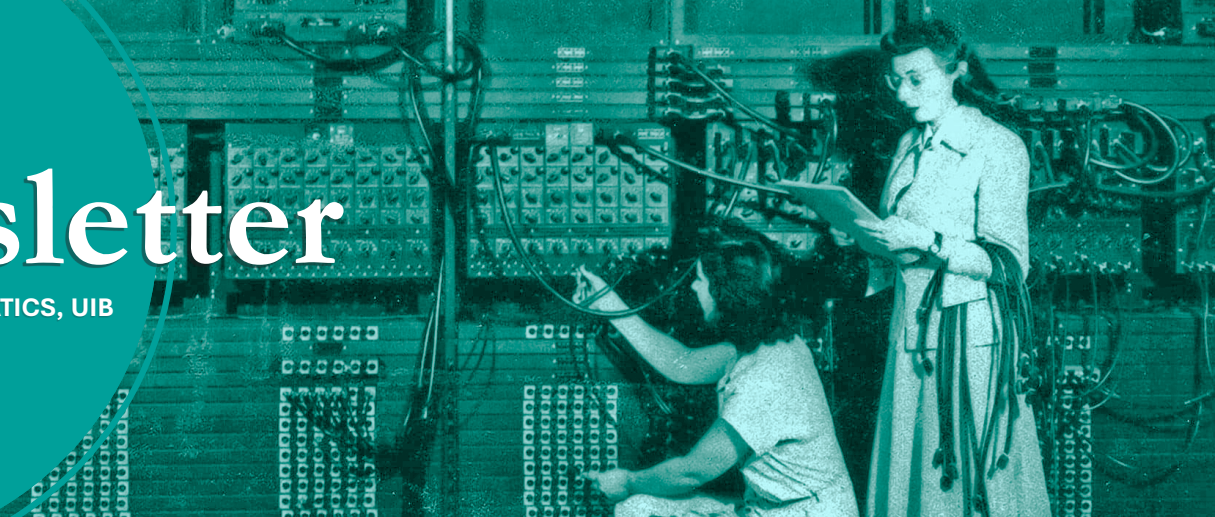


# Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UiB

No.06/2023, 24.03.2023



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,

In the last editorial I wrote about centers and labs hosted by our department. I briefly also mentioned [ELIXIR Norway](#) that is a national research infrastructure with total staff of around 40. The infrastructure is part of the pan-European research infrastructure [ELIXIR](#), an ESFRI Landmark. Quoting from its web page, “ELIXIR unites Europe’s leading life science organisations in managing and safeguarding the increasing volume of data being generated by publicly funded research.”

ELIXIR Norway is one of the most well-established research infrastructures in Norway. It is the result of 20 years of substantial investments both from UiB and the other partners and from the Research Council of Norway, amounting to more than 300MNOK from the NFR. The continuation of this activity is important for Norwegian life science research, as well as for CBU and our department. Research infrastructures are long-term investments.

ELIXIR is playing a central role in enabling FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, reusable) data sharing for life science data. FAIR data is also Fully AI Ready – and a crucial input to bioinformatics, modern molecular biology and biomedical research. Engaging in ELIXIR gives CBU groups, and potentially other groups at Informatics, a competitive advantage in getting access to data and collaborations – and to new funding sources. Also, operating ELIXIR gives our department an active applied software development and DevOps environment – and associated potential for research and education collaboration with other groups at the department.

When I took over as Head of department, I handed over leadership of both CBU and ELIXIR Norway to other group leaders at CBU. Sushma Grellscheid took over the leadership of ELIXIR Norway. The staff at UiB linked with ELIXIR Norway are employed at our

department, currently counting around 10 researchers and technical / administrative staff. Sushma is a group leader at CBU and has until recently been professor at Department of Biosciences (BIO). Her position is currently funded by the Trond Mohn Foundation (TMS) and from later this year, the faculty will fund the position – first in full and from 2026 in part.

