



Department of Biomedicine Newsletter



Issue 15/19
13 September 2019

Dear colleagues at IBM,

As you may know, Mathias Ziegler is on a well-deserved sabbatical and I have now taken over as an interim leader of our Department in his absence. Doing research in a competitive way involves more and more international collaboration, and I am happy to see both a national and international outreach of our research groups towards other academic institutions. I have also seen from my office an intense building activity from Helse-Vest, with the construction of a new childrens hospital. At present, our Department is ideally situated within a large clinical cluster which implies numerous opportunities for our academic staff to establish closer links to clinical research environments. Such links may in the future also lead to new funding opportunities for research. In this context, I will congratulate Frode Berven, Clive Bramham and Espen Hartveit with the recent allocation of large infrastructure grants in the fields of proteomics and neuroscience. These grants will ensure a high and consistent technological capacity within these technological/research domains. We should take advantage of these technological developments. We have an exciting time ahead of us.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Rolf Bjerkvig'.

Human Relations

EVENTS

Visit [this page](#) for an overview of events organized at UiB.

EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Go [here](#) to see an overview of benefits for employees at UiB.

JOB

See all open positions at the University of Bergen [here](#).

We welcome these new and returning employees:



Tore Ivar Malmei Aarsland started a PhD-project in the lab of Jan Haavik on 1 September. He is a MD and former research track student and will work on «Tryptofan metabolisme og B-vitamin ved nevropsykiatriske lidinger»



Laura Kind started in a 4 year UiB-funded PhD-project on 1 September. She will work under supervision of Thomas Arnesen on the project "Molecular mechanisms of HNF-1A in health and disease - a step towards a molecular understanding of diabetes".



Fahimeh Khorsand, 3 year post doctoral position, funded by The Research Council of Norway as part of the project "RESPONSible early Digital Drug Discovery – RESPOND3" with mentor Professor Ruth Brenk.



Arne Raasakka started in a post doctoral position funded by the University of Bergen on 1 September. He will work in the lab of Petri Kursula, on the project "Importance of protein conformation, modifications, lipid composition and ionic strength in myelin formation and disease".



Hanan Ashrafi started in a temporary position as staff engineer on 1 September.



Justine Rudewicz is a bioinformatician in the lab of Rolf Bjerkvig. She holds a temporary researcher position for 1,5 years and started on 10 September.

We wish farewell to these colleagues:



Himalaya Parajuli has held a post doctoral position and had his last working day on 21 August.



Hongyu Zhang has been post doc in the lab of Clive Bramham. Her last working day will be 17 September.



Siri Aastedatter Sakya quit her position as staff engineer in the neurotargeting group. She will have her last working day on 20 September.

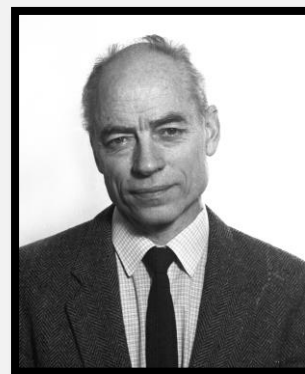
Professor Kjell Hole

We have received the sad message that professor Kjell Hole died earlier this summer at the age of 86.

Kjell was trained as a physician and a neurologist. He became one of the early employees at the Department of Physiology, starting his research in 1967. He received his doctoral degree in 1972, and from then on, his main line of research was the study of serotonin and serotonergic systems in brain function, and gradually in pain regulation. In 1975 he was appointed Associate Professor in neurophysiology and founded the Pain Research Group.

During the 27 years until his retirement in 2002 he led an active research group involving a considerable number of researchers, and 13 obtained their PhD under his supervision. Those who have been working with Kjell will always remember his including attitude, his vigour and contagious enthusiasm. We will cherish our memories.

Arne Tjølsen



Operations, Health, and Safety

Sykkelparkering BBB

Gledelig nyhet, sykkelparkeringen i garasjen (Etasje -1) er nå åpnet!

