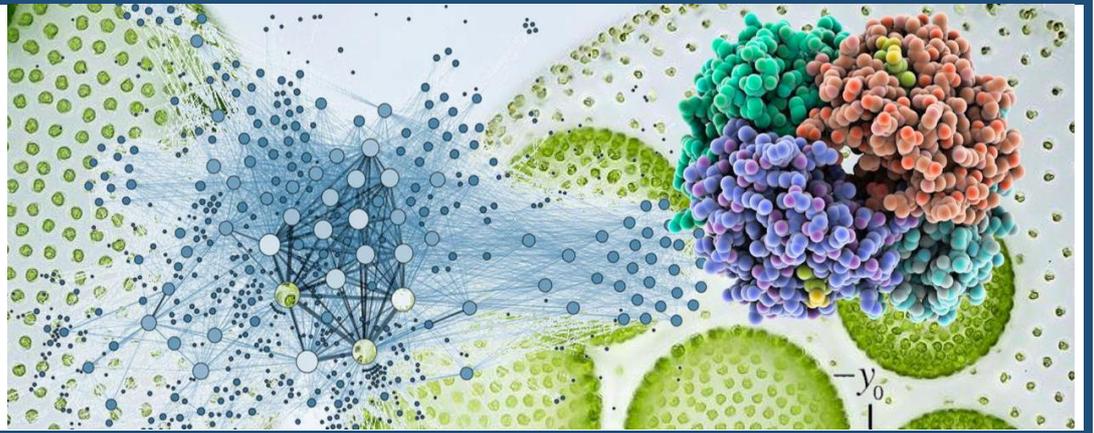


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 20/2020
27th November 2020



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

Dear colleagues,

I think we are close to the limit of what we can take of social distancing, home office, and not being able to travel to visit our loved ones. Even the most positive among us are now pretty fed up. Workwise I can see that both our administration and our lecturers have been working so hard for so long that the energy levels are at an all-time low, and everybody is looking forward to being able to take a few days off during the Christmas break. Of course, exams need to be graded and grades need to be registered, so a full holiday is unfortunately not possible for everybody.

In this dark time, both literally and metaphorically, I find once more comfort in good news. A very recent [report](#) from the Research Council of Norway shows that the population's trust in science and research is higher than ever before. It is predicted that the pandemic and all the united research efforts to fight it, in form of developing medicines and vaccines, has contributed to this.

The widespread worldwide collaboration between both academic and industrial institutions worldwide in the work towards a vaccine is quite unique in our lifetimes, perhaps the similar of which we have only seen in movies. The whole world united, fighting towards a common enemy. (My favorite movie of all times is actually such a movie: Independence Day from 1996. It has all the ingredients; humor, action, love, heroism, irony, sadness. I can really recommend this movie in such a time.) As a result, we have now several vaccines that have lined up to be approved by FDA and EU.

The research community was able to join and focus their efforts in this direction very quickly, partly thanks to rapid reallocation of research funds to the fight against the pandemic. In my opinion, this has once again shown the importance of wide-range long-term fundamental research. Once we have a solid research fundament, we are able to quickly target efforts to short-term immediate challenges when needed. What the next urgent unexpected need will be, we cannot fully know today.

As happy as I am about all this, I am quite frustrated about the fact that many people say they will be hesitant to take the vaccine when it arrives. When asked in June, 30% said they would not take the vaccine. By the end of September, the negative response had increased to 40%. In fact, only 50% say that that they would for sure take the vaccine if offered. "Well, I will not be among the first ones to take it, no", is a phrase I hear way too often now. Well, you are not the first ones anyway. Hundreds of thousands of people around the world have volunteered to participate in the development of the vaccine, to have it *tested* on them!

Perhaps the skeptics have watched another movie featuring the same main actor as in Independence Day, appearing 11 years later, in 2007: I am legend. In that movie, fight against a disease does not at all go well. Don't watch that one before we are rid of COVID-19, or at least until days are longer and we have more sunshine. It is not a movie for these days. Of course, our fight will end similarly to that of Independence Day! And, of course, I will be happy to take the vaccine as soon as I am offered.

