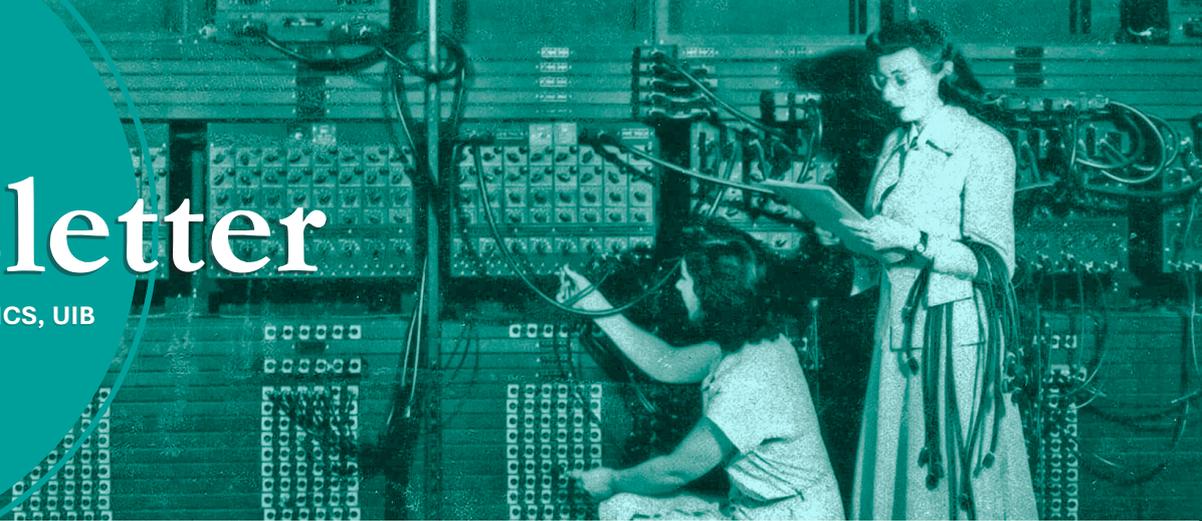


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
No.10/2022, 20.05.2022



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

Dear Colleagues,

The most important asset in our organization is the people – the staff and students at the university – and of course at our department. We are in the process of recruiting a number of new PhD students (open across all research groups) and we are preparing announcement of three tenure track positions (in programming theory, machine learning and visualization). Those recruited, at least through the latter call, will be part of a new generation of professors and research leaders at our department. I hope you all will help announcing both the PhD and tenure track positions through your networks etc!

Before the summer, our Professor Mike (Michael) Fellows and his wife Fran (Frances) Rosamund are retiring. I would like to thank them both for their great contributions to the department and our university over the last decade. Mike has made really important contributions to computer science. We want to congratulate him again on the honorary doctorate from the University of Paris, Dauphine - to be awarded in a couple of weeks. We are planning a proper marking to celebrate Mike's great achievements and mark his and Fran's retirement next year. This will include a symposium with international guests, and it has not been possible to plan this now in 2022. But for now, we want to thank Mike and Fran and wish them a very happy retirement, and we look forward to seeing you both again and celebrating properly next year!

As mentioned in an earlier newsletter, the economic situation for the faculty – and therefore the department – could have been better. We increasingly depend on external funding for our research. And for us, the Research Council of Norway (RCN) is the main source of project funding. Therefore, it came as a shock when the Minister of research on short notice last week “fired” the board of RCN and installed a new

interim board with an administrative competence profile. The new board is tasked primarily with cutting the budgets. From what I can read in the media, the FRIPRO, research infrastructure and center programs (including CoE/SFF) are likely to receive cuts. As member of a portfolio board handling FRIPRO applications, it is very clear to me that the funding rate is already far too low (below 8%) and that further cuts will be really painful. I must say that I am worried about these developments. With the climate crises (as one of several crises) calling for new knowledge and solutions, and the pandemic just demonstrating that science can indeed come to the rescue, I would hope that the government would boost rather than cut investments into research. For us as a research heavy department, we need to keep our spirit up and continue seeking funding and increase our efforts exploring alternative funding bodies and schemes.