Alle på IBM har tilgang til denne, så nå er det bare å sykle til jobb.

Bruken av parkeringen er på eget ansvar, så det kan være lurt å låse sykkelen også.

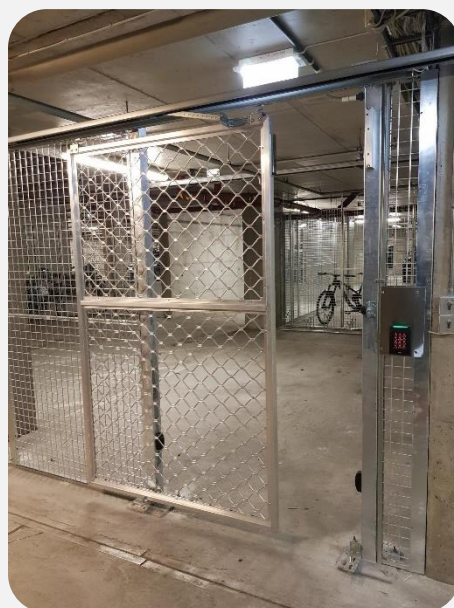


Bicycle-parking at BBB

Good news everyone, the bicycle-parking in the garage (Floor -1) is now open!

Everyone who has access to IBM has access to the parking, so feel free to use the bike to work from now on!

All use of the bicycle-parking is at your own risk, so it is advised to lock the bike as well.



New Publications



The following list is the PubMed search result for 'Bergen AND Biomedicine' since the last newsletter. Authors who attribute the Department are shown in bold.

NOTE: We see that the Department of biomedicine is not always listed as the author address when it should be. This is especially the case for external PhD-candidates, guest researchers, or employees in part-time positions. We therefore want to remind you of the principles that apply for giving credit in scientific publications at universities in Norway:

1. An institution shall be stated as the address in a publication if it has made a necessary and substantial contribution to or basis for the author's contribution to the published work.
2. The same author shall also provide the addresses of other institutions if, in each case, they also satisfy the requirement in paragraph 1.
3. An employment relationship or a supervisory requirement may be considered as the basis for crediting an institution if the requirement in paragraph 1 is met.

See the complete guidelines here (in Norwegian): [Veiledende retningslinjer for kreditering av vitenskapelige publikasjoner til institusjoner](#) (pdf)

[Stromal integrin \$\alpha 11\$ regulates PDGFR- \$\beta\$ signaling and promotes breast cancer progression.](#)

Primac I, Maquoi E, Blacher S, **Heljasvaara R**, Van Deun J, **Smeland HYH**, Canale A, Louis T, **Stuhr L**, Sounni NE, Cataldo D, Pihlajaniemi T, Pequeux C, De Wever O, **Gullberg D**, Noel A.
J Clin Invest. 2019 Jul 9;130. pii: 125890. doi: 10.1172/JCI125890.

[Astrocytes enhance glioblastoma growth.](#)

Mega A, **Hartmark Nilsen M**, Leiss LW, Tobin NP, **Miletic H**, **Sleire L**, Strell C, Nelander S, Krona C, Hägerstrand D, **Enger PØ**, Nistér M, Östman A.
Glia. 2019 Sep 11. doi: 10.1002/glia.23718.

[A New Look at the Functional Organization of the Golgi Ribbon.](#)

Saraste J, Prydz K.
Front Cell Dev Biol. 2019 Aug 21;7:171. doi: 10.3389/fcell.2019.00171.

