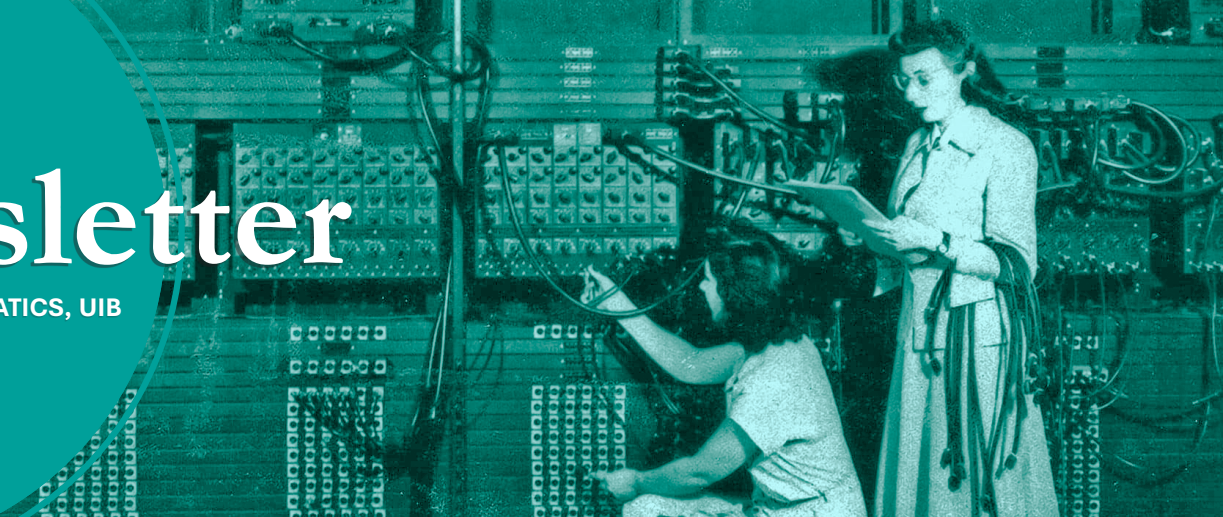


Newsletter

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATICS, UIB

No.19/2023, 24.11.2023



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,

This week the Dean of our Faculty, Gunn Mangerud, visited us and gave a presentation summarizing important developments at our faculty and in our sector. The presentation was well attended, and my impression is that it was very well received.

One of the topics the Dean addressed was education and what might be done to increase the portion of students completing the programs – and completing “on time”. Reducing drop-out rates and increasing program completion would increase the funding to University of Bergen. Done in a good way, it would also benefit the students and the society. Linked with this, she presented studies showing that introduction of student active learning and new ways of assessment increase learning outcome as well as student (and teacher) satisfaction. This is likely a good way to reduce drop-out and increase program completion.

Several of our lecturers are trying out student active learning, reverse classroom techniques etc and I look forward to working with you to explore this further. A concern raised in the meeting, and one I have as well, is that transforming a course to utilize new learning methods may be demanding in terms of preparation. The teaching (and total) workload on many of our staff is already high. The faculty is organizing teachers’ meetings with a focus on these issues (including teaching and assessment

methods) and we will also have meetings within the department to exchange experiences and help each other. Another issue is that we do not have many lecture rooms adapted to group work and student activities. At the faculty there is also some progress on this front, but further efforts are needed.

Another interpretation of the Dean’s message would be that we should lower the bar and let students pass exams more easily. While in economical terms this would pay off in the short term, it is certainly not what we will do at our department – and I’m sure this is not what our Dean is suggesting either. Instead, we will see if we can adapt new teaching and assessment methods and we will seek to increase our staff. We aim to recruit new colleagues over the next few years aiming to increase our teaching and research capacity. As always, we will look for excellence and I have encouraged all groups to be on the lookout for candidates, and especially women candidates.

I wish you all a 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:

- [Ansvarlig internasjonalt kunnskapssamarbeid](#)
- [Nye statsråder og forslag til statsbudsjett](#)



First meeting for the LEAD AI programme

Throughout the years, several research groups at UiB have dedicated their efforts to artificial intelligence, and there's plenty more to come...

The LEAD AI program is funded jointly by the faculties and the EU, with a total budget of approximately 130 million NOK (11.47 million euros) for the years 2024 to 2028. These funds will be spent on hiring 19 postdoctoral researchers and to create a platform where researchers can build expertise across disciplines.

Read full article: [First meeting for the LEAD AI Programme](#)

Norwegian Life Sciences Infrastructures announce strategic agreement for establishing long-term collaboration on the management of research data

On the 13.11.2023, nine Life Science Research Infrastructure programs in Norway signed an agreement for establishing a long-term collaboration aiming to revolutionise the management and exchange of life science data in Norway.

Read full article: [Norwegian Life Sciences Infrastructures announcement](#)



Current Issues

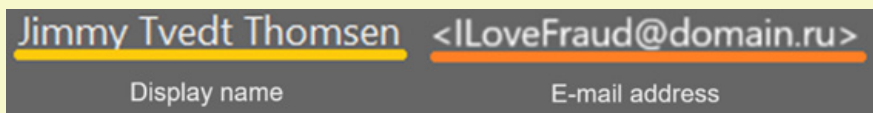
“Warns against fraud with Apple gift cards”

(Via the IT-department) Several UiB employees have recently been the subject of attempted fraud online. The IT department asks all employees to be aware.