On a brighter note, we are now in the season with long bright days when it barely gets dark at night. I hope we will have more nice weather in the coming weeks and that you will all be able to enjoy this period! I hope you will also take part in the “dugnad” on June 1st when we will tidy up the shared spaces across the department – hopefully contributing to making the everyday life at work more enjoyable! See more information later in the Newsletter.



I wish you all a nice weekend!

Inge

Late spring cleaning!

1ST OF JUNE, 13:00-15:30

Do you have a cabinet of things you have been meaning to tidy away?

A stack of incriminating papers that you need shredded?

Perhaps a suspiciously body shaped bag you want to get rid of, but don't know where to recycle?

On the 1st of June from 13:00 to 15:30, the department is facilitating a tidying session, where we will make it as easy as possible to finally get back that fresh new office smell.

Here are some of the facilities that are (always) available for you if you want to tidy your office:

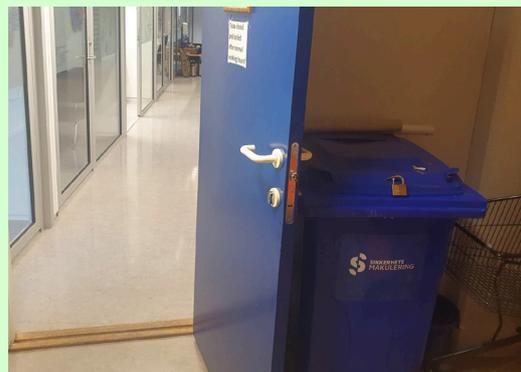


General rubbish

Normal waste can be put into these chutes, including paper.

Make sure to only throw away a small amount at once, or the chute will get clogged up.

Location: On every floor.



Confidential papers

Anything put in this blue bin will be safely shredded, turned into new paper, and sold for a good cause.

