



Dear colleagues,

The people at the Department of Biomedicine represent many nationalities from around the world. There is considerable international travel activity in relation to research visits and international conferences. The current Corona virus situation has raised some concern, having spread to several countries. Fortunately, the virus has not yet been observed in Norway. The health authorities and health-care institutions in Norway are well prepared should the virus appear in our country.

Currently, there is little concern for a Corona virus outbreak at our Department. We are closely following the updates and guidelines from the Norwegian Department of Public Health: <https://www.fhi.no/sv/smittsomme-sykdommer/corona/2019-ncov/fakta-om-nytt-coronaviruss-2019-ncov/>.

Since the viral dissemination is similar to influenza virus that occurs each winter, we placed hand dispensers at the entrance to each floor. A good level of hand hygiene, whether you are sick or healthy, is important to prevent spreading of any infectious disease. Wash your hands often and thoroughly, with soap and hot water. Hand disinfection represents a good alternative if hand wash is not available."

Best regards,

Rolf Bjerkvig

Rolf Bjerkvig, Head of Department

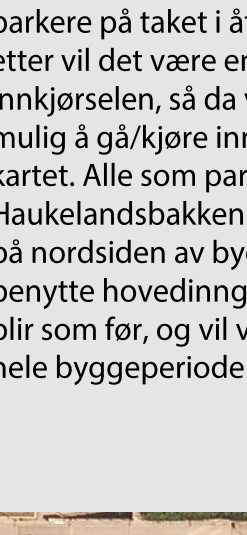
Human Resources

Events
for UiB employees

Benefits
for employees at UiB

Vacant positions
at the University of Bergen

We wish farewell to these colleagues:



Sturla Magnus Grøndal resigns from his position as Researcher in James Loren's group on 11 February. We wish him all the best for his future career.

Operations, Health, and Safety

Byggingen av inkubatorbygget

Den 29. februar er siste dagen det er mulig å parkere på taket i åttende etasje. Mandagen etter vil det være en bom plassert ved innkjørselen, så da vil det ikke lengre være mulig å gå/kjøre inn på området markert på kartet. Alle som parkerer i garasjen ved Haukelandsbakken må da gå ned trappen på nordsiden av bygget, til andre etasje og benytte hovedinngangen. Rømningsveiene blir som før, og vil være mulig å benytte i hele byggeperioden.

Building the incubator building

The 29th of February will be the last day parking on the roof (8th floor) will be possible. The Monday after, there will be a gate at the entrance, and one can no longer walk/drive into the area marked on the map. All staff who use the parking at Haukelandsbakken will need to walk down the stairs at the north side of the building, and use the main entrance. The emergency escape pathways located in the building site will be open throughout the whole building period.



Research, Science, and Seminars

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.

[Comparative Protein Structure Analysis with Bio3D-Web](#), Grant BJ, Skjærven L, Yao XQ. Methods Mol Biol. 2020;2112:15-28

[Vaginal colonisation of women in labour with potentially pathogenic bacteria: a cross sectional study at three primary health care facilities in Central Uganda](#), Tumuhanye J, **Steinsland H**, Tumwine JK, Namugga O, Mukunya D, Bwanga F, Sommerfelt H, Nankabirwa V. BMC Infect Dis. 2020 Jan 31;20(1):98

[Revealing and Harnessing Tumour-Associated Microglia/Macrophage Heterogeneity in Glioblastoma](#), Pires-Afonso Y, **Niclou SP**, Michelucci A. Int J Mol Sci. 2020 Jan 21;21(3). pii: E689. doi: 10.3390/ijms21030689

[A life in pictures-Marilyn Gist Farquhar](#), Stow JL, **Saraste J**, Brown WJ. J Cell Biol. 2020 Feb 3;219(2). pii: e202001010.

