

Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB
No.13/2022, 01.07.2022

SUMMER
FEATURE!



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,

A week ago, we got feedback on the SFU (centre for excellence in education) application that David Grellscheid spearheaded this winter; ScaleIT. Unfortunately, our application did not make it to the second step in the selection process. Still, I think the process of developing the application was very valuable, and the application contains ideas that we may pursue also without the SFU funding. I would like to thank everybody who were involved in this effort and hope that we can follow this up in the coming years – and be ready to submit a new SFU application when there is a new call.

Since it has been a while since we last shared information about the planning of the new building in Allégaten 64 and the relocation of our department, I wanted to share an update with you. Unsurprisingly, it takes a bit of a process to plan a new building, and the spring has been used to prepare documents required for the university leadership and the government to approve the project.

An important document (a so-called “konseptvalgnotat (KVN)”) was submitted to the government earlier this week, to which we expect a response early in the autumn. Assuming this is approved, the planning process will proceed in the autumn, and we will be increasingly involved at our department as the planning goes to a more detailed level.

I must say the plans for the new building

seen in conjunction with the plans for refurbishing the physics and science building (realfagbygget) look very good to me. Together they will provide much improved facilities for the students, enabling student active learning and student driven innovation to a far larger extent than what is possible with today’s facilities.

And even though the move means we will be further away from important collaboration partners on the biology side, the proximity to the rest of the faculty and to external collaboration partners makes for a very exciting future – including on the research side. It will be important that we stay actively engaged in the process ahead of us to ensure that the building(s) plans give us the best possible facilities for our activities in the coming decades.

We are approaching the summer season and I appreciate all the efforts made in the exam period both by staff and students. I hope you are all able to take a well-deserved vacation. I wish you all a very nice summer!

Inge





[The Dean's blog](#) aims to inform us of ongoing work and processes at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences.

Her latest postings:

- [“God sommer!”](#)
- [“Hvor lang er en lang linje?”](#)
- [“Hvilke prioriteringer har denne regjeringen for norsk forskning?”](#)

**Greetings from
the administration
retreat in
(mostly) beautiful
Stavanger!**



NORBIS Summer school: Collaborative scientific software development



Thanks to David Grellscheid
for organising the 2022
NORBIS Summer school!

Some 25 eager PhD students
attended the summer school,
where they worked both alone
and in groups to design and
write new projects.



**LAST CHANCE:
APPLY TODAY!**



Rent a Cabin!

UiB owns four cabins that can be rented by employees. However, due to high demand, only a lucky few are selected in a raffle twice a year.

If you want to rent a cabin this autumn, submit an application [here](#) before 1 July.

(The website unfortunately only has information in Norwegian because they assume only Norwegians enjoy spending a weekend getting lost in the mountains and losing a toe to frostbite. This is your chance to prove them wrong.)

A message from the finance department:

We regret long processing time for travel expenses forms during the summer period

Due to increased travel activity and summer vacations, you should expect long processing time for your travel expenses forms. We apologize for the inconvenience.

You can check updated status in the self-service portal. Travel expenses forms are paid twice a month (calendar link), not along with your salary.

If you have used your UiB credit card to pay for travel expenses, you may wait to pay the credit card bill until you have received settlement from UiB. Eurocard will not invoke debt collection and you will not get bad credit rating as UiB is responsible for your card. Any interests charged can be added on the next travel expenses form.

If needed, you can apply for a travel advance in the self-service portal.

Best regards on behalf of the finance department

Velkommen til dagskonferanse om kunstig intelligens i Bergen 4. november

Er du nysgjerrig på hva kunstig intelligens kan bety for deg eller din virksomhet? Er du interessert i forsknings- og innovasjonssamarbeid innen kunstig intelligens? Har du kompetanse innen kunstig intelligens, men ønsker å utvide ditt nettverk med næringsliv og offentlig sektor?

Intelligente Bergen – kraftsenter for kunstig intelligens skal samle næringsliv, offentlig sektor, forskere og studenter i Bergensregionen for å få frem muligheter og utfordringer relatert til kunstig intelligens (AI).

Konferansen utforsker nye samarbeidsmuligheter



og åpner for dialog på tvers av fag og sektorer i regionen. Målet er å koble aktører med og uten kompetanse og erfaring med kunstig intelligens fra før. Intelligente Bergen skal vise hvordan kunstig intelligens kan være relevant for en bredde av sektorer, med særlig fokus på bærekraft, helse og etikk.

Tid: 4. november 2022

Sted: Universitetsaulaen, Muséplass 3

[Informasjon om program og påmelding vil komme her.](#)

Velkommen!

