

# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

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Editor-in-chief: Inge Jonassen. Editor: Randi Heggernes Eilertsen.  
Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

## Dear Colleagues,

I am really glad that we were able to get together at Solstrand earlier this week for the annual Department gathering! I want to thank everybody again for coming and for engaging in discussions and making it a very enjoyable and useful meeting.

The team preparing the application for a Centre of excellent education (SFU) led by David Grellscheid has done a really fantastic job – and the discussions and ideas that have been initiated in this process will be great to follow up in the continuation – also in case the application will not be granted. An important element in this is strengthening the collaboration and discussion of our educational activities. We want to move towards more student-active learning and to a greater extent draw on research on the teaching process itself when we plan and offer courses. Our didactics group will play a key role in this at our department, but I am very pleased to see a high level of engagement across the groups in exploring new ways of teaching and moving towards more student-active learning methods.

I also want to thank the group who has looked into the possibility of a new integrated 5-years siv-ing program at our department – directed towards data science. I think we had an excellent discussion on this at Solstrand and I am happy for the engagement and what I perceive as general support for the idea. I think such a program will be appreciated by both students and employers and allow us to attract new groups of students. It will be important to build the program such that those following the program somehow gets a “class feeling” already early in the program. I look forward to further discussions on this!

Many of us will have a break in the coming week, and I wish you all a very good weekend and holidays!

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:

[«Urovekkende at forskning svekkes»](#)

# Welcome, new colleagues!



## Marte Hauge

Marte has started as a new student coordinator. She is filling in for Ida while she is on leave.

Marte has a master's degree in Comparative Politics from UiB, but has been taking part in exchange programs in Florida, Bordeaux and Cape Town.

Welcome to the team, Marte!



## Svetla Petkova-Nikova

Svetla will be working 10% as an Associate Professor II from 01.03.2022 to 28.02.2024.

She will be teaching and holding seminars in Cyber security, as well as mentoring students and contributing to strategic priorities within the sector.

Svetla is based at KU Leuven in Belgium, where she is a Research Manager.

Welcome to the team, Svetla!



## Solveig Bakke Vasstveit

Solveig is employed at the Department of Mathematic with similar tasks as Ingrid. She will be helping us partly filling in for Ingrid in the Reception every Monday and Thursday before lunch until Ingrid returns.

Thank you so much for helping us, Solveig!



## Department Discord server

As mentioned at Solstrand, the department has a new discord server for informal, casual chatting and sharing.

You can join the server through [this link](#).

# Solstrand

picture extravaganza!







The full album can be seen [here](#).  
(Only UiB staff has access)

# ELIXIR Norway celebrates four more years of funding



The Norwegian node of ELIXIR has secured funding for four more years of facilitating important life science through data.

Congratulations to the whole team!

Photos here from the celebration on the 29th of March, where we enjoyed cake and university-approved non-alcoholic bubbles.



**LØRDAG 23. APRIL KL. 11.00-18.00**  
**VÅRENS STORE KUNNSKAPSFESTIVAL**

Universitetet i Bergen har fylt 75 år, men vi er minst like opptatt av de neste 75 årene også.

Velkommen til festival i området rundt VilVite sammen med realfagene og partnerne våre!

[Les mer her](#)



Our department in the media:

**Pinar comments on the need for cyber security education**

– Det er bekymringsverdig. De siste årene har vi sett flere angrep - og det kommer til å bli enda mer fremover, sier prorektor og professor Pinar Heggernes i informatikk ved universitetet i Bergen.

[Read full article \(Norwegian\)](#)

# Current Issues

## Short overview of upcoming department events:

20-23 April	6th Creative Mathematical Sciences Communication conference ( <a href="#">CMSC'22</a> ) in Bergen
5 May	Fire safety course
13 May & 13 June	Faculty and Staff lunch, in Skogen (4 <sup>th</sup> floor)

## Fire prevention course



Do you know what to do if there's a fire?

Do you know what to do if the fire extinguisher is on fire?

All UiB employees are required to complete a fire prevention course. On the 5<sup>th</sup> of May, the department is holding a (physical) fire safety course from 14:00 to 16:00 in the VilVite auditorium. This involves both a theoretical part and a practical part (which will be held outside of VilVite).

All new employees, and all who haven't yet taken the course due to the pandemic, are

required to take this course. **Please sign up by sending an email to [marta.lopez@uib.no](mailto:marta.lopez@uib.no).** Any questions about the course can be sent to Marta.

## Newsletter about career opportunities [NO]

[UiB Ferd](#) har etablert et nyhetsbrev med informasjon om karriereutviklingstilbud for yngre forskere og vitenskapelig ansatte ved Universitetet i Bergen.

Meld deg på nyhetsbrevet ved å [fylle ut dette skjemaet](#).

UiB Ferd karrieresenter støtter doktorgradskandidater, postdoktorer, forskere og førsteamanuenser. Du kan få hjelp til å utvikle din karriere innenfor og utenfor universitetet, gjennom kurs, samtaler og mye mer.

