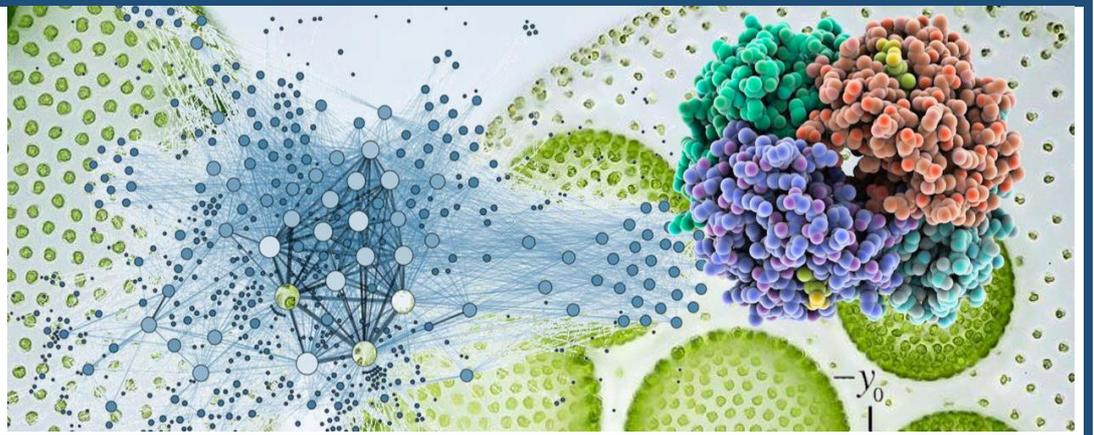


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 11/2018
9th November 2018



Editor-in-chief: Pinar Heggernes. Editor: Linda Vagtskjold. Contributions or comments to the newsletter are very welcome.

Dear colleagues,

The local salary negotiations at our university will be concluded very soon. As several of you have been informed already, we are aiming for a substantial raise of the salaries of most of our faculty members, and it will be very interesting to see how much of what we have proposed will get accepted. What some of you might not know is that the department alone does not decide this. Our priority lists go to the Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences, who then make a general list incorporating the priorities from all departments. Then this list goes to the university central administration, and there a total list of all departments and sections at the whole university is compiled. This list is then negotiated upon with the trade unions and the leadership of the university. The trade unions work of course towards having as many as possible of their members to get a salary raise. This is one of the reasons we encourage our employees to join the trade unions. The most natural one for scientific staff is perhaps [Forskerforbundet](#), a branch of [Unio](#). They have a strong representation at our university. An alternative union that is also suitable for scientific staff is [Akademikerne](#). Technical and administrative staff are usually members of [NITO](#), [Tekna](#) or [Parat](#).



Those of you who have not lived in Norway for long might find it strange or even disappointing that one needs to be a member of a trade union to have higher chances for a salary increase. However, I think it is important to realize the role that trade unions have played in Norway through history. They are part of the reason why Norway has good working conditions, generous possibilities for parental leaves and other welfare benefits. You might have noticed that there are not as many strikes in Norway as in many other countries. Since the unions, especially those that specialize for state employees, have many members, they are really strong when they negotiate the main salary, pension and other welfare procedures every year with the Norwegian state. They also negotiate a separate sum every year to be decided upon by each organization to give room for individual salary grading depending on the performance of each employee. Every few years this separate sum is pretty big, like this year, and then we have a possibility to propose real upgrades.

Mind you, this is not an advertisement for the trade unions! ☺ My aim is that it might help you understand a bit better how the salary system at our university and for state employees in Norway in general works. To be honest, I don't know these things very well myself, but I have learned a lot during the past few months. I must admit that I have come to appreciate and respect the work done by the trade unions in a new way, although I am now on the side of the employer. ☺ One thing that is also important to note is that most trade unions that are relevant for us are politically neutral. The by far largest trade union in Norway, [LO](#), have traditionally been very close to the labor party, but their members in general are industry workers in private sector, except their subsection [NTL](#) which is for state employees.

