Dear colleagues,

I recently learned that our university’s norm for work partition of professors and associate professors is 46% research, 46% teaching, and 8% administration. I was quite surprised to see this, as I had always thought, out of own experience (before I became the head of department), that it was rather 40%, 40%, 20%. Teaching, including preparing and grading, and supervising master students would take two full days of my work week, and I would try to gather all other duties outside of teaching and research on one day, so that I would have two full days for research.

The confusion might of course come from the fact that it is not clear how various everyday tasks should be classified. Let’s take for example tasks like paper refereeing, conference program committee membership, editorial board membership, conference organization, giving an invited talk, editing a special issue of a journal, steering committee or board membership and so on. Are these administrative tasks? I would say so. Perhaps we would call them research administrative tasks. All of them are interesting and meriting tasks, which we are normally honored to be asked to do, but they are not really directly related to producing new research results. Then we have tasks like being on a PhD jury, being an external or internal additional examiner of a master thesis, being on a trial lecture committee, being on a study program board and so on. I would also call these administrative tasks; perhaps educational administrative tasks. They are related to education but do not involve teaching. On top of all this, we also have the purely administrative tasks, like serving on hiring committees, reporting on our publications, reporting on our projects, and so on.

No matter how we count and how we classify, it just does not add up. 8% of a normal Norwegian working week of 37.5 hours gives 3 hours. Alright, so no faculty member with ambitions can actually have a 37.5-hour week, but even a 50-hour week would give 4 hours for administration, which doesn’t match the above list of tasks. We also want our faculty to be active in communicating and popularizing research results, student recruitment, writing proposals, being in touch with society and businesses, and I don’t even know how to classify these activities.

Regardless of what percentages are written in the regulations, there is no doubt that the extent of what is expected of a university professor has grown hugely over the years. The list of requirements for being promoted to a full professor gets longer and stricter every time the regulations are revised. One has to score high on all of the above listed activities. One would like to have time for family and some recreation, as well. And there are only 168 hours in a week including sleep… I am extremely proud of and congratulate from the bottom of my heart every younger colleague who becomes promoted to a full professor nowadays.

I wish you 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: Mangfold gir kvalitet - Vi har en uforutsigbar hverdag og vi vet dette vil vare ved - Rektorvalet har fått to solide lag
Welcome new colleagues! (wow – it’s all CBU news this time! 😊)

**Rezvan Ehsani**
Rezvan is a new Postdoctoral Researcher at the CBU, financed by the RCN. He will be working in the group of Inge Jonassen and linked with the CCBIO Centre Cancer Biomarkers, a Centre of Excellence at the UiB. His focus will be on analyzing tumor microenvironments utilizing the novel Hyperion instrument for imaging mass cytometry to generate spatial information on sub-cellular resolution on protein abundance in and around tumors.

Rezvan is Iranian. He has a PhD in bioinformatics from NTNU in Trondheim, Norway, 2016. Since 2016 he has been working as an assistant professor at the University of Zabol in Iran. His research has focused on gene regulation including transcription factors and epigenetics.

**Preeti Kute**
Preeti is a new Postdoctoral Researcher at the CBU, financed by the Cancer Society of Norway. She will be working in the group of Eivind Valen. She plans to study the role of unconventional translation, especially through upstream open reading frames (uORFs) in the metastatic potential of breast cancer cells; to unravel the mechanistic insights into this pervasive translation by elucidating the regulatory proteins and the cis-acting factors involved.

Preeti is from India. She did her PhD in molecular neuroscience in 2020, from the Institute for Stem cell Science and Regenerative Medicine (inStem) and SASTRA University, Thanjavur, India.

**Parisa Tejari**
Parisa has started in her new job as senior engineer / Software Developer at the CBU Service group. She will be working in the Elixir Norway project together with the rest of the team to develop the Norwegian e-infrastructure for Life Science (NeLS).

Parisa is Iranian. She holds a Master degree in Computer Engineering from the Islamic Azad University Tehran in 2018, and has worked as a software developer in Iran for 7 years.