[Long noncoding RNA *SCHLAP1* forms a growth promoting complex with HNRNPL in human glioblastoma through stabilization of ACTN4 and activation of NF- \$\kappa\$ B signaling.](#)

Ji J, Xu R, Ding K, Bao G, Zhang X, Huang B, Wang X, **Martinez A**, Wang X, Li G, Miletic H, **Thorsen F**, **Bjerkvig R**, Xiang L, Han B, Chen A, Li XG, **Wang J**.
Clin Cancer Res. 2019 Sep 6. pii: clincanres.0747.2019. doi: 10.1158/1078-0432.CCR-19-0747

[AXL targeting overcomes human lung cancer cell resistance to NK and CTL-mediated cytotoxicity.](#)

Terry S, Abdou A, **Engelsen AST**, Buart S, Dessen P, Corgnac S, Collares D, Meurice G, Gausdal G, Baud V, Saintigny P, **Lorens JB**, Thiery JP, Mami-Chouaib F, Chouaib S.
Cancer Immunol Res. 2019 Sep 5. pii: canimm.0903.2019. doi: 10.1158/2326-6066.CIR-18-0903.

[Structure to function analysis with antigenic characterization of a hypothetical protein,HPAG1_0576 from Helicobacter pylori HPAG1.](#)

Ashrafi H, Siraji MI, Showva NN, Hossain MM, Hossan T, Hasan MA, Shohael AM, Shawan MMAK. Bioinformation. 2019 Jul 31;15(7):456-466. doi: 10.6026/97320630015456

[Hypoxic glioma-derived exosomes deliver microRNA-1246 to induce M2 macrophage polarization by targeting TERF2IP via the STAT3 and NF-κB pathways.](#)

Qian M, Wang S, Guo X, **Wang J**, Zhang Z, Qiu W, Gao X, Chen Z, Xu J, Zhao R, Xue H, Li G. Oncogene. 2019 Sep 4. doi: 10.1038/s41388-019-0996-y.

[What Is the Fuss about Integrins and the Tumor Microenvironment?](#)

Eble JA, **Gullberg D**.

Cancers (Basel). 2019 Sep 3;11(9). pii: E1296. doi: 10.3390/cancers11091296.

[Exploring the roles of MACIT and multiplexin collagens in stem cells and cancer.](#)

Izzi V, **Heljasvaara R**, Heikkinen A, Karppinen SM, Koivunen J, Pihlajaniemi T. Semin Cancer Biol. 2019 Aug 31. pii: S1044-579X(19)30193-2. doi: 10.1016/j.semcancer.2019.08.033.

[Effective Treatment of Metastatic Melanoma by Combining MAPK and PI3K Signaling Pathway Inhibitors.](#)

Aasen SN, Parajuli H, Hoang T, Feng Z, Stokke K, Wang J, Roy K, Bjerkvig R, Knappskog S, Thorsen F.

Int J Mol Sci. 2019 Aug 29;20(17). pii: E4235. doi: 10.3390/ijms20174235.

[Predictive utility of autistic traits in youth with ADHD: a controlled 10-year longitudinal follow-up study.](#)

Joshi G, DiSalvo M, **Faraone SV**, Wozniak J, Fried R, Galdo M, Belser A, Hoskova B, Dallenbach NT, De Leon MF, Biederman J.

Eur Child Adolesc Psychiatry. 2019 Aug 29. doi: 10.1007/s00787-019-01384-8

[Improved drug delivery to brain metastases by peptide-mediated permeabilization of the blood-brain barrier.](#)

Aasen SN, **Espedal H, Holte CF**, Keunen O, **Karlsen TV, Tenstad O**, Maherally Z, Miletic H, **Hoang T**, Eikeland AV, Baghirov H, Olberg DE, Pilkington GJ, Sarkar G, Jenkins RB, Sundstrøm T, **Bjerkvig R, Thorsen F**.

Mol Cancer Ther. 2019 Aug 29. pii: molcanther.0160.2019. doi: 10.1158/1535-7163

BBB seminar



Trond Vidar Hansen from the Department of Pharmacy, University of Oslo, will give a talk entitled "Biosynthesis, bioactions and biomedical applications of the protectins".

