Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
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Editor-in-chief: Inge Jonassen. Editor: Randi Heggernes Eilertsen. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome. Old newsletters can be found here.

Dear Colleagues,

We are approaching the end of the term and a well-deserved holiday. It is a time to reflect on what has happened over the last year and to think about the coming year and our priorities for it. I have the pleasure of having coworker conversations/appraisal interviews with many of you, giving me an opportunity to reflect on this along with each of you. It gives me insight into how each of you experience your daily work, to learn about your research efforts and priorities as well as efforts into teaching and supervision – and much more. It is a privilege to have so many smart and hardworking colleagues making their best efforts for the advancement of science, the department – and our students.

Over the last year, there has been a lot of attention on AI (artificial intelligence) and how it affects our students, assessment methods, the sciences, work life and society. This topic is being discussed around dinner tables, at workplaces, at all levels of our educational system, and in politics. Informatics plays a special role in AI in developing the algorithms and methods underlying AI and for Norway to use AI in a good way it is crucial that informatics research and education is strengthened. This is a critical part of the foundation needed to lift competence across sciences and professions. I believe there is a growing understanding of this also in the government and hope to see it reflected in the digitalisation strategy that is under development, and in increased investments in basic research and higher education in our fields.

The Research Council of Norway (RCN) is playing an important role through advising the government and directing investments into research and innovation in Norway. Yesterday the new RCN portfolio boards were announced. I am happy to say that a well-known professor of algorithms from UiB, Pinar Heggernes, is leading the new board for enabling technologies (including ICT and bio- and nano-technology), and also that I am part of the new board for ground-breaking research (banebrytende forskning) in charge of the FRIPRO and SFF programs across all fields. It is important for us that UiB and our discipline are represented in the RCN, and I am looking forward to working in this role – for the best of Norwegian science in the coming years.

I wish you all a very nice 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 posts:

- Tanker etter allmøterunden
- Nye statsråder og forslag til statsbudsjett

Greetings from...

Brussels: ELIXIR's tenth birthday

"Celebrating ELIXIR's tenth birthday! It has developed into one of the greatest and most recognized research infrastructures in Europe! Great to meet up with old colleagues and friends - and looking forward to the next 10 years!

Thanks to Nikolas Blomberg - the first director of ELIXIR! Here with Heads of Nodes for Norway and Sweden (Sushma Grellscheid and Bengt Persson) - and yours truly." - Inge

Denver: SC23

"Getting ready for the Fortran Template (generics) tutorial in the DoE Booth at SC23 in Denver: Magne Haveraaen (UiB), Brad Richardson (LBL), Tom Clune (NASA), Damian Rouson (LBL), Ondřej Čertík (GSI Technology, lead developer of LFortran). LFortran has a prototype implementation of Fortran Templates." - Magne

Secret santas return

Three unidentified individuals have been spotted roaming the department hallways in what has been described as a Christmas-styled chocolate peddling situation.

Last year, only two suspects were caught engaging in the candy-based activity, meaning there has been a 50% increase over the last year. The department looks at this with grave concern: “If this trend continues, there will be over 50 people meandering outside our offices by Christmas 2030”, says one staff member, who wishes to stay anonymous due to safety concerns. “I simply cannot receive that much Christmas cheer and still get my job done.”

At press time, several of the cocoa-based products had been devoured.

Secret santas spotted in 2022

PhD updates

There’s a new PhD in town...

Congratulations, Hans Heum!

Depending on when you read this, Hans is either currently defending, or has defended his thesis ”Cryptology in the Crowd” today, the 8th of December.

Congratulations, Hans!

Upcoming PhD defences...

Nidhi Purohit

Nidhi Purohit is defending her thesis ”Multivariate Analysis of Clustering Problems with Constraints” on the 14th of December from 10:00 to 12:00 in Stort Auditorium (2nd floor, Datablokken in Høyteknologisenteret).

Read the announcement: Nidhi Purohit

Phillippe Samer

Phillippe Samer is defending his thesis ”Polyhedra and algorithms for problems bridging notions of connectivity and independence” on the 21st of December from 13:15 to 16:00 in Stort Auditorium (2nd floor, Datablokken in Høyteknologisenteret).