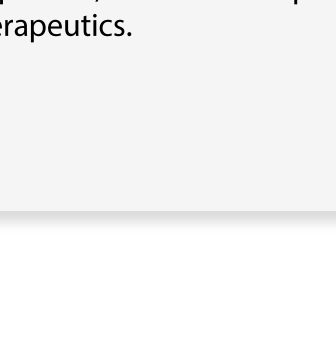


BBB seminar

Pål Rasmus Njølstad from the Department of Clinical Science, UiB, will give a talk entitled "Precision medicine goes to the diabetes clinics".

Pål Rasmus Njølstad, MD PhD, is Professor and Head of the Department of Clinical Science and consultant physician at the Department of Pediatrics, Haukeland University Hospital. He has earned several international prizes and awards, and is member of the Norwegian Academy of Science and Letters. Njølstad's research is focused on monogenic diabetes having described new diabetes syndromes including MODY8, and found that neonatal diabetes can be treated with sulfonylurea tablets instead of insulin.

Thursday, February 13, 14:30, Auditorium 4, BBB



CCBIO Seminar

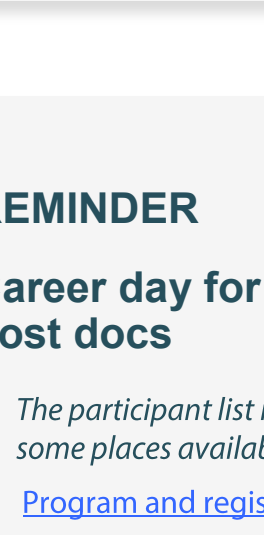
Rameen Beroukhi from the Dana-Farber Cancer Institute and Harvard Medical School, Boston, USA, will give a talk entitled: "Ancestry-associated features in cancer".

Rameen Beroukhi, Associate Professor of Medical Oncology, is a practicing oncologist with extensive experience in the genomic characterization of cancer. His laboratory focuses primarily on identifying alterations in chromosomal structure that contribute to tumor growth, and specifying the biological effects of these alterations. The aims are to understand the biological basis of the various cancer subtypes to guide the development of therapeutics, and to develop prognostic and predictive markers to guide the application of those therapeutics.

Thursday, February 20, 14:30, Auditorium 4, BBB

PhD updates

New doctoral degree: Jahedul Alam



Jahed held a trial lecture and defended his thesis on 31 January. We congratulate him to the approved defense and wish him all the best for his future career!



PhD defense: Berit Skretting Solberg



Trial lecture: Cultural, societal and diagnostic aspects in estimating prevalence of child psychiatric disorders across countries
7 January, 10.15, Auditorium at Armauer Hansens hus

Public defense

Attention deficit/hyperactivity disorder - sex differences in psychiatric comorbidity and transgenerational recurrence risks. A population-based study using Norwegian registry data
7 January, 12.15, Auditorium at Armauer Hansens hus

PhD defense: Tore Reikvam



Trial lecture: topic to be announced

21 February, 10.15, Auditorium at Armauer Hansens hus

Public defense

Thesis title: Study of the role of skin lymphatics in electrolyte and blood pressure regulation
21 February, 12.15, Auditorium at Armauer Hansens hus