If you are interested in these things, I would advise you to have a look at the information that our university provides for its employees: <https://cp.compendia.no/universitetet-i-bergen/employee-handbook/> You will know rights better and stand stronger at the next salary negotiation round.

I wish you all a very nice weekend!

-Pinar

The Dean's Blog – Helge K. Dahle

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

His latest postings: [Derfor er medarbeidersamtalen viktig](#) - [I 2021 skal vi ha to nye sentre for fremragende forskning](#) - [Gunn Mangerud går inn i dekanatet](#) - [Det er her hovedkvarteret ligger](#)



Meet our economy team!

You might have noticed a few new faces on the fourth floor on Tuesdays. Although the common economy section of the Faculty of mathematics and natural sciences is located at Realfagsbygget, the economists working on our department economy and our projects are going to be with us on Tuesdays. In particular, Marianne will be here every Tuesday together with one of the project economists. The project economists will be rotating and each of them will be here approximately every fourth Tuesday. This is to ease our interaction with them.

Our economy team members who are working at our department on Tuesdays

				
Marianne Alling Controller department economy	Margun Eidsheim Skarbø Project economist	Line Garnes Steffensen Project economist	Tom Erik Hagen Project economist	Ragnhild Breisnes Utkilen Project economist

Actualities [På Høyden](#) - [Khrono](#) – [News from NFR](#) – [News from UiB](#) – [Informatics on Facebook](#)

Congratulations to Petter, Tor, and Inge!

 Petter became a member of Det Kongelige Norske Videnskapers Selskab .	 Tor became a life fellow of IEEE .	 Inge is going to lead a European consortium on personalized medicine .
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Next faculty and staff lunch November 14, 2018

Our next faculty and permanent staff lunch will be on November 14 at 12:00. Since our common lunch room and social area on the fourth floor is being refurbished, we will use the "Yoga room" (room 510N3) on the fifth floor.

Media coverage of our department

During the last month several Norwegian newspapers and magazines have made stories about our studies and students:

- [A story in Dagens Næringsliv about our PhD studies](#)
- [A story in digi.no about our bachelor study in information security](#)



We always share such news on [our department's Facebook page](#). Please follow us there!

Register your publications in the Cristin database

The budget of our department is partly dependent on the publications that our scientific staff are authors and coauthors of. We therefore ask everybody to kindly register all their publications that have appeared in 2018 in the [Cristin Database](#): after logging in, please choose "Research results" and then "Register result". Some publications are automatically gathered from various journals, so please search for your publications via "Search in results" and register only the missing ones. Please try to complete this by mid January.

Research, Science, and Seminars

Talk by Eivind Valen on November 16, 2018 at 11:15



Our own Eivind Valen is giving a trial lecture in connection with a permanent associate professorship that he has applied at our department. The talk will be Friday November 16, between 11:15 – 12:00 in lecture room 510N3 on the 5th floor. Everybody is welcome!

Title: Building a body from scratch

Abstract: Your body consists of billions of cells with a vast range of different tasks and appearances. Despite this variety, there is only one underlying recipe, your genome. In this talk I will present how it is that the same DNA shared by all your cells can result in such different outcomes each filling a role in your body. I will also present some of the computational methods that have been used in decoding the genome and what we can expect from the future.

Annual Department of informatics gathering will take place April 29-30, 2019



Every year in April, all employees of our department and the student council go for a two day seminar somewhere in the vicinity of Bergen. Most probably we will be in Os, Sotra or Voss. All faculty is expected to attend this gathering, and all other employees are most welcome. At this meeting, we will discuss very important things like our department's research and education strategy for the next five years.

Please reserve the dates, and wait for more information!

Reminder: popular science writing course for researchers on January 16, 2019

The course focuses on writing suitable texts about research and showing you how these can be used and adapted to different genres and media. The course is free of charge, and will be held in English. The target group is scientists from PhD-students to Professors and science communicators.

The course participants will receive personal coaching on their own texts, both during the course and for the next two weeks. The goal is that every participant will end up with a published text.

[Learn more here](#) and [sign up](#) by December 31, 2018

Questions? Please contact Asbjørn Leirvåg, ph. 41423341, asbjorn.leirvag@uib.no

Academic affairs and PhD Updates

There's a new PhDs in town – congratulations Ute-Alexandra Schaarschmidt!