Trond Vidar Hansen is Professor of Medicinal Chemistry and heads the LIPCHEM group at the UiO that combines synthetic organic chemistry, medicinal chemistry and total organic synthesis to study the chemistry and biology of lipids. Their main focus is on the synthesis of specialized pro-resolving mediators (SPMs), a large class of cell signaling molecules including protectins, resolvins and maresins and their analogs, as well as the individual biochemical pathways involved in the formation of the SPMs.

Thursday, September 19, 14.30, Auditorium 4

CCBIO seminar

Karl Kadler from the Manchester Academic Health Science Centre, University of Manchester, UK, will give a talk entitled "Circadian control of the secretory pathway is a central mechanism in tissue homeostasis".

Karl Kadler is Professor of Biochemistry and Director of the Wellcome Centre for Cell-Matrix Research, University of Manchester. His laboratory is devoted to understanding how the collagenous scaffolds of most connective tissues are synthesised during skeletal development and then maintained throughout life without renewal or turnover. His talk will mainly address a recent study that shows that the circadian clock regulates the daily synthesis and removal of a sacrificial pool of collagen that is needed for tissue integrity.

Thursday, September 26, 14.30, Auditorium 4

CRISPR at BIFF



Bergen International Film Festival is set to launch shortly.

One of the films to be shown is about CRISPR technology and the organizers we are hosting a screening in the University Aula on **Thursday, September 26 at 16.30** with subsequent debate in collaboration with the Biotechnology Council. We hope this may interest you.

The film will also be shown in the Great Auditorium in the main building of Haukeland University Hospital on **September 17 at 14:30**.

Horizon Lecture

Niels Bohr, life behind the physics and war and peace

How did Niels Bohr become the world's leading physicist in the early part of the 1900s? Vilhelm Bohr, grandson of Niels Bohr, addresses the history and personality of the Nobel Prize winner.



The speaker: Vilhelm A. Bohr:

Vilhelm Bohr is the grandson of Niels Bohr and the son of Aage Bohr, who both received the Nobel Prize in physics. He is also the current chair of the Board of the Niels Bohr Archive in Copenhagen, an Institution that collects papers and conducts research on the history of physics with the focus on Bohr.

Everybody is welcome, light refreshments will be served from 15.45.

Find the event on UiB's web pages: <https://www.uib.no/en/matnat/128945/niels-bohr-life-behind-physics-and-war-and-peace>

Join the event on Facebook: <https://www.uib.no/en/matnat/128945/niels-bohr-life-behind-physics-and-war-and-peace>

Wednesday 18. September, 16.00, Egget, The Student Centre

Brain Cancer Research on show

The brain cancer immunology and therapy group will showcase their research at the local science fair "Forskningsdagene" on 20 and 21 September.



Together with the patient organization Hjernesvulstforeningen, they will have a stand where they will give introductory lectures on cancer and DNA for a young and grown-up audience. They will explain how the disease can occur, and what a cancer researcher does. The audience can isolate their own DNA from saliva, as well as look at their epithelial cells in a microscope. In order to compare their own healthy cells, they should also see cancer cells growing in medium in a microscope.

Come to our booth and be a cancer researcher for 5 minutes!

<https://www.forskningsdagene.no/arrangementer/t-4492>

Saturday 21 September, 11.00–16.00, Festplassen

ChiNor summer school

Ten students from the masters' programme in Biomedicine at UiB visited Jinan in China to participate at the first ChiNor summer school on 20-29 August.



Together with 20 students from Shandong University they participated in interesting lectures given by professor Mathias Ziegler, professor Hao Fang and professor Xuben Hou, all leading scientists in their field. Additionally, the participants performed computer exercises where they in groups used the software SYBYL to identify potential inhibitors of NAD biosynthesis. The course ended with group presentations and a certificate ceremony. In addition to the academic content, there was also time for exciting cultural experiences, testing out good and interesting food and socializing with the Chinese host students.

