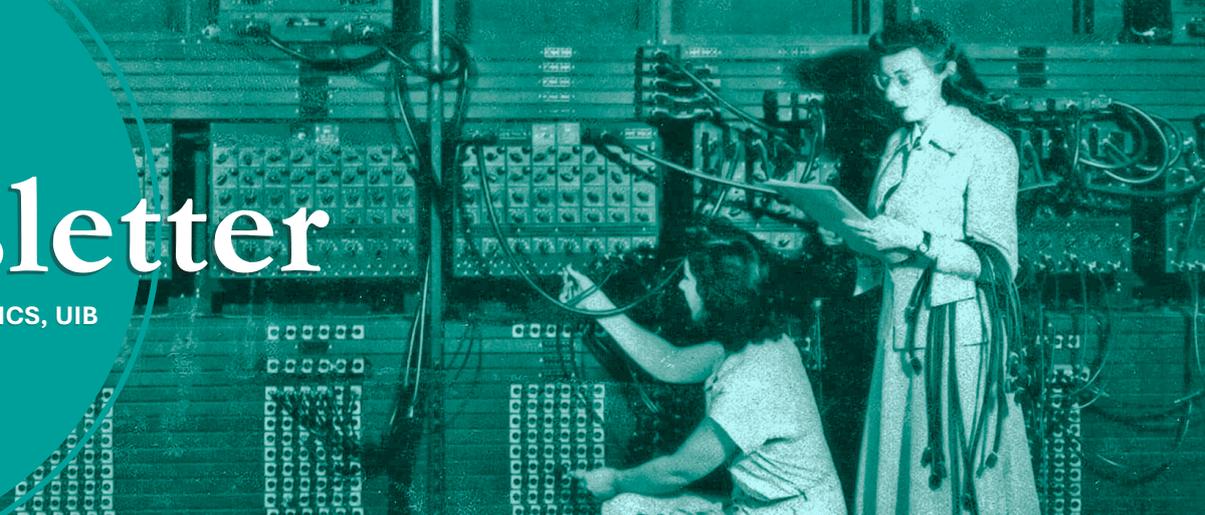


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
No.11/2022, 03.06.2022



Editor-in-chief: Inge Jonassen. Editor: Randi Heggernes Eilertsen.
Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.
Old newsletters can be found [here](#).

Dear Colleagues,

I write this from a hotel room in Washington DC where I am going to take part in a meeting organized by the Ministry of Education and Research and the Norwegian embassy here to discuss how we can increase collaboration in the area of artificial intelligence.

This is building on a memorandum of understanding between Norway and the US Department of Energy (“Collaboration on artificial intelligence and its applications to science, climate, energy and health”). NORA, the Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium, is playing a central role in this, and I am very happy that we are several researchers from UiB taking part in the meeting this week. I hope it will lead to initiatives benefiting our department and UiB and help strengthen our research and educational offers. It is important that we take part in discussions, typically happening in Oslo and Brussels, on research politics, priorities, and new funding initiatives.

An example of a process that we have been involved in lately relates to infrastructures for research data. Christine Stansberg, administrative coordinator for ELIXIR Norway, was a member of the group that in May

delivered a report which underlined the need to strengthen the support system enabling sharing and re-use of research data. This also relates to data science and artificial intelligence – since these are key techniques to produce value from the data.

I am very happy to hear that “Ryddedagen” on Wednesday went very well – that many engaged and that both offices and shared offices now are in a better state! It is important that we all try and contribute to a good and safe working environment. I also hope everybody enjoyed coming together both for the tidying and for the pizza afterwards!

As we are approaching the end of the semester, I know many are busy with exams and grad-ing. These are important both for the department and for the students and I appreciate all the efforts that go into this!

I wish you all a very nice (long) 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 postings:

- [“Hvor lang er en lang linje?”](#)
- [“Hvilke prioriteringer har denne regjeringen for norsk forskning?”](#)

Late spring cleaning!

Thanks to everyone who helped make our department tidier!

Remember that most of the facilities are available year-round, and no one will judge you for taking time out of your day to improve your surroundings.





So long,
redundant
archive cabinets
and hazardous
chairs!

Current Issues

Short overview of upcoming department events:

13 June	Faculty and Staff lunch, in Skogen (4th floor)
TBA	Department seminar: "Why are some exams gender biased? A discussion of INF100 results"

Department Board Election



The results are in: Mikhail Barash is the new department council member representing temporary staff in teaching and research positions!

The selected deputy representatives are:

- 1: Knut Anders Stokke
- 2: Sondre Bolland
- 3: Kenneth Langedal

(Editor's note: I was going to include photos of all the deputies, but was unable to do so as they hadn't updated their UiB profile pages. I am not saying this cost them the election, I'm just saying we can't rule it out.)