**Emily Denny**
Emily is a new PhD student in the Håkon Dahle Group and hired at the Department of Biological Sciences. At CBU she will be working with the ecology of microbiomes in deep sea hydrothermal systems. The goal of her PhD project is to decipher connections between geochemical setting of a natural system, chemical energy fluxes, and distributions of microbial species and their genes.

Emily has a Master in Microbiology from the University of Bergen in 2015.

**Iain George Johnston**
Iain is a new CBU Associate group leader. He is an Associate Professor at the Department of Mathematics and his background includes a PhD in Physics from the University of Oxford.

His research focuses on combining mathematical, statistical, and experimental approaches to learn about the biology, and how we can interact with it to improve human lives. Iain received several grants (ERC, Trond Mohn Foundation, UK NERC) and many awards and we are very pleased that he joins us at CBU.
Report from workshop on Boolean Functions, September 15-18

The fifth international workshop on Boolean Functions and Their Applications BFA 2020 successfully took place in Loen, September 15-18. The event was dedicated to Boolean functions and, more generally, discrete structures used in error correcting coding, cryptography or communications. It was held in hybrid format with physical presence of Norwegian participants (from the Selmer Center and the National Security Agency of Norway) and online for international community. During the event, the first recipient of the George Boole International Prize (launched by the University of Bergen) was announced, Sihem Mesnager from the University of Paris 8.
Overview of Department Thursday seminars booked so far the rest of this semester

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker/Topic</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>October 8*</td>
<td>Emre Yaksi: Neural circuit computations in zebrafish brain</td>
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<tr>
<td>October 29**</td>
<td>Speed Talks (Sjur Flåm, NN and NN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 5*</td>
<td>Stefanie Meyer: funding sources and research advisor’s services</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 19*</td>
<td>Enrico Motta: Integrating AI paradigms to make sense of big data (and the world)</td>
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<tr>
<td>November 26*</td>
<td>Aidan Hogan: Knowledge Graphs: Research Directions</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 3**</td>
<td>Speed Talks (Sayan Bandyapadhyay, Ana Ozaki and Stefan Bruckner)</td>
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<tr>
<td>December 10**</td>
<td>HSE seminar</td>
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</tbody>
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*seminar on Zoom  
**seminar at VilVite auditorium

Corona updates: Yeah!! - we are back to “the new normal” from September 30!

This means:

- Teaching goes back to as it was in the beginning of the semester, as a hybrid solution with some physical lectures and group sessions, supplied with a digital version of it all, with the same restrictions as we had in the beginning of the semester. Course teachers should inform their students on Mitt UiB on how you plan the teaching.

- Those who are dependent on public transportation or have health problems can make agreements with Linda for partial home office solutions, if their work can be performed from home. Before approaching Linda, it will be a good idea to discuss this with your closest work leader, supervisor, project leader, etc. As a general rule we hope to see as many of you as possible in your offices.

- It is now possible to hold lectures, meetings, and other official gatherings for up to 200 people, provided that the room is large enough to allow at least one meter between participants.

- All rules to avoid contamination (smittevernsregler), in particular the “one meter” and the “wash and disinfect your hands frequently” rules, apply at all times in all settings!

- All travels abroad and guests from abroad need to be discussed with Pinar or Linda before making plans and sending invitations. Recall that the recommendation from the Norwegian government is that one should avoid all travels abroad that are not strictly necessary. This applies to all countries regardless of whether they are in Europe, green, red, or gray.

- All employees are asked to make sure that they have registered their mobile number in the HR portal. This is for urgent messages by sms from the UiB leadership and to make it easier to follow up infection tracking if needed. How to do this: New form – Personal and family information – add your mobile phone number and chose “No” to “private mobile phone” (or else your mobile phone number will not be accessible in the phonebook) – move next to page 3 – Send. When you have already opened this form – please also check that your next of kin is added.

- Please follow the information on these pages frequently: [UiB Corona info](#), [Info from the government](#), [Info from the Norwegian Institute of Public Health](#)

October is Security Awareness Month

Our Rector says: Dear students and fellow members of staff, October is National Security Awareness Month. The University of Bergen (UiB) therefore plans to have an extra special focus on information security in October.