The ChiNor summer school is the next step in a long-term collaboration between Shandong University and the Department of Biomedicine at UiB initiated by professor Rolf Bjerkvig.

The summer school was arranged by professor Mathias Ziegler and professor Fengshan Wang, the vice director of Cheeloo College of Medicine, Shandong University, with major contributions from Rolf Bjerkvig, Jian Wang, Frits Thorsen, Hao Fang, Xuben Hou and Xingang Li. The collaboration will continue in the form of a winter school in Bergen in the spring of 2020. The goal is to build a close and lasting relationship, which will benefit the quality of research and education at both institutions.



PhD Updates

Trial lecture and public Ph.D.-defense: Pouda Panahandeh



Trial lecture

Friday 20 September 2019, 10:30, Auditorium 2, BBB

Topic: "Identifying Intrinsic and Regulatory Properties of Integral Membrane Proteins"

Disputation

Friday 20 September 2019, 12:30, Auditorium 1, BBB

Thesis: "Discovery and targeting of the cellular functions of PAQR4 in breast cancer"

The public is invited.

New doctoral degree: Andrea Gras Navarro



Andrea held a trial lecture and defended her thesis on 30 August. We congratulate her to the approved defense and wish her all the best for her future career!



CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium

CCBIO is delighted to invite you to the upcoming CCBIO Junior Scientist Symposium



Researcher **Harald Barsnes** will give an inspirational keynote lecture on how to welcome the new era of public research data. We will learn how to present research to the public (**Henriette Ertsås**), about immunotherapy and cancer stem cells (**Kjersti Davidsen**), AXL mediated drug resistance (**Maria Lie Lotsberg**), treatment of metastatic melanoma (**Synnøve Nymark Aasen**) and hear about a clinical trial for endometrial cancer (**David Forse**)

Please sign up for the symposium including free lunch:

<https://skjemaker.app.uib.no/view.php?id=7014709>

19 September, Auditorium B301, Sentralblokken HUS

Funding Announcements

Open PhD- and post doc positions at the Faculty of Medicine

The Faculty of Medicine has now announced the open PhD- and post doctoral positions.

9 PhD-positions:

<https://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/174735/phd-positions-9-positions>

2 post doc positions:

<https://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/174747/postdoctoral-fellow-2-positions>

Application deadline: 22 September 2019

Current funding announcements/deadlines

Horizon 2020 – European Research Council ERC Frontier research grants

- [ERC Starting Grant](#) - for researchers of any nationality with **2-7 years of experience since completion of PhD** (Extensions are possible under certain circumstances — see the latest [ERC Work Programme](#)), a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal who are ready to work independently and who show potential to be a research leader.
Deadline: 16 October 2019.
- [ERC Synergy Grant](#) - for a group of **two to maximum four Principal Investigators (PIs)** working together and bringing different skills and resources to tackle ambitious research problems.
Deadline: 5 November 2019
- [ERC Consolidator Grant](#) - for researchers of any nationality with **7-12 years of experience since completion of PhD** (Extensions are possible under certain circumstances — see the latest [ERC Work Programme](#)), a scientific track record showing great promise and an excellent research proposal who have established a research team and want to strengthen the team and their career in Europe.
Deadline: 4 February 2020.



IMI Innovative Medicines Initiative Call 18

IMI is an EU public-private partnership funding health research and innovation. The initiative should seek to involve a broader range of partners, including mid-sized companies, from different sectors.

- [Central repository of digital pathology slides to support the development of artificial intelligence tools](#)
- [Establishing international standards in the analysis of patient reported outcomes and health-related quality of life data in cancer clinical trials](#)
- [Accelerating research & innovation for advanced therapy medicinal products](#)
- [Supporting the development of engineered T cells](#)

Deadline 26 September 2019



European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

In 2019, EDCTPs supports clinical research and related activities on **poverty-related diseases**.