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: [Det blir jobba godt i mørketida](#) - [Godt HMS-arbeid startar på toppen](#) - [Er påstanden om at vi er ein del av den så kalla eliten, som ser med forakt og arroganse på dei som har andre bakgrunnar og verdiar enn oss sann?](#) - [Vi skal ha innovasjon og entreprenørskap inn i våre studieprogram](#)



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

Corona updates and reminders <https://www.uib.no/korona>

- **Home office is compulsory** for employees and students, unless their work is of such type that cannot be performed from home or they have a special reason to ask for access to their work space at the department.
 - **Employees:** If you have a special reason to have access to your office, you are welcome to send an email to Linda and ask for access grant. Linda will keep a list of everybody who has access, and people who are not on that list, are not to be on campus. So far, 28 people are on the list.
 - **Master students** who need special access, must fill in [this form](#)
 - **Bachelor students** who need special access, must fill in [this form](#).
- **Teaching, exams, trial lectures and defenses:** All teaching is digital for the rest of the semester. All written exams are digital home exams this semester. At this point, every lecturer should have full information about the exam of their course. Please contact our study administration if you have further questions. Please contact Pål before planning trial lectures and defenses.
- **Meetings** are to be conducted digitally until the end of the semester. Annual appraisal interviews can be conducted physically when the digital option is not appropriate.
- **Travels and retreats:** All travels, retreats, and physical events are cancelled until the end of the semester.
- **On the positive side:**
 - We have digital department seminars every Thursday until Christmas (Dec 3, Dec 10, Dec 17), so we will get a chance to “see” each other at least once a week. Check the web calendar to see information on these.
 - We have this and one more newsletters this semester (Dec 11) with plenty of good news and announcements.
 - We are planning digital regular meeting arenas for our PhD students and for our postdocs. Information about this will come in December.
 - We will have a digital “lunch” for faculty and permanent staff on December 18.
 - We encourage research groups to facilitate digital lunches or social meetings once a week.
 - Our 3-4 people social groups will be operational from the beginning of December.

BOTT stuff – important reminders

BOTT = Bergen, Oslo, Trondheim, Tromsø. Standardization of administrative systems and routines in our sector.

Effective from 1st January, the UiB will have 3 new admin systems for:

- HR-/salary, **SAP** (replacing the HR-portal PAGAweb)
- Economy **Unit4** (replacing Oracle and Basware) NB! Tableau report system stays unchanged
- Identity and access control **Rapid Identity** (replacing SEBRA)

We will come back with more information and e-learning courses for the new web-based self-service portal (DFØ-app) for all employees later. For now, in this important preparing phase, we will kindly ask you to carefully notice and act on the following:

- No one will be able to access the HR-portal (PAGAweb) after 31.12.2020. Registered information in PAGAweb will be transferred to the new SAP-system, but not the documents such as salary slips or annual reports. If you need to archive or print documents from My folder, this must be done before the year ends.
- All **unused vacation days** must be registered or transferred to 2021 asap and at the latest 21.12.2020.
- **Travel claims** must be registered asap and at the latest 15.12.2020.
- **Refunds** must be registered asap and at the latest 15.12.2020
- Some other more detailed things are also on our preparation to-do-list, but those who are effected by these, will be contacted individually.

You are welcome to contact Lene, Tor or myself if anything is unclear or if you need our assistance in these matters.

HSE seminar 2020

“Stay safe during your stay abroad!”

Department of Informatics – 10th December on Zoom!

This year's department HSE seminar will focus on safety during stays abroad. The UiB International Centre and the Occupational Health division will present the tasks you need to do when you are going on a research stay abroad. Topics such as Social security inside and outside of Norway, Tax, Health rights outside of Norway and Safe travel will be covered.