The new council members representing the students are Henrik Trondseth and Karina Elinborg Jonasdottir Strømme, with deputies 1: Vegard Jensløyken 2: Kjersti Aslesen 3: Henrik Olsen Eide 4: Jørn Lode

[Event] Opportunities for career outside academia



Date: 23 June 2022. Registration by 15 June.

“PhD candidates are invited to a day of insight into industry competence needs and industrial research projects, by cluster coordinators and companies. The candidates will meet industry leaders within Media, Energy, Seafood, Ocean Technologies, Fin-tech, Proptech, health and public sector.”

[Read more and register here.](#)



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

Welcome, new colleagues!



Mohit Pal

Mohit has just started a postdoctoral position at the Selmer centre, connected to the BoolTI project “Cryptographic Boolean Functions for Threshold Implementations”.

Mohit is from India and has done his PhD at the Indian Institute of Technology Jammu.

Welcome to the team, Mohit!

There are two new PhDs in town...



Congratulations, Emmanuel Arrighi!

Emmanuel successfully defended his thesis “Order-Related Problems Parameterized by Width” on the 25th of May.

Congratulations, Emmanuel!



Congratulations, Wrya Karim Kadir!

Wrya successfully defended his thesis “Decoding and constructions of codes in rank and Hamming metric” on the 27th of May.

Congratulations, Wrya!

[Contest] FishAI: Sustainable Commercial Fishing

Would you like to participate in a dataset competition focused on developing sustainable commercial fishing practices with the help of artificial intelligence?

We invite you to take a deep dive into the datasets we have made available and transform them into a powerful decision-making tool for the Captains of the 1100 vessels operating across the Norwegian fishing zone!

The winning team will receive a one-year start-up membership at NCE Seafood, mentorship and support with commercialization, support and practical help with soft-funding (up to NOK 100.000), and access to a pre-seed funding network and support.

[Read more about the competition and register your team.](#)



Research Stay with the Alan Turing Institute

«The Alan Turing Institute is the national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, with headquarters at the British Library. Recently we [NORA] have signed a MoU with the Turing Institute to work closely to foster research cooperation.

We at NORA are collaborating with the Alan Turing Institute, UK to support two researchers from Norway to stay for six months at the institute every year under the Enrichment Scheme offered by the Alan Turing Institute. This research exchange is with the objective of giving Norwegian researchers exposure to a world class AI environment and improve collaboration between UK and Norway.

This exchange is for (early to mid stage) PhDs with a working contract at one of the NORA partners at the time of the exchange. NORA would financially support your stay up to 50,000 NOK per student during the enrichment scheme. In addition NORA would also be covering the cost towards your position at the Turing Institute, which will be directly paid to the Turing Institute.

The application will pass two steps: First, the NORA office will shortlist your application, then Alan Turing Institute will confirm your participation.

[Submit your application here.](#)

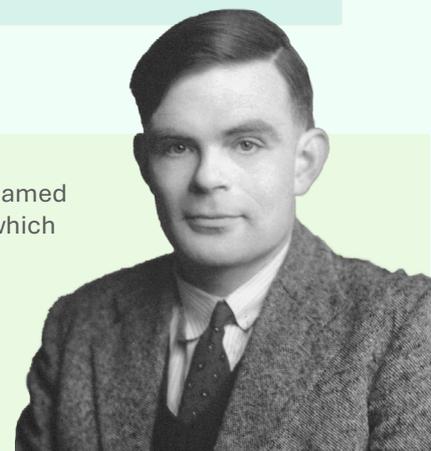
Last date to submit your application: 30 June 2022

Join us for an Info Session (using zoom) on 7th June, 1:30 - 2:30 PM and interact with the Turing Enrichment Scheme Team. [Meeting link here.](#)

Editor's Turing Trivia...

After the war Alan Turing visited Norway, amongst other places, and met a man from Bergen named "Kjell". When Turing tried to meet up with him in the UK, it led to increased police scrutiny, which Turing referred to as *the Kjell crisis* in a note to colleague and friend Robin Gandy:

"At one stage police over the N. of England were out searching for him, especially in Wilmslow, Manchester, Newcastle etc. I will tell you all one day. He is now back in Bergen without my even seeing him!" – Hodges, Andrew, (1983) *Alan Turing: The Enigma* p. 608-209



Invitation: Norwegian Bioinformatics Days 2022

Dear everyone,

We invite you to present talks and posters at Norwegian Bioinformatics Days 2022 taking place September 28-30, 2022, at Sundvolden Hotel (~one hour drive from Oslo).

To submit an abstract for an oral presentation and/or poster and for more information, [use this link](#).

