Dear MBlers,

Last week the Research Council announced the 46 projects which won the competition for FRIPRO’s “Toppforsk”, the third round of co-investment by the government and the Universities, now dedicated to support top researchers to become internationally leading in their areas. Hence, I’m very, very happy that Thomas Arnesen is among these 46 and one of 8 UiB researchers selected for these prestigious grants. With this, and the two new NFR grants to Mathias Ziegler and Nathalie Reuter, announced in December, we can celebrate a very good success rate in last year’s competition in NFR’s FRIPRO program. It is very important that Norway keeps up a high level of funding for basic research in the FRIPRO program. On the way, both Thomas and Nathalie have benefitted from Bergen Research Foundation (BFS). I take this opportunity to thank Trond Mohn and BFS for the generous contributions to the BFS recruitment programme. Congrats to all three of you!

Best wishes

Research

Toppforsk grant for Thomas

Thomas Arnesen and his group has received a “Toppforsk” grant of approx. 25 mill NOK for the project «N-terminal acetylation as a key physiological regulation mechanism». The Toppforsk grants are financed 50% by the Norwegian research council and 50% by the research institutions themselves, and are awarded researchers which are believed to have the potential to become internationally leading within their field. In addition to running costs, the project will fund 4 post docs/researchers, 1 PhD-fellow and a 50% technical position during the project period.

People

Tore André Brodahl, masterstudent ProtMetD/NAT-gruppen (Arnesen)

May Eriksen Gjerstad, prosjektstudent NucReg/NUCPI-gruppen (Lewis)

Paper presentation gathering

We have decided to reinstate the paper celebrations that we used to have a few years back. A committee consisting of Marc Niere, Line Myklebust, Olena Dobrovolska, Fedor Kryuchkov and Samuel Furse has been appointed to organize the presentations. The gatherings will take place in the Monday lunch time (12-12.30), the last Monday of every second Month, and every paper will be presented in brief. The first Monday paper recognition gathering will be held 29. February.

Any new papers can be sent to Knut Olav Daasvatn or Marc Niere. One of the authors may be asked to give a (very) brief presentation of the paper. We ask that you send the reference as soon as a given paper has received its doi-number.
New publication

Øivind Larsen & Odd A. Karlsen, Transcriptomic profiling of Methylococcus capsulatus (Bath) during growth with two different methane monooxygenases. MicrobiologyOpen, 2015, Early view. doi: 10.1002/mbo3.324

Staff news

Lisbeth C. Olsen er tilsatt som førstelektor i 35% stilling i perioden januar til mars som underviser tilknyttet MOL100

Henriette Didriksen vikarierer for Svein Støve som avdelingsingeniør i NAT-gruppen i perioden 15.2-10.5

Antonio Garcia-Moyano er tilsatt som forsker ved Senter for anvendt bioteknologi, Uni Research AS fra 1. februar. Han vil ha arbeidsplass ved Uni Researchs lab her på 5. etasje og skal jobbe på prosjekter med å identifisere og utvikle enzymer tilpasset industrien.

Nikolai Isak Honoret er tilsatt som forskningstekniker ved vaskerommet fra 1. februar og ut mai

Essa Ahsan Khan er tilsatt som forskningstekniker på timebasis i Cellestress gruppen (Fladmark) i perioden 25.1-15.09.2016.

Education and student affairs

Master student
Tore André Brodahl is a new master student in the NAT-group at ProtMetD, supervised by Thomas Arnesen, Håvard Foy and Line M. Myklebust.

Project students
Three students have started working on their MOL231 projects this semester: Camila Cimadamore-Werthein with Mathias Ziegler in the NAD-group at ProtMetD, May Eriksen Gjerstad with Aurelia Lewis in the Nuclear Lipids group at NucReg, and Rodolfo Baldinotti with Kari Fladmark in the Cell stress group.

Guest students
Killian Keyer, from the University of Applied Sciences Utrecht, the Netherlands will be staying with the NAT-group (Arnesen) until 17. June. Anna Roca Barceló is a guest student in the Lipidstruct group (Halskau) until June.

