



Department of Biomedicine Newsletter



Issue 4/18
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Dear colleagues at IBM,

At the moment, there is quite a lot of activity going on regarding research applications. For the Post Docs and PhD students, this is the time when your PIs have less time to discuss with you, but ask for more and more data that they can include in the application. Try to do your best! Writing applications is not necessarily fun and can even be frustrating at times, having in mind the number of unsuccessful attempts in the past. However, this is the experience of virtually all scientists these days and we need to be smart enough to be efficient - for example, by repurposing applications which had good scores, but didn't quite make it. Those who wish to apply to the upcoming NFR calls: remember to have your draft/sketch of the application ready by March 15!

Last week, five applications from our department were submitted in the framework of the BIOTEK 2021 program. This program focuses on innovation and eventually aims at turning our research findings into products or therapeutic applications. It is quite impressive that the applications from IBM accounted for more than half of all applications from our university (9 in total)! Even though many of us are dedicated to basic science projects, it is always a good idea to also have in mind possible practical applications. A fantastic recent example is [the financial support that Aurora Martinez has secured](#), following a long journey to develop small molecule chaperones to treat phenylketonuria. Importantly, this idea and technology has been developed based on findings from basic research.

In my own experience, it is of enormous benefit to participate in the evaluation of other's grant applications or manuscripts. It helps to understand how one should present ideas in a way that they appear exciting, convincing and important. Getting to compare different applications gives an immediate impression of good and less enticing applications, and – over time – one understands some of the mechanisms; why some are fascinating and some seem dull. This understanding is an important asset when writing own applications.

The same, I think, is true for writing scientific articles. Most often, the funding organizations choose their reviewers. However, the European Commission has asked to sign up in a database for potential reviewers for EU applications. In March there will be a workshop on this topic held by UiB's expert in Brussels (see below in the Newsletter). This workshop is open not only for established scientists, but also for postdocs and researchers that wish to continue a scientific career.

Vennlig hilsen,
Mathias

SPECIAL FEATURE:



NFR application rounds 2018

The science year's most anticipated event is coming up: the applications to the Norwegian Research Council. For our Department, the most relevant programs are:

- [FRIMEDBIO](#): free project support. This year, proposals will be accepted for researcher projects, young researcher grants, mobility grants, and events.
- [BEHANDLING](#): for clinical studies involving patients. This year: researcher projects.
- [BEDREHELSE](#): for research into disease prevention. This year: institution-based strategic projects (*miljøstøtte*)

To prepare and optimize the Department's applications, we provide support for the budget, the language, scientific content, and formalities. The Department also has to formally support all applications, therefore, we ask anyone who considers applying to send a ½ page draft to margarethe.bittins@uib.no.

Here is the internal schedule this year:

15 March – deadline for sending application drafts

21 March – faculty lunch dedicated to our NFR applications. Time for clarifications, updates, feedback, exchange.

28 March- 14 April finalizing of budget and support documents

FINAL DEADLINE: 25 April, 13:00

Tips from the NFR applicant seminar

Henrietta Blankson, special advisor at NFR, summarizes the most frequent feedback given by the evaluation committees. She reports that evaluators often wish more information on how the current project is connected to ongoing research projects. They want to know whether pilot studies have been done, and what is the scientific novelty about the project. How will it provide advancement for science? They also often do not see exactly how the different collaborators will contribute, or what the PhD/post-doctoral fellows are going to do.

Referees often point out the following weaknesses:

- Poor knowledge of relevant literature
- Little detail on the methodology, poor explanation on why the methods are used
- Little detail on the study design, instead, the introduction is too long
- Summary and intermediate objectives are often poorly thought through
- Some projects seem like they have been “tweaked” to fit the call – these are the worst.
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NFR also encourages the applicant institutions to only submit highest-quality applications. They are at times flooded with poor applications. This reflects badly on the applicants, and the research advisors at the faculty have therefore also stressed the importance of an internal support- and quality control system.

Therefore: please use all the support you can get, read the calls carefully, and submit your best work.

Human Relations

This page gives an overview of courses, seminars, information meetings and similar events organized at UiB.

This page gives an overview of welfare offers for employees at UiB, such as cinema tickets, cultural events, guest accommodation, etc.

We welcome these new colleagues:



Siri Tangen Aaserud started in a 100 % position as Staff Engineer in the Section for Academic Affairs on 19 February.