Jill Anette Opsahl
HR-adviser international mobility



Mari Mathiesen Follo
Occupational nurse

We expect all Informatics employees to attend the seminar if possible.
Zoom participation link to be announced in our department web calendar soon.

PhD updates: There're two new PhDs in town!

Congratulations Bjørn André Bredesen!



Bjørn successfully defended his thesis "*Modelling the structure, function and evolution of Polycomb/Trithorax Response Elements*" on 20th November.

[Here you can learn more about his project.](#)

Congratulations to Bjørn, the CBU, supervisor Inge Jonassen and co-supervisors ...



Congratulations Fabian Bolte!



Fabian successfully defended his thesis "Visualization Space Exploration" on 20th November.

[Here you can learn more about his project.](#)

Congratulations to Fabian, the Visualization group, and supervisors Stefan and Noeska!



Research, Science and Seminars [ScienceNorway.no](https://www.science-norway.no) - [forskning.no](https://www.forskning.no)

Welcome to Department seminar, Speed Talks, December 3

Department seminar 3rd December at 14:15

Speed Talks

This Department seminar is composed by speed talks given by our own in-house researchers.

The goal is to make us a bit better informed on what our department colleagues are focusing on in their research.



Ana Ozaki
«Querying Neural Networks»



Sayan Bandyapadhyay
"Towards Fair Clustering through Fair Coresets"



Stefan Bruckner
«Visualization Hybridization»

Zoom participation link soon to be published at [this web-site](#).

Welcome to MMIV conference, December 9 and 10

Welcome to the third MMIV conference on December 9th and 10th at Bikuben conference center in a hybrid format.

The main theme of the conference is 'Enabling imaging technology to transform patient care'. International and local researchers are presenting novel imaging technologies, neuroimaging, molecular imaging and multiparametric MRI in cancer and neurological disease.

The conference is open to everyone, and there is no admission fee. Please register and indicate your preference for in person (if restrictions allow) or virtual attendance via [this link](#)



Welcome to VCF seminar, December 11

Visual Computing Forum

<http://vis.UiB.no/vcf/>



The Presence and Future of Molecular Visualization



Friday, 11th of December, from 10:15

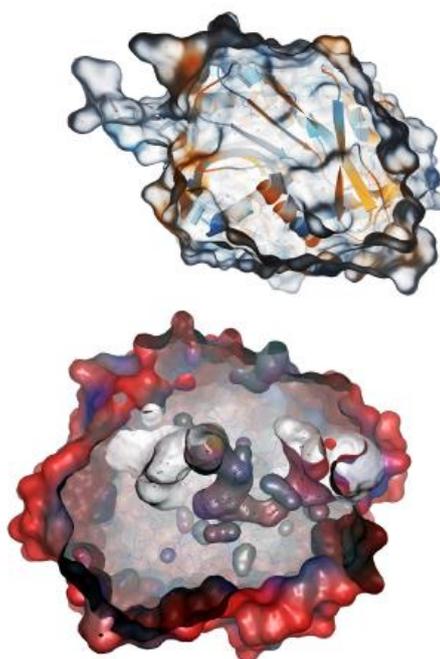
Zoom meeting: <https://uib.zoom.us/>

Barbora Kozlíková

Associate Professor
@ Masaryk University, Brno

Abstract:

Molecular visualization has been a research topic for many decades already, resulting in many exciting publications, techniques, and even robust software tools. The progress in biomolecular research enables to explore larger and larger structures in atomistic detail and observe long trajectories of their behavior in time which poses many research challenges for the visualization community. In my talk, based on recent exemplary cases, I will present the tight connection between biochemistry and visualization, with the aim to give an overview of the current status of biomolecular visualization. Then, I outline the current limitations of existing approaches and present sources of new domain knowledge and data, which still lack proper visual representation.



Welcome to Department seminar, December 17

[Please find the full announcement and participation link here](#)

Lars Nyre: "Pushing students to make new media technology"

Webminar about innovation pedagogy in Media City Bergen

Lars Nyre introduces the pedagogical method "innovation pedagogy" and presents examples of prototypes and products.

