healthcare System (Prime Minister's Office) 2019-2020, 170 000 €
- Knowledge-based management in Social and Healthcare Districts 2018-2019 (Prime Minister's Office), 200 000 €
- Measurement system of Social and Healthcare Districts 2016-2017 (Prime Minister's Office), 200 000 €
- The potential to improve cost-effectiveness of Social and Healthcare System 2016-2017 (Prime Minister's Office), 150 000 €
- Managed Outcomes (EU) 3,6 m€ duration: 2010-2012
- Management of Regional Healthcare Systems (Finnish National Agency of Technology), 1,8 m€ duration: 2007-2009

In addition, our research group's PhD students have collectively secured more than €500,000 in personal grants and salary funding dedicated to their doctoral research during the past five years.

Research output

- >100 peer-reviewed articles, >2200 citations, h-index 26 (Google Scholar)
- Author of several scientific textbook chapters
- 2 mooc courses developed

Research supervision and leadership experience

- Currently supervising 20 PhD students
- Research group includes seven postdoctoral researchers (Riikka-Leena Leskelä, Elina Reponen, An Chen, Jukka Pappinen, Elina Laukka, Mikko Nuutinen, Märt Vesinurm)
- Supervised PhDs:
 - Main supervisor: Oskari Hakanen (2025), Maria Loven (2025), Kirsi Väyrynen (2025), Krista Kauppi (2025), Johanna Joensuu (2023), Katariina Silander (2018), An Chen (2017)
 - Co-supervisor: Märt Vesinurm (2025), Pekka Luukkala (2017)
- Supervised over 50 master's theses

Teaching merits

Principal Lecturer:

- Health Economics 5cr (Helsinki University)
- Introduction to Healthcare Operations Management 5cr (Helsinki and Aalto University)
- Lean and Healthcare Operations management methods 5cr (Helsinki University and Aalto University)
- MOOC-courses: Rethinking Health – Mooc 2cr and Lean sotessa – Mooc 2 cr

Visiting Lecturer:

- Erasmus University Rotterdam, Netherlands, ranked 80th worldwide (Times Higher Education)
- Tsinghua University, Beijing, China, ranked 16th worldwide and Zhejiang University, China, ranked 67th worldwide.
- IIT Kharagpur, India, ranked 400-500 worldwide
- Several university-based education programs: University of Oulu, University of Eastern Finland, Aalto University, Health MBA/Aalto EE

Currently completing a 60 ECTS professional teacher education programme at Haaga-Helia University of Applied Sciences (expected graduation Spring 2026)

Awards and honours

- Several Best papers/abstracts awards in international conferences: most recent 2024 European Health Management Conference (EHMA)
- Paper of the Year: “A Value-Based Steering Model for Healthcare”. Frontiers in Health Services. 2022
- The “Best of 2024 List” of Health Promotion Researchers. American Journal of Health Promotion

Other key academic merits

- Associate editor for healthcare management journals. Most recently, Process Science Journal (Springer) special issue: Caring for health processes (forthcoming)
- Member of the board, European Health Management Association conference 2019-2022
- Several invited keynote speeches at international scientific conferences
- Regularly serve as a referee for journals, mainly in the field of healthcare operations management, health services research, and health policy
- Acting as opponent of a doctoral dissertation of Juha Kemppinen 2020 (Lappeenranta University of Technology), Petteri Mussalo 2022 (University of Eastern Finland), Jari Haverinen 2024 (Oulu University)
- Acting as pre-examiner for doctoral dissertation for Konsta Lavaste 2025

- Acting as pre-examiner for Title of Docent Anna-Aurora Kork 2024 and Olli Halminen 2024

Scientific and societal impact

- Advisor of Ministry of Finance, Finland (ref: riitta.aejmelaesus@vm.fi)
- Participated in several parliamentary hearings and submitted expert statements to support evidence-informed decision-making.
- Member of various specialist or steering groups regarding national reform of social and health care (eg. National Quality Registers in Finland)
- Dozens of publications in professional journals, newspapers, etc.
- Founding member of the Helsinki Planetary Health group, my focus is on the economic sustainability of health and social care systems.