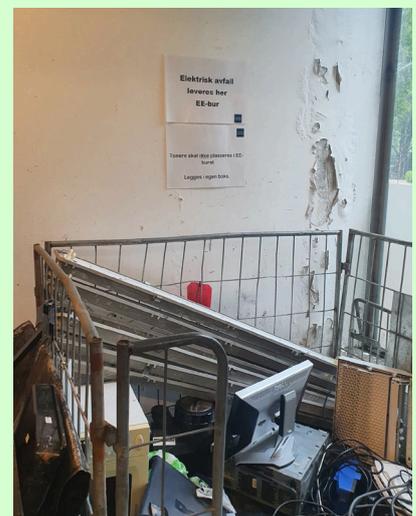
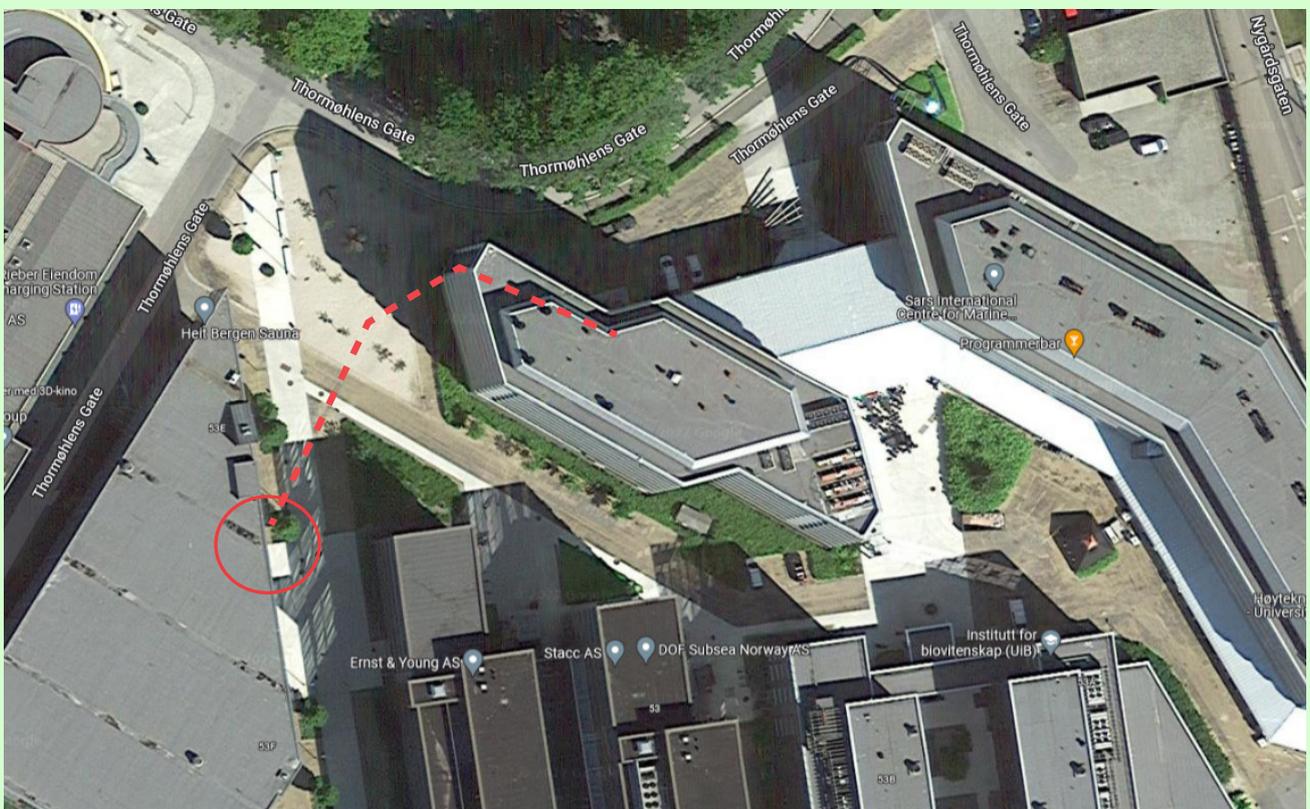
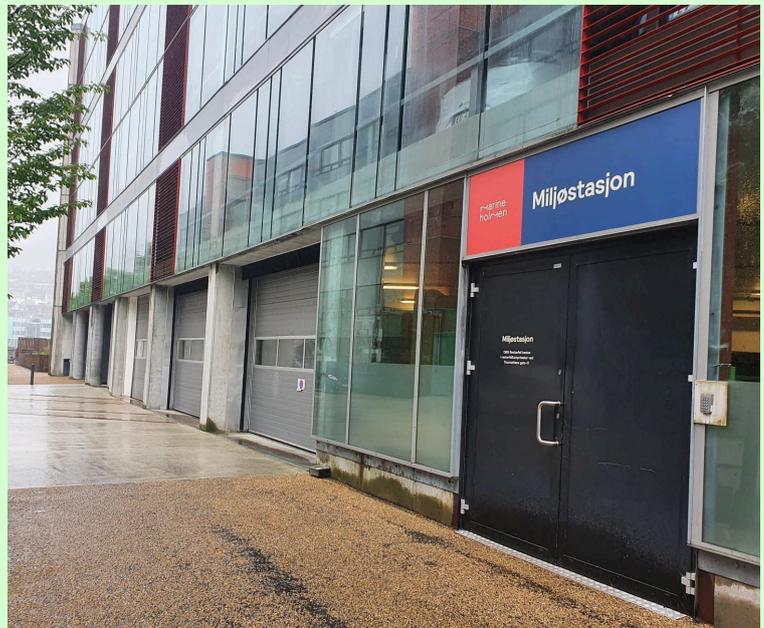
Location: 4th floor office supply room.

