



Department of Biomedicine Newsletter



Issue 11/19
14 June 2019

Dear colleagues at IBM,

The Faculty Day yesterday has made me very proud!

The prizes for the best teacher and the best publication(s) were awarded to people in our Department. I would like to congratulate Arvid and Thomas and his team and thank them for their tremendous efforts. Well-deserved! Together with the other award-winners, they demonstrated the wide spectrum of excellent science performed at our Faculty. It is impressive to see the productivity and success of the environment that we belong to.

Last week, we had a Department Day that was meant to raise awareness to make best use of our infrastructure and provide the results of our self-assessment (ARK). For our future work, this assessment will be very useful to identify matters that can be improved in our daily work. I got feedback from various people after the meeting, in particular post docs and PhD-candidates. This group has many young researchers from other countries who, understandably, would expect general meetings to be held in English. I agree that general assembly meetings should address everyone at the Department equally. And while Norwegians are among the best non-native English speakers in the world, there is no doubt that the Norwegian language has to be the official language used at UiB. We will therefore always need to make compromises.

The day culminated in a nice gathering with pizza on the 3rd floor. It was great to see so many people there and I thank our fellesavdeling for taking so good care of the event. Not to mention that the ice cream was a great treat!

We are closing in with this Spring semester. I would like to thank all the teachers and the section for academic affairs for their hard work and positive attitude. Keep the spirit for the last steps during the exam period. And not least, the final master exams are coming up for which I wish our students all the very best!

With kind regards,

*Vennlig hilsen,
Mathias*

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.

JOBBS

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

Opprykk til professor etter kompetanse

Frist for å søke om opprykk til professor etter kompetanse er endret for 2019 og satt til 31.8.2019

Komplette søknader skal være mottatt på fakultetet senest på denne dato og at tjenestevei er via instituttet (Janne.Gotaas@uib.no).

Promotion to professor

The deadline for applying for promotion to professor after competence has changed for 2019 and set to 31.8.2019.

Complete applications must be received by the faculty no later than this date and that the service path is via the Department (Janne.Gotaas@uib.no).

Operations, Health, and Safety

Tilkomst grå sone

Tilkomsten til grå sone vil bli endret i en periode fremover grunne byggearbeidet.

Døren i korridoren blir hoved tilkomst, se grønn pil på kart under. Det er plassert stumtjener på innsiden av døren, slik at man kan ha frakker tilgjengelig der i perioden.

Slusen, merket med rødt i kartet, vil ha begrenset tilgjengelighet.



New access to the grey zone

Access to the grey zone will be changed for a limited time due to construction.

The door in the end of the corridor will be the main entry point, see the green arrow in the map below. There will be a coat rack on the inside of the door, to keep lab coats on.

Access to the sluice, marked red on the map, will be limited during this time.

New Publications



The following list is the PubMed search result for 'Bergen AND Biomedicine' since the last newsletter.

[Patterns of Psychiatric Comorbidity and Genetic Correlations Provide New Insights Into Differences Between Attention-Deficit/Hyperactivity Disorder and Autism Spectrum Disorder.](#)

Solberg BS, Zayats T, Posserud MB, **Halmøy A**, Engeland A, **Haavik J**, Klungsøyr K. Biol Psychiatry. 2019 Apr 28. pii: S0006-3223(19)31291-0. doi: 10.1016/j.biopsych.2019.04.021.

[The effect of electroconvulsive therapy \(ECT\) on serum tryptophan metabolites.](#)

Aarsland TI, Leskauskaite I, Midttun Ø, Ulvik A, Ueland PM, Oltedal L, Erchinger VJ, **Oedegaard KJ, Haavik J**, Kessler U. Brain Stimul. 2019 May 31. pii: S1935-861X(19)30225-6. doi: 10.1016/j.brs.2019.05.018

[A novel NAA10 p.\(R83H\) variant with impaired acetyltransferase activity identified in two boys with ID and microcephaly.](#)

Ree R, Geithus AS, Tørring PM, Sørensen KP, Damkjær M; DDD study, Lynch SA, **Arnesen T**. BMC Med Genet. 2019 Jun 7;20(1):101. doi: 10.1186/s12881-019-0803-1.