Since ELIXIR Norway is important for Department of Informatics, we have had discussions with BIO and the faculty, and decided to transfer Sushma’s position to the Department of Informatics from March this year.

This will make it easier, both for her and our department, to manage and support the projects - and not the least the staff associated with ELIXIR Norway. This will also make it easier for us to support recruitment of new projects to fund the continued operation of ELIXIR Norway.

Sushma has had an excellent start in her new role as Head of ELIXIR Norway – she is for example at the moment involved in four ELIXIR-linked EU funding applications. Sushma also performs fundamental research and is these days starting up a FRIPRO project she got funded in 2022.

I hope you join me in wishing Sushma welcome to our department!

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:

- [Strategi 2023-2030 – et realfaglig kraftsentrum](#)
- [Et godt resultat for 2022 må inspirere til fortsatt godt arbeid, ikke bli en hvilepute.](#)

### ”Stor entusiasme hos Bergens næringsliv for Nygårdshøyden sør”

A big meeting with UiB and the Bergen Chamber of Commerce and Industry was held this week at VilVite, where the topic was [Nygårdshøyden south](#).

Nygårdshøyden south is the name of a new building that will be built as a new hotspot for technology, mathematics and natural science in Bergen. This will be our department's future home.

[Read the full article here \(in Norwegian\).](#)



Alex: ELIXIR er en del av Europa-nettverket, men hva er det ELIXIR Norge fokuserer på?

### Film star alert!

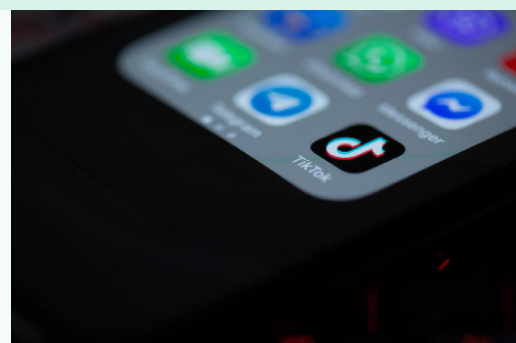
The Norwegian Digitalisation Agency has posted a video about ELIXIR Norway and the Genome Data Initiative, which features several familiar faces.

[See our new film stars here.](#)

### UiB advise against TikTok and Telegram

UiB follows the recommendations of the Norwegian National Security Authority (NSM) with regard to the use of TikTok and Telegram, and advises against installing these applications on work devices.

[Read the full news item here.](#)



# PhD updates



**There's a new PhD in town...**

**Congratulations, Cosimo Damiano Persia!**

Cosimo successfully defended his thesis, "Learning Possibilistic Logic Theories", on the 15<sup>th</sup> of March.

Congratulations, Cosimo!

## Welcome, new colleagues!



**Sarah Sharif Hordvik**

This week, Sarah has joined our study section. Sarah already has administrative experience in higher education, having worked as a consultant at both Norges Handelshøyskole (NHH) and at UiB's Department of Archaeology, History, Cultural Studies and Religion. Presumably she was tired of typing out that whole department name, so now we get to have her instead.

Welcome, Sarah!

# Current Issues



## HSE-round 2023

An HSE round is a physical review of the premises, equipment and working methods in order to chart the risks of illness, injury and damage to personnel, the environment and materials, and to assess the need for measures to be taken. Conditions of importance for fire safety and the external environment must also be assessed. Examples of this may be faults and defects in furniture and equipment, noise nuisance, deficiencies in lighting, reduced air quality, heat, untidiness and lack of cleanliness, and blocked emergency exits.

This year, the HSE round at our department will be conducted as follows:

2<sup>nd</sup> floor, Selmer group: April 28 at 09:00-11:00

3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Algo and Vis groups: April 14 at 13:00-15:00

4<sup>th</sup> floor, Opt, PUT, Didactics groups and adm: April 14 at 09:00-11:00

5<sup>th</sup> floor, CBU: April 20 at 13:00-15:00

6<sup>th</sup> floor, ML group: April 28 at 09:00-11:00

We, safety delegate Stefanie Meyer, and Linda Vagtskjold are very much looking forward to visit you on our upcoming HSE-round!