Sergei Baryshnikov starts in a 1-year position as Chief Engineer in the Neuroscience Research Group on 13 February.

We wish all the best to those who are leaving us:



Marianne Goris has resigned her position as Staff Engineer at the Neuroscience Group and has her last work day on 06 March.

Research, Science, and Seminars

Pluvia gets funding from RCN

BTO/University of Bergen collaboration company Pluvia gets substantial funding from the Research Council of Norway

Our own Prof. Aurora Martinez is deeply involved in the project – read more [here](#).



BBB seminar

*Dr. Michael Davis (Department of Pharmacology and Physiology, University of Missouri School of Medicine, Columbia, MO, USA) will talk about “**The conduction and coordination of propulsive lymphatic contractions**»*

Dr. Michael Davis' research focuses on the mechanical and electrophysiological properties of lymphatic smooth muscle and endothelium and how dysfunction of those cell types contributes to lymphedema. Currently he funded by the NIH to study: 1) the contractile and valve properties of lymphatic vessels in mouse models of human diseases; 2) ion channels involved in pacemaking of lymphatic muscle; and 3) the conduction of electrical signals along and across the lymphatic wall. His laboratory was one of the first to develop isolated vessel methods to study small arterioles, as well as patch clamp/calcium imaging methods to study mechanotransduction by single vascular cells. In recent years, his group pioneered methods to study the mouse lymphatic system.

08 March 14:30-15:30, Auditorium 4, BBB

BBB seminar

*Prof. Linda Stuhr (Department of Biomedicine, University of Bergen) will talk about “**Targeting hypoxia in breast cancer and radiation injury**”.*

Linda Stuhr is Professor in the Matrix Biology group, studying the extracellular matrix in health and disease.

01 March 14:30-15:30, Auditorium 4, BBB

Workshop registration for the EC's expert database and how to increase your chances to be selected

On Tuesday 13 March (09:00-11.00), Kristof Vlaeminck, Head of the UiB Brussels Office, will give a workshop on how to register for the expert database of the European Commission in order to be a potential evaluator of Horizon 2020 projects.

After an introduction by the Vice Dean of Research, Marit Bakke, and a short overview of the different aspects of the registration, the participants will start creating their profiles while Kristof assists them. The aim of the workshop is that all participants have finished registering, thus being selectable by the European Commission. **Don't forget to bring your own laptop if you participate in the workshop.**

The European Commission manages the publication, selection and execution of topics for proposals and the proposals themselves, but the evaluation of project proposals is entirely done by external experts. To let the European Commission know that you are interested in becoming an evaluator, you have [to register as an expert](#) in their database. The European Commission always wants to have a good mix of evaluators with different profiles (age, sex, background), so don't think you are not suited to become an expert. It is just a matter of highlighting your strong points. In case you are selected to evaluate a project proposal and the timing is not ideal at that moment, you can just decline the offer.

The advantage of becoming an evaluator is that you will read several project proposals. This will allow you to understand what makes a good proposal better than competitive project proposals and why a bad proposal fails to meet the expectations. There is no better and faster way to learn this than being an evaluator. On top of that you will get a peek behind the curtain on how the evaluation goes and this will give you more insight in how the processes work.

The workshop will take place in the faculty boardroom, 4th floor, Armauer Hansens Hus (AHH). To register for the workshop, please send an e-mail to: Ingunn.Flatebo@uib.no

The Norwegian Cancer Society welcomes proposals to “Rosa sløyfe 2018” - Late effects of breast cancer treatment

The Norwegian Cancer Society's [Rosa sløyfe call 2018](#) is now active. The funds made available through this call come from the Rosa sløyfe campaign (Pink Ribbon), held in October each year. In Norway, the Norwegian Cancer Society and the Norwegian Breast Cancer Society organize the campaign, and select an information topic for each year. In 2017, the topic was [Late effects of breast cancer treatment](#).

In this call, the NCS aims to support Norwegian research environments who can make a significant contribution to improving symptom relief, reduce side effects and late effects of breast cancer treatments and increase quality of life.

The application deadline of April 10th at 13.00 (01 PM) is absolute.

The Norwegian Cancer Society will only accept applications submitted through the [application portal](#).

Proposal and attachments must be written in English.

Ethics for breakfast: Scientific misconduct in recent Danish perspectives

This spring, UiB hosts a series of breakfast seminars on ethics. At this year's second part of the series (28 February), Prof. Albert Gjedde will provide examples for discussion on scientific misconduct from Denmark.