Miljøstasjon: Recycling centre

At this location, you can get rid of things that you can't put anywhere else.

This includes:

- Paper or cardboard in large quantities
- Plastic
- Electronic waste
- Empty toner cartridges
- Lightbulbs



ONE DAY ONLY: Furniture dump

For the big clean, this area on the first floor will be available for leaving superfluous furniture (chairs, cabinets, tables etc).



ONE DAY ONLY: Electronics

All electronics (computer screens, keyboards, cables etc) that are not needed can be handed over to Stanislav and placed temporarily in Skogen, 4th floor, here.



Current Issues

Short overview of upcoming department events:

23-25 May	Department council elections
25 May	Defence: Emmanuel Arrighi
1 June	Late Spring Cleaning
13 June	Faculty and Staff lunch, in Skogen (4th floor)

FIRE DRILL: The results are in

On the 10th of May we had a fire drill, and unfortunately, if it had been a real fire, the fire would have won.

While people got out in an orderly fashion, it became clear that few knew where we were meant to meet.

As illustrated below, the correct place to go in case of a fire is the green zone around the big anchor.

Red zone:

- You trap all your colleagues inside
- You get run over by the fire truck
- You get hit by falling debris
- Possibly not in that order

Green zone:

- You can hang out with your colleagues inside the protective aura of the Anchor.



Department Council Election

Voting starts on the 23rd of May at 09:00 and ends on the 25th of May at 12:00.

The link to the digital vote will be posted [on this page](#). You can also find more info about the candidates and election there.

You can vote if you are a student, or if you fulfill the following requirements:

Temporary academic staff employed in a minimum 50% position for the coming 12 months, or staff that have been consecutively employed for at least 12 months.

- Gr. B (temporary staff) - [Please check if you are eligible to vote.](#)
- Gr. D - [Please check if you are eligible to vote.](#)

If you cannot find your name in the electoral register, please let us know by sending an e-mail to: valgstyret@uib.no

Faculty & Staff lunch

On Friday the 13th of May we had a wonderful lunch, and celebrated the 60th birthday, and 25th year of UiB-employment, of our own Jan Arne Telle.

Happy birthday, and may the next 60 years be as good as the first!



PhD Defence



Defence: Emmanuel Arrighi

Emmanuel Arrighi will defend his thesis "Order-Related Problems Parameterized by Width" on the 25th of May at 10:15 in Stort Auditorium, Høyteknologisenteret 2nd floor.

- Opponent: Associate Professor Ana Silva, Federal University of Ceará
- Opponent: Adjunct Professor Vinícius Fernandes dos Santos, Federal University of Minas Gerais
- Committee leader: Researcher, Professor Petr Golovach
- Leader of the defence: Associate Professor Anya Helene Bagge

Lecture by László Lovász - Graphs and Geometry



In this lecture, Professor László Lovász, Abel Prize Winner in 2021, will survey some forms of interplay between graph algorithms and geometry: algorithms for perfect graphs, maximum cut, connectivity, bandwidth.

The lecture starts at 14.00, on Tuesday 31st of May 2022 in VilVite - Nash Auditorium, Thormøhlens gate 51. [Read more.](#)



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN



"National Science Week (Forskningsdagene) takes place at the end of September every year. The festival presents a superb opportunity to showcase research in general and its impact on society.

The main topic for 2022 is "Ocean" (in Norwegian: "Hav"). This presents a superb opportunity to showcase research on deep ocean, polar research, biological processes, marine environment and ecosystem dynamics, the ocean environmental status and human health, regulation, resources and history of the oceans and its impact on human society. However, we also welcome other fields of research to present their research topics and projects during the festival."

[Read more and see available opportunities here.](#)



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.](#)

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).

