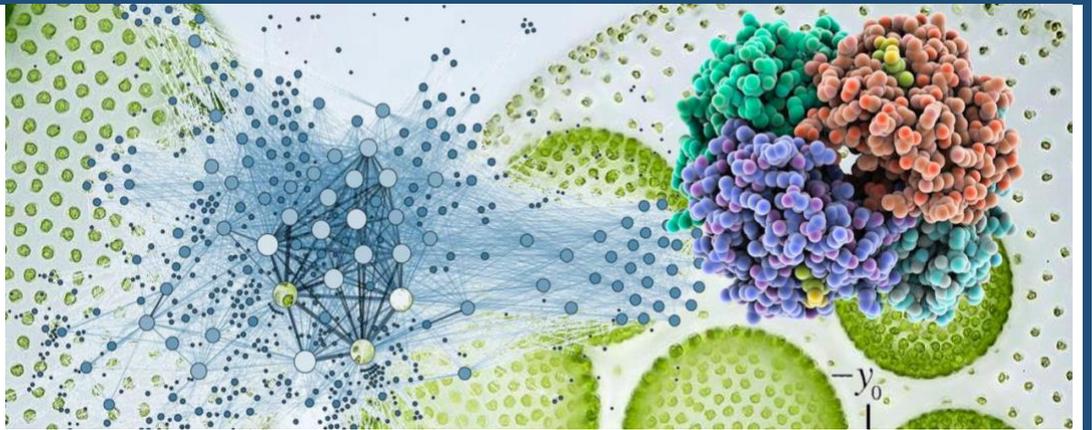


NEWSLETTER

Department of
Informatics



No. 1/2021
15th January 2021



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

Dear colleagues,

We are already two weeks into the new year! 2021 brought quite a bit of snow, cold weather and sunshine to Bergen. You have probably experienced that the streets and sidewalks are pretty slippery. A week of cold and sunny weather with snow on the ground is quite unusual for Bergen, and you need proper equipment to be able to enjoy it fully.

First on the list is wool underwear. You can get this quite cheap at stores like Cubus and Sparkjøp, or you can get more advanced sport versions at various sports shops. With wool underwear (long legged, short legged, long sleeved, short sleeved, even underpants and bras, depending on your choice), you can be warm underneath your regular clothes or other sports clothing. Furthermore, if you get sweaty during activity, you will not get cold as long as you have wool closest to your body.

Second on the list is "brodder" (crampons). You can buy these at shoe stores or sports shops to prevent your shoes from slipping on ice. These are great for regular walking on the streets, but for hiking or running, you might consider shoes with nails underneath. You can buy winter shoes with nails at regular shoe stores, and you can buy sports shoes of various brands with nails under for winter running and hiking. You can even take an old shoe pair to a sport shop and get them to insert nails under your shoe, which is a cheap way of getting solid grip when hiking, running or just walking on snow and ice.

The third item on the list is for the more advanced: a head lamp. With a head lamp you can enjoy the outdoors in the winter without being worried about the early setting darkness. Head lamps are sold in all sports shops and they come in all strengths and prices. You really don't need an expensive one.

What can you do if you get all this equipment? You can for example watch the northern lights from Rundemanen! Northern lights are rarely visible in Bergen, and even when they are, you need to get away from the city lights to be able to see them. You need dark and clear skies, which in Bergen normally means cold weather and icy conditions up to the mountains. I have seen some very pretty and very rare pictures of the northern lights taken in Bergen during this week, from various mountain tops. With the listed equipment, you can of course hike to the top of every mountain in Bergen, but the path to Rundemanen via Fløyen is paved all the way, and it is easily accessible to everybody (with proper equipment!) regardless of the level of hiking experience.

The new year, in addition to snow, sun and northern lights, brought to our university a new leadership. Our previous director of administration Kjell Bernstrøm retired, and Robert Rastad, who comes to us from Bergen Kommune, is now our new director. Also our rector has changed, half a year before due time. Rector Dag Rune Olsen and prorector Margareth Hagen were elected in 2017 to serve until August 2021. In December, Dag Rune got a new job as the next rector of UiT starting August 2021. Due to possible conflicts of interest between the two universities in the transition period, Dag Rune decided to step down now. The board of UiB has therefore constituted Margareth as the rector until August 2021.

In March there will be elections for a new rectorate to serve from August 2021 until August 2025. Information about the upcoming elections and the candidate teams will start popping up soon. For our university democracy it is important that everybody follows the information about the elections and tries to make an informed opinion on whom to elect.

As a side note, you might find it interesting that UiT very recently changed their leadership form from elected rector to hired rector. It is the first time in Norwegian history that an elected rector of a university is hired as the next rector of another university.



