Dear colleagues,

I really enjoyed the gathering many of you joined at Voss last week! It was very inspiring to see the group presentations, to discuss the educational programs – and more! We used the opportunity when we were so many together to do our “Health, safety and environment” (HSE) meeting and I am impressed by all the good ideas and suggestions that came in through the “paddle”. Yesterday, the administration and I went through these and they will also be discussed at the group contact meeting today. It is too early to conclude on specific suggestions, but I feel pretty sure that we will pick up and implement some of the ideas.

Several “paddle entries” expressed a wish for more activities across groups – and I think we should do this more in this direction. At the same time, it is also worth reminding everybody about some facilities and offerings we already have – and that are open to everybody at the department. This includes a table tennis table located on the third floor, the yoga sessions on Wednesdays, Department seminars and speed talks on Thursdays, fruit baskets twice a week, the cake club, our faculty lunches etc.

There are also many activities organized by the students and by individual research groups that are open for cross-group participation. Most of our research groups organize seminars and social activities and would often welcome students and staff from other groups. We need easy ways to spread information about events and activities across the department. A good solution would also make it easier to initiate spontaneous (or planned) hikes, knitting nights etc – for staff and students wishing to do things together with colleagues sharing the same interests. We will find solutions for this stimulating more cross-group contact and potentially also more cross-group collaboration!

I wish you all a fantastic weekend!

Inge
The Dean’s Blog – Gunn Mangerud

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

Her latest postings:

- Nå har regjeringen muligheten til å vise at de satser på toppforskning
- Fakultet – det er dere
- Slik mener styret vårt at vi kan bli fremragende innenfor disiplinene

Welcome new colleagues

**Dian Li**
Dian is our new PhD student in Sequence Design for Wireless Communication at the Selmer center. His main supervisor is Chunlei Li.

The position is connected to the project “IKTPLUSS for data ubiquitous data service” and financed by the Research Council of Norway.

Dian is from China. He did his Master's in Master Basic Mathematics at the Hubei University, Faculty of Mathematics and Statistics in 2019.

**Thomas Stautland**
Thomas is our new PhD student in bioinformatics at the CBU. Eivind Valen is his main supervisor.

Thomas is Norwegian. He finished his Master’s in Bioinformatics at our department this semester.

**Markus Hittmeir**
Markus Hittmeir will stay in Bergen as our guest researcher for the upcoming year and will collaborate with Prof. Igor Semaev from the Selmer Center.

Markus studied Mathematics and Philosophy at the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg. In 2018, he received a doctoral degree for his dissertation *On the Complexity of Integer Factorization and Related Problems*. Since then, he is a senior researcher at SBA Research in Vienna. Markus is interested in algorithmic problems in number theory and related applications in cryptography. Moreover, he works on data analysis and anonymization techniques, and currently leads a research project concerned with the mitigation of privacy risks on microbiome data.

In his free time, Markus likes to write short stories and essays and plays board games and poker. He also enjoys hiking with his wife Sarah and their dog Darvin.

Current Issues

**På Høyden - Khrono** – **News from NFR** – **News from UiB** – **Informatics on Facebook**

**Open house at the University Museum**
A memorable anniversary week is coming to an end. On Saturday the celebrations will conclude with an Open House at the University Museum.

- Two new exhibitions will open, and unique treats from our collections will be shown. Both the Natural and Cultural history collections will be open.
- In the fantastic Tårnsalen, the Faculty of Fine art, Music and Design will unfold itself through art and music.
- Six fascinating lectures will take place on an hourly basis in the University aula, representing the broad range of our university.

Open 10-17. Admission is free. Read more on [uib.no/en/75år](http://uib.no/en/75år)
All Meeting on November 4: Nygårdshøyden Sør (NGHS)
The NHGS is a big campus project involving refurbishing of Realfagbygget and the Physics building and also a new building, Allégaten 64, where our department will be moving into in 2030. Here you can learn more about the project.