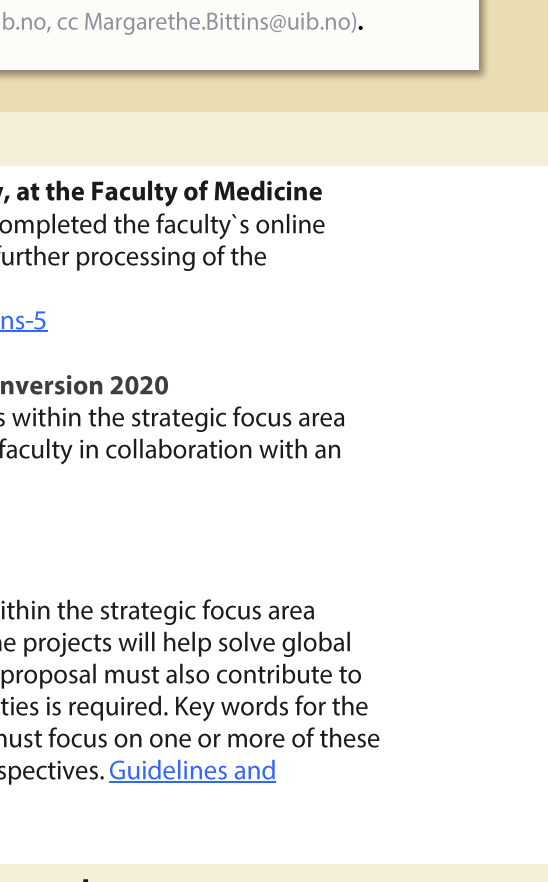
REMINDER

Career day for PhD-candidates and post docs

The participant list is filling up, but there are still some places available for you..

[Program and registration](#). (Deadline 14 February)

19 February, 9.30-16.00, BBB



Funding Announcements

Current funding announcements/deadlines

NOTE:

If you plan to apply for external funding, **please always send a short notice** to the Department's administration (Janne.Gotaas@uib.no, cc Margarethe.Bittins@uib.no).

For applications for international funds (EU, EEA, others) you will need approval from the Head of the Department and the University's division of research- and innovation. **Fill in this short statement (PDF)** and send it to the Department's administration (Janne.Gotaas@uib.no, cc Margarethe.Bittins@uib.no).

University of Bergen

- **5 PhD positions in Mathematics, Natural Science or Technology, at the Faculty of Medicine** Supervisors who are employed at the Faculty of Medicine must have completed the faculty's online course for PhD supervisors at the time of the application deadline for further processing of the application. <https://www.jobbnorge.no/en/available-jobs/job/181058/phd-positions-5>
Deadline: 9 February
- **2 Interdisciplinary PhD positions within Climate and Energy Conversion 2020** The University of Bergen invites project sketches for two PhD positions within the strategic focus area climate and energy conversion. The focus area is managed by the MN faculty in collaboration with an interdisciplinary committee with representatives from all faculties. Download guidelines and the application [form here \(word\)](#).
Deadline: 15 February, 2020
- **2 PhD Positions within Global Health** The University of Bergen invites project drafts for two phd-positions within the strategic focus area Global Social Challenges. The positions are four-year, with 25% duty. The projects will help solve global societal challenges. The project sketch must describe this. The project proposal must also contribute to academic renewal and collaboration between a minimum of two faculties is required. Key words for the initiatives are "migration, health and inequality". The project sketches must focus on one or more of these themes. The project sketch must show new innovative angles and perspectives. [Guidelines and application form \(PDF\)](#).
Deadline: 15 February, 2020

Horizon 2020 – European Research Council ERC Frontier research grants

[ERC Advanced Grant](#) - This year is the last call for ERC Advanced Grant in Horizon Europe and ERC will have approx. 15% more funds available - this means that the success rate may exceed the usual 11-13%. Active researchers who have a track-record of significant research achievements in the last 10 years. The Principal Investigators should be exceptional leaders in terms of originality and significance of their research contributions. Up to €2.5 Million for 5 years.
Deadline: 26 August 2020



Horizon 2020 - ERA-Net Neuron

- Call for Proposals for Transnational Research Projects on [Sensory Disorders](#) Proposals should focus on impairment and/or loss of sensory function of neural origin. The proposals may include studies on sensory neurons, including receptor cells, the related neural pathways and connected brain areas.
Deadline (pre-proposal): 10 March
- Call for Proposals for Research Projects on [Ethical, Legal, and Social Aspects \(ELSA\) of Neuroscience](#) address important questions regarding ethical, philosophical, legal and socio-cultural aspects related to the neurosciences and their recent advances.
Deadline (pre-proposal): 28 April