2020 ended with good news for our department, in particular the success with four FRIPRO projects granted by the Research Council of Norway. I would like to take this opportunity to again thank everybody who submitted a proposal. The next application deadline for FRIRPO is already in less than a month! I know that several of you are working on new proposals to submit or revising your rejected proposals for resubmission. I encourage everybody who had a rejection in December to work on their proposals and try again in February. Stefanie is there to help you; please do not hesitate to use her expertise. The first few pages of the proposal are the most important, and Stefanie knows exactly what it takes to excite, interest and convince a panel. ☺

Let me close this longer than usual introduction of the first newsletter of 2021 with the following title of a song from the German pop group "Ich + Ich", which I think is fitting both for the subjects we have covered and at the start of a new year: "Mach dein Licht an und weiter gehts"

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: [Dette tenker jeg er viktig for alle når vi nå innleder 2021](#) - [Koronaåret 2020](#)
- [Prestisjefylte prosjekt til fakultetet](#) - [Å forstå klima til nytte for samfunnet](#) - [Det blir jobba godt i mørketida](#) - [Godt HMS-arbeid startar på toppen](#)



Welcome new colleagues!



Daniel Escobar Hernandez

Daniel is employed as lecturer with us this semester. He will be teaching INF142 Computer Networks.

Daniel is Cuban. He did his PhD with us in Spring 2020.



Sachin Valera

Sachin is not at all a new colleague, but he got a new assignment with us for this semester as lecturer. He will be teaching INF241 Quantum Information, Quantum Computing, and Quantum Cryptography.

Sachin is from the UK. He joined us as PhD-student in 2016 and will be finishing his PhD next semester.



Hauke Bartsch

Hauke is our new Adjunct Associate Professor (20%) in Visualization. His main position is Senior Researcher at the Mohn Medical Imaging and Visualization Centre, Department of Radiology, Haukeland University Hospital. He will be involved in supervision of students, guest lectures and collaboration on strategic priorities at the national level, as well as participation in the further development and modernization of the study programs and the establishment of new research projects within medical visualization, data science, machine learning, and other relevant subject areas.

Hauke is Deutch. He did his PhD at the Technical University of Berlin in 2003. He has also previously worked as Bioinformatics Programmer at the University of California and Senior Application Engineer in San Diego.

Congratulations colleagues!



Eivind Valen Named NCMM Associate Investigator!

Eivind was appointed as an Associate Investigator at the Centre for Molecular Medicine Norway (NCMM). The vision of NCMM is to improve the molecular understanding of health and disease to facilitate improved medical practice and patient outcomes. Candidates for Associate Investigators are chosen on the basis of their scientific excellence, compatibility with the NCMM mission, translational merit, and added value they could bring to NCMM. Valen is already engaged in fruitful collaborations with groups at the NCMM and this ambition in joining this network is to open for many more.

NCMM Associate Investigators continue to work at their host institutions, but are credited with affiliation to NCMM and the Nordic EMBL Partnership for molecular medicine. From before Valen is affiliated with the Sars International Centre for Marine Molecular Biology, the other EMBL partner in Norway. [More information.](#)

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

Electricity/power lines maintenance at HiB Saturday January 16th

Please be informed that in connection with electricity/power lines maintenance at Thormøhlensgt.55 Data block Saturday 16.01, In the period between 11:00 - 15:00 there may be short breaks in the power supply of up to 15 min.

For those who are using offices computers it is recommended to turn off PCs before taking the weekend. Please contact Stanislav if anything is unclear.

BOTT is here: new self-service portal for employees and new job for Tor

[The new self-service portal](#) is now running as planned, and our impression is that the system so far is serving us quite well. However, there has been some "casualties" in the transfer leading to lack of salary or smaller mistakes related to salary, and these issues are now handled with high priority by the UiB central administration. Less important things than salary, for example related to working hours (for staff in Tech and Adm positions) or holidays, will also be fixed, but has a lower priority at the moment.

Also in connection with the BOTT arrival, our dear local economist **Tor** Bastiansen got his job/work tasks changed. He will still be working with us here at the department, but is from now on part of a team working with ordering and handling of invoices and some accounting at our MN-faculty. For travel reimbursements, [Quynh-Giao Thi Do](#) (please just call her **Giao**) will be serving us from now on. For other tasks that used to be handled by Tor (booking of seminar-rooms, keys, etc), please contact **Ingrid**.

Support: Please always use [UiBHelp](#) when in need of support.

Technical questions about the self-service portal and app: DFØ (08:00-15:45) Email: lonn@dfo.no Phone: 40634021.

PhD updates

There's a new PhD in town - Congratulations Irene Villa!



Irene successfully defended her thesis "*Analysis, classification and construction of optimal cryptographic Boolean functions*" on 4th January.