## Lesson of the day...

### Ordering food from Sammen

If you are ordering food from the Sammen cafeteria, you **have to** send the order to the administration expedition (currently may-lill. helgesen@uib.no) saying what you want, where you want it, when you want it and which budget will be paying for it. If May-Lill is not at work, send it to Anna Kornienko. This must be done at least two days before delivery.



### Bad news for sneaky parkers

Previously, the area between Thormøhlensgate 55 and Thormøhlensgate 53 A-B-C-D has been a "free zone" for parking cars. This has led to a lot of non-UiB related parking. From this week forward, this is now a restricted parking zone, which means you will have to get a permit from UiB in order to not get a fine.

[Read more about parking at UiB](#)

# Department of Informatics gathering 2023

## Department of Informatics gathering 2023

Dear employees of the Department of informatics, group leaders of CBU, emeriti and members of the main board of Echo:

As announced in the previous department newsletter, it is a pleasure to invite you to this year's department gathering at Voss, Scandic Hotel on April 17-18.

Please register here [Department of Informatics Gathering 2023 \(uib.no\)](https://uib.no) by March 28. Below is the tentative program, subject to minor adjustments:

### 17th of April:

08:29 Train leaves Bergen station  
09:43 Arrival at Voss, Scandic Hotel  
10:10 Welcome – outline of program  
10:20 Short about EVALMIT  
10:30 Strategy for the department – presentation and discussion  
11:30 Lunch  
12:30 EVALMIT research group strategy assessment – 10 minutes presentation for each group  
14:10 Break  
14:30 Continuation: Panel discussion with group presenters in panel.  
15:15 Break  
15:30 Research funding – Stefanie's pitch  
16:00 Kunnskapsløftet 2020 - All new students already know programming: a talk by Sondre Bolland  
16:30 End of program day 1  
19:00 Dinner

### 18th of April:

09:00 Education/Teaching: Fredrik's corner  
10:30 Break  
11:00 HSE-seminar: GenderACT and local action plan – introduction  
11:30 Inspirational talk by Knut Liestøl  
12:00 Group work to develop survey questions  
12:45 End note  
13:00 Lunch  
14:06 Train leaves Voss station  
15:26 Arrival in Bergen

Please join in for a nice time at the wonderful Voss together with your awesome colleagues

Best regards,  
Inge & Linda 😊





PhD students wanted:

**PhD student in Zero-Knowledge Proofs - Deadline: 31.03.2023**

**PhD student in Symmetric-key Cryptography**

## Reminder: Guest routine

Inviting and hosting guest researchers is a natural and welcomed part of our academic work. It is still crucial to act according to our routines and procedures when planning to invite a guest.

If you are inviting a guest researcher to our department, you must now follow the new guest routine found [here](#).



## Forskningsdagene 2023

Forskningsdagene (National science week) is a national yearly science festival, which this year will be 20.09 – 01.10. The purpose of the festival is to spread understanding and excitement around science, and this year's main theme is "Energy".

Read about the festival and ways you can participate [here](#).

## Kunnskapseplet: COVID-19 and immunosuppressive treatment in Multiple Sclerosis - what have we learned?

[20.04.2023 - 14.15–15.00 at the MatNat library](#)

MS (multiple sclerosis) is an autoimmune disease that affects young adults and causes damage to the central nervous system. Around 13,000 people live with the disease in Norway today. There is no curative treatment, but immunosuppressive drugs have in recent decades given a far better prognosis than before, and made it possible to live with the disease with less loss of function. During the Covid-19 pandemic, the question arose: Are patients on immunosuppressive treatment at greater risk of serious infection than others? And does vaccination work optimally? Medical doctor and research fellow Hilde Marie Torgauten (Haukeland University Hospital) has investigated just this and will tell you about the preliminary results from her research. The talk will be held in Norwegian.