## Get ready for summer

Please remember to register the dates for your summer holiday on DFØ **before the 1<sup>st</sup> of May**. [Here's how you do it.](#)

## Horizon talks

After a long COVID-pause the Horizon lecture series is back again. The [Horizon series](#) is a lecture series for staff and students of The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, and for all others that are interested in major scientific questions and challenges across disciplinary borders.

The first lecture will be by Yadvinder Malhi:

### [“The Metabolism of Planet Earth”](#)

25.04.2022 - 16.00–17.30

“Human influence on the planet is so persuasive that it is argued we have entered a new geological epoch, the Anthropocene. Professor Yadvinder Malhi examines human influence on the natural world through the concept of metabolism: how much energy flows through human societies compared to how much flows through the biosphere. “

[Register by 20.04.2022 to participate.](#)



## Bli med på Forskningsdagene [NO]



### Ønsker du å bidra under Forskningsdagene i Bergen?

UiB er den største bidragsyteren til festivalen i Bergen, og vi håper flere fagmiljøer vil bli med å synliggjøre forskning for byens befolkning. Forskningsdagene er en årlig, nasjonal festival og foregår i år fra 21. september til 2. oktober.

Hovedtema i 2022 er "hav". Her har UiB mye spennende forskning å vise frem, og vi oppfordrer fagmiljøene til å la seg inspirere av temaet. Det er like fullt mulig og ønskelig med

bidrag fra andre fagfelt og tema på Forskningsdagene i Bergen, på festivalen er det tradisjon for å vise bredde.

Vil du bli med på Forskningstorget eller skolebesøk? [Les mer og meld din interesse her.](#)

## Kunnskapseplet

The Mathematics and Natural Sciences Library have monthly popular science talks. The aim of these talks is to provide an informal arena for students, PhD students, researchers, and other staff to share their work or talk about a topic they are passionate about. The events will last 30-45 minutes, depending on the length of the presentation. [Read about Kunnskapseplet here.](#)

Next talks:

Torsdag 21. april: [Nanoteknologi for fremtiden og klima](#) (in Norwegian)

Torsdag 19. mai: Bergens ferskeste og strålende legemidler (in Norwegian)

## New dongle policy for Mac users

UiB's IT-department has officially decided that ~~Windows is better than Mac~~ if you want to use a Mac with the AV equipment in lecturing rooms and auditoriums, you must bring your own dongle.

According to an internal note, the IT-department have decided to give up on trying to keep up with the frequently changing requirements of hardware needed to communicate with UiB's established AV equipment.

In practice, this means that you can still use your Mac with whatever equipment is in the room, but there is no guarantee that you will find the correct dongle for your laptop.

You can also transfer your presentations to the designated computers that are already hooked up to the equipment.



## Sikkerhetskonferansen 2022

The Norwegian National Security Authority is inviting fans of cyber security to participate in the 2022 Security Conference!

The conference will be featuring speakers such as Rob Royce (Director of the NSA) and Professor Sir David Omand of Cambridge University, among others.

The conference will be held digitally on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March.  
[Find more info and sign up here \(only in Norwegian\).](#)



NASJONAL  
SIKKERHETSMYNDIGHET

## Welcome to Yoga on Wednesdays!



*Illustration: Your body after a single yoga session*

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. Yoga classes are held at our department on Wednesdays at **2:00 p.m. to 3:00 pm** at the CBU seminar room in 5th floor.

Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Næss, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participation fee. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan. All employees are welcome – also those of you who never tried yoga before.

And remember: When you are too busy to go to the yoga class – then is when you need it the most!

# Invitation: Norwegian Bioinformatics Days 2022

(The NBD organizing team): Welcome to the national bioinformatics conference Norwegian Bioinformatics Days 2022 taking place September 28-30, 2022, at Sundvolden Hotel (~one hour drive from Oslo).

This meeting aims to gather people who work with bioinformatics in Norway for three days of research sharing and networking. Hear from several internationally interesting keynote speakers and get an insight into the supporting infrastructure and activities within bioinformatics and computational biology in Norway.

Visit the website <https://norbioinfo.no/> and sign up for updates. Conference program, registration and invitation to submit abstracts will follow soon.

Please help us spread the word in your networks. In the attachments, we also include an invitation to display on screens.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Sundvolden in person!

*This meeting is a collaboration with Centre for Digital Life Norway, Elixir Norway, NORBIS, RSG-Norway, Computational Biology Unit (UiB), and many more.*



## Meeting rooms from GC Rieber

GC Rieber has opened a new meeting centre on Marineholmen. This can be a good alternative to renting conference rooms in hotels or similar, if none of our internal rooms are free.

[A list of the rooms and the relevant contact info is available here.](#)

## Updating your page on UiB

Are you sick of the first google result when someone searches for you being that one photo where you're passing the finishing line of Stoltzekleiven Opp, looking sweaty and gasping for air? Luckily, you can present yourself in a whole new way by updating your UiB profile page.