UiB aims to be a safe and secure place to study and work, whether you are based at home or on campus. We therefore want all students and employees to be fully aware of security.

Many employees and students have already completed the e-learning course in Data protection and Information security on Mitt UiB in order to improve their knowledge of security. If you have not yet had the time to take the course, please do so now <https://mitt.uib.no/enroll/MDW74H>.

We also recommend following the internal news channel På høyden this month (NO), which will highlight relevant subjects, such as challenges relating to working from home, where to find help and, not least, how to report a breach of IT security.

[Click here](#) to read more about National Security Awareness Month at UiB. [Sikresiden.no](#) also provides a lot of helpful information about information security and data protection <
Student / Teaching affairs

Guest students and trainees in the spring of 2021
For those planning to receive guest students or trainees/interns in the spring semester of 2021, we inform you that the application deadline for these arrangements has been pushed back to October 22nd. The deadline is absolute. The International Center asks us to be extra thorough in our consideration of the necessity and expediency of each stay at this time, given the current restrictions, guidelines and measures existing on national and local levels.

This is particularly important for applicants for countries outside the EU, who must apply for residence permit before arriving in Norway, and who must document adequate housing before a residence permit can be given. For most international applicants residing outside of Norway, there is still a requirement for a 10-day quarantine period upon arriving in Norway. Those traveling to the country must document that they have arranged for a suitable location to spend the entirety of the quarantine period or the stay.

Guest students and trainees are not guaranteed student housing arranged by the Student Welfare Organization. The housing capacity will be reduced in the spring of 2021.

MNT-konferansen 2021 og Nordic Journal of STEM Education
- Melding av interesse. Inntil en sides sammendrag: 15.10.2020
- Tilbakemelding om akseptert bidrag: 13.11.2020
- Ferdig 3-5 siders konferansebidrag (Finished conference paper): 15.01.2020
- Tilbakemelding til forfattere (Notification to authors): 15.02.2021
- Presentasjon på MNT-konferansen: 15.03–16.03.2021

Konferansebidrag publiseres i en egen artikkelsamling innenfor tidsskriftet Nordic Journal of STEM Education. Dette er en forholdsvis ny publiseringsskannel, som også løpende tar i imot tidsskriftartikler (videreutviklede konferansebidrag og andre relevante artikler) som blir fagfellevurdert. Vi har nå få personer registrert for å bidra med fagfellevurderinger, og vi håper de av dere det er aktuelt for både kan bidra selv, og ikke minst oppfordre andre kolleger til å registrere seg som reviewere på tidsskriftets nettside:

Utdanningsfaglig kompetanse er nå krav både ved ansettelse og opprykk, og kanalen er godt egnet for å dokumentere arbeid med dette. Reviewarbeid vil også være nyttig i en slik sammenheng. Kriterier for review fremgår av tidsskriftets nettside. Det bør være mulig for alle som underviser i MNT-fag, og har en vitenskapelig tilnærming til sitt arbeid, å både ha nytte av aktiv deltagelse selv og å bidra til at andre utvikler sitt arbeid.

PhD updates

ICT Research School Annual Meeting 2020
The ICT Research School 2020 is going to take place on 26-27 October 2020 in Park Hotel Vossevangen. You can find the current agenda on the event website. The ICT Research School's annual meeting is organized by and for PhD candidates at the Department of Informatics.

The aim of this meeting is to strengthen networking and collaboration among the research school's PhD candidates, as well as to give them the opportunity to hold a seminar/lecture on an individually selected subject to complete the dissemination part of the training component.

If you have any questions, please contact Alessandro Budroni, Nooshin Heidari, or Dan Zhang.

UiB Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 – Registration is now open!
Welcome to the Department of Informatics Writing Workshop 2020 (23-27 November 2020)! The aim of this workshop is to learn about clear and concise writing and to motivate each other to communicate our science in the best possible way!

Registration is now open. Registration deadline is 19 October 2020.