Read the announcement: Phillippe Samer

Current Issues

Holiday

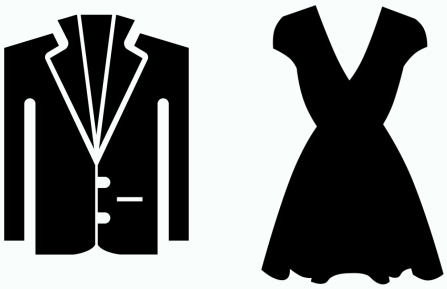
2024 is imminent! Whether you are planning to spend the rest of your 2023 vacation days under the sun or in the snow, **there is one thing you must do immediately: Register your remaining vacation days for 2023 in Selvbetjeningsportalen!** It is a requirement that everyone register their vacation, and it is the general rule that all vacation days have to be taken out within the calendar year.

Not certain when you wish to take some days off? **Register them now anyway** (you can change the dates later) and avoid risking that someone else decides when you’re taking your holiday. You will also avoid follow-up via emails and visits from the administration.

If you have any vacation days left, you must register them before December is over!

Further information on how to register holiday can be found here (in Norwegian):Universitetet i Bergen :: Medarbeiderhåndbok :: ferie (compendia.no).

If you have any questions regarding holiday or how to register this in Selvbetjeningsportalen, you are welcome to ask your local HR contact, Karoline Skudal Christiansen.



Party time

There will not be a Lønningspils next week, but there will be pils...

If you have signed up: We will see you at the Christmas dinner party at Grand Hotel Terminus on Friday the 15th at 19:00!

Dress code: Festive/Black tie

If you didn't sign up: You can still join the afterparty at Programmerbar (1st floor student bar) from 23:10!

UiB julekonsert

UiB is inviting all staff to the annual Christmas concert, featuring SYMRE with a band of Grieg Academy alumni. The concert will be held in The University Aula on the 14th of December from 12:00 to 12:40.

The concert is free, but has limited capacity, so be there early to secure a spot. There will be gløgg and ginger bread for the first 200 people.

Velkommen til NOKUT-konferansen 2024: Kvalitet i klemme

NOKUT inviterer til konferanse 8. februar 2024, og nå er påmeldingen i gang.

Tema for konferansen er hvordan høyskoler, universiteter og norske myndigheter jobber med utdanningskvalitet, og hva som kan gjøres for å legge bedre til rette for kvalitetsutvikling.

Tid og sted: 8. februar 2024, Hotell Bristol

Arrangementet kan også strømmes.

Lenke til program og påmelding:
https://www.nokut.no/konferansen2024

Du får høre fra blant andre forsknings- og høyere utdanningsminister **Sandra Borch**, riksrevisor **Karl Eirik Schjøtt-Pedersen** og professor **Jeroen Huismann** fra Ghent University, i tillegg til ledere og fagmiljø ved norske høyere utdanningsinstitusjoner.

Velkommen til en spennende dag hvor utdanningskvalitet og utvikling har hovedrollen.

NOKUT

career center for early stage researchers

UiB Ferd Career Centre supports doctoral candidates, postdoctoral fellows, researchers and associate professors. We offer a range of services designed to help you develop your career within or beyond the university.

You can sign up for the UiB Ferd newsletter here.

22.01.24: GIS Workshop (Workshop)
Registration deadline: 19.01.2024 at 12:00

30.01.24 GIS Workshop (Workshop)
Registration deadline: 19.01.2024 at 12:00

The UiB University Library and its Digital Lab offer a wide range of interesting courses and events – please find more information in the calendar.

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.

You can also follow the International Centre calendar to find events that are of particular interest to international staff and students.

Erasmus+ staff mobility for training

All employees at the University of Bergen can receive a grant for a mobility to an institution, organization or university in Europe through Erasmus+.