Place: Christie Café, Museplass 3

Time: 28.02.2018, 08:30-10:30

More information and registration can be found [here](#). (The seminar is in Norwegian)

Operations, Health, and Safety

Registrering av ferie

HR-avdelingen minner om at ferie må registreres etter gjeldende retningslinjer. Les utfyllende informasjon om ferieregistrering [her](#).

Vennligst kontakt vår HR-konsulent Eli Selback hvis du har spørsmål.

Ny søknadsperiode for hyttene på Ustaoset og Tingviken i Utne – sommerferien 2018 (uke 26-33)

Det er nå åpnet for elektronisk søknad til U-heimen, Ottesheimen og Butten på Ustaoset og Tingviken i Utne for sommeren 2018, i perioden 24. juni - 19. august 2018. Les mer [her](#).

Registration of vacation days

The Division of Human Resources would like to remind everyone to register vacation days according to current guidelines. Read extensive information about vacation registration [here](#).

Please contact our HR consultant Eli Selback if you have any questions.

New application period for the cottages at Ustaoset and Tingviken - summer holidays 2018 (week 26-33)

Application rounds for the right to stay at U-heimen, Ottesheimen and Butten at Ustaoset and Tingviken at Utne, for the summer period 24 June - 19 August 2018 is now open. Read more [here](#).

Funding Announcements

From this week, the announcements for funding and education will be published online. The links below will take you to a list of announcements compiled by the research advisors at the Faculty of Medicine. The lists are updated every second week.

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>

Following is a hand-picked **selection** of the calls that are most relevant for the Department of Biomedicine.

Announcement of Peder Sather funds for 2018-2019

The University of Bergen is part of the Peder Sather consortium together with a number of other Norwegian institutions. This is a scheme where the Norwegian academic community can receive financial support for collaboration with researchers at UC-Berkeley. Funds are available for one year.

Grants can support activities such as workshops, mini-conferences, virtual intellectual exchanges, the undertaking of exploratory and pilot studies, activities such as PhD student exchanges, longer-term stays for Principal Investigators, the collection and analysis of data, and other core research activities.

Information and application form can be found at the following address: <http://sathercenter.berkeley.edu/peder-sather-grant/>.

Deadline: 15 March 2018.

Current funding announcements/deadlines

Norwegian Research Council (NFR)

FRIMEDBIO: The funding scheme for independent projects (FRIPRO) comprises a national competitive arena for research funding for projects in all fields and disciplines. There will be funding for Researcher Projects, Young Research Talents, FRIPRO Mobility Grants and Support for Event.

Deadline: 25 April 2018

- **BEHANDLING** 115 million NOK for applications in intervention studies that combine clinical data with health data in existing registries and / or biobanks will be prioritized. Projects awarded funding by the programme must have patient and service-relevant endpoints and incorporate user involvement. Diseases that pose major societal challenges will comprise a key area of focus. **Deadline 25 April 2018**
- Pre-announcement **BEDREHELSE** Until 150 million kroner to environmental support for research towards better public health. **Deadline: 25 April 2018**



Horizon 2020 – European Research Council ERC Frontier research grants

Advanced Grant 5 years funding for an established, leading principal investigator who wants to pursue a ground-breaking, high-risk project. 2,5 million € in total. The PI can have any nationality and work in any research field.

Deadline: 30 August 2018



ERC Advanced course in Bergen

March 21st at Ørnen. The registration link is [here](#). **Course content:** ERC basics and terminology; Technical rules & regulations; PI Profile – What constitutes the “ERC Material”?; Application & submission processes; What constitutes Scientific Excellence?; The unique nature of ERC: High risk, high gain non-incremental work; Hypothesis for ERC – how to do it right; How to write a convincing methodology chapter; Review Panel selection; The panel-application reciprocal effect; Ethical issues; The evaluation process.

Horizon 2020 – Marie Skłodowska Curie Actions (MSCA)

Excellent and innovative research training plus attractive career and knowledge-exchange opportunities through cross-border and cross-sector mobility, no thematic priorities.