Innovation pedagogy has been practiced at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies for over ten years. It tackles the fact that there is a permanent disruption in the technologies and practices of media and communication, and teaches students to be change-oriented, creative and robust, so that they can make the most of the changing circumstances of their future work life.

Innovation pedagogy trains students by pushing them to explore novel media technology with ambitious partners in the Norwegian media business. Recently, a news tip application for local newspapers was launched for iPhone and Android, and builds on an early prototype developed by a team of bachelor students in Media City Bergen. Read more about it here: <http://tipps.no>.

About Lars Nyre

Lars Nyre is a professor of media design at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies, and is a member of the program committee for media and interaction design in Media City Bergen. Nyre heads a new project for student active learning funded by DIKU from 2021 and was awarded the "Teaching Environment Prize" at the University of Bergen in 2019. Nyre has worked with evaluation and prototyping of new media for journalism and has published several textbooks in Norwegian. He is the author of *Sound Media. From live journalism to recorded music* (Routledge, 2008).

FOREDRAG

🕒 17.12.2020 - 14.15–15.00

📍 Zoom

📅 [Legg til i din egen kalender](#)



Lars Nyre is a professor of media design at the Department of Information Science and Media Studies, and is a member of the program committee for media and interaction design in Media City Bergen. Foto/ill.: UiB

Popular science writing course on 14 January 2021



Skrivekurs for forskere ved MatNat

This one-day course will be held on 14 January 2021 between 9 am and 3.30 pm and targets scientific staff members (PhD candidates, Postdocs, Associate Professors, Professors, *forskere* etc.) who want to learn more about how to best present their research in Norwegian media (newspapers, websites). You are required to submit a text before the course.

If you are interested in attending the course, please register via [this website](#). The registration deadline is 6 January 2021.

We would like to draw your attention to a **popular science writing course**.

The course will be in Norwegian and is organized by the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences' communication advisors.

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](#).



[Publication fund for Open Access at UiB](#)



[Open access publishing deals](#)



[Open Access - what, why and how](#)

NEWS:

[Kvotene for åpen publisering hos storforlag er brukt opp](#)
[UiB's policy for Open Science](#)



CRISTIN

Current Research Information System in Norway

Please register your publications in the CRISTin database by 31st January!

CRISTin (Current research information system in Norway) is a research information system for hospitals, research institutes, and universities and

university colleges. One of the primary purposes of the system is to collect all the registrations and reporting of research activities of institutions within the three sectors in a common system.

As every year, we ask you to log into CRISTin and check if your publications for the current year (2020) are complete and correctly registered. Please correct potential errors and inconsistencies and add missing publications. In addition, UiB requires a full-text version of all research articles to be uploaded in the database. The deadline for completing those tasks is 31 January 2021.

More detailed information on how to register publications in CRISTin, as well as guidelines on how to upload the full text, can be found here:

<https://www.uib.no/en/ub/79539/cristin>

<https://www.cristin.no/english/researcher-pages/register-publications-nvi.html>

Please note, that the budget of our department is partly dependent on the publications that our scientific staff are authors and coauthors of. The research groups will be rewarded according to their registered publication points.



Webinar about Plan S requirements On 20 November, the Research Council of Norway held an informative [webinar about the coming Plan S requirements](#). We recommend that you watch the webinar, especially the first part where you get some tips for whom this is relevant, what the three ways to Plan S compliant OA publishing are, and which steps you as researcher can follow to make sure that your publications follow [Plan S requirements](#). Very briefly: Researchers that are awarded projects by the Research Council of Norway from 2021 on have to make sure that their published articles are openly available following Plan S requirements. The **three main ways to OA** are:

publishing in OA journals, publishing in venues under a transformative arrangement, or making a version (either the AAM or final version) of the article available by depositing it in an open archive. For any chosen route to compliance, the publication must be **openly available immediately** with a Creative Commons Attribution license (**CC BY**). Coalition S has recently launched a [journal checker tool](#), where you can check whether your chosen journal/venue is Plan S compliant and which routes are available.