PhD updates

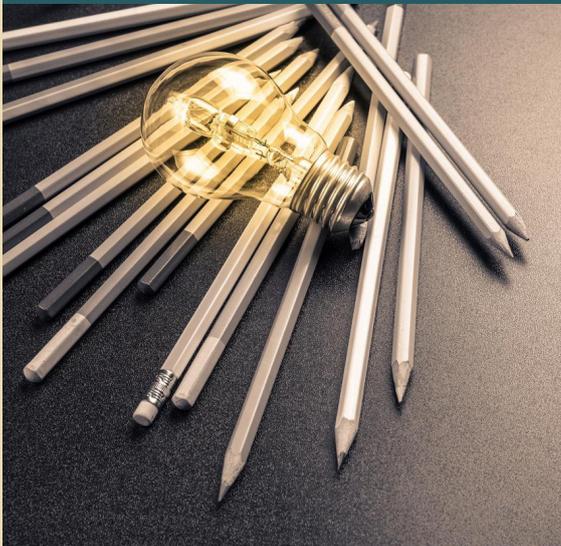


There's a new PhD in town: Congratulations, Adnan Muhammad Niazi!

Adnan Muhammad Niazi successfully defended his thesis "Computational methods for studying RNA caps and poly(A)-tails at single-molecule resolution with Nanopore sequencing" on the 24th of June.

Congratulations, Adnan, and to CBU and supervisor Eivind Valen!

Scientific writing course for PhD candidates



17.10.2022-21.11.2022

The Department of Informatics offers a scientific writing course for PhD candidates enrolled in the department's PhD program.

This course targets the writing process of an article aimed at a peer-reviewed journal. Maybe you are about to start a new writing process, or maybe you would like to fully revise a draft you already have? Each week, we will use a whole day for lectures, discussions, writing and feedback.

The foundational lectures during week 1 will cover issues like cutting clutter, using active voice, and planning structure. We will also discuss how to form the concrete research questions that your article will focus on. During the rest of the course, we will use a recurring process to

develop the different sections. This process will include discussions, brainstorming, planning, writing, and editing. We will also develop forums for peer-to-peer reflection and collaboration. Over the 6 weeks, you will develop as independent writers. You will also develop your skills in critical thinking, peer-review, and communication. Most importantly, you will put a writing process into action that you can apply (and adapt) to future writing projects.

[See full schedule and read more here.](#) Sign up before 15.08.2022.



UNIVERSITY OF BERGEN

NORA

NORA Research School

PhD students: We encourage you to become a member of the [NORA Research School](#).

You can be a member of several research schools simultaneously, and there are no obligations, costs or commitments to being a member. Through membership in NORA Research School you will be the first to receive relevant information about and the opportunity to participate in courses, lectures and events.

Supervisors: NORA has launched a call for courses under the research school. If you are planning to build a new course, you may consider to apply.

Read more here:

[“Courses: Call for Application” \(Deadline 31 Aug 2022\)](#)

Other upcoming NORA Research School events:

[Nordic AI Meet](#) (14-15 Nov 2022)

[Annual Research School Conference](#) (16 Nov 2022)

[Northern Lights Deep Learning Winter School](#) (9-13 Jan 2023)

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](#).



Invitation: Norwegian Bioinformatics Days 2022

Dear everyone,

We invite you to present talks and posters at Norwegian Bioinformatics Days 2022 taking place September 28-30, 2022, at Sundvolden Hotel (~one hour drive from Oslo).

To submit an abstract for an oral presentation and/or poster and for more information, [use this link](#).

Abstract submission deadline: **31 July 2022**

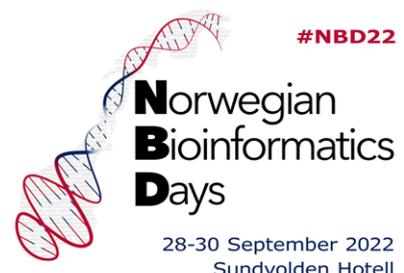
[Visit the website](#) and sign up for updates if you haven't yet.

Registration coming soon.

Please help us spread the word in your networks.

We are looking forward to seeing you all in Sundvolden in person!

- The NBD Organizing team



Invitation: Scientists needed for survey

Hello,

My name is Inghild Tveit, and I study library- and information science at OsloMet. I'm working on a master's thesis where I research the use of and opinions on illegally downloaded scientific literature among scientists in Norway. More specifically, it's about Sci-Hub: a website that provides free access to a significant amount of scientific literature, with no regard for publishers or copyright laws. I'm interested to see if Sci-Hub is a known phenomenon in this country – if people use it or not, why they choose to use it (or why they choose not to), and what they think about this kind of service.

