Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
No.04/2022, 25.02.2022
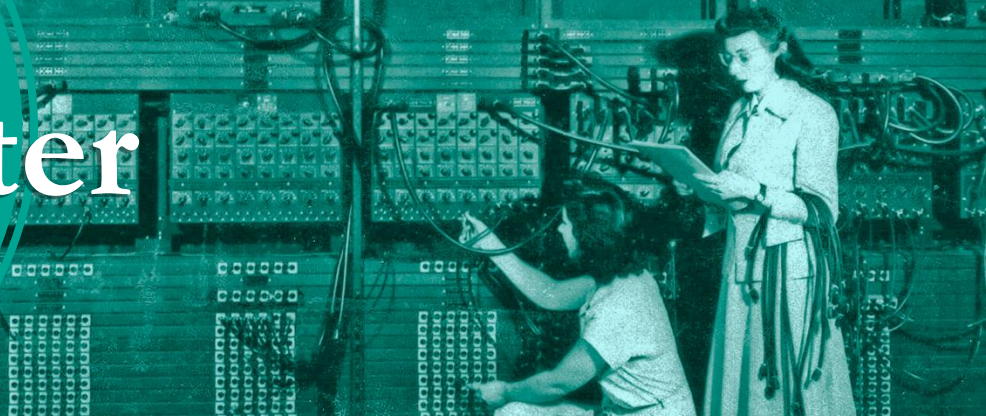
Dear Colleagues,

Initially I would like to say that I am very much affected by the recent events in Ukraine and my thoughts go to all affected.

After the waves of pandemic and lockdowns we are now in a phase where we can work from our offices and gather for scientific and social interactions. We have discussed this in the group contact meeting earlier this week and from the department leadership we have encouraged the groups to help us in getting people physically back to work. I strongly believe that we can work together in a better way when we are all physically together – enabling new contacts and ideas to be formed in a different way.

Naturally it is also important for the social interactions and well-being of everybody at the department. I look forward to seeing more people in the corridors, at the coffee machine, at seminars etc across the department in the coming weeks (and years 😊)!

Our department plays an important role in several initiatives that have attracted visibility at the university level this week – including the Digital competence offering for all students across the university and the UiB AI initiative. For the latter we had our first in a series of seminars yesterday and I had the honour of presenting together with Nathalie Reuter on how AI has enabled a breakthrough in solving the protein folding problem. It was really great to see all the participants from across UiB – and look forward to future seminars in this series.

Afterwards I had the pleasure of joining a celebration of an interdisciplinary project lead by Vidar Jensen at Department of chemistry – also including Helwig Hauser from our department. This is one of several large projects between our two departments starting up these days – and I really look forward to the continuation!

I wish you all a good weekend,

Inge

The Dean's Blog – Gunn Mangerud

The Dean's blog aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

Her latest posting:
«Universitetsbibliotekene har en tydelig plass i fremtidens universitetssamfunn»

Welcome, new colleagues!

Hanadi Abu-Taqia

Hanadi has started working at our department as a student coordinator. She will be filling in for Pål when he goes on leave next week.
Hanadi has over 20 years of experience working at, amongst others, The Palestinian Ministry of Tourism and The International Organization for Migration.

Welcome to the team, Hanadi!

Teshome Tilahun Bizuayehu

Teshome is already a friend of ours, since he has been working as a postdoc at CBU. He will now be stepping into a permanent position as a researcher.

Welcome (back) to the team, Teshome!

Current Issues

Short overview of upcoming department events:

5-16 March	Teacher's retreat (Faculty event)
4-5 April	Department gathering 2022, at Solstrand
20-23 April	6th Creative Mathematical Sciences Communication conference (CMSC'22) in Bergen

Kakeklubben is back – now at 12:00 again

Kakeklubben has now, by popular demand, been moved back to Wednesdays at 12 for those who want to practice Norwegian and eat cake. Kakeklubben is held in Kremle (4th floor, to the left from the lift/stairs), and everyone is welcome, no matter their skill level.