Horizon 2020 JPNP

Call for [novel imaging and brain stimulation methods and technologies related to neurodegenerative diseases](#). This transnational call invites proposals for ambitious, innovative, multinational and multidisciplinary collaborative research projects aimed at the development of novel and the advanced use of existing cutting-edge imaging and brain stimulation technologies related to neurodegenerative diseases. The total made available for this call is about 18 million euros.
Deadline: 3 March



Horizon 2020 Innovative Medicines Initiative (IMI)

Public-private partnership aiming to speed up the development of better and safer medicines for patients. It is a partnership between the European Union and the European pharmaceutical industry. All interested parties from academia, SMEs, mid-sized companies, patient organisations, regulatory agencies, health technology assessment bodies, etc. are invited to form consortia and submit a short proposal, via the Funding & Tenders Portal, in response to the Call.
Future topics:

- **Tumour plasticity (PDF)**. The overall objective of the Call topic is to use state-of-the-art single-cell sequencing to understand and overcome drug resistance in cancer by characterising the biology of **drug tolerant** persister cells, building the capacity for such studies across Europe.
- Neurodegeneration and other neuroscience priorities: Rare neurodegenerative and neurocognitive diseases clinical platform development
- Big data, digital health, clinical trials and regulatory research Data lakes, Personalised endpoints, Returning clinical trial data to patients
- Oncology: Real-world clinical implementation of liquid biopsy, Microbiome
- Translational safety: Pharmacodynamic drug-drug interaction predictive testing by learning algorithms to enhance safety, Digital vivarium
- Facilitating rare disease therapies (including Advanced Therapy Medical Products) reaching patients in Europe: Clinical outcomes assessments for rare diseases, Defragmenting and shortening the path to rare disease diagnosis by using genetic screening and digital technologies



Research Council of Norway

Upcoming calls for researcher projects:

- [Researcher Project for Scientific Renewal](#)
- [Researcher Project for Young Talents](#)
- [Three-year Researcher Project with International Mobility](#)

Deadline: 6 May 2020



European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

In 2019, EDCTP's supports clinical research and related activities on **poverty-related diseases**. [Paediatric drugs formulations for poverty-related diseases \(RIA\)](#)
Deadline: 16 March 2020

Trond Mohn Foundation

Grants towards research and research supporting activities at the University of Bergen and Haukeland University Hospital (HUS), and other Norwegian research institutions who cooperate with institutions in Bergen. The foundation also gives grants to support translational research at UiB and HUS.
[The Starting Grant Programme](#) is open to departments and faculties at the University of Bergen (UiB) aiming to recruit young national or international candidates with outstanding academic merit and research potential. TMS encourages the university to nominate candidates with an **international** background.
Eligibility: UiB faculty may nominate candidates that meet the eligibility criteria as follows: Candidates who hold a permanent position as an associate professor or professor at UiB are not eligible for nomination. A candidate cannot be nominated two consecutive years. Candidates who have reached the age of 40 by 16 March 2020 are normally not eligible. The age limit may be extended for a maximum of two (2) years under certain circumstances
Deadline: March 16th 2020



Peder Sather Center

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. 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.
Deadline: 1 April 2020

Stiftelsen Dam (formerly ExtraStiftelsen)

The Dam Foundation is one of Norway's largest foundations and supports time-limited projects and initiatives in the field of health.
[FORSKNING 2020](#) for research projects that deal with physical and mental health, coping and quality of life. The research scheme finances researcher positions, PhD and postdoctoral positions. The application must be submitted in cooperation with a voluntary organization for health purposes and with the right of search at Stiftelsen Dam (called applicant organization). In the first round, you only need to send a project sketch.
Deadline 17 February

Personal Grants

Research Council of Norway TRAVEL GRANT

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 TRAVEL GRANT

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**

ERASMUS+ staff mobility TRAVEL GRANT

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