Please find more detailed information here.
Develop your career and your academic skills
UiB’s University Library has compiled a website with information on career and training opportunities for PhDs and researchers. “If you want to learn more about scientific writing and publishing, collaborations, and open research, you can take online courses offered by Nature, gain insight through PhD on Track, or order courses.”

Find a list over possibilities on their website.

6th Annual NORBIS Conference
Due to the Covid-19 situation we have had to be creative and arrange the 6th Annual NORBIS Conference in a different way than originally planned. This year we will organize the conference as a hybrid meeting over one and a half days. We plan for the meeting to be streamed online and the different partner institutions arrange a local gathering for those who will/can meet in person. The local gatherings require that each partner institution have a local organization committee of 2-4 PhD students/postdocs who is responsible for finding a suitable location for the meeting, for setting up the technology for the local speakers and for showing the Zoom lectures on a big screen, and for arranging lunch on Nov 3 and 4 and dinner on Nov 3. The local committee is also responsible for ensuring Covid-19 hygiene and social distancing.

If, for a specific University, there is no committee that can arrange this locally, there will be no physical meeting and all participants from this city will meet on Zoom only. We therefore hope that some of you are eager to take part in the local organization, which counts as “active participation” in the same way as giving a talk or presenting a poster. You will be asked to specify your contribution in the online registration form. For the conference we plan for student talks, poster presentations, career development. We are also very happy to announce our keynote speakers: Oscar Rueda from University of Cambridge, Iain Johnston from University of Bergen and Solveig Engebretsen from researcher at Norwegian Computing Center.

Please find more information and link to registration here

Hope to see many of you in November!

Upcoming NORBIS courses:
Genome sequencing technologies, assembly, variant calling and statistical genomics
The first part of the course will provide a broad overview of genetic epidemiology and statistical genetics and the second part will cover genetic association analyses in detail.

Dates: 30th November – December 4th, 2020
Lecturers: Håkon K. Gjessing, Rolv Terje Lie, Anil Jugessur and others
Credits: 4 ECTS
Location: This course will be given online.

Registration and information Students who like to gain ECTS will have to register at UiB in addition. Visiting PhD students have to email contact-norbis@uib.no. Registration deadline for the course is 22nd November.
HPC and NIRD Toolkit course October 2020 (Kurs i beregningstjenester)

We are pleased to announce the course on the national HPC systems & NIRD Toolkit and a basic course on UNIX. More details are available on the course webpage. The course is free of charge and is on Zoom. Zoom link will be sent to all participants before the course. For registration

The HPC course will be held between 27th -29th October (900-12:30) and the UNIX course between 19th &20th October (09:00-12:30). Register before 14th October for the UNIX course and before October 21st for HPC & NIRD Toolkit Course.

Looking forward to see you at the event!
The Scientific Computing Group at the UiB IT department

Welcome to Department seminar on October 8: Emre Yaksi

Neural circuit computations in zebrafish brain

Abstract:

The Yaksi Lab at the Kavli Institute is an interdisciplinary group of life scientists, engineers, clinicians and physicists, combining approaches from multiple disciplines to understand how our brains are wired, function, and how they may fail in neurological diseases. Our core interest is to understand how sensory information interacts with the internally generated dynamics of the brain, representing animals’ behavioral states or emotions. To achieve this, we image neural activity from thousands of individual neurons in behaving animals and try to interpret these huge neural data sets by using simple applied mathematics. We also perturb neural circuit activity by using genetic and optical methods, in a way similar to systems identification approaches in engineering.

We focus on habenula, a conserved brain region associated with predicting potential outcomes, learning and mood disorders. We revealed that habenula act as a major hub integrating sensory information with the internal dynamics of the brain. We showed that different subnetworks of this circuitry are born during distinct developmental stages and serve different functions. Finally, we showed that perturbation of these circuits interferes with the animals’ ability to integrate new information during learning.

I hope that we can use this seminar as a way to build bridges between our brain research and the AI community in Bergen. I will try to present some of our results, to initiate discussion about possible collaborations.