University elections 2022

Once a year, temporary staff get to elect their own representatives to The Department Board. The University Board is the University of Bergen's highest governing body, and make decisions for the university's strategies regarding education, research, and other university activities.

The candidates will be elected for the term 2022.08.01 to 2023.07.31, and the deadline for nominations is the **1st of March 2022 at 12pm.**

Illustration of a typical department meeting

Do you know someone who would make a good board member? **Read more here.**

From the 4th to the 7th of April, you will be able to vote for the nominees you would like to have as your representatives.

There is also elections for the Faculty board and University board.

We hope you will participate in the democratic process and make your voices heard!

Ergonomic assessment of office workplace

UiB's physiotherapist will visit us on **Wednesday 2nd March at 09:00-14:00**. Her mission is to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees' office workplaces.

If you are not among the new employees since September 2021, but still want us to visit you for an ergonomic assessment of your office workplace – please sign up asap by sending an email to Linda Vagtskjold.
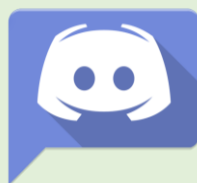
Department Discord server

The department has a new discord server for informal, casual chatting and sharing.

You can join the server through this link.

If you want to know more about what discord is, please ask one of your gamer coworkers.

NORA Annual Conference Awards

Call for nominations!

The Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium (NORA) is seeking nominations for our annual awards! These awards are given to recognise exceptional efforts of individuals and actors in the Norwegian AI community throughout the year.

You can now submit your recommendations for the following awards:

- NORA Award for Lifetime Achievement
- NORA Award for Distinguished Early-Career Investigator
- NORA Award for AI Community Building
- NORA Award for Diversity in AI
- NORA Award for Outstanding Publication of the Decade 2011–21
- NORA.startup Award

Feel free to nominate your colleagues (or yourself) generously.

Read more about the NORA Annual Conference Awards and submit your nominations here!

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Akademiaavtale: As part of the Academia Agreement between Equinor and UiB, UiB has announced a call for funding for seed money in relevant strategic areas.

Application deadlines: 25 February 2022 & 15 September 2022

UiB ide: "UiB idé gives employees and students the opportunity to apply for support to test and develop good innovation ideas."

Application deadline: 15 March 2022

ERC Consolidator Grant: For "scientists who want to consolidate their independence by establishing a research team and continuing to develop a success career in Europe." (ERC funding explained)

Application deadline: 17 March 2022

Olsens legat: "Det lyses ut midler til forskning på bruk av nye undervisnings- og læringsformer ved Universitetet i Bergen."

Application deadline: 18 March 2022

UTFORSK: "The programme supports the establishment of long-term partnerships between Norway and Brazil, Canada, China, India, Japan, Russia, South Africa, South Korea, and the USA."

Application deadline: 20 April 2022

ERC Advanced Grant: For scientists who are "established, leading principal investigators who want long-term funding to pursue a ground-breaking, high-risk project." (ERC funding explained)

Application deadline: 28 April 2022

Forskningsrådet

Enabling technologies: There is an open call for Collaborative Projects on Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. "The objective of this call is to develop new knowledge within one or both topics for the call: Digital security and/or AI, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. [...] The project must involve two or more Norwegian partners that are not research organisations. Partners that are not research organisations must together participate with a minimum of 10 per cent of the total project costs."

Application deadline: open-ended

We have received information from the RCN that they are uncertain if this call will stay open for all of 2022. If the call will be closed, they will publish this information on their website in due time.

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you have questions with regard to your planned and ongoing funding applications as well as all contractual work related to external funds! All applications and agreements/ contracts need to be approved by the department leadership. In addition, you can have a look at our websites for research support services, where you will also find a list of our services.

Meltzer Research Fund has made additional funds available this year, and the university has now released an **extraordinary call for applications.**

Please read the instructions on this website carefully.

Application deadline: 18 March 2022

***New* Peder Sather Grant Program:** "The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from [UiB]. Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities."

Application deadline: 1 June 2022

Info meeting: 14 March 2022, Litteraturhuset i Bergen (rom: Alver), register by 8 March 2022

AIM SQuaREs: Program "to allow a dedicated group of four to six mathematicians to spend a week at AIM in San Jose, California."