The event will last about 45 minutes. Coffee/tea and biscuits will be served (please bring your own cup!). Everyone is welcome!





## UiB Ferd

“UiB Ferd supports early stage researchers in their career development”

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.](#)

## 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.



## Open Science Seminars Spring 2023

The UiB University Library continues its popular Open Science seminar series in spring 2023 with a number of webinars on Research Data Management and Scholarly Communication:

How to make your data open & FAIR [March 31<sup>st</sup>](#) and [May 26<sup>th</sup> \(in Norwegian\)](#)

Open Access publishing step-by-step [April 14<sup>th</sup>](#)

Finding & reusing research data [April 28<sup>th</sup>](#)

Data Management Planning WORKSHOP [May 12<sup>th</sup>](#)

Introduction to Data Management Plans [May 12<sup>th</sup>](#)

## Vacant positions

[PhD Research Fellow in Informatics: Visual Data Science to Master Complex Simulation Ensembles](#)

[PhD Research Fellow in informatics \(optimization\)](#)

[PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – 3 positions](#)

[Researcher in Informatics – \(SAT-Solving\)](#)

[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](#).



**UiB idé:** [UiB idé](#) gives employees and students the opportunity to apply for support to test and develop good innovation ideas. The maximum funding amount is NOK 500,000 for researcher projects, and NOK 100,000 for student projects.

**New** Application deadline: 30 April 2023



## **Bergen Faculty Exchange program:**

Scientific staff and PhD candidates can apply to UiB for [research stays](#) at the University of Washington (UW), and the Memorial University of Newfoundland (MUN).

Application deadline: open-ended



**MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships:** “The goal of [MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships](#) is to enhance the creative and innovative potential of researchers holding a PhD and who wish to acquire new skills through advanced training, international, inter-sectoral and interdisciplinary mobility.” This scheme follows strict mobility rules. Applicants should have a PhD degree at the time of the deadline for applications, and must have no more than eight years experience in research.

Application deadline (tentative): 13 September 2023




**CAS project:** The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) invites researchers to pursue excellent, fundamental, curiosity-driven research in Oslo for one academic year. Assemble your international dream team of prominent researchers and apply for [a research stay at CAS](#).

Faculty members who hold permanent, full-time, tenured academic positions at CAS' partner institutions in Norway are eligible to apply. The applicants will function as project leader and will assemble and lead their research group at CAS.

Application deadline: October 2023

**In case there are many applicants, the department may need to prioritize. We therefore ask everyone who wants to apply, to let us know latest by 1 September 2023!**



## Horizon Europe News

We encourage all our groups to look carefully at the work programs for 2023-2024 and identify relevant topics. For questions, please do not hesitate to contact Stefanie Meyer.

**05.09.2023**

[Digital twin for forecasting of power production to wind energy demand](#)

**23.11.2023**

[Security of robust AI systems](#)

**19.03.2024**

[Fundamentals of Software Engineering](#)

**19.03.2024**

[Explainable and Robust AI \(AI Data and Robotics Partnership\)](#)

**05.09.2024**

[Critical technologies for the future ocean energy farms](#)

**20.11.2024**

[Post-quantum cryptography transition](#)

You can find all work programs here: [Horizon Europe Reference Documents](#)



## Event News

### **New** *MSCA Postdoctoral Fellowships - Webinar*

Are you looking for a postdoctoral period abroad? Or are you a foreign researcher planning your application for a Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions Postdoctoral Fellowship (PF) at a Norwegian host institution? Or you may be a potential supervisor for a MSCA postdoctoral fellow at your lab or institute?

MSCA PF provides funding for excellent researchers with 0-8 years research experience after the PhD degree.

In this webinar the Norwegian National Contact Points will outline the requirements for the 2023 call, with a deadline 13. September 2023. You'll also hear from a researcher who got funding for her project a few years ago.