[Neuropathy-related mutations alter the membrane binding properties of the human myelin protein P0 cytoplasmic tail.](#)

Raasakka A, Ruskamo S, Barker R, **Krokengen OC, Vatne GH, Kristiansen CK, Hallin EI**, Skoda MWA, Bergmann U, Wacklin-Knecht H, Jones NC, Hoffmann SV, **Kursula P**. PLoS One. 2019 Jun 7;14(6):e0216833. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0216833

[Epithelial to mesenchymal transition \(EMT\) is associated with attenuation of succinate dehydrogenase \(SDH\) in breast cancer through reduced expression of SDHC.](#)

Røslund GV, Dyrstad SE, Tusubira D, Helwa R, Tan TZ, **Lotsberg ML, Pettersen IKN**, Berg A, Kindt C, **Hoel F**, Jacobsen K, Arason AJ, **Engelsen AST**, Ditzel HJ, Lønning PE, Krakstad C, **Thiery JP, Lorens JB**, Knappskog S, **Tronstad KJ**. Cancer Metab. 2019 Jun 1;7:6. doi: 10.1186/s40170-019-0197-8

[α11β1 Integrin is Induced in a Subset of Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts in Desmoplastic Tumor Stroma and Mediates In Vitro Cell Migration.](#)

Zeltz C, Alam J, Liu H, Erusappan PM, Hoschuetzky H, Molven A, **Parajuli H**, Cukierman E, Costea DE, **Lu N, Gullberg D**. Cancers (Basel). 2019 Jun 1;11(6). pii: E765. doi: 10.3390/cancers11060765

[Two tales of Annexin A2 knock-down: One of compensatory effects by antisense RNA and another of a highly active hairpin ribozyme.](#)

Aareskjold E, Grindheim AK, Hollås H, Goris M, Lillehaug JR, **Vedeler A**. Biochem Pharmacol. 2019 May 31;166:253-263. doi: 10.1016/j.bcp.2019.05.028

[Blind deconvolution estimation of an arterial input function for small animal DCE-MRI.](#)

Jiřík R, **Taxt T**, Macíček O, Bartoš M, Kratochvíla J, Souček K, Dražanová E, Krátká L, Hampl A, Starčuk Z Jr.

Magn Reson Imaging. 2019 May 28. pii: S0730-725X(18)30676-3. doi: 10.1016/j.mri.2019.05.024

[AXL targeting reduces fibrosis development in experimental unilateral ureteral obstruction.](#)

Landolt L, Furriol J, Babickova J, Ahmed L, Eikrem Ø, **Skogstrand T**, Scherer A, Suliman S, Leh S, **Lorens JB**, Gausdal G, Marti HP, Osman T.

Physiol Rep. 2019 May;7(10):e14091. doi: 10.14814/phy2.14091

Efficacy of copolymer scaffolds delivering human demineralised dentine matrix for bone regeneration

Munir A, Døskeland A, Avery SJ, Fuoco T, Mohamed-Ahmed S, Lygre H, Finne-Wistrand A, Sloan AJ, Waddington RJ, Mustafa K, Suliman S.

J Tissue Eng 2019 May 3; 10: 1-16 doi: 10.1177/2041731419852703

BBB seminar



Antonio Marchini from the Luxembourg Institute of Health will give a talk entitled “Oncolytic H-1 parvovirus as a cancer killing agent: past, present and future”.

Dr. Antonio Marchini is Head of the Laboratory of Oncolytic Virus Immuno-Therapeutics (LOVIT), a joint research unit between the Luxembourg Institute of Health and the German Cancer Research Center (DKFZ). His team focuses on the development of new anticancer strategies based on oncolytic autonomous parvoviruses (PVs) with the ultimate goal to move them into the clinic. Major areas of research are i) generation of innovative oncolytic vectors: retargeted PVs, chimeric vectors of adenovirus-PV genomes, PVs expressing sh/miRNAs; ii) design and assessment of novel combination therapies using PVs together with other anticancer agents such as apoptosis inducers, immune checkpoint blockade and/or epigenetic modulators of gene expression.

Thursday, June 20, 14:30, Auditorium 4

The Master's Programme in Biomedical Sciences: Upcoming final Master's Exams, spring semester 2019

