Dear colleagues,

This time of year, it is time for "appraisal interviews" (or as I like to call them, "coworker conversations", a more direct translation of the Norwegian term medarbeidersamtale). There are good descriptions online about the purpose and formats of such interviews (see eg https://cp.compendia.no/universitetet-i-bergen/employee-handbook/70363).

Personally, I have found coworker conversations very useful and good opportunities to talk about topics that we normally do not have time to discuss during the normal busy work days. From my experience “at both sides of the table”, I find it an opportunity to reflect on what has been achieved over the last year(s) and to plan towards the future and discuss career objectives.

As Head of department, I have now started on a rather long series of coworker conversations, I appreciate this chance of getting to know each of you better. And I hope and think such interviews can help in promoting career and personal development. So, if you have an upcoming coworker conversation with me, or somebody else, please see this as an opportunity for a good conversation and an opportunity to discuss future ambitions, ideas for adjustments of the way we do things etc.

On another note: I just got a piece of news that reflects the popularity of our studies: Pål shared with me the application numbers for uptake to master programs at UiB from next spring – and more than a third of the applications are for our master program (although it should be noted that not all master programs take up new students in the spring semester).

I would also like to wish everybody (although a bit too late) a happy Diwali!

Wishing you a very nice weekend!

-Inge
Congratulations colleagues!

Congratulations Magne on 40 years of employment at the UiB!

Happy 50th Birthday, Kjell!

Welcome new colleagues!

**Maryam Yousefian**
Maryam is our new PhD student in Informatics - Computational Biology and Mathematical Modelling/Numerical Methods in the bioinformatics research group and CBU. Susanna Röblitz will be her main supervisor.

She will be working on stochastic gene regulatory networks. Many of these networks are multistable, which means that there exist several preferred states corresponding to a particular cell phenotype. Cells are intrinsically noisy biochemical reactors, and spontaneous stochastic transitions between different phenotypes underlie diversification of otherwise identical cell-populations. She will contribute to the development and implementation of algorithms for the simulation of stochastic phenotype switching in single cells and in cell populations. She will use the methods to investigate events that control the differentiation of individual cells and to answer the question how a population of cells affects the dynamics with its own feedback signaling. Together with collaboration partners from the US and Germany, we will try to shed light on the polarization of macrophages, a type of highly versatile immune cells which, depending on external signaling cues, differentiate into multiple phenotypes.

Maryam is Iranian. She did her Master's in Telecommunications at the Tabriz university, Faculty for Electrical and computer engineering in 2019.

**Nadiia Ichanska**
Nadiia is our new Research Assistant (Vit.ass) for 6 months in the Selmer center, working mainly with Lilya and Nikolay.

She will assist in finding new constructions of APN and AB functions; investigating invariants and efficient approaches for testing various notions of equivalence between two given vectorial Boolean functions; classifying and analyzing empirical data obtained from computational methods; and, possibly, others. This will involve mathematical investigations of various structures and constructions and, possibly, the application of computational methods. She will also be involved in updating and revising the Encyclopedia, as well as to expand the Encyclopedia with new topics, and to perform quality control on the contents.

Nadiia is from Ukraine. She finished her Master’s in Algebra and Information Security at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv in 2021.
**Enrico Piccione**  
Enrico is our new PhD student in Informatics – Cryptography, connected to the BoolTI project “Cryptographic Boolean Functions for Threshold Implementations”, financed by the Research Council of Norway. He will be working with the Selmer group and Lily will be his main supervisor.

Enrico will be studying Boolean functions used as building blocks in cryptographic ciphers and their Threshold Implementations in order to find efficient ways of preventing Side Channel Attacks.

Enrico is Italian. He finished his Master’s in Mathematics, n Symmetric Cryptography at the University of Padua in 2021.

**Eirik Herfindal**  
Eirik is our new research assistant (50% for two years) connected to CEDAS.

Eirik will help with the operation of the center, including development work. Tasks include: Participate in research administrative work at CEDAS Organize internal meetings, networking activities, conferences and the like. Dissemination and communication of results and center activities on websites and in social media. Practical tasks related to brand building Contribute to writing the center's annual report, including literature search and review. Contribute to mapping the center's research activities in a national and international context.

Eirik is Norwegian. He holds a Bachelor's in Digital Culture from the UiB and started this semester on his Master within the same field.

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

**Short overview of upcoming department events**

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<td>November 18</td>
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**Survey regarding Nygårdshøyden Sør and new building** [The NGHS website](#)  
Thanks to everybody who took part in the meeting last week and for the input you provided then!

As we said during the meeting, now is the first opportunity to come with ideas and input for the planning of the new building in Allegaten 64 that we will move into in a few years.