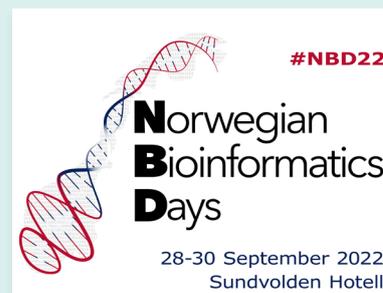
This meeting aims to gather people who work with bioinformatics in Norway for three days of research sharing and networking. Hear from several internationally interesting keynote speakers and get an insight into the supporting infrastructure and activities within bioinformatics and computational biology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

[Visit the website](#) 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!

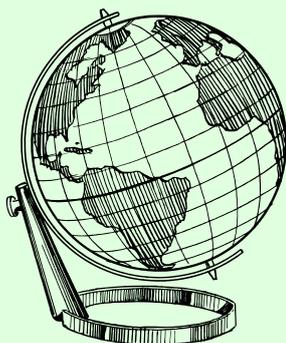
This meeting is a collaboration with Centre for Digital Life Norway, Elixir Norway, NORBIS, RSG-Norway, Computational Biology Unit (UiB), and many more.



International Newsletter

UiB has a newsletter made especially for internationals, where you can find useful tips and news about upcoming events.

If you have moved to Bergen from a different country, we highly recommend subscribing to the newsletter [here](#).



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 re-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.

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 postings:

[“Hvilke prioriteringer har denne regjeringen for norsk forskning?”](#)

[“En seilas som oppfyller flere mål – samtidig”](#)

Vacant positions

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – 3 positions

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 22.05.2022

Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics – Algorithms

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 15.05.2022

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – energy informatics, optimization and data science

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 31.05.2021

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics: Visual Data Science to Master Complex Simulation Ensembles

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 14.08.2022

Open science at UiB

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

[Introduction to DMP](#) 13.05.2022

[Open Access - step by step](#) 03.06.2022

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

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.



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 summer 2022. If so, RCN will publish this information on their website in due time.



New MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships:

“Fellowships will be provided to excellent [postdoctoral] researchers [with max. 8 years of research experience], undertaking international mobility either to or between EU Member States or Horizon Europe Associated Countries, as well as to non-associated Third Countries. Applications will be made jointly by the researcher and [the host organization]”. For more information, please visit [this website](#).

Application deadline: 14 September 2022

Please see below further information regarding a MSCA workshop organized by UiB.



Sabbatical: All at least 50%, permanently employed professors and associate professors can apply for a [sabbatical](#) and, if relevant, related travel funds.

Application deadline: 1 October 2022



New Aurora: “Researchers from Norway may seek support for [funding for short-term visits in France](#) for the purpose of launching and developing new joint research projects.”

Application deadline:
21 September 2022 (tentative date)

New Enabling technologies: The Research Council is planning to open a [call for Researcher Projects targeting technology development](#) across relevant research areas within enabling technologies.

In addition, there are plans to announce a [call for Collaborative Projects advancing technology development](#) across relevant research areas within enabling technologies, and which are addressing UN SDGs and large societal challenges. In collaborative projects, it is mandatory to actively include non-academic partners (work and budget).

Application deadline: 21 September 2022 (tentative date)



New SPIRE: [SPIRE-funds](#) are strategic funds to help facilitate international research collaboration. One can apply for funds in two different categories: 1) international research collaboration for developing grant applications, and 2) invitation of guest researchers. The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences has now announced a call to distribute the remaining funds for 2022. Please contact Stefanie Meyer for more information.

Application deadline (department): 3 June 2022; Please send your applications to Stefanie Meyer.

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA-CURIE ACTIONS

MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Applicant Workshop 2022

Online workshop for applicants for a Marie Curie Fellowship at UiB and their supervisors.