In order to research this, I've created a survey that I hope you'll have the time to participate in. The survey consists of up to 14 questions and takes less than 5 minutes to complete. It is entirely anonymous. You don't need any prior knowledge of Sci-Hub in order to answer.

[You can find the survey here.](#) Thank you in advance for your time.

Best regards, Inghild Tveit



Editor's illustration:
Average scientist



“National Science Week (Forskningsdagene) takes place at the end of September every year. The festival presents a superb opportunity to showcase research in general and its impact on society.

[Read more and see available opportunities here.](#)

Invitation: Collegial Teaching and Learning in STEM Education

“Collegial Teaching and Learning in STEM Education is an elective teaching and learning course in higher education offered by bioCEED to all MN-UiB and UNIS¹ staff².

The course is given in English and requires no previous pedagogical training and welcomes both experienced and more novice teachers and staff. On completion of the course, you will receive a diploma that states the content and extent of the course (5 ECTS), which corresponds to three weeks full-time work.

This course will count as part of the basic pedagogical competence requirement at UiB/ UNIS.“

Application deadline:
25 August

[Read more.](#)



NIKT 2022

Second invitation and call for papers

The Norwegian ICT Conference for Education and Research (NIKT) is the main annual meeting venue for ICT academia in Norway. NIKT22 takes place in Kristiansand from November 28th to December 1st 2022. The conference is hosted by the department of Information and Communication Technology and the department of Information Systems, both at the University of Agder.

The conference provides opportunities for meeting colleagues, building networks, publishing scientific work, as well as finding information about job opportunities within our sector. Accepted papers give credits (level 1) in the Cristin system. Job placement service is new in the NIKT2022 conference and takes place on the last day of the conference.

NIKT2022 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)

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

Abstract submission deadline: September 1

Paper submission deadline: September 8

Poster Submission Deadline (for tracks that invite posters): November 1

Conference registration deadline: October 15

Conference dates: November 28 – December 1

The organizers warmly welcome you to Kristiansand



Vacant positions

Researcher within bioinformatics for genomic engineering

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 31.07.2022

PhD Research Fellow in Informatics: Visual Data Science to Master Complex Simulation Ensembles

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 14.08.2022

Staff engineer

[Please find the announcement here.](#) Closing date: 15.08.2022

Upcoming Funding Opportunities

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.



Enabling technologies: The Research Council is planning to open a [call for Researcher Projects targeting technology development](#) across relevant research areas within enabling technologies.

In addition, there are plans to announce a [call for Collaborative Projects advancing technology development](#) across relevant research areas within enabling technologies, and which are addressing UN SDGs and large societal challenges. In collaborative projects, it is mandatory to actively include non-academic partners (work and budget).

New Application deadline: 16 November 2022 (tentative date)



New UiB Global Challenges: UiB has issued a call within its strategic area "Global Challenges" (sub-topics migration, health and inequality). Funding covers costs for meetings, seminars and travels needed to develop cross-disciplinary research activities. At least 2 UiB faculties need to participate in an application to this call. The applicant has to be an employee with his/her main position being at UiB (including Postdocs and PhD candidates).

For more detailed information, please contact Stefanie Meyer.

Application deadline (dept.): 14 September 2022



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

Application deadline: 1 October 2022



Collaborative projects - notification of an [upcoming call](#): "The purpose of this call is to develop new knowledge and generate research competence needed by society or the business sector to address important societal challenges."

Application deadline: 15 February 2023 (tentative date)



ERC 2023: The ERC has published tentative application deadlines for the 2023 calls on their [website](#):

- ERC-StG-2023, 25.10.2022
- ERC-SyG-2023, 08.11.2022
- ERC-CoG-2023, 02.02.2023
- ERC-AdG-2023, 23.05.2023

ERC – mentor support: If you are planning to prepare an ERC grant application (either StG, CoG, or AdG; call year 2023 and onwards), you can apply to the faculty for mentor support funds. A mentor is someone from outside UiB with ERC experience (grantee, evaluator etc.), and who is willing to help you with your ERC application. UiB can support mentors with up to 30 000 NOK (honorarium). Please contact Stefanie Meyer if you would like to know more about this support scheme.



New ERC Proposal Reading Day in Bergen:

If you would like to have a look at successful ERC proposals, then please consider registering for the upcoming ERC proposal reading day on **24 August** in Bergen!

[Morning session \(9.15-12.15\)](#)

[Afternoon session \(12.45-15.45\)](#)

Registration deadline: 21 August 2022

ERC – consultant support for CoG-2023:

The Research Council of Norway has again engaged [PNO](#), a consultancy, to help promising ERC applicants with their grant applications. As this is a very sought-after support program, only a few selected applicants will actually be able to receive support from PNO. Researchers who are preparing an application for the (tentative) CoG-deadline in February 2023, should contact Stefanie Meyer by no later than 12 August 2022 if they would like to apply for PNO-support.