Contact the administration or your group leader if you wish to travel on an Erasmus staff training. The application must come from the head of the department/faculty or leader, and should be sent to Erasmus institutional coordinator, Division of Student and Academic Affairs in ePhorte. Expenses that are not covered by the Erasmus grant must be covered by the department/faculty/unit or other funding sources.

UiB has two applications deadlines a year: September 15th and January 20th.

Read more about Erasmus+ staff mobility

Vacant positions

- MSCA SEAS postdoctoral research fellow in informatics for marine sustainability

See all open positions at UiB

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

Please contact research coordinator Stefanie Meyer if you plan to apply. All applications need to be approved by the department leadership before submission. By following the link, you can find out more about our research support services.

Forskningsrådet

FRIPRO: The Research Council of Norway has published information about the current FRIPRO (groundbreaking research) calls on their website.

- Researcher Project for Experienced Scientists (FRIPRO)
- Researcher Project for Early Career Scientists (FRIPRO)
- Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility (FRIPRO)

Application deadline: open-ended

Nansenfondet: "Ordningen består av seks stiftelser som har et felles styre og som forvaltes etter de samme reglene. [...] I samsvar med de enkelte fonds vedtekter kan det søkes om midler til blant annet drift, forskningsutstyr, faglige reiser og vitenskapelig assistanse. Innen realfag og medisin prioriteres vanligvis støtte til drift og mindre utstyrsenheter. Det forutsettes at prosjektleder eller veileder søker for sin forskningsgruppe."

Application deadline: 15 January 2024

Meltzer, University Fund and more: If you are looking for seed funding for travels, sabbaticals, events, and more, then please have a look at the Application portal for Funds and Bequests. At our department, the most commonly used funding schemes are:

- ***Bergen University Fund***: dissemination and publication of research results, hosting of scientific conferences and workshops etc.
- ***L. Meltzer's Research Fund, Project grant***: for students and PhD candidates, support for academic projects (e.g., project development, fieldwork, equipment, materials, etc.)
- ***L. Meltzer's Research Fund, Academic activities at the University of Bergen***: applications in two categories – A) Sabbaticals (only for those who have been granted a sabbatical by the department leadership), B) Scientific Trips and Activities (incl. scientific trips, organization of events, research funds/small operating funds that support research)
- ***Det alminnelige naturvitenskapelige forskningsfond ved Universitetet i Bergen***: research and other scientific activities at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences (UiB)

Application deadline: 12 January 2024

New **UArctic:** "The University of the Arctic (UArctic) call is now open for applications for networking projects in Arctic research and education. [...] The main applicant and project lead institution need to be a UArctic member. [...] The funding is targeted to support new cooperative projects on networking activities related to Arctic research and education, across all fields of science. [...] Projects can have a maximum duration of two years within the timeframe 1 September 2024 to 31 August 2026." For further information, please contact Stefanie Meyer.

Application deadline: 15 February 2024

New **Research Stay with Alan Turing Institute 2024:** NORA is collaborating with the Alan Turing Institute, the UK's national institute for data science and artificial intelligence, to support two researchers from its network partners to stay for six months at the institute.

Deadline: 17 January 2024 at Midday BST

Forskningsrådet

Researcher projects (thematic calls): The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about researcher project calls for early career scientists, experienced scientists and large interdisciplinary projects for a variety of pre-defined topics.

Application deadline: 6 March 2024 (tentative)

Peder Sather: "The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from eight Norwegian universities. [...] Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities."

Application deadline: 1 April 2024

Event News

New ***NORA Annual Conference 2024***

"The NORA Annual Conference is an annual event that 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." Save the date (3-4 June 2024, Kristiansand, Norway)!

New ***SCAI'24 - The 14th Scandinavian Conference on AI***

"The 14th Scandinavian Conference on AI (SCAI'24) [10-11 June 2024, Jönköping, Sweden] invites researchers and industry practitioners working on all facets of AI to submit their research. Organised as a joint venture by the Swedish AI Society (SAIS) and Norwegian AI Society (NAIS), the event invites researchers from all over the world to participate in ongoing discussions." Submission deadline: 2024-03-22. Registration deadline: 2024-05-12.