We now welcome all Department of Informatics employees to an All Meeting:
**Thursday 4th November**
12:00-13:10
**Stort auditorium, Datablokken 2nd floor.**
Lunch will be served 😊

In this all meeting, our representatives in the user groups will give short presentations and thereafter open for questions, inputs and discussion from you, the audience.

Our department is represented in the user groups as follows:
- Central user group: Inge Jonassen and Linda Vagtskjold
- Learning areas: Noeska Smit
- Workplaces: Pål Grønås Drange
- Common area and interaction, incl. outdoor areas: Marta Eide

After the meeting, you will all be invited to give your inputs also in a survey. The outcome of both the inputs from the all meeting and the survey will be useful for the user groups representatives in the continuation of their important work.

Please welcome this chance to have your voices heard in the planning of our future building and campus facilities – you should all come to this meeting and respond to the survey! And, as already mentioned: it includes a free lunch 😊

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Christmas Party at Scandic Ørnen on December 16 – the registration is open!

**REMEmber our nice Christmas parties AT ØRnen?**
**Join in also this year!!**
**December 16, 19:00-23:00**
**Registration deadline: November 25**

**Please register here by November 25**
Reminder: Name contest for internal seminar rooms!
We are currently working on a new booking system for our internal seminar rooms with both online booking and touch screens. We are aiming to finalize the job within this year and start up with the new system in January 2022.

Before starting the new booking system, we would like to challenge you to participate in a contest to name all the rooms. It may be something memorable, distinctive, following a theme and/or system or the like – all good suggestions are most welcome!

The winner(s) will be chosen by a committee of Stanislav, Stefanie, David and Linda, and there will be a prize for the winner(s) 😊 Please send your suggestions here. Deadline: 1st November

PhD updates

Picture report from the ICT Research School 2021 Annual Meeting
The Annual Meeting 2021 was held at Flåm from 7-8 October. Apart from the group photo the rest of the photos are from a team building activity where teams were asked to build paper towers, and the highest tower standing after the time ends wins.
There's a new PhD in town - Congratulations John Petter Indrøy!

John Petter successfully defended his thesis "Selected Topics in Cryptanalysis of Symmetric Ciphers on 27th October.

Congratulations to John Petter, Simula UiB and supervisors Håvard Raddum, Carlos Cid and Øyvind Ytrehus.

Here you can learn more about his project

ICT PhD forum: Funding landscape for PhD students, November 10
The next meeting of the ICT PhD forum will be held 10:15 on the 10th of November. All PhD students at the department are welcome (and encouraged) to join. Stefanie Meyer will give an overview of what the different funding opportunities available to us and she will say a few words about why it is important to apply to these grants.

The meeting will be physical at HiB but the exact location has yet to be decided. In addition to the talk, there will be time set aside for mingling at the end of the meeting.

Warm regards from the organizers,
Sophie, Laura and Erlend

NORBIS courses:

Metabolic pathway analysis
**Dates:** November 29 – December 3. **Location:** NTNU, Trondheim
This course will provide an introduction to the computational analysis and reconstruction of both small and genome-scale metabolic networks. The goal is to make students familiar with state-of-the-art computational tools and databases, as well as providing the students with hands-on experience. Furthermore, we will cover the mathematical basis of constraint-based analysis of genome-scale metabolic models and provide a foundation for stability and control analysis of dynamic models. [More information and registration here](#).