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. There is an open call for Collaborative Projects on Digital Security and Artificial Intelligence, Robotics and Autonomous Systems. “The objective of this call is to generate new knowledge to find solutions to digital security challenges, particularly in exposed sectors and for users of critical infrastructures in society. [...] The project must involve two or more Norwegian partners that are not research organisations. Partners that are not research organisations must together participate with a minimum of 10 per cent of the total project costs.”
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.



SPIRE. SPIRE-funds are strategic funds that shall help to facilitate international research collaboration. One can apply for funds in two different categories:

- 1) international research collaboration (max per application: 200 000 NOK; additional details are mentioned on the website)
- 2) invitation of guest researchers (consult the website for rates and requirements).

Application deadline: 1 December 2020. Please send your applications to Stefanie.Meyer@uib.no. **The call has been revised – please read the new guidelines carefully!**



Student Entrepreneurship. This is a call for students with business ideas. For more detailed information, please have a look at the RCN call website and consult UiB's innovation support services for students. **Application deadline: 17 March 2021.**



Meltzer Foundation. Researchers from the University of Bergen can apply for financial support for academic travels (**NEW: and operating costs**) and sabbaticals. In addition, the foundation supports talented students and PhD candidates with project stipends that can be used for covering costs in connection with their projects, for example research travel, field work, equipment, materials etc. **Application deadline: 1 December 2020.**

See below some more information about Meltzer prizes.



Bergen University Fund and other bequests. Researchers from the University of Bergen, including Postdocs, can apply to the university fund if they need support for communication and dissemination activities, including the organization of conferences, workshops etc. The university also administers several other bequests (*legater*) that support education, research, and outreach, and which are open for researchers, Postdocs, PhD cand. and/or students. **Application deadline: 1 December 2020.**



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).

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.*

Meltzerfondets priser 2020



L. MELTZERS HØYSKOLEFOND



Fondet vil den 8. mars 2021 dele ut Meltzerprisen for yngre forskere og Meltzerprisen for fremragende forskningsformidling.

Alle professorer og instituttledere ved Universitetet i Bergen har rett til å nominere kandidater til fondets priser. Forslagsstiller kan sende signert skriftlig nominasjon som pdf-vedlegg på e-post til kristin.hansen@uib.no ved Forsknings- og Innovasjonsavdelingen innen nominasjonsfrist 1. desember, 2020.

[Se sjekkliste for forslagsstillere](#)

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

Deadlines for sending Christmas mail 2020

Are you going to send packages or post to other countries, it's important to look at deadlines. For Christmas mail in Norway recommended latest 11 December. To help you make sure that your Christmas letters and packages are received before Christmas, we recommend sending by the dates specified for each country.

Deadlines for sending letters:

Sweden and Denmark: 14th December

Rest of Scandinavia – 10th December

Germany – 12th December

Rest of Europe – 8th December

USA and Canada – 6th December

Other countries in the world – 30th November



Regular delivery time A-mail: Earliest 2-6 days in Europe. Rest of the world 4-8 days.

Deadlines for Christmas packages : business package door to door + 1 day from 23.11 , service package +1-2 days from 23.11. [Package abroad](#) - (CarryOn)

Have a wonderful Christmas!

Knut-Egil Larsen , Nestleder TPS .

Værgodmotdegself.no



Dear students and staff at the University of Bergen

I am like you, tired of the coronavirus pandemic. We are all tired of studying and working from our home office, with a physical distance from fellow students and colleagues. Although there was good news earlier this week about a vaccine against the coronavirus, it will take some time before everything is back to normal. We must thus prepare for a different everyday life also into the next year.

As rector at UiB I am concerned about the mental health of our students, and afraid that some students will drop out of their studies. We also receive reports from student organizations that many students are lonely.