NORBIS activities

Courses open for registration!

Metabolic pathway analysis

Time: February 19th to March 1st, 2024. Please note that the course is two weeks.

Place: University of Bergen, Department of biomedicine

Course responsible: Ines Heiland, Mathias Ziegler, and Suraj Sharma

Invited lecturers: Sascha Schäuble, HKI, Jena Germany

Suggested amount of ECTS: 10

Number of participants: max 20

Registration form: **HERE** **Registration deadline: February 1st**

Course description

This course will provide an introduction to the computational analysis and reconstruction of both small and genome-scale metabolic networks. The main goal is to familiarize students with relevant state-of-the-art computational tools and databases, as well as to provide the students with hands-on experience in metabolic modelling approaches. 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.

Link to course site: https://norbis.w.uib.no/metabolic-pathway-analysis-2/

Microbial comparative genomics

– phylogenetics, genome sequencing, genome annotation, antimicrobial resistance, comparative genomics

Time: April 8-12, 2024

Place: University of Bergen, Computational Biology Unit

Course responsible: Anagha Joshi and Tom Michoel

Invited lecturers: Dr. Grigorios Amoutzias, Marios Nikolaidis

Suggested amount of ECTS: 5

Number of participants: Max. 20

Registration form: **Here** **Registration deadline: March 8th.**

Course description

The course will be given over a week (5 days Monday-Friday) with lectures (34 hours including discussions) in the mornings and practical hands-on sessions in the afternoons. On the last day there

will be a summing-up session where the students can provide feedback. The students will receive a reading list before the course and are expected to prepare well for the course. The students will do a project after the course and deliver a report within two weeks after finishing the course. Students must bring a laptop running a UNIX-Like operating system (any flavor of Linux, UNIX or Mac) to the course and will receive software installation instructions along with the reading list.

Link to course site: https://norbis.w.uib.no/sequence-analysi…arative-genomics/

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATE!

Workshop: Comparing genomes: Genome assembly and annotation, and hypothesis testing in comparative genomics.

Time: 1-5 April, 2024

Location: University of Oslo or University of Bergen

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO), Ole Tørrensen (UiO)

Workshop description: In this workshop, we will cover the technical principles of genome assembly, annotation, and genome comparison. We will explore the techniques related to genome sequencing, the software and strategies used for genome assembly and annotation. Following that, we will delve into comparative genomics, focusing on fundamental concepts such as genomic structural features (transposable elements, genes, centromeres), orthologs, and functional characterization of genes. Through this, participants will gain the necessary skills to test hypotheses in the field of comparative genomics.

For more information, visit our workshop website: https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/workshops/

Workshop: Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph

Time: April/May 2024

Location: Drøbak Research Station (Tollboden)

Workshop responsible: José Cerca (UiO) and Ole Kristian Tørresen (UiO)

Workshop description: The Genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graph workshop (GARG'w) is a comprehensive 3-day program designed to introduce participants to the fascinating world of population genomics and how recombination events shape genomes. This hands-on workshop will focus on utilizing the tskitenvironment, a powerful tool for simulating and analyzing genomic data (whole-genome resequencing data), to explore and understand complex inheritance patterns within populations. Join us for this immersive 3-day workshop to gain valuable skills and insights into the world of genealogies and Ancestral Recombination Graphics using tskit. Unlock the secrets hidden in genetic data and discover the historical events that have shaped the genetic ancestry of species and populations.

In addition we have soft skills courses available that are organized with other national research schools. Please visit https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/transferable-skills/ for more information.

Travel funding from NORBIS

Are you NORBIS member and in need funding to go to an international course or conference? NORBIS are happy to announce that we have a limited fund available for travel for our members for these activities. If you like to know more, please visit our website: https://norbis.w.uib.no/travel-funding-f...-and-conferences/

Funding for arranging courses and workshops

Do you have a course you like to organize under the NORBIS umbrella but in need of funding? Our call for courses is open now: https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/proposals/

For more information, please see our webpage: https://norbis.w.uib.no