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

Congratulations to Irene, the Selmer group, supervisor Lilya and co-supervisors Tor and Marco.

Irene has already left us for a postdoc position in Italy. We wish her all the best for her future career!



Inge features in NORA podcast episode 2



Hvis du er aktiv innenfor AI eller bioinformatikk har du sikkert fått med deg at det har skjedd et vitenskapelig gjennombrudd som forbløffer forskere verden over, og som den kjente biologen Andrei Lupas i den prestisjetunge vitenskapelige journalen Nature hevder: «[will change everything](#)». Proteinfolding har blitt sett på som et av århundrets største vitenskapelige utfordringer. Problemet kan oppsummeres: gitt en sekvens av DNA som koder for et protein, hvilken form vil proteinet få? 30. november ble det klart at DeepMinds Alphafold 2 langt på vei har løst problemet.

I [episode 2](#) av [NORAs podcastserie](#) har vi med oss Inge Jonassen, professor ved Universitetet i Bergen og leder av Computational Biology Unit. Inge er også leder for [ELIXIR Norway](#), en europeisk infrastruktur for bioinformatikk. Inge jobber med AI og bioinformatikk, har selv jobbet aktivt med proteinfolding, og han har også vært med i CASP-konkurransen som AlphaFold 2 vant så overlegent.

I denne episoden snakker vi med Inge om hvordan kunstig intelligens har blitt brukt for å angripe proteinfolding og vi spekulerer i hvordan algoritmen AlphaFold 2 fungerer.»

Welcome to seminar course INF328B "History of Programming Languages" this semester

In Spring, Anya and Mikhail will give a seminar course on

HISTORY *of* PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

based on papers from a very special same-name conference "HOPL" held once every 15 years.

Everyone is welcome to participate!



More information will come!

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. [UiB's new policy for Open Science](#) can be found by following the link. 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](#)



CRISTIN

Current Research Information System in Norway

Please check and 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 last 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 to 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.



Plan S requirements. For calls for proposals from and including 2021, the [Research Council of Norway](#) (RCN) will require **full and immediate open access to all articles from projects that receive funding from the Council**. According to the [Plan S requirements](#), there are **three main ways to OA**: 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. Currently, the requirements apply only to scientific articles. During 2021, cOAlition S will develop joint open access requirements for scientific books and book chapters (monographs and anthologies). When this has been done, the RCN will introduce requirements for scientific books in line with the recommendations made by cOAlition S. Please also note that the **RCN requires all articles to be archived** in a suitable open archive (no matter which OA route was used). We recommend to use CRISTin for this purpose.

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 in the thematic areas digital security and artificial intelligence, robotics and autonomous systems. [...] 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. There are 4 open 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.



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).

NB: The ERC expects some delays in the calls. More information will be available soon.



Trond Mohn Stiftelse (TMS) Starting Grants. “The Trond Mohn Foundation Starting Grant programme aims to assist the University of Bergen (UoB) in recruiting young national or international candidates with outstanding academic merit and research potential. [...] TMS now calls for proposals for four-year grants beginning in 2022.” **Application deadline stage 1 (pre-qualification): 8 March 2021.**

As this type of grant requires considerable contributions from the faculty and department, **all applications must be approved by the head of department before starting the application process!**



Peder Sather Grant Applications.

"The primary mission of the Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study (the Center) is to strengthen ongoing research collaborations and foster the development of new research collaborations between faculty at the University of California, Berkeley (UC Berkeley) and from the consortium of eight participating Norwegian academic institutions. [including UiB] Applications from all fields and disciplines are welcomed."

Application deadline: 8 April 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.



Northern Lights Deep Learning Workshop 2021. "Deep learning is an emerging subfield in machine learning that has in recent years achieved state-of-the-art performance in image classification, object detection, segmentation, time series prediction and speech recognition to name a few. This workshop will gather researchers both on a national and international level to exchange ideas, encourage collaborations and present cutting-edge research." **Virtual event: 18-20 January 2021.**

CEDAS conference. The Center for Data Science (CEDAS) will hold its first conference in June 2021. Save the date! **Event in Bergen: 1-2 June 2021.**

NORA annual conference. Early registration will open soon. Save the date! **Event: 3-4 June 2021.**

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

Mobility Seminar, January 21st

The UiB International Centre host a mobility seminar for you who are planning a research stay outside Norway in 2021/2022. There are so many things to be aware of in this regard, and the potential of bad consequences if worse case occur, is high. The department therefore encourage you to attend this seminar.

Topics:

- Social security outside Norway
- Health rights abroad
- Tax
- Insurance
- Register move
- Health and vaccinas
- Personal safety
- IT-security
- Are you traveling with family?

The seminar is held on zoom. Please find [more information and registration link here](#).