**Please take a couple of minutes and fill in this survey**

Great if you can provide your input through the survey within a week, at latest November 15th.

Thanks for your help!
Christmas Party at Scandic Ørnen on December 16 – the registration is still 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

PhD updates

There's a new PhD in town - Congratulations Chaoran Fan!

Chaoran successfully defended his thesis "Improving Interaction in Visual Analytics using Machine Learning" on 5th November.

Congratulations to Chaoran, the Visualization group and supervisor Helwig Hauser!

Here you can learn more about his project

PhD defense - Asieh Abolpour Mofrad

Asieh will defend her thesis "Clique-Based Neural Associative Memories" on 15th November at 15:00 on Zoom.

• Opponent: Associate Professor Vincent Gripon, IMT-Atlantique
• Opponent: Associate Professor Pulkit Grover, Carnegie-Mellon University
• Committee member: Professor Kjell Jørgen Hole, Simula UiB
• Leader of the defense: Associate Professor Martin Vatshelle

Please find the press release here

All are welcome!
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](#).

We have several courses coming up in 2022 and two of them are now open for registration! For the full list of upcoming courses, please visit our webpage. [Hurry up if you like to join any the following courses](#):

**Statistical methods in relatedness and pedigree analysis**
**Dates:** 10th-14th January 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Organizer:** Magnus Dehli Vigeland. **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. **Lecturers:** Magnus Dehli Vigeland, PhD (UiO) and Thore Egeland, Professor (NMBU)
**Short description:** The course introduces statistical methods used in relatedness and pedigree analysis, with applications in forensic genetics, medical genetics and pedigree reconstruction. [More information and registration here](#).

**Population genomics**
**Dates:** 28th February-4th March, 2022. **Location:** North University, Bodo.
**Course responsible:** Joost Raeymaekers. **Lecturers:** Joost Raeymaekers, Lars Martin Jakt, Irina Smolina, Alexander Jüterbock, Britta Meyer, Mark Ravinet, Emiliano Trucchi, Oscar Gaggiotti, Bart Peeters, Anja Westram, Costas Sagonas. **Credits:** 5 ECTS. **Evaluation:** The evaluation will be report-based. The students will analyze a population genomic dataset (preferably their own data or data related to their own research topic), interpret and write a report. The students deliver the report within a month after the end of the course.
**Short description:** This course brings together an international collection of lecturers and course participants to study techniques for the analysis of population genomic data. The course consists of a series of lectures, demonstrations and computer laboratories that cover theory and practice of population genomics analyses. [More information and external link to registration here](#).

Research, Science and Seminars [ScienceNorway.no - forskning.no](#)

**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.
"Causal reasoning and Boolean minimisation"

A panel talk with Michael C. Baumgartner and Sjur Kristoffer Dyrkolbotn.

There is no consensus on how to formalise causal reasoning. However, the notion of minimality is widely regarded as being of critical importance.

In this roundtable seminar, we discuss causal reasoning and minimality in the Boolean setting. The idea that reasoning about causality requires minimisation raises interesting conceptual and algorithmic questions in this setting. While early attempts at formalisation rely on the Quine-McCluskey algorithm for Boolean minimisation, subsequent work by Professor Baumgartner and others demonstrate that we need a more refined and – it would appear – computationally heavy notion of minimality when reasoning about causality, also for the Boolean case at the type level. This could have important implications beyond the Boolean setting, for structural equations modelling of token causality, formalised legal reasoning, and reasoning about causality in machine learning.

The speakers:

Sjur Kristoffer Dyrkolbotn - Western Norway University of Applied Sciences
Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering

Michael C. Baumgartner - University of Bergen
Professor at the Department of Philosophy

Link to web announcement
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](#).

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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.

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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:

**Finding & reusing 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.

**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.

**Researcher projects.** The RCN has published preliminary calls for Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal, Researcher Projects for Young Talents, and Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility. Application deadline: 2 February 2022.

**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. *Please also have a look at UiB’s website.

**ERC.** Call deadlines for the 2022 calls are:
- 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.
Vacant positions

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.

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 (you can apply for up to 200,000 NOK per application), and 2) invitation of guest researchers. Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no Application deadline: 1 December 2021.

Young CAS Fellow. “The aim of the programme is to support outstanding younger researchers by giving them the opportunity to build independent research networks and gain experience as research leaders.” Application deadline: 9 December 2021.


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.

Need help?
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.

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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.

Defibrillator and first aid course on November 22

Please sign up for the defibrillator and first aid course here at the department on 22nd November at 13:00-16:00.

Sign up asap to: Marta.Lopez@uib.no

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 Naess, 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!