Modern methods for analyzing survival and time to event data – imb9335
**Dates:** December 6-10, 2021. **Location:** Domus Medica, Runde Auditorium, University of Oslo
The analysis of survival data and other types of time-to-event data are central in modern medical research and a number of other fields. A large number of methods for analysing time-to-event data have been developed, but many researchers have no knowledge of survival analysis, or they only know the most basic methods. The aim of the course is to give PhD-students and other researchers in biostatistics, bioinformatics, epidemiology, and related fields an up-to-date overview of statistical methodology for analyzing time-to-event data. [More information and registration here](#).
Short report from the 7th Annual NORBIS Conference

This year we were happy to arrange our 7th Annual Norbis Conference at Sola Strand Hotel in Stavanger the 27-28th of October. About 40 PhD students, postdocs, supervisors, board and SAB members gathered for two days of student talks, keynote lectures, poster session and a transferable skills session where the focus was on motivation during your PhD by psychologist Jan-Martin Berge. A total of 12 PhD students and postdocs gave talks, providing a good view into their research projects, and 14 posters with good discussions were presented during the poster session. Professor Jan Hasenauer from Bonn university gave the first keynote lecture “Improving mechanistic modelling using machine learning algorithms” by zoom and professor Lars Martin Jakt from Nord University gave the second keynote lecture “Evolution of vertebrate intron size”. We thank everyone who joined us and made this meeting a good experience! And hope to see you all next year!

We have the following list of courses coming up. Please visit our webpage https://norbis.w.uib.no for details. The spring courses will be open for registration shortly.

- **Bioinformatics for functional multi-omics**, November 1-5, 2021 at NMBU by Philip Pope. THE COURSE IS FULL AND HAVE A WAITING LIST.
- **Modern methods for analyzing survival and time to event data**, 4-10 December, 2021 by Morten Valberg at UiO.
- **Statistical methods in relatedness and pedigree analysis**, January 10-14, 2022 at University of Oslo by Magnus Dehli Vigeland
- **Population genomics**, February 21-25 , 2022 at North University by Joost Raeymaekers
- **High Performance Computing in Bioinformatics**, 14-25 Mach 2022 (tentative) at UiO by Torbjørn Rognes
- **Collaborative Research Software Development**, two weeks in June 2022 at UiB by David Grelsheid
- **Genome sequencing technologies, assembly, variant calling and statistical genomics**, Week 42 with exam in week 47, 2022 (tentative) at UiO by Torbjørn Rognes
- **MOL8008 - Bioinformatics Methods for next Generation Sequencing Analysis**, 3-7 October, project November 2022(tentative) at NTNU by Morten Beck Rye
- **Prediction (in molecular biology)**, Postponed due to Covid-19 regulations, at the University of Oslo, by Manuela Zucknick
**Department seminar, 4 November**

Each year, the Research Council of Norway (RCN) has a call for Researcher Projects, inviting researchers from all fields to apply for funding to deliver new insights, advance research frontiers, promote scientific careers, establish and broaden international cooperation, facilitate excellent researcher training and more. With a deadline on 2 February 2022, researchers can apply in one of the following categories: Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal, Researcher Project for Young Research Talents, or Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility. All of these calls come with a different set of (eligibility) requirements. During the seminar, we will go through the main characteristics of each call and make you aware of the most important specificities. We will finish the seminar with a Q&A session with successful grantees, [Professor Lilya Budaghyan](https://rantonse.no/en) (Selmer Center), [Researcher Mateus de Oliveira Oliveira](https://rantonse.no/en) (Algorithms), [Professor Tom Michiel](https://rantonse.no/en) (Computational Biology Unit), and [Professor Susanna Röblitz](https://rantonse.no/en) (Computational Biology Unit).

The seminar will be hosted by [Stefanie Meyer](https://rantonse.no/en), research coordinator at the Department of Informatics. Stefanie has worked as a research advisor for third funding for the past 6 years and has a broad overview over different local, national, and international funding bodies (including RCN, Trond Mohn Foundation, ERC, Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions).

Please find the web announcement here.

**Department seminar, 11 November**

For the seminar Thursday 11th of November, in Big Auditorium at 12:45 we are lucky to have [Roger Antonsen](https://rantonse.no/en) from the Department of Informatics at the University of Oslo.

He is maybe the most well-known Norwegian speaker on mathematical topics, see e.g. [https://rantonse.no/en/talks](https://rantonse.no/en/talks)

Title: “Visualizing and Exploring Mathematical Spaces with Programming”

Please come - all are welcome!