- [Research and Innovation Staff Exchange \(RISE\)](#). The RISE scheme promotes international and cross-sector collaboration through exchanging research and innovation staff, and sharing knowledge and ideas from research to market (and vice-versa). **Deadline: 21 March 2018**
- [Individual Fellowships \(IF\)](#) aims to help experienced researchers to advance their careers and gain new skills through advanced training, international mobility, and optional intersectoral secondments. The host organization can be universities and research institutes in addition to a company or other non-academic sector organizations. **Deadline: 12 September 2018**
- [MSCA COFUND](#): aims at stimulating regional, national or international programmes to foster excellence in researchers' training, mobility and career development. **Deadline: 27 September 2018**

Horizon 2020 – Societal challenges (SC):

Collaborative breakthrough research and radical innovation

SC1-2018-2020: Health, demographic change and wellbeing

- **Call:** Better health and care, economic growth and sustainable health systems
 - [SC1-BHC-02-2019: Systems approaches for the discovery of combinatorial therapies for complex disorders \(Two-stage\)](#)
 - [SC1-BHC-05-2018: International flagship collaboration with Canada for human data storage, integration and sharing to enable personalised medicine approaches](#)
 - [SC1-BHC-09-2018: Innovation platforms for advanced therapies of the future](#)
 - [SC1-BHC-14-2019: Stratified host-directed approaches to improve prevention, treatment and/or cure of infectious diseases \(Two-stage\)](#)
 - [SC1-BHC-15-2018: New anti-infective agents for prevention and/or treatment of neglected infectious diseases \(NID\) \(Two-stage\)](#)
 - [SC1-BHC-16-2018: Global Alliance for Chronic Diseases \(GACD\) - Scaling-up of evidence-based health interventions at population level for the prevention and management of hypertension and/or diabetes](#)
 - [SC1-BHC-26-2018: HTA research to support evidence-based healthcare](#)
 - [SC1-BHC-27-2018: New testing and screening methods to identify endocrine disrupting chemicals](#)
 - [SC1-HCO-04-2018: ERA-NET to support the Joint Programming in Neurodegenerative Diseases strategic plan \(JPND\)](#)**Deadline: 18 April 2018.** Deadline for pre-projects in two-stage proposals is 2 October 2018

Horizon 2020 – Complementary Calls

- To give potential applicants as much time as possible to form consortia and prepare their proposals, IMI publishes draft topic texts several weeks before the official call launch. The following topics are currently under consideration for inclusion in future IMI Calls for proposals:
 - [Targeted immune intervention for treatment of non-response and remission](#)
 - [Non-invasive clinical molecular imaging of immune cells](#)
 - [Development of a platform for federated and privacy-preserving machine learning in support of drug discovery](#)
- Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI) –relevant future topics
 - [Mitochondrial dysfunction in neurodegeneration](#)
 - Support and coordination action for the projects of the [neurodegeneration](#) area of the innovative medicines initiative
 - Human [tumour microenvironment](#) immunoprofiling
 - Translational [safety biomarker](#) pipeline (TRANSBIOLINE): enabling development and implementation of novel safety biomarkers in clinical trials and diagnosis of disease
 - Federated and privacy-preserving [machine learning in support of drug discovery](#)
- Pilot programme on a [clinical compound bank for repurposing](#) This programme includes the following topics: Cardiovascular diseases and diabetes; Respiratory diseases; Neurodegenerative diseases; Rare/orphan diseases
IMI held a series of [webinars on IMI2 - Call 13](#). **Deadline: 28 February 2018**
- [JPND call for multi-national research projects on health and social care for neurodegenerative diseases](#). JPND is inviting to submit proposals for ambitious, innovative and multi-disciplinary collaborative projects that address health and social care at both the macro level of systems and infrastructures and the individual level of patients, carers and families. **Deadline: 6 March 2018**
- [ERA-NET NEURON JTC 2018](#) “Research Projects on **Mental Disorders**“. The aim of the call is to facilitate multinational, collaborative research projects that will address important questions related to mental health and mental disorders. **Deadline: 8 March 2018**