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**News from Heliks**

A new semester has started and Heliks are planning the events this spring. The career day is the biggest event of the year and was this year arranged 02.02.16 at VilVite, together with the Student Committee of Medical Biology (FMB). The event was a great success and we got a lot of positive feedback!

In December, a new board was elected for the spring semester 2016: Eline Ringnes Mejlaender-Larsen (Chairman), Anny Gravdal (Vise-Chairman), Siri Goksøy (Cashier), Joakim Brunet (Practical group), Lorentze Hope Hornnes (Information Group), Sofya Romanyuk (Social Group), Inga Elisabeth N. Rødahl (Social Group), Nina McTiernan (Realist Committee), Martha Eimstad Haugstøyl (Program Board (Master)), Marita Torrissen Måli (Program Board (Bachelor)), Nikolai Isak Honorat (Council of Institution (Master)), Åsta Ottesen (Council of Institution (Bachelor)), Elise Wanderås (Deputy 1 for Council of Institution), Regine Åsen Jersin (Deputy 1 for Realist Committee) and Silje Hjornevik (Deputy 1 for Program Board). We hope and think this will be a fun and exciting semester.

**HELIKES SIN ARRANGEMENTSPLAN FOR VÅREN 2016**

| 19. januar | Semester kick-off          |
| 21. januar | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 2. februar | Karriredagen                |
| 4. februar | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 18. februar| Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 3. mars   | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 4. mars   | Tapaskveld                  |
| 16. mars  | Bachelor-masterkveld       |
| 17. mars  | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 31. mars  | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 9. april  | FEST                       |
| 14. april | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 23. april | Masterfest                 |
| 28. april | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 2. mai    | Allmøte                     |
| 12. mai   | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| 26. mai   | Vaffeltorsdag               |
| Tidlig mai| Tur                         |
| Juni      | Eksamensfest                |

Camila Cimadamore-Werthein, prosjektstudent NucReg/NUCPI-gruppen (Lewis)

Henriette Didriksen, avdelingsingeniør (vikar), NAT-gruppen

Nikolai I. Honore, forskningstekniker ved vaskerommet februar-mai
Monday 8. February

Monday seminar
Mid-term presentation, Rasmus Moen Ree: Zebrafish as a model organism for elucidating cancer- and obesity-linked enzymes. 12.30, N-terminalen

Monday 15. February

Monday seminar
Mid-term presentation, Marianne Goris: Paper II: Naa60 membrane interactions 12.30, N-terminalen

Horizon lecture/Darwin day
Pest! / The Plague! By Nils Chr. Stenseth, Geir Atle Erland and Bjørn Blomberg
16.00, Universitetsaulaen

Wednesday 17. February

Trial lecture
Bruno Vellutini: Topologically associating chromatin domains: Methods for their identification and their role in the development of mammals. 10.15, N-terminalen

Friday 19. February

PhD defense
Hanif Muhammad Khan: Role of noncovalent interactions in protein peripheral membrane binding - Computational perspectives 10.15, Stort auditorium, Datablokken

Friday 26. February

Master presentation
Altanchimeg Altankhuyag: Phosphoinositide-binding motifs influence the nucleolar localization of ErbB3-binding protein1 (EBP1) 12.15, N-terminalen

Wednesday 9. March

Molekylærobilogs dag
This day we open our doors to welcome pupils from local high-schools. These are our future Molecular biologists, so we want to give them an inspiring experience! Do not plan experiments that day - and try to avoid other engagements as far as possible.

An academic tidbit:
You may have wondered why lectures at UiB start 15 min past full hour (e.g. 10:15 etc). This is related to the term: “the academic quarter” which stems from an old tradition at universities in many European countries, from the times when church bells were the method for keeping time. Students and professors would have 15 minutes to find their places after the bell has rung. In modern times, the academic quarter is already “included” in the schedule, and we start 15 min past full hour. Hence, there is now basis for claiming the “academic quarter” if you are 15 min late for the 10:15 lecture. (see: https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Academic_quarter_(class_timing). RAa ;-)