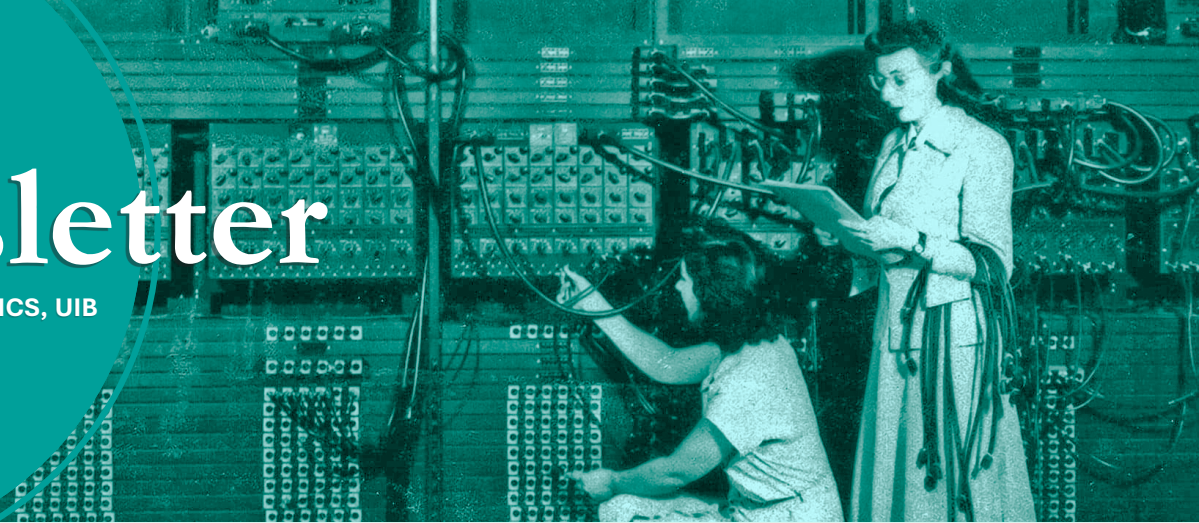


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UiB

No.13/2023, 01.09.2023



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,

As many of you already know, we got a positive message from the European Commission this summer that [the project LEAD AI got funded!](#) LEAD AI is funded by the COFUND program, which is part of Horizon Europe's Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions. LEAD AI involves the training of 19 postdoctoral fellows across UiB in the period 2024-2028, as well as help to promote institutional change and cutting-edge research on AI. The opportunities range from basic AI research for the relevant disciplines to more applied research in the natural sciences and medicine, as well as issues such as the interaction between AI, people and society with legal and ethical challenges. Our department will play a central role in this project, reflecting the central role of informatics within AI. We will host several of the postdocs, and the project is organizationally placed at our department. LEAD AI is an excellent opportunity for us to recruit and train talented researchers and to contribute to further strengthening our research activities in this area. I really look forward to this exciting project!

There is another important activity linked with work environment, focusing particularly on

diversity, gender balance and equality: Last autumn we developed an action plan for the department, in which an important task was to do an investigation of the situation locally. Many of you contributed to developing questions for a survey during the HSE (Health, Safety, Environment) session at the department meeting at Voss in April. The working group for gender balance has now finalized the survey. It is really important for us to get as good an understanding as we possibly can, and I encourage all staff to fill in the survey. We hope this will help us direct further work linked with gender equality and balance – so please do fill it in when it arrives in your mailbox shortly!

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:

- [Ikke krise, men alvorlig for realfagsrekrutteringen](#)
- [Vivat Academia](#)



Fjordfaring extravaganza

Thank you to all who participated in our annual boat trip and helped make it a great time with your presence.

Welcome back next year!



Welcome, new colleagues!



Joakim Hauger Sunde

Joakim is already a familiar face in our department, as he did his Master's degree in the algorithms group. Now he is returning for a PhD position at the Selmer centre.

Welcome back, Joakim!



Fynn Frederic Wolf

Fynn is originally from Germany, but he did his Master's degree at the Physics faculty at the University of Copenhagen. He is now entering a PhD position at CBU.

Welcome, Fynn!

Current Issues

NORA.ai

Collaborate with Germany's top-notch data science community

Germany is one of the world's top spenders in terms of R&D budget. One of the leading industrial countries in the world with a thriving research ecosystem. It is also Europe's leading country in AI research.

We are collaborating with Helmholtz Information & Data Science Academy ([HIDA](#)) for a research exchange between Germany and Norway. All 18 research centres of the Helmholtz Association are open for collaboration with us.

[Read full post on Nora.ai](#)

Watch our boys talk at JavaZone

Wednesday 6th of September, 11:40-12:00

Mikhail and master student Rolf Martin Glomsrud will give a talk at JavaZone 2023, which is [the largest community-driven developer conference in Europe](#).