Recently, new attempts at “phishing” and financial crime against employees at UiB have been identified. This happens when employees receive e-mails that pretend to be from another employee at the university, and preferably a superior, but with an e-mail address that does not belong to UiB. In the message, you are asked for a service - to buy an Apple gift card.

Unfortunately, the IT department has examples of employees being tricked into buying Apple gift cards and sending the codes for the gift cards to what they think is a colleague by replying to the fake email. Unfortunately, the codes for the gift cards fall into the hands of fraudsters who resell them.

In Outlook on PC/Mac, both display name and e-mail address are displayed, as in the example below:



If you read e-mail on a mobile phone, which has become more and more common, you have to hold your finger on the display name until the e-mail address part is displayed.

The security group at the IT department has fixed routines for handling and stopping such e-mails daily within normal working hours, but we ask our employees to be aware and vigilant. Fake e-mail messages can be sent to postnuke@uib.no. If you have any questions, contact BRITA.

The chief information security officer at UiB has the following “never-do-rules” to prevent unfortunate incidents that could possibly also bring damage to UiB as an organisation:

- **Never** do anything involving money as a response to e-mail/text messages without checking whether the person in question has actually contacted you about this. This means that you **never** answer the message, but you rather contact the person via channels you are used to contacting them.
- **Never** provide login information, even if someone asks for it, regardless of who they pretend to be. IT departments and other authorities never do this, because it is a serious breach of information security.
- **Never** provide credit card details over a phone call that you have not initiated yourself, and as far as possible use online services instead.

In addition, the following habits will save you and UiB from risk and a lot of follow-up work:

- **Always** a few extra seconds to check the address on links before clicking. On PC/Mac, hold the mouse pointer over the link; on a mobile phone, hold your finger until the link address appears. All links to, for example, UiB help start with: <https://hjelp.uib.no>.
- **Always** check the sender’s address if you open an attachment in an e-mail.
- **Always** use extra login steps corresponding to what you are used to at UiB for all services that offer it (for example, private e-mail service such as gmail, social media).
- Enter the web address of organizations yourself that ask you to log in rather than using a link provided in an e-mail, unless you are not directly waiting for an e-mail for a specific purpose (for example used “forgot password” or “confirm e-mail address” function on a website) and that e-mail arrives within reasonable time. If you do not know the exact website address of the organization in question, then use Google search or another search service in the browser. Then you know you’ve come to the right website and a something fraudulent one.



”Example-Driven Interactive Specification of Database Queries”

A distinguished lecture by Balder ten Cate (University of Amsterdam)

30.11.2023 - 12.45–14:00

Large auditorium, 2nd floor, Høyteknologisenteret

Abstract: Examples can be a useful tool when a formal specification must be synthesized or communicated.

They sometimes provide a more convenient medium for communication than the formal specification itself. We all know this from daily life: think about teaching someone a card game. Simply reading out loud the rules of the game is not an effective way of doing this. Instead, what works best in practice is to give examples of valid and invalid game plays.

In data management, data examples have been proposed and used in the context of schema design and the interactive specification of schema mappings, as well as database query synthesis, refinement and debugging. [...]

[Read full abstract on the event page: ”Example-Driven Interactive Specification of Database Queries”](#)

Holiday

Autumn is upon us and soon it will be 2024! 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.

So, if you have any vacation days left, please make it your priority to register these now!

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.



Christmas dinner party - Sign up before December 1st!

Put on your party outfit and join us for a Christmas feast at Grand Hotel Terminus!

The party is on the 15th of December from 19:00 until 23:00, and the department pays for dinner and the first round of drinks.

After the main event, participants are free to join the afterparty at Programmerbar, which will be open until 02:00.

[Please sign up for the Christmas party here.](#)
The form closes on the 1st of December.



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:

01.12.23: [Introduction to Data Management Plans](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 30.11.2023 at 10:00

06.12.23: [How can young UiB researchers make the world great again?](#) (Course)

Registration deadline: 01.12.2023 at 23:30

07.12.23: [Jingle that job- interview. We prepare for the holidays with a live job interview mock.](#) (Event)

Registration deadline: 05.12.2023 at 23:55

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

- [PhD Research Fellow in Informatics](#)
- [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 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 \(FRIPRO\)](#)

Application deadline: open-ended



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

We ask all research groups to send their suggestions for applicants to the [TMS Starting Grant programme](#) 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).

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



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



Forskningssrådet

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)



Forskningssrådet

Knowledge-building projects: The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Knowledge-building Project for Industry](#). These projects address societal challenges and aim at the development of new knowledge and competence needed by society and/or the industry sector. Collaboration with industry partners is therefore a requirement.

Application deadline: 13 March 2024
(tentative)



Forskningssrådet

Collaboration projects: The Research Council of Norway has published preliminary information about [Collaborative Project to Meet Societal and Industry-related Challenges](#). These projects address societal challenges and aim at the development of new knowledge and competence needed by society and/or the non-academic sector. Collaboration with non-academic environments is therefore a requirement.

Application deadline: 13 March 2024
(tentative)



New 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



New 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. The Center offers grants of between \$10K and \$25K. Funds are made available for two academic years. 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

NORBIS activities

Course open for registration!

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-analysis...arative-genomics/>



UPCOMING ACTIVITIES: SAVE THE DATE!

Course: Metabolic pathway analysis

Time: January/February 2024, two weeks

Place: University of Bergen, Biomedical Institute

Course responsible: Ines Heiland

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.

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

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 Tørresen (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/>

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 tskit environment, 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>