Published: 14.09.2020

Join Zoom Meeting: https://uib.zoom.us/j/63998042117?pwd=bmZ5SGQ3ZEkrbFRaZWkbHJkVxxBUT09
Meeting ID: 639 9804 2117 Password: 6xGz7XiQ
Welcome to Guest lecture at INF214 on October 15: Vitaly Bragilevsky

Vitaly Bragilevsky
Haskell GHC Steering Committee Member
Author of “Haskell in Depth”

Concurrency in Haskell

guest lecture at
INF214 Concurrent Programming
Thursday 15th October at 10:15

Join Zoom Meeting: https://uib.zoom.us/j/67575355678?pwd=N0RXQTk4cEt1ci9FR1J2TzhQcWQxZz09
Meeting ID: 675 7535 5678
Password: Pw8FbQwy

Publishing Open Access

The University of Bergen Library has prepared very good websites on the current status of local, national and international open access (OA) policies as well as their services related to OA publishing. Please have a look at their websites and make yourself familiar with the different policies as well as the existing publishing deals with several of the academic publishers. Furthermore, UiB has a publication fund for OA that can cover the article processing charges (APC) when publishing in eligible open access journals.

Before you (your group) pay(s) any fees for making an article openly available, please consult the webpages to see if you are entitled to a discount, may get the fees refunded through the publication fund, or maybe don’t even have to pay anything based on an existing agreement with the publisher!

If you have questions, please contact the department’s research coordinator Stefanie Meyer.

NEWS:
Kvotene for åpen publisering hos storforlag er brutt opp
Open Access Week at UiB (19-23 October 2020)
Upcoming funding opportunities

On a monthly basis, the department releases a comprehensive overview over upcoming funding opportunities on its website for research support services. Please inform research coordinator Stefanie Meyer about all planned and ongoing funding applications! This includes both applications you coordinate yourself, and those where you are included as a partner/collaborator! At this point, we would like to highlight the following upcoming calls and funding/research-related events:

**IKTPLUSS.** The Research Council has an open call on Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. “The objective of this call is to further develop expertise and capacity in artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems. Efforts are to help to move the research front, build vital competence and create new opportunities for people and society in the short and long term.”

Please note that these are collaborative projects where two or more of the project partners have to come from outside academia (i.e. the private or public sector), and have to stand for at least 10% of the effort. 

Application deadline: open-ended.

**Researcher Projects 2021.** The Research Council has announced calls for Researcher projects, which “are to contribute to important new insights, scientific publication, researcher training and international research collaboration.” Currently, the following calls are announced:

- **Researcher Projects for Scientific Renewal,**
- **Researcher Projects for Young Talents,**
- **Three-year Researcher Projects with International Mobility,**
- **Large-scale Interdisciplinary Researcher Project.**

Application deadline: 10 February 2021.

**Centre for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME).** “The aim of the Centres for Environment-friendly Energy Research (FME) is to address climate and energy challenges and contribute to business development. [RCN is] now issuing a call to establish an FME in the field of wind power. The centre awarded funding will strengthen the knowledge base required to develop a competitive Norwegian wind-power industry.” Please follow this link for more information. 

Application deadline: 11 November 2020.

**INTPART - Funding for International Partnerships.** “Formålet med utlysningen er å utvikle verdensledende fagmiljøer i Norge gjennom langsiktig internasjonalt samarbeid. Norske forskningsorganisasjoner kan søke om midler til partnerskap med Brasil, Canada, India, Japan, Kina, Russland, Sør-Afrika og USA. Andre partnerskapsland kan bli inkludert i den endelige utlysningen.” More information about the call is available on the website. 

Application deadline: 18 November 2020.
National Research Schools.


EU Green Deal. The following topics may be of interest to the department’s researchers:
- **LC-GD-2-1-2020**: Innovative land-based and offshore renewable energy technologies and their integration into the energy system
- **LC-GD-9-3-2020**: Transparent & Accessible Seas and Oceans: Towards a Digital Twin of the Ocean

The **application deadline for all topics is 26 January 2021**. For more information about the Green Deal, please visit the following websites: European Green Deal call & A European Green Deal & list of announced topics.