If you don't want to go to Oslo (understandable), you can watch the talk online here: «[How you can participate in evolving JavaScript](#)»

This talk is a joint work with the former chair of the JavaScript committee Yulia Startsev (Mozilla), and UiB students Sigurd Setså and Daniel Liland.

The talk is a direct result of an INF219 project, where Rolf and Sigurd participated in 2021, and is about implementing a new JavaScript feature for the Mozilla Firefox browser.

NIKT 2023

call for papers (deadline extension)

The deadlines for submitting abstracts and papers to the NIKT 2023 conference are extended one week. New deadlines are given below.

Invitation to the NIKT2023 conference and call for papers:

The Norwegian ICT Conference for Education and Research (NIKT) is the main annual meeting venue for ICT academia in Norway. NIKT 2023 takes place in Stavanger from November 27th to November 30th 2023. The conference is hosted by the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the University of Stavanger.

The conference provides opportunities for meeting colleges, building networks, and publishing scientific work. Accepted papers give credits (level 1) in the Cristin system.

NIKT2023 consists of four tracks that cover a wide range of interesting topics within ICT research and education:

- Norwegian Informatics Conference (NIK)
- Norwegian Conference for Organizations' Use of IT (NOKOBIT)
- Norwegian Information Security Conference (NISK)
- Norwegian Conference for Education and Didactics in IT subjects (UDIT)

November 30th will be reserved for workshops. Paper sessions will be Tuesday November 28 and Wednesday November 29.

You can find more information and specific call for papers within each track at the [NIKT conference website](#).

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

Abstract submission deadline: September 1

Paper submission deadline: September 8

Conference registration deadline: October 27

Conference dates: November 27 – November 30



“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.](#)

Upcoming UiB Ferd events include:

[Career days 2023 - Tuesday 26th-28th of September](#)

[When we talk about career, what are we talking about then? UiB asks researchers, managers and editors how they understand the term and how they assess skills and competence. The aim is to create debate and reflection, but also to provide space for networking and new ideas.](#)

08.09 [Introduction to Data Management Plans \(DMP\)](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 07.09.2023 at 12:00

11.09 [Norwegian Web Archive: Opportunities and Challenges for Research](#) (Lecture)

Registration deadline: 08.09.2023 at 12:00

21.09 [Course in Copyright for Photographs](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 20.09.2023 at 12:00

22.09 [Open Access - step by step](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 21.09.2023 at 12:00

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.



KUNNSKAPSEPLET

«Bite-size» Popular Science Talks in the Science Library



- August 31st: **Get into the Green Scene - A small guide to everyday's sustainability.** – Stefan Thiele
- September 28th: **What can the mitochondria reveal about evolution?** – Miguel A. Meca
- November 2nd: **Lagrer naturen i Bergen mer karbon enn andre steder i landet?** – Biology students Hanna Sannes, Gina Barry, Vilde Engelsen, Tor Værøy

*The events will last about 30-45 minutes: Coffee and cookies will be served.
Everyone is welcome!*



Mobility seminar for researchers - International Centre

14.09.2023 - 12.00–14.00

Registration deadline 13.09.2023 - 23.00

Are you planning a research stay outside Norway? This seminar will help you with your planning.

Topics:

- Social security outside Norway
- Health rights abroad
- Tax
- Insurance
- Register move
- Health and vaccines
- Personal safety
- IT-security
- Are you traveling with family?

The seminar is held in English.



Department Discord

Since the last newsletter, the department discord channel has had:

- Cake gossip
- A chess mystery
- A free cat

Why have you not joined, yet?

[Join our discord server here.](#)

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 follow the guest routine found [here](#).

Vacant positions

- [PhD Research Fellow in Visualization](#)
- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics – Cryptology \(up to 3 positions\)](#)
- [Senior Engineer/Chief Engineer \(DevOps system administrator\)](#)
- [Senior Engineer/ Chief Engineer \(System Developer\)](#)
- [PhD Research Fellow in Causality and Reinforcement Learning](#)
- [Researcher in Informatics: Algorithmic foundations of DataScience](#)

[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](#).



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](#).”

Only 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 principal investigator (PI) and will assemble and lead their research group at CAS.”

Application deadline: 18 October 2023

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



Sabbatical: All at least 50%, permanently employed professors and associate professors can apply for a [sabbatical](#) and, if relevant, related travel funds.

Application deadline for the next academic year: 1 October 2023



Forskningsrådet

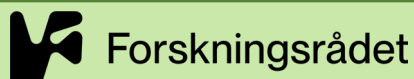
FRIPRO: The Research Council of Norway has published information about the upcoming FRIPRO (groundbreaking research) calls on their website.

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

It is anticipated that there will be an info meeting in September, and that the calls will open in October (see the timeline in the calls). These calls will have no explicit submission deadline. Please also note the new criteria regarding waiting period after submission and quarantine depending on the evaluation score. In addition, there are new eligibility criteria for the applicant PI as well as restrictions for researchers who have an ongoing FRIPRO project.