EUROPEAN RESEARCH & INNOVATION DAYS

#RiDaysEU

28 → 29
SEPTEMBER 2022

DIGITAL EVENT



NORBIS activities

8th and last annual NORBIS conference

The last annual NORBIS conference will be taking place this October. Registration is now open.

Dates: October 24-28, 2022. **Location:** Rosendal Fjordhotel, Rosendal. **Organizers:** NORBIS in collaboration with MedBioInfo. **Invited speakers:** Alexander Schug (Steinbuch Centre for Computing), Harald Binder (Institute of Medical Biometry and Statistics, University of Freiburg), Barbara Bakker (University of Groningen), Andreas Raue (HiFiBio Therapeutics), Thomas Rattei (University of Vienna), David Páez-Espino (Joint Genome Institute, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab), Milan Malinsky (University of Bern), Kara Dicks (Royal Zoological Society of Scotland), Marcin Wojewodzic (FHI).

Short conference description: A five-day NORBIS conference taking place in Rosendal. The conference will this year be in collaboration with the MedBioInfo research school based in Sweden. Our focus will be on the students and their research, with four themed days from the core of NORBIS topics: Statistical methods and machine learning, systems biology and modelling, metagenomics, and population genetics. We will also have a session on careers outside of university, and teambuilding with VilVite. [More information and link to registration here.](#)

Logical modelling of (inter) cellular networks for biotechnology and personalised medicine

Dates: August 15-26, 2022. **Location:** NTNU. **Organizer:** Martin Kuiper. **Lecturers:** Denis Thieffry (ENS, Paris), Martin Kuiper (NTNU), Anna Niarakis (Université Paris-Saclay), Vincent Noël (Institut Curie), Laurence Calzone (Institut Curie), Pablo Rodríguez Mier (U Heidelberg), Aurélien Naldi (INRIA), Åsmund Flobak (NTNU), Astrid Lægreid (NTNU), Rune Nydal (NTNU), Eirini Tsirovouli (NTNU), John Zobelos (UIO). **Credits:** 7,5 ECTS. **Evaluation:** Each student will submit an individual report, in the form of an executable notebook, on which they will be assessed.

Short course description: This course will introduce students to the principles of Boolean mathematical modelling, using a variety of software tools and workflows to build, train and execute logical models for in silico experiments. Logical models of regulatory networks of cell lines or tissue samples can reliably represent these systems, as judged by their stable states and responses to perturbations, for instance simple or combinatorial drug treatments. The process to build such models, optimise their performance and analyse their behaviour involves a variety of tools and approaches that students will learn in a project-based manner. [More information and link to registration here.](#)

Genome sequencing technologies, assembly, variant calling and statistical genomics

Dates: 17-28 October & 1-2 December 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Organizer:** Torbjørn Rognes. **Lecturers:** Arvind Sundaram (Oslo University Hospital), Ave Tooming-Klunderud (UiO), Bastiaan Star (UiO), Gregor Gilfillan (Oslo University Hospital), Ivar Grytten (UiO), Karin Lagesen (Norwegian Veterinary Institute), Milena Pavlovic (UiO), Sigve Nakken (Oslo University Hospital), Thomas Haverkamp (Norwegian Veterinary Institute), Torbjørn Rognes (UiO), Trine B. Rounge (UiO), Ying Sheng (Oslo University Hospital). **Credits:** 10 ECTS. **Evaluation:** There will be a 2-hour written exam, and the project work will be evaluated based on an oral presentation. Both exams have to be passed in the same semester. 80% attendance is required to be allowed to take the exams.

Short course description: The course provides knowledge of sequencing technologies and hands-on experience with the analysis of data from several sequencing platforms and for various applications. The two main applications that will be covered are de novo genome assembly and variant calling (SNPs and structural variants), while other aspects like control of quantity and quality of data will also be included. Furthermore, the course will show how to use statistical genomics to analyse features of annotated genomes. [More information and link to registration here.](#)

Modern methods for analyzing survival and time to event data (IMB9335)

Dates: 5-9 December, 2022. **Location:** University of Oslo. **Organizer:** Morten Valberg. **Lecturers:** Morten Valberg, Håkon K. Gjessing, Ørnulf Borgan, Odd O. Aalen. **Credits:** 4 ECTS. **Evaluation:** The exam will be a home exam in the form of project work. The students should deliver their written project report within a month after the end of the course. The exam paper will be provided in English and should be answered in English.

Short course description: 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 analysing time-to-event data. The course is given over five days and computer exercises will be an integrated part of the course. [More information and link to registration here.](#)