Application deadline: 1 November 2022

ERC 2023: The ERC has published tentative application deadlines for the 2023 calls on their website:

- ERC-StG-2023, 25.10.2022
- ERC-SyG-2023, 08.11.2022
- ERC-CoG-2023, 02.02.2023
- ERC-AdG-2023, 23.05.2023

NORBIS activities

NORBIS conference - SAVE THE DATE!

The 8th and last NORBIS conference will be arranged in 2022 at Rosendal Fjordhotell week 43, 24-28 October. More information to come! But for now, save the date!

High Performance Computing in Bioinformatics

Dates: March 14-25, 2022. **Location**: University of Oslo. **Course code:** INF9380. **Organizers**: Torbjørn Rognes, Abdulrahman Azab, Arvind Sundaram. **Invited lecturers**: Marrti Louhivuori & Jussi Enkovaara, CSC (IT Center for Science), Finland. Abdulrahman Azab, Chief Engineer, University Centre for Information Technology, UiO. Arvind Sundaram, Research scientist, Norwegian Sequencing Centre, Oslo University Hospital. Bjørn-Helge Mevik, Darren Starr, Leon Charl du Toit, Marcin Krotkiewski, Maiken Pedersen, Ole Widar Saastad, Sabry Razick, USIT, UiO **Credits:** 5 ECTS. **Evaluation:** Practical student project (home exam) with hand-in of written report.

Short course description: This course focuses on the application of high performance computing (HPC) to bioinformatics analysis. The main target is to provide a background on how to effectively use HPC clusters for running computationally or data intensive bioinformatics applications. The course will mainly include teaching students selected bioinformatics tools and workflows, and how to use HPC platforms to speed up and maximize the overall throughput of intensive bioinformatics analysis. More information and external links to registration as visiting student at UiO here

Machine Learning in Medical Bioinformatics

Dates: May 2-6, 2022. **Location:** Linköping University, Sweden. **Course responsible:** Björn Wallner. **Lecturers:** Björn Wallner, Claudio Mirabello, Manuela Zucknick. **Credits:** 5 ECTS.

Short course description: This workshop will consist of a mix between research talks, the theory behind the research, and actually applying the theory yourself in practical exercises. Topics discussed during the workshop: unsupervised and supervised learning and various machine learning techniques, ranging from linear models, support vector machines, random forests, neural networks, and deep neural networks. Pre-course assignment must be completed before the course start. More information and link to registration here.

Sequence comparison and database search

Dates: May 9-13, 2022. **Location**: University of Bergen. **Course code**: NORBIS901. **Organizers**: Inge Jonassen, Cedric Notredame. **Lecturer**: Cedric Notredame, Center for Genomic Regulation. **Credits**: 5 ECTS. **Evaluation**: The students will sit through a two-hours written exam. In addition, the written report will need to be approved.

Short course description: This course provides insight into methods for analyzing biological sequences. Its goal is to present an overview of some advanced concepts of sequence alignments and some of their applications with a strong emphasis the algorithmic homology based multiple sequence alignment modelling, one of the most widely used method in biology. The first part is dedicated to molecular evolution, in the second part we will cover the pairwise and single sequence analysis, and the third part of the course will deal with Multiple Sequence Alignment algorithms of both RNA and Protein sequences. More information and link to registration here.

Open Science at UiB

The University Library offers open webinars on the principles of Open Science, and you are all welcome to participate:

Making your research visible and open using ORCID	25.02.2022
DMP workshop	11.03.2022
How to make your research data open and FAIR?	25.03.2022
Finding & reusing research data	22.14.2022
Introduction to DMP	13.05.2022
Open Access - step by step	03.06.2022

Read about Open Science policy and opportunities:

UiB's Policy for Open Science	UiB Publication Fund	Open Access Publishing Deals	Open Access – What, why and how	Data management plans

Vacant Positions

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics – AI and Algorithms
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 15.03.2022

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics - Optimization
Please find the announcement here. Closing date: 30.04.2022

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