**Webinar: 26 April 2023.** [Registration](#) deadline: 24 April 2023

### **New** *Online COST Info Day*

This online [COST Info Day](#) is open to all researchers and innovators at any career stage and from any field of research, especially young researchers, as well as R&I staff. The aim is to inform researchers and innovators about how to connect with COST Actions or submit a COST Action proposal, the role and impact of the COST programme, and the benefits of participating in COST for researchers' careers, with a focus on young researchers.

For organisational reasons, registration through the webpage is necessary to receive the meeting link.

**Webinar: 24 May 2023**

### **New** *ERC Proposal Reading Day*

The Research Council of Norway organises "ERC Proposal Reading Days" for researchers who are planning an application to the European Research Council (ERC). On the Reading Day you get the opportunity to read successful ERC grant proposals and see how a proposal can be structured. More than 60 Norwegian ERC-grantees have kindly given their consent to make their proposal available for the reading day.

**Next event in Bergen: 18 April 2023** ([morning](#) and [afternoon](#) session)  
Registration deadline: 10 April 2023

# NORBIS activities

## Collaborative courses open for registration:

### Workshop for aspiring supervisors.

This course aims to prepare young researchers to be supervisors either at an early supervisor stage or before entering the role and is tailored for young researchers in biotechnology. This three-day intensive course aims to prepare young researchers to be supervisors either at an early supervisor stage or before entering the role. It is tailored for young researchers in biotechnology and will consist of lectures, group work, and discussions. The course is organized by the Digital Life Norway Research School.

**Time and place:** Apr. 12, 2023–Apr. 14, 2023, [Valberg Slektsgård](#) outside of Trondheim.

Maximum 20 participants.

Registration is directly through DLN research school web page. [Click here for more information and registration.](#)

NORBIS will fund our members to participate and it is first come, first serve. For this course, both PhD students and posdocs are eligible to receive travel funding. To obtain the funding, both PhD students and postdocs have to send a verification of attendance and travel budget including tickets to [contact-norbis@uib.no](mailto:contact-norbis@uib.no). NORBIS will cover the overnight stay for the course, and this expense is not needed for the budget, only your travel to Trondheim. You can receive up to NOK 2500 for the round trip (travelling to/from Tromsø and Bodø allows for a higher limit), and if you cannot find tickets within our rates, please explain this in your application. Take care of the environment and travel by train whenever possible.

## Machine Learning in Medical Bioinformatics

**This course is organized by MedBioInfo and open for NORBIS members. The course is given on site in Linköping.**

**Dates:** May 8-12, 2023

**Organizers:** Björn Wallner at Linköping University

**Registration:** [OPEN](#). The registration is limited to NORBIS members only and PhD students have priority.

**Registration deadline:** April 1st, 2023.

**Practical information**



The workshop will consist of a mix between research talks, the theory behind the research, and actually applying the theory yourself in practical exercises. Topics discussed during the workshop: Unsupervised and supervised learning. Various machine learning techniques, ranging from linear models, support vector machines, random forests, neural networks, and deep neural networks. Please note there is a per-assignment that has to be completed before the course.

**Link to course:** <https://norbis.w.uib.no/machine-learning...bioinformatics-4/>

## **SMED8020 Genetic Epidemiology**

Date: 22-26 May

Location: NTNU

Number of places: 18

Course responsible: Ben Brumpton

Lecturers: Kristian Hveem, Maiken Gabrielsen, Frank Skorpen, Rebecka Hjort, Marta Moksnes, Therese Haugdal Nøst, Laxmi Bhatta, Nicole Warrington

**Registration deadline: April 20th, 2023.**

For more information and registration: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/smed8020-genetic-epidemiology/>

## **Courses that soon will open for registrations:**

- **Bioinformatics for DNA metabarcoding and long-read amplicon data**, 17-21 April at UiO. Course responsible is Håvard Kauserud.

## **SAVE THE DATE!**

CEDAS and NORBIS are joining forces and will co-arrange this year's summer school! Are you considering joining the summer school? Then please fill out our survey here and you can help us shaping the summer school: <https://forms.gle/6TW9Yvwc4yfQy23k8>

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