ERC. The European Research Council has announced the tentative application deadlines for 2021 on their website:
- Starting Grant, 9 March 2021
- Consolidator Grant, 20 April 2021
- Advanced Grant, 31 August 2021
- No Synergy Grant call is planned for 2021 (foreseen again in 2022, possibly with an application deadline in late 2021).

Nordic Maritime Transport and Energy Research Programme. The call covers technical/natural sciences energy use in maritime operations as well as possible policy frameworks that can aid decarbonisation of the Nordic maritime sector. You can find the full call here. Application deadline: 28 October 2020.

Need help?

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. There you will find a list of our services.
**Norwegian launch of Horizon Europe.** The Research Council of Norway, Innovation Norway, the Ministry of Education and Research and the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Fisheries invite you to a virtual event on Horizon Europe, the next research and innovation framework programme of the EU. Focus topics include: What is new in Horizon Europe? Horizon Europe in the Norwegian context. Possibilities for Norwegian actors and how even more of them can be successful. Meet and greet with researchers and companies that contribute to creating job opportunities and solve key societal challenges, with support from the EU. **Event: 26 October 2020.** **Registration is now open.**

**Video academy to design and write competitive ERC proposals.** “Due to the Covid 19 pandemic, [UiB] cannot offer a physical course this year, but you can learn all about the ERC whenever it suits you wherever you have internet access.” Basic course: **4 – 17 November 2020.** Beyond Academy: **18 November – 4 December 2020.** Registration deadline: 19 October – 1 November 2020.

**Webinar on RCN calls for Researcher Projects 2021.** The Research Council of Norway will hold a series of webinars on the 2021 calls for Researcher Projects (as well as Collaborative and Knowledge-building Projects). **Event for universities: 10 November 2020.**

**IMI Stakeholder Forum 2020.** “The theme this year is 'Broader horizons: growing Europe’s health partnership'. The event will feature leaders in both policy making and science and technology expertise.” **Event: 10 November 2020.** **Registration deadline: 8 November 2020.**

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**Vacant positions**

**PhD position in informatics - parallel computing/machine learning**

Please find the announcement [here](#). Closing date: October 15, 2020.

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**HR – HSE (Health, Safety and Environment) - Welfare**

**Ergonomic assessment of office workplaces on October 21**

UiB’s physiotherapist will visit us on Wednesday 21st October at 09:00-12:00. Her mission is to help us with ergonomic assessment of our new employees’ office workplaces.

If you are not among the new employees since February 2020, but still want us to visit you for an ergonomic assessment of your office workplace – please sign up by sending an email to Linda Vagtskjold.
Introduction seminar for new employees, October 15
There is still available space for the UiB introduction seminars held this fall. We encourage you to sign up! A lot of relevant information for your daily life as UiB employee will be addressed, answering a lot of questions we are sure you have. Sign up!

Some topics are:
- Work life in Norway
- Absence, short term, long term, parental leave, vacations and more
- Norwegian Social Insurance Scheme
- Norwegian Public Service Pension Fund
- Trade Unions
- Language courses

Please be assured we will do our best to uphold necessary Covid-19 regulations. If, under the circumstances, you are not comfortable to join in a classroom setting, please let us know and we will try and accommodate you.

Election for new safety delegates
Please find information in English on Safety delegates’ tasks, organization and election here.

Valg av verneombud ved UiB for perioden 2021-2022 er i gang. Ved UiB velges verneombud på alle nivå og alle ansatte kan foreslå kandidater til:

- Lokale verneombud
- Hovedverneombud
- Universitetets hovedverneombud

Verneombudet er viktig for arbeidsplassen, kollegaer og arbeidsgiver. UiBs verneombud er arbeids-takernes representanter i arbeidsmiljøsaker og er engasjerte, tydelige og godt kvalifiserte.

Verneombudene ved UiB:
- er viktige samarbeidspartnere for ledelsen i det systematiske HMS-arbeidet
- har et støttende nettverk med faste møter
- får faglig påbygg og kompetansehevingstiltak

Her kan du lese mer om valget og foreslå kandidater.