Application deadline: open-ended (to be opened in October)

New Info meetings on [12 September](#) (Norwegian) and [13 September](#) (English)



AURORA: “The [AURORA](#) mobility programme contributes to establishing and expanding contact between research organizations in Norway and corresponding organizations in France. The purpose is to strengthen European research collaboration under Horizon Europe.”

Application deadline: 13 September 2023



ERC 2024: The ERC has published their Work Programme for 2024. Please note that it contains a few substantial changes as compared to previous years, as you can find out more about by reading [this press release](#) and/or by contacting Stefanie Meyer.

The upcoming submission deadlines for ERC proposals are:

- [StG-2024](#): 24 Oct 2023
- [SyG-2024](#): 8 Nov 2023
- CoG-2024: 12 Dec 2023
- AdG-2024: 29 Aug 2024



TMS Starting Grants 2024 - Nomination of applicants at the Department of Informatics:

The [TMS Starting Grant programme](#) is a highly competitive and prestigious funding mechanism designed to help UiB in recruiting and/or retaining talented young researchers. The application process has several stages, starting with the nomination of applicants by the department (and faculty). We ask all research groups to send their suggestions for applicants to the head of department, who will select up to two candidates that will get the opportunity to apply for a TMS Starting Grant the following year (2024).

More detailed information has been sent to all scientific staff and Postdocs at the department via email.

Deadline: 1 December 2023. Please send the required documentation via email to the head of department, cc head of research section.



UiB Global Challenges: UiB has issued a [call](#) within its strategic area “Global Challenges”. Funding covers meeting, seminar and travel costs needed to develop cross-disciplinary research activities. Proposals need to include concrete plans for research collaboration and writing grant applications. Employees at Postdoc, researcher, Assoc./Professor level with UiB as their main employer can apply. At least 2 UiB faculties need to participate in an application to this call.

For more detailed information, please contact Stefanie Meyer.

Application deadline (dept.): 29 September 2023



Research Council News

Update *New portfolio boards*

The new portfolio boards will start their work on 1 January 2024, after the members have been selected through an open nomination process this fall. *More information about the nomination process will be available from mid of September. The deadline for suggesting new members will be mid of October.*

There will be [boards](#) for: Research system, Groundbreaking research, Health, Innovation, Enabling technologies, Food and bioresources, Democracy and global development, Welfare and education, Climate and environment, Sámi research, Energy and transport.



Event News

New *Your Pathway to Collaborative Projects*

“This [event](#) aims to motivate researchers to get involved in collaborative research projects and will provide information about the specific logic of collaborative projects. The event will include presentations from researchers sharing their advice and experiences, and from research advisers working with application support. The program will also include mingling sessions where researchers can ask questions and discuss with research advisers and other support staff. The event is open to researchers at all faculties and at all career levels.” **Event:** 3 October 2023, Bergen. Registration will open soon.

Intelligente Bergen 2023

“[Konferansen Intelligente Bergen](#) har som mål å samle næringsliv, offentlig sektor og studentar for å styrke og framme vår regions posisjon som nasjonalt leiande innan forskning og bruk av kunstig intelligens.” **Event:** 3 November 2023, Bergen. Registration is open!

NORBIS activities

Upcoming activities

Course: Microbiome data science with R/Bioconductor

Time: October 9-12, 9 am-4pm

Place: University of Bergen

Course responsible: Dr. Rajesh Shigdel and Prof. Leo Lathi

Registration form: [HERE](#)

Program: This course provides an introduction to microbiome data integration and analysis with R/Bioconductor, a popular open-source environment for scientific data analysis.

Target audience: PhD, Postdoc, and researchers who wish to develop their skills in microbiome data science.

More information about this on our course website: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/courses/>



MOL8008 - Bioinformatics methods for next generation sequencing analysis

Dates: 2 – 6 October 2023.

Location: St.Olavs Hospital/NTNU, Trondheim.

Course responsible: Morten Beck Rye, NTNU.

Evaluation: Report based with grade pass/fail.

Course code: MOL8008

Registration: [HERE](#). If you wish to earn credits, you will find information about this [HERE](#).

Course description

The course will introduce bioinformatic approaches, tools and pipelines for computational analyses of Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) data. Focus will be on analysis methods for coding and non-coding RNA from RNA-seq, and transcription factors and epigenetic markers from ChIP-Seq. The course will cover strategies, methods and workflows used for analyses of such data, including mapping to reference genomes, feature extraction, and statistical analysis.

For more information: <https://norbis.w.uib.no/activities/courses/>

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), Inge Jonassen (UiB)

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/>

We have more courses that will be opened for registration soon so save the date!

- **Metabolic pathway analysis** - January/February 2024 at University of Tromsø, two weeks by Ines Heiland.

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>