- [Strategic actions supporting large-scale clinical trials \(RIA\)](#)
Deadline: 7 November
- [New drugs and vaccines for priority pathogens in antimicrobial resistance \(RIA\)](#)
Deadline: 7 November
- [Paediatric drugs formulations for poverty-related diseases \(RIA\)](#)
Deadline: 16 March 2020



Research Council of Norway

- [Commercialization projects](#) - The objective of Commercialisation Projects is to increase the commercial utilisation of research results from publicly-funded Norwegian research organisations. Commercialisation Projects are to clarify uncertainties related to the commercial utilisation of high-potential R&D results, i.e. questions that will prevent the project from moving forward in the



commercialisation process if they remain unanswered. Research organizations are eligible applicants together with technology transfer offices, in our case, VIS.

Deadline: 25 September 2019 at 13:00.

- [Supplementary Funding for Norwegian Participants in Horizon 2020 Projects](#)

The target group for this funding is Norwegian participants with a key role in a Horizon 2020 project. This funding must be applied towards independent activities and must not be used as additional funding for the Horizon 2020 project's activities (see under "What can you seek funding for?" below for more information).

Application deadline 25. September 2019, 13:00

Poland-Norway Funds - the GRIEG call

The GRIEG call is part of the Basic Research Programme operated by the National Science Centre under the EEA and Norway Grants and is prepared in cooperation with the Research Council of Norway.

Deadline: 28 October



Norwegian Cancer Society

- **Krafttak mot kreft 2019**. [Application Guidelines Cancer prevention 2019](#)
Deadline: 20 September at 13.00
- **Kreftforebygging**. [Application Guidelines Cancer prevention 2019](#)
Deadline 20 September 13.00



Individual Fellowships and Personal Grants

European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ([EDCTP](#))
[Career Development Fellowships 2019](#), Preparatory Fellowships

Deadline 27 November

Meltzer Foundation

- Project scholarship: [Meltzer Research Funds](#) are awarded to particularly talented students and PhD candidates at the University of Bergen. Project period: 01.04.2020 – 30.06.2021
- Travel grants: Permanent academic UiB employees can apply for [travel grants](#).

Deadline 1 December 2019



Research stay abroad for PhD-candidates and Post docs

[Fulbright scholarships to the US for Norwegian citizen](#)

PhD candidates can apply for scholarships for stays of a minimum of 4 months. **Deadline: 1 October**

UiB PhD-candidates and Post-docs funded by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bergen, can apply for travel grants for 1-12 months. <https://www.uib.no/en/med/67056/financial-support-stays-abroad-employees-faculty#phd-candidates-with-uib-funding->

Deadline: 1 March and 1 October

[Research Council of Norway](#) Scholarship for research stays abroad for 3 -12 months for PhD candidates and Post Doctors in projects with funding from the Research Council. **Deadline: continuing**

[Helse Vest](#): granted for 6 or 12 months. Postdoctoral fellowship applicants are especially encouraged to apply for an overseas fellowship over the course of their fellowship period. **Continuing deadline**

[EMBO short-term fellowships](#): research visits of up to three months between laboratories in eligible countries, for active researchers with at least one year experience at the PhD-candidate level. **Deadline: continuing**

[ERASMUS+ staff mobility](#)

Subsidising mobility of up to two months, for UiB staff including PhD-candidates and post docs, to attend courses or individual laboratory visits. Also have a look at the list of organized [staff mobility weeks](#).

Deadline: 20 August and 20 January

More funding opportunities, presented by the Faculty of Medicine:

External funding opportunities: <http://www.uib.no/en/med/112772/external-funding-opportunities>

Funding opportunities for education: <http://www.uib.no/med/113987/funding-opportunities-education>

Read back issues of our newsletter on the internal pages:
Newsletter archive: <https://wiki.uib.no/biomed/index.php/Newsletter>