Online course for PhD supervisors

The course includes rules, regulations and procedures for the PhD programme. Everyone appointed as main supervisor or co-supervisor for PhD candidates at the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences from 1 December 2018 must complete the online course. To be appointed as a supervisor of a PhD student, you must have completed the course during the past three years. You can take the course in [Norwegian](#) or in [English](#). Please make sure you verify the completion of the course when it is completed.

Funding opportunities

Reminder about the Meltzer Research Fund

Did you know that our own university has a foundation to fund travels and projects? The Meltzer Research Fund awards research prizes, funding for projects and travel stipends for researchers. The Fund also awards stipends to students. The Funds are awarded every year on Lauritz Meltzer's birthday, on March 8. The application deadline for project grants for students/PhD-candidates is December 1, 2018. Only particularly gifted students and research fellows are eligible for grants from the Meltzer Foundation. [General guidelines for project grants for students and PhD-candidates](#)
Applications must be submitted via [a web-based system](#).

Reminder about the Bergen Universitetsfond

You may apply to Bergen Universitetsfond for funding for projects for dissemination and publication of research results and support for the organizing scientific conferences, workshops etc. in the period 1 April 2019 to 31 March 2020. It is also possible to apply for support for preparing of scientific conferences scheduled to take place after 31 March 2020. [Learn more here.](#)

Call for applications to the Centre for Advanced Study (CAS)

The Centre for Advanced Study (CAS) invites researchers to pursue excellent, fundamental, curiosity-driven research for a year in Oslo. [CAS is accepting applications for the 2021/22 academic year. Click here to register and apply.](#)
Deadline: 14 January 2019. [Learn more.](#)

Vacant positions

Four PhD fellowships in Computer Science

We have just announced four PhD positions! Excellent candidates within each of our research directions will be considered. Please spread the word, look for good candidates, and talk to your students and colleagues.

Closing date: 09.12.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Researcher in Cryptology

Closing date: 01.12.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Researcher in Algorithms

Closing date: 15.01.2019. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Professor in Information Security

Closing date: 20.11.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#)

Tenure Track Associate Professor in Software

Closing date: 25.11.2018. Please find [the announcement here](#)

HR, Operations, Health, Safety and Welfare sikresiden.no – [UiB welfare offers](#)

Refurbishing of our common lunch room and social area on the fourth floor



You might have noticed that our common lunch room and social area is under reconstruction and refurbishing. While this work is going on, please feel free to use all other meeting rooms in the fourth floor and the other floors. On the fourth floor we have the “aquarium” and “kroken” rooms, and on the third floor we have the “library”. Please ask Ingrid if you don’t know where these rooms are. This might also be a good chance for you to join other research groups for lunch!

Welcome to Department Christmas Party 23 November

This year’s Christmas Party will be at Hotel Scandic Ørnen on 23 November. If you haven’t signed up yet, there might still be space for you. Please get in touch with Ingrid or [sign up by Monday November 12](#).



Reminder: Yoga on Wednesdays!

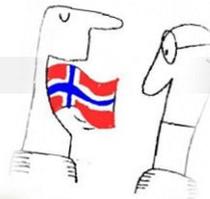
Yoga is a great way to reduce stress and tensions from work.

Yoga classes are held on Wednesdays at 2:30 p.m. to 3:30 pm at the Meeting room in 5th floor.



Our professional yoga instructor, Kjersti Næss, is teaching in English. No signing up, and no participatory fee will be charged. Please bring your own yoga mat. We also have some mats for loan.

Reminder: Kakeklubben on Mondays



Kakeklubben aims to help our international colleagues to practice Norwegian while spending nice time together with people across group borders. Club meetings are normally held on Mondays at 12 o'clock in the lunchroom, 4th floor. While the lunch room is under reconstruction, we gather in the small meeting room at the end of the same corridor as the lunch room is. You bring your own lunch, and we share a cake. We hope for volunteers among the club members to bring cakes, and we plan to make a department cake recipe book after some time. All are welcome!

We hope to see you there, both internationals and Norwegians!