Welcome to Bergen! The University of Bergen campus is centrally located in Bergen. This is the University Museum of Bergen, Natural History building, located on campus. Photo: UiB

UiB offers “a training course on writing a competitive MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowship proposal for applicants interested in a fellowship with UiB. The course is open to applicants who fulfill the eligibility criteria and who have identified a potential UiB supervisor willing to support the application.”

Registration deadline: 12 June 2022 (noon)

Course date: 14 June 2022

For more information, please visit [this website](#).

“The International Artificial Intelligence in Bergen Research School 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.”

Dates: 7-11 June 2022

For more information, please visit [this website](#).



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!

Genetic epidemiology and genome-wide association analyses

Dates: May 30-June 3, 2022. **Location:** University of Bergen. **Course code:** GENESTAT-B. **Organizers:** Håkon K. Gjessing. **Lecturers:** Rolv Terje Lie (UiB), Anil Jugessur (UiB and FHI), Julia Romanowska (UiB), Øystein Haaland (UiB), Miriam Gjerdevik (FHI), Jon Bohlin (FHI), Yunsung Lee (UiB), Bjørn Olav Åsvold (NTNU), Siri Skodvin (FHI), Marc Vaudel (UiB). **Credits:** 4 ECTS. **Evaluation:** Take-home/written exam at the end of the course.

Short course description: The first part of the course will provide a broad overview of genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics, as well as an introduction to necessary software. The second part will cover genetic association analyses in detail: Designs, including case-family trios, case-control, time-to-event etc.; Data handling and basic quality control for candidate genes and Genome-wide association analyses (GWAS); data imputation, selection of informative (tagging) SNPs; Power simulations. Analyses: Basic associations analyses, control for population structure, haplotype reconstruction, risk response models; estimation of maternal gene effects and parent-of-origin effects; X-chromosome models. [More information and link to registration here.](#)

Statistical methods in relatedness and pedigree analysis

Dates: June 13-17, 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Organizers:** Magnus Dehli Vigeland. **Lecturers:** Magnus Dehli Vigeland, PhD (UiO), Thore Egeland, Professor (NMBU). **Credits:** 4 ECTS. **Evaluation:** The students will do a project after the course, delivering a written report within a month. The report will be marked as passed/not passed.

Short course description: The course introduces statistical methods used in relatedness and pedigree analysis, with applications in forensic genetics, medical genetics and pedigree reconstruction. The study of genetic relatedness and how genetic information flows in families, is central in a variety of important research fields, including medical genetics, forensics and animal breeding. The aim of this course is to introduce the students to the elegant concepts and results forming the theoretical foundation of genetic relatedness, and to present in some detail several modern applications. In the exercises we use R and the ped suite packages for pedigree analysis. [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.](#)

Logical modelling of (inter) cellular networks for biotechnology and personalised medicine

Dates: August 15-26, 2022. **Location:** NTNU. **Organizers:** Martin Kuiper. **Lecturers:** Denis Thieffry (ENS, Paris), Martin Kuiper (NTNU), Anna Niarakis (Université Paris-Saclay), Vincent Noël (Institut Curie), Laurence Calzone (Institut Curie), Pablo Rodríguez Mier (U Heidelberg), Aurélien Naldi (INRIA), Åsmund Flobak (NTNU), Astrid Lægreid (NTNU), Rune Nydal (NTNU), Eirini Tsirovouli (NTNU), John Zobolas (UIO). **Credits:** 7,5 ECTS. **Evaluation:** Each student will submit an individual report, in the form of an executable notebook, on which they will be assessed.

Short course description: This course will introduce students to the principles of Boolean mathematical modelling, using a variety of software tools and workflows to build, train and execute logical models for in silico experiments. Logical models of regulatory networks of cell lines or tissue samples can reliably represent these systems, as judged by their stable states and responses to perturbations, for instance simple or combinatorial drug treatments. The process to build such models, optimise their performance and analyse their behaviour involves a variety of tools and approaches that students will learn in a project-based manner. [More information and link to registration here.](#)