Candidate, Time, Place:	Title:	Supervisors:
Hilde E. Lien Monday 17 June, 09:00, Conference room, 3 th Floor	<i>«High-dimensional analysis of tumor immune microenvironment in the context of obesity»</i>	Nils Halberg Cara Wogsland
Ole V. Bjørnstad Monday 17 June, 10:00, Meeting room, 5 th Floor	<i>«Characterization of Melanoma Brain Metastasis Cell Lines»</i>	Frits Thorsen
Kristine Marie Monsen Monday 17 June, 11:30, Conference room, 3 th Floor	<i>«Cancer subpopulation dynamics in obese environments»</i>	Nils Halberg
Nariman Gharari Monday 17 June, 14:00, Conference room, 3 th Floor	<i>«In vitro differentiation of human embryonic stem cells towards pancreatic progenitors»</i>	Simona Chera Fredrik Lanner
Evy Marie Thorkildsen Tuesday 18 June, 09:00, Conference room, 3 th Floor	<i>«Sulfasalazine analogues to overcome radioresistance in cancer»</i>	Per Øyvind Enger Shahin Sarowar
Peder August G. Lillebostad Tuesday 18 June, 11:00, Meeting room, 5 th Floor	<i>«Exploring the IBS Brain: Resting State Functional Connectivity and Machine Learning»</i>	Arvid Lundervold Trygve Hausken
Inga Kristine F. Motzfeldt Tuesday 18 June, 11:30, Meeting room, 5 th Floor	<i>«Preclinical development of novel Flt3 inhibitors for acute myeloid leukemia»</i>	Bjørn Tore Gjertsen Monica Hellesøy
Hanan Ashrafi Thursday 20 June, 11:30, Conference room, 3 th Floor	<i>«The role of pyruvate dehydrogenase kinases (PDKs) in rewiring of cell metabolism under energy stress»</i>	Ina Katrine N. Pettersen Karl Johan Tronstad
Sergio Miguel C. Zegarra Thursday 20 June, 13:30, Meeting room, 7 th Floor	<i>«Making in vivo models viable again: Synthetic lethality between DNA repair factors Xlf and Paxx is rescued by inactivation of Trp53»</i>	Nils Halberg Valentyn Oksenyich

Candidate, Time, Place: Title:**Supervisors:****Silje J. Hjellbrekke**

Thursday 20 June, 14:00,
Conference room, 3th Floor

«Alterations in cellular metabolism during development of cancer therapy resistance»

Karl Johan Tronstad
Gro Vatne Røsland

Khadra Aabdi Mohamed

Friday 21 June, 09:00,
Conference room, 3th Floor

«Personalized medicine in diabetes: Unraveling the disease casualty of HNF1 β gene coding variants in two large Norwegian diabetes registries»

Bente Berg Johansson
Janne Molnes

Andreas F. Mathisen

Friday 21 June, 11:30,
Conference room, 3th Floor

«Mapping β -cell senescence and proliferation quiescence in wild-type and diabetic mice»

Simona Chera
Luiza M Ghila

Selina Cannon Homaei

Friday 21 June, 14:00,
Conference room, 3th Floor

«Biosynthesis and function of carnosine in the mouse brain and muscle tissues»

Jan Haavik
Elaheh Mahootchi

Mojdeh Nasrollahzadeh Khakiani

Tuesday 25 June, 09:00,
Conference room, 3th Floor

«Investigating the pathogenic potential of putative splicing variants in MODY»

Marie Holm Solheim
Stefan Johansson
Janne Molnes

Ezekiel Rozmus

Wednesday 26 June, 15:00,
Meeting room, 7th Floor.

«A novel 3D PDAC model system developed with the use of decellularized matrix scaffolds»

Emmet McCormack
Gorka Ruiz De Garibay

Susanne Helen Benjaminsen

Thursday 27 June, 09:00,
Conference room, 3th Floor

«Development of an in vivo selection-based model system to study PDAC liver colonization in obese and non-obese microenvironments»

Nils Halberg
Line Pedersen

PhD Updates

PhD-defense: Kjersti Tefre Davidsen



Trial lecture

Friday 21 June 2019, 9:15, Auditorium 1, BB building, Jonas Lies vei 91
Given topic: "Immunotherapy of cancer stem cells: a perfect match?"

Disputation

Friday 21 June 2019, 11:15, Auditorium 1, BB building, Jonas Lies vei 91

Thesis: "The Receptor Tyrosine Kinase Axl in Tumour Phenotypic Plasticity and Acquired Resistance to Cancer Targeted- and Immunotherapy"

Last chance: NorDoc conference in Aarhus

Did you know that 2 out of 3 PhDs will be employed outside the university? So, what are your plans for a career path – if not in academia? We encourage you to start thinking about your career opportunities *during* your PhD Programme – and we would like to help you with this!

So we zoom in on **YOUR career as a PhD** at the **NorDoc PhD Summit 2019 on 29 and 30 August 2019** under the theme *"From PhD programme to job market: Identify your real world skills"*.

We want to help you answer some of the questions, that we know many of you are asking yourselves:

- Which career opportunities do I have as a PhD?
- What are my own preferences for the future?
- How do I succeed in matching my academic skills and my preferred career path?

Get inspired by Eske Willerslev, world-famous DNA researcher and Director of Centre of Excellence GeoGenetics at University of Copenhagen, who will round off the summit. Meet him in the video above.

26-28 August (workshops), Aarhus

29-30 August (summit), Aarhus



Early Stage Researcher Seminar – Kunwar Jung KC

Tyrosine Hydroxylase and the cellular redox state in health and disease. Novel therapeutic approaches.

Kunwar is PhD-candidate in the biorecognition group under supervision of Aurora Martinez. He has recently published an article demonstrating the importance of the co-chaperone DNAJC12 with the enzyme phenylalaninehydroxylase, and how ubiquitination is involved in this interaction.