**NORA Annual Conference, 17-18 November**

Register for the first inaugural NORA Annual Conference 2021. [Register for the conference now!](https://rantonse.no/en)

We are thrilled to announce the launch of the first Norwegian Artificial Intelligence Research Consortium Conference (NORA) Annual Conference, which will take place at Grand Bergen, November 17th and 18th, 2021!

The conference aims to gather the Norwegian research community within the field of Artificial Intelligence and create a platform where invited speakers and participants can share research, ideas, theories, models and new perspectives, and interact with peers from the field. Knowledge sharing and interaction will be at the center of the conference, which will in turn foster a strong community of researchers and practitioners, while bridging the gap between young researchers, startups and industry.
The fifth SDG Conference Bergen, 9-11 February 2022

The annual national SDG Conference Bergen was initiated by the University of Bergen and the annual event is planned in dialogue with the other Norwegian universities, the Ministry of Education and Research, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of Local Government and Modernisation.

For more information about the conference in 2022, please visit the dedicated event website.

Publishing Open Access and Data Management Plans

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. Uib’s policy for Open Science can be found by following the link. Furthermore, UIB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don’t even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department’s research coordinator Stefanie Meyer.

Data Management Plans

A data management plan, or DMP, is a formal document that outlines how research data are handled throughout the whole project life cycle – including the planning phase, the operational phase, and project conclusion – as well as beyond the lifetime of the project. DMPs are a key component of Open Science practices, where the overall principle is that research data should be “as open as possible, as closed as necessary”.

UiB has its own Open Science policy, where it is stated that all research projects led by UIB researchers shall have a DMP. For externally funded projects, also the funding agency’s Open Science principles and DMP requirements have to be followed.

In principle, project leaders should strive to manage their research data according to the FAIR principle. FAIR means that research data have to be findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

The exact content of a data management plan will vary according to research field and type of project. It is important to determine what “research data” actually entails. The University of Bergen Library (UB) has included some comments regarding this on their website, showing that both entirely new data and data generated through the analysis of existing
data (secondary data) need to be described. Analysis software/program code created in the research process could also be relevant to consider. Special rules apply to sensitive data.

For more details and guidance, please have a look at UB’s website on Data Management Plans (DMPs). Here you can find information on what should be included in a DMP, how to write it, where one can get support when developing it, upcoming training events and a list of links to several online tools that can help you to structure your DMP.

Useful courses for handling of research data
The goal of the University of Bergen is that data resulting from research activity should be made readily available for reuse in accordance with FAIR-principles. UiB Library Research Support offers following courses to help meet these requirements:

**Data management Plan**
The Norwegian Research Council and Horizon 2020 require projects to submit a data management plan (DMP). A data management plan describes how data in a research project will be collected, processed and made available.

The courses «Introduction to DMP” and “DMP workshop” give you a short introduction to what a data management plan is, why you need it, and how to write one. In the workshops you will have the opportunity to work on your own DMP using a digital DMP tool, and then share your DMP with other participants and get feedback from peers and experts on your own DMP.

- November 12th at 10:00-14:00 (introduction to DMP + workshop). [Read more](#). [Sign up here](#).

**Finding & re-using research data**
Sharing and re-using quality-assured research data is considered good scientific practice. Re-using existing datasets as secondary data avoids unnecessary duplication of efforts and can inspire new avenues of research.

For example, new questions or methods can be applied to a dataset, or data from different studies or disciplines can be integrated. In this course you will learn how you can use existing datasets as a resource for your research. The course consists of three short modules, and you can participate in either or all of the modules.

- November 26th at 09:30-12:00. Sign up [here](#).