We have taken the messages from our students seriously, and today we launched the portal "Vær god mot deg selv" (Be kind to yourself). On the website vaergodmotdegself.no (currently only in Norwegian), we have collected a number of knowledge-based tips from our own academic environments on how students can have a better everyday life, both those who are lonely, and those who in other ways feel that digital work and study affects their mental health.

We hope that our students will be motivated to continue their studies, and that they get a feeling that they are part of a community, even if it is not on campus.

Best regards

Dag Rune Olsen

Rector, University of Bergen

Upcoming events for International Centre

- Walk and Talk 27th November
- Life is an uncertain project 30th November

[Learn more here.](#)



Det gode arbeidsmiljø: Arbeidsliv i endring – hva med Arbeidsmiljøet?

Digitalt frokostseminar torsdag 3.desember på Zoom kl. 0830-1000

Pandemi på overtid – arbeidsmiljø – ledere – medarbeidere

Et godt arbeidsmiljø kjennetegnes av god ledelse, medvirkning fra ansatte og tydelige organisatoriske rammer. Kompetanse, god kommunikasjon, mestring og anerkjennelse gir både trygghet og trivsel.

Vernetjenesten ved UiB ønsker å sette søkelys på betydningen av godt arbeidsmiljø gjennom frokostseminarserien Arbeidsliv i endring – hva med arbeidsmiljøet? Serien setter søkelys på arbeidslivs- og arbeidsmiljøfaktorer.

Høstsemesteret ble ikke helt slik vi hadde forestilt oss. Pandemien setter fortsatt tydelige rammer for vår arbeidshverdag. Vernetjenesten har fått mange positive tilbakemeldinger på frokostseminaret i september som handlet om koronapandemiens innvirkning på arbeidsliv og arbeidsmiljø. Vi velger derfor å videreføre og utdype dette temaet i årets siste frokostseminar 3.desember.

2020 har vært et annerledes og krevende år der mange har gjort en formidabel innsats i å håndtere en ny arbeidssituasjon med digitalisering, smittevern og veksling mellom arbeidsplass på campus og hjemme. Ikke minst har dette kriseåret vist at medarbeidere og ledere ved UiB er stolte av sin arbeidsplass og lojale mot organisasjonen. Mange tok raskt i bruk nye digitale verktøy for å drive både forskning, undervisning og formidling. Organisasjonen er i tillegg kontinuerlig i endring gjennom omstillings- og evalueringsprosesser samtidig som koronapandemien har gitt andre og nye utfordringer.

Hvordan har 2020 påvirket organisasjonens kultur, verdier og identitet? Har dugnadsånden ført til mer omsorg for kollegaen på nabokontoret, på laboratoriet eller i klinikken? Har arbeidsmiljøet, både det psykososiale og det fysiske, fått seg en koronaknekk? Hvordan takler medarbeidere og ledere dette maratonløpet av endringer og usikkerhet med hjemmekontor, nye møtearenaer, digitale møter og undervisning m.m.

Vi har invitert dekan ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelige fakultet **Helge Dahle** til å si litt om hvordan de har håndtert pandemien ved Det matematisk-naturvitenskapelig fakultet: «MatNat i koronaens tid – Når skippertaket aldri tar slutt»

Bente Nilsen Hordvik fra UiB sin Bedriftshelsetjeneste og **Heidi Wittrup Djup** daglig leder ved Klinikk for krisepsykologi er invitert til å snakke om utfordringer og vanlige reaksjoner i denne tiden, og hva som er viktig å tenke på med hensyn til egenomsorg og kollegastøtte.

Seminaret arrangeres **digitalt torsdag 3.desember kl. 0830-1000 på Zoom**. [Meld deg på seminaret her](#). Informasjon med lenke og program vil bli utsendt til alle påmeldte noen dager før seminaret.

Møteledere: June-Vibecke K. Indrevik, universitets hovedverneombud (UHVO) UiB og Michael P. Riisøen, vara UHVO UiB.

Vernetjenesten ved UiB

E-post: UHVO@uib.no

Telefon: 55 58 30 60