"Phenylalanine hydroxylase variants interact with the co-chaperone DNAJC12"

Authors:Kunwar Jung-KC, Nastassja Himmelreich, Karina S. Prestegård, Tie-Jun Sten Shi, Tanja Scherer, Ming Ying, Ana Jorge-Finnigan, Beat Thöny, Nenad Blau, Aurora Martinez

Human Mutation, 22 January 2019

<https://doi.org/10.1002/humu.23712>

Tuesday 18 June, 11.30, 3rd floor conference room

Funding Announcements

Current funding announcements/deadlines

Horizon 2020 – European Research Council ERC Frontier research grants

Advanced Grant - Applicants for the ERC Advanced Grants are expected to be 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.

Deadline: 28 August 2019

Course in Bergen: Competitive applications for ERC starting and consolidator grants

<https://www.uib.no/en/node/122500> **19 June, Hotell Ørnen, 09:00-15:00**



IMI's next Calls for proposals

Call 18 and 19, are currently planned for 26/06/2019. The following topics are under consideration for inclusion in the next calls. These topics are now at an advanced stage of development and we hope that these drafts will allow potential applicants to start working actively on proposals and forming consortia:

- [Central repository of digital pathology slides to support the development of artificial intelligence tools](#)
- [Health Outcomes Observatories – empower patients with tools to measure their outcomes in a standardised manner creating transparency of health outcomes](#)
- [Improving patient access, understanding and adherence to healthcare information: an integrated digital health information project](#)
- [Establishing international standards in the analysis of patient reported outcomes and health-related quality of life data in cancer clinical trials](#)
- [Accelerating research & development for advanced therapy medicinal products](#)
- [Supporting the development of chimeric antigen receptor T cells](#)
- [Restricted call to maximise impact of IMI2 JU objectives and scientific priorities](#)

NEW The European Cooperation in Science and Technology (COST)

Funding for the creation of **research networks**, called [COST Actions](#). These networks offer an open space for collaboration among scientists across Europe (and beyond) and thereby give impetus to research advancements and innovation.

These are the new COST actions within medicine and life sciences:

- CA18206 – **Glioma MR Imaging 2.0**
- CA18208 – Novel tools for test evaluation and disease prevalence estimation
- CA18216 – Network for Research in Vascular Ageing
- CA18226 – New approaches in detection of pathogens and aeroallergens

- CA18227 – The Core Outcome Measures for Food Allergy
- CA18240 – **ADHESion GPCR** Network: Research and Implementation Set the path for future Exploration

Interested? Simply fill out [a one-page application form](#) and send it to [Hans Hellebostad](#) at the Research Council of Norway, who coordinates the Norwegian participation in COST actions **Deadline: 30 June**

Don't find anything that fits? You can also submit a proposal for a COST network to the [COST Open Call](#) on 5 September

European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

In 2019, EDCTPs supports clinical research and related activities on **poverty-related diseases**. Details of the call texts are planned to be published on the website in May 2019.

- Strategic actions supporting large-scale **clinical trials** (RIA)
- New drugs and vaccines for priority pathogens in **antimicrobial resistance** (RIA)
- Paediatric drugs formulations for poverty-related diseases (RIA)
- Strategic actions on product-related implementation research (RIA)
- Ethics and regulatory capacities (CSA)
- **Career development fellowships** (TMA)
- EDCTP-AREF Preparatory fellowships (TMA)
- EDCTP-TDR Clinical research & product development fellowships (TMA)
- Senior fellowships Plus (TMA)



The Nordic Cancer Union (NCU)

Supports and stimulates **collaborative cancer research** within the Nordic countries. NCU research grants are provided for **one year**. Further support for the project will require a new, yearly application.

Deadline: 2 September 2019, 3 pm.



Familien Blix fond

The fund supports medical research in the field of **cancer and cardiovascular diseases**. Priority is given to projects combining basic and clinical research, and to applications from younger researchers. Application process: inform about interest to apply by sending an email to goe@hjort.no. Fill out the received application form and send it to: Familien Blix' fonds styre v/advokat Erik Keiserud, Advokatfirmaet Hjort DA, postboks 471 Sentrum, 0105 Oslo.

Deadline: 25 June 2019.

Individual Fellowships and Personal Grants

Research stay abroad for PhD-candidates and Post docs

[UiB](#) PhD-candidates and Post-docs funded by the Faculty of Medicine, University of Bergen, can apply for travel grants limited to 25.000 nok. There are now new guidelines for these stipends. Please read them in this PDF:

<http://vedlegg.uib.no/?id=f2f78c72805bb1948d9381ec34a9bfe1>

Deadline: 1 March and 1 October

[Research Council of Norway](#) 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.

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

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>