- [ERA-CVD JTC 2018](#) “Transnational **Cardiovascular** Research Projects driven by Early Career Scientists“. The call aims to promote cooperation and interchange between Early Career Scientists and thus enable international collaboration and new consortia establishment in cardiovascular research. **Deadline: 15 March 2018**
- [COST Action](#): COST (European Cooperation in Science and Technology) brings together European researchers, engineers and scholars from different COST countries to jointly develop their own ideas and new initiatives across all science and technology fields through trans-European cooperation. COST does not fund research itself, but provides exciting opportunities for cooperation and networking on an European Level. **Deadline: 25 April 2018**
- Pre-announcement [ERA HDHL \(a healthy diet for a healthy life\)](#). The aim of this call is to support transnational, collaborative research projects that gain a better understanding of the **diet- epigenome** relationships and their effect on human health. The launch of the new call is planned on 6 February 2018
- [Joint Programming Initiative on Antimicrobial Resistance \(JPIAMR\)](#): JPIAMR will develop scientific proposals which will lead to sustainable use of antibiotics to treat infectious diseases and to a decrease in the number of patients with resistant infections in Europe (Fundamental, translational research, with the exception of clinical trials). It is expected that through international collaborations combining complementary and synergistic research strengths, this JPIAMR call will contribute to the urgent need to curb the burden associated with the most prioritised infections.
Deadline stage 1: 7 March at 17.00. Full proposal submission deadline: 14 June at 17.00.

[Novo Nordisk Foundation:](#)

- Pre-announcement [Exploratory Pre-Seed Grants](#): The Exploratory Pre-seed Program is a stimulus fund established to accelerate **commercialization of biomedical research** findings and development of novel technologies within the life sciences. The goal of an Exploratory Pre-seed Grant is to stimulate entrepreneurship and to explore the potential of research findings at a very early stage (pre-seed), and to prepare the project for a full pre-seed grant at a later stage. The application system will open 2 February. **Deadline 6 April 2018 at 2 pm**
- Pre announcement [Project Grants in Endocrinology and Metabolism - Nordic Region](#): The objective of this call is to support young and promising researchers as well as established scientists, to carry out research projects of 1 to 3 years' duration within basic and clinical research **in endocrinology and metabolism**.
Application opens 4 April with **final deadline 1 June 2018 at 2 pm**

[Extrastiftelsen](#)

support for research on health challenges faced by the Norwegian population. The foundation supports actions and projects on **physical and mental health**, life quality, living conditions, etc. **Deadline: 1 June at 15.00**

[The Peder Sather Center for Advanced Study](#)

supports projects carried out by researchers at UC Berkeley in collaboration with researchers from nine Norwegian universities. The Center offers grants of between \$10K and \$25K. Funds are made available for one academic year. **Deadline: 15 March 2018**

[Internationalization UiB and Chinese University of Hong Kong \(CUHK\):](#)

The applications for the Internationalisation Faculty Mobility Scheme and Global Scholarship Programme for Research Excellence to promote the development of academic and research partnerships between the two institutions are now open for 2018-19.

- [Internationalisation Faculty Mobility Scheme](#) **Deadline: 10 April 2018**
The academic staff can undertake research visits at CUHK under the support of this scheme.
- [Global Scholarship Programme for Research Excellence](#) **Deadline: 3 April 2018**
The programme supports the PhD candidates to undertake short-term research attachments at CUHK.

Fellowships and Personal Grants

Norwegian Cancer Society

[Travel stipend](#): Researchers, postdoctoral candidates and doctoral candidates who are financed by Norwegian Cancer Society can apply for stipend to cover a research stay abroad until one year (2-12 months). **Deadline 15 March**

NFR [Scholarship for research stay abroad for PhD candidates and Post Doctors](#) (Link in Norwegian)

The offer for a scholarship for research stays abroad applies to PhD candidates and Post Doctors in projects with full or partial funding for the Research Council for a minimum of 24 months. The research stays abroad may last for a minimum of 3 months and a maximum of 12 months.

Funding for Cooperation in Higher Education

Erasmus

- 1. Erasmus+ Mobility for [Students and Staff](#):** Student Affairs manages and coordinates student and staff mobility. Staff members can apply for Erasmus + mobility funds by August 20, and on January 20. Information about student grants and other information can be found at www.uib.no/student/erasmus and employee websites: <http://www.uib.no/foransatte/86439/studentmobilitet> (Link in Norwegian) **Deadline: August 20th, 2018**
- 5. Erasmus+ Knowledge Alliances** Knowledge Alliances between higher education institutions and enterprises aim to foster innovation, entrepreneurship, creativity, employability, knowledge exchange and/or multidisciplinary teaching and learning. Advisory body: SIU (Link in Norwegian) **Deadline: 28 February 2018 at 12.00**

More funding opportunities with continuing deadlines, compiled by the Faculty of Medicine:

<http://www.uib.no/med/113987/funding-opportunities-education#continuing-deadlines>