Upcoming funding opportunities
On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over upcoming funding opportunities on its website for research support services. Please inform research coordinator Stefanie Meyer about all planned and ongoing funding applications! This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator! At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:

**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.

**SPIRE.** SPIRE-funds are strategic funds that shall help to facilitate international research collaboration. One can apply for funds in two different categories: 1) proposal support, and 2) invitation of guest researchers. **Application deadline: 1 December 2021.**

**Meltzer Research Fund.** Researchers* at the University of Bergen can apply for financial support for academic travels and sabbaticals. In addition, the fund supports talented students and PhD cand. with project stipends that can be used for covering costs in connection with their projects, for example research travel, field work, equipment, materials etc. **Application deadline: 1 December 2021. Database is now open!** *Please also have a look at UiB's website.

**ERC.** Call deadlines for the 2022 calls are:
- **Synergy Grant ’22,** 10 November 2021
- **Starting Grant ’22,** 13 January 2022
- **Consolidat. Grant ’22,** 17 March 2022
- **Advanced Grant ’22,** 28 April 2022

**ERC funding explained:** Watch the ERC’s instructional videos.

**ERC reading days at UiB:** On the Reading Day you will get the opportunity to read successful ERC grant proposals in order to see how a proposal might be structured. **Event (in Bergen): 3 November 2021 (2 sessions). Registration deadline: 31 October 2021.**

**Collaborative Project to Meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges.** The Research Council of Norway has issued a preliminary call “to develop new knowledge and generate research competence needed by society or the business sector to address important societal challenges. The projects are to encourage and support collaboration between research organisations and stakeholders from outside the research sector that represent societal and/or industry-related needs for knowledge and research competence.” Projects are required to include at least two Norwegian partners from the non-academic sector. “The partners from the business sector or other parts of society must participate actively in the project. At least 10 per cent of the project’s total costs must be used by these partners.” **Application deadline: 9 February 2022.**

**Søkerwebinar: Forskerprosjekt.** Webinaret holdes på norsk. Forskningsrådet vil gi informasjon om forskerprosjektutlysninger som har frist 2. februar 2022. **Webinar: 25 November 2021. Registration is open.**

**Webinar for applicants: Researcher projects.** This webinar will be held in English and targets those who want to apply for a researcher project (deadline 2 February 2021). **Webinar: 7 December 2021. Registration is open.**

**ERC.** Call deadlines for the 2022 calls are:
- **Synergy Grant ’22,** 10 November 2021
- **Starting Grant ’22,** 13 January 2022
- **Consolidat. Grant ’22,** 17 March 2022
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**Vacant positions**

**SEAS postdoctoral research fellow in topological and geometric machine learning for marine sustainability**

**Simula UiB: Call for PhD student in Cryptography**
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 07.11.2021.

**Postdoctoral Research Fellow position within Informatics - Symbolic Algorithms**
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 14.11.2021.

**PhD Research Fellow in Informatics - Symbolic Algorithms**
Please find the full announcement here. Closing date: 14.11.2021.

**HR – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) – Welfare**

Employees welfare benefits - Credit card UiB – Fire extinguishing courses – Reporting Deviations

**Fire prevention course autumn 2021**

All UiB Employees must complete a fire prevention course which consists of a digital part, and a practical part on how to put out fires. This is required by law.

The digital part of the course will be sent to all participants by email. It takes approximately 30 minutes to complete. Employees are required to sign up for the practical part of the course themselves. You can do this by following the link to the form for your preferred date and time below (Note: the forms are in Norwegian).

The practical course takes 1 hour to complete. Place of assembly is the square between Sjøfartsmuseet and Sydnesplass 7 (the HF-building).

UiB have hired Teknisk Industrivern AS to hold our fire prevention courses.

More information, course dates and sign up here.
Welcome to the cake club (Kakeklubben) on Wednesdays!

Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with people across group borders. Club meetings are held on Wednesdays at 12 o’clock in Akvariet, 4th floor.

You bring your own lunch, and we serve cake and coffee. Everyone is welcome, no matter how much Norwegian you speak. We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!

Welcome to Yoga on Wednesdays!

Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work. Yoga classes are held at our department on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 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!