[Påhoyden.no has made a new guide to help you make the perfect UiB profile page here.](#) There is also an existing guide in English [here](#).

If you need a new profile picture, you can ask [Randi](#) for a free photoshoot.

## NORA Research School

If you are a PhD student within the field of AI from a NORA-partner institution (that includes us), we encourage you to become a member of the NORA [Research School](#).

NORA is in the process of establishing research school for PhD students at our partner institutions. However, membership in NORA's Research School is already open to any PhD student from a NORA partner institution with a project related to artificial intelligence, machine learning and/or robotics.

You can be a member of several research schools simultaneously, and there are no obligations, costs or commitments to being a member. Through membership in NORA Research School you will be the first to receive relevant information about and the opportunity to participate in courses, lectures and events.

## 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!

### 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.](#)

### Summer school: Collaborative scientific software development

**Dates:** June 20-July 1, 2022. **Location:** University of Bergen. **Organizers:** David Grellscheid, Digital Lab UBB. **Lecturers:** David Grellscheid (UiB), Ivan Girotto (International Centre for Theoretical Physics, Trieste, Italy), Ali Farnudi (ENS Lyon, France), Korbinian Bösl (UiB). **Credits:** 3 ECTS. **Evaluation:** Participants are



expected to attend all 10 days. In the second half of the summer school, you will work in small groups on a project that you will present on the last day.

**Short course description:** The aim of this summer school is to give an introduction to topics that go beyond the initial knowledge of reading and writing code. How do you design programs that are modular and reusable by others? How can libraries in different languages be used together? What are tools that can help in documenting and testing code? How can development and releases be managed in group projects with multiple authors and multiple users? In a mixture of talks and many hands-on sessions we'll try to address this next step. In the second half of the workshop, you will work in small groups on designing and writing a new project from scratch, giving you direct experience of having to rely on other people's code. [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:

<u>Finding &amp; reusing research data</u>	<u>22.14.2022</u>
<u>Introduction to DMP</u>	<u>13.05.2022</u>
<u>Open Access - step by step</u>	<u>03.06.2022</u>

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

### **PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Applied cryptology**

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 17.04.2022

### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics - Optimization**

Please find [the announcement here](#). Closing date: 30.04.2022

### **Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics – Computational Biology and Machine Learning**

[Please find the announcement here](#). Closing date: 30.04.2022

# Upcoming Funding Opportunities



**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

The call may be closed before the end of 2022. If so, RCN will publish this information on their website in due time.



**Abel Prize:** “The Abel Prize recognises pioneering scientific achievements in mathematics”. For more information, please visit [this website](#).

Nomination deadline: 15 September 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



**New UiB Global Challenges:** UiB has issued a call within its strategic area “Global Challenges” (sub-topics migration, health and inequality). Funding covers costs for meetings, seminars and travels needed to develop cross-disciplinary research and/or education activities. At least 2 UiB faculties need to participate in an application to this call. The applicant has to be a permanent employee with his/her main position being at UiB.

For more detailed information, please contact Stefanie Meyer.

Application deadline: 20 April 2022, 10 am



**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

*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.*



**New Proof-of-Concept:** “The purpose of a [Proof-of-Concept Project](#) is to reduce the project’s uncertainty relating to technology and the market. The goal is that when the Proof-of-Concept Project is concluded, the most critical questions and uncertainties have been clarified, so that the next stage of the commercialisation process can begin.”

Application deadline: open-ended



**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



**International Artificial Intelligence in Bergen Research School (AIB 22):** AIB 22 aims at “disseminating recent advances on AI. It is mainly intended for master and Ph.D. students, postdocs, and researchers wishing to learn more about the theme of the research school. In 2022, the broad theme of the school is: Knowledge Graphs and Machine Learning.” **7-11 June 2022, Bergen & online.** Register [here](#).

**New Norway Summit:** “Norway Summit is part of the world's most innovative chess tournament, Norway Chess. [...] The Summit creates an arena where world-leading thinkers, innovators, investors, premise providers, decision makers as well as leaders of tomorrow meet to share and exchange knowledge.” **8 June 2022, Stavanger.** More information [here](#).

**NORA Annual Conference 2022:** “The conference aims to gather the Norwegian research community within the field of Artificial Intelligence”. **9-10 June 2022, Stavanger.** Register [here](#).



**New Science advice under pressure:** “Science advice must deliver fast. But this challenge puts science for policy under pressure. [...] This major public conference will bring together policymakers, science advisors, researchers and other professionals.” **27-28 April 2022, Brussels and online.** More information [here](#).

**Nordic AI Meet 2022:** “The main purpose of the symposium is to provide a platform for young AI researchers to exchange ideas, build collaborations and form a Nordic approach to building AI solutions for the societal good.” **14-15 November 2022, Oslo.** Abstract submission deadline: 15 August 2022. Register [here](#).



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*I wish all  
a very  
happy  
easter*