Abstract submission deadline: **31 July 2022**

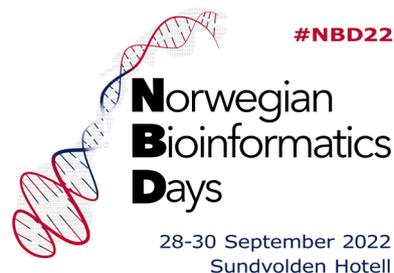
[Visit the website](#) and sign up for updates if you haven't yet.

Registration coming soon.

Please help us spread the word in your networks.

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

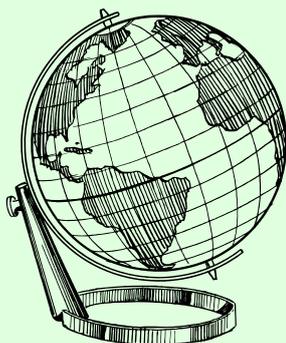
- The NBD Organizing team



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.



“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.

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



FAIR Data Management in Life Sciences

Learn key concepts about how to make life sciences data Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, and Reusable for your research management.

14-16 June 2022 | Virtual

Organised by: ELIXIR-NORWAY

In collaboration with: **BioMedData**



[\(Read more about the course\)](#)

Invitation: Collegial Teaching and Learning in STEM Education

“Collegial Teaching and Learning in STEM Education is an elective teaching and learning course in higher education offered by bioCEED to all MN-UiB and UNIS¹ staff².

The course is given in English and requires no previous pedagogical training and welcomes both experienced and more novice teachers and staff. On completion of the course, you will receive a diploma that states the content and extent of the course (5 ECTS), which corresponds to three weeks full-time work.

This course will count as part of the basic pedagogical competence requirement at UiB/ UNIS.“

[Read more.](#)



Vacant positions

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – AI and Algorithms

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 06.08.2022

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Cryptology (up to 3 positions)

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 12.06.2022

Research assistant (20%) at the Department of Informatics

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 14.06.2022

Senior Engineer/Chief Engineer (DevOps system administrator)

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 19.06.2022

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics - Knowledge Representation and Machine Learning

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 20.06.2022

Researcher in Informatics - Formalization of Algorithms in Proof Assistants

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 30.06.2022

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

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

Upcoming Funding Opportunities



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)



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

UiB is organizing an info workshop on 14 June 2022. [Registration](#) deadline is 12 June (noon).



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



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 Åsgard: “Norske og franske forskere og personer som arbeider med innovasjon, kommersialisering og forskningsadministrasjon kan søke om [støtte til et ukelangt opphold i Norge eller Frankrike](#) for å møte forskningspartnere, besøke forsknings-sentre eller bedrifter og få informasjon om finansieringsordninger.”

Application deadline: 31 January 2023 (tentative date)

New Collaborative projects - notification of an **upcoming call**: “The purpose of this call is to develop new knowledge and generate research competence needed by society or the business sector to address important societal challenges.”

Application deadline: 15 February 2023
(tentative date)



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

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.

ERC ecosystem turns ideas into business opportunities

High risk ideas that can pay dividends in business can be difficult to find and even harder to nurture until they are mature and ready to prototype, test and adopt.

The ERC programme has proven over the years to have a good eye for business, even though it's focus is purely on excellent research ideas regardless of application.

World renowned experts have awarded over 10,000 ERC grants to people for excellence in their field, and groundbreaking ambitions for their research project.

ERC grant holders are proven high achievers with a [recent report](#) finding 80% of ERC projects have produced scientific breakthroughs or major advances.

It is less well known that a growing number of these projects reach beyond academia. They form new ecosystems connecting industry with practical opportunities to turn ideas nurtured by the ERC into new successful products and services.

The report found that almost half of ERC projects are already impacting:

- the economy
- society
- policy making.

In addition, around two thirds are expected to make this impact in the medium to long term.

Source: UKRI Blog post on [Groundbreaking EU research programme creates ecosystems for new business](#)

Preparing for your next Horizon Europe proposal

Suitable for both scientific and administrative staff who want to learn more about practical creativity, Horizon Europe and developing research proposals. Please note that this is an internal UiB course, and is only open to UiB employees.

Participants will get an overview of:

- How to take advantage of past and current projects funded by the EU Commission to think outside the box?
- How to navigate Horizon Europe - Pillar II to find relevant 'Call to Action'?
- How to write the core concept of a research proposal?

UiB Opp

UPCOMING COURSES

For admin. support staff: [10.06.22](#)

For scientific staff: [17.06.22](#)

Additional courses autumn 2022 will be announced

Website: [UiB Opp Horizon proposals](#)

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!

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 Tsirvouli (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.](#)

