

Dear colleagues,

These are quite unusual times that require creativity, pragmatism and, most of all, good will to tackle the situation in the best possible way. It is indeed impressive to what extent we have all these qualities in the Department, but also the Faculty and UiB as a whole.

A major challenge has been to shift teaching entirely to digital means.

If one realizes that it is just about a week that this became an absolute necessity, it is almost unbelievable to see the progress that has been achieved. Many of you have probably never had so many Skype or Teams or Zoom meetings before. The flexibility and speed at which new online tools for teaching have been implemented is indeed breathtaking. I am very grateful for the enormous efforts by all our teachers, who have worked very hard to make the transition as smooth as possible. Undoubtedly, digital teaching cannot replace hands-on courses and development of practical skills. Nevertheless, this enforced switch to digital means of communication and teaching has probably helped us take the hurdle that seemed almost too high to overcome when things were still "normal". Perhaps, this is also true for the IT department. Their efforts during the past week have, perhaps, exceeded their own expectations. We cannot be grateful enough and applaud them for their restless efforts to get and keep things going.

It has been in many aspects unfortunate, yet necessary, that we needed to close down and essentially discontinue all experimental activities.

Needless to say that the rigor with which the shutdown had to be implemented took us all by surprise and has certainly led to quite considerable challenges for many of us. When it comes to delays in projects, for the most vulnerable group of people, master students and PhD-candidates, the University leadership is aware of the problems this may cause and works to find solutions. Despite the general restrictions, we are trying to preserve the most precious research materials and enable the most pressing activities. The task force (ibm-beredskap@uib.no) has received a number of requests and tries their best to help. We have maintained essential functions, cooling systems etc. are regularly checked, packages are being received and taken care of. Every day, someone from the team is present at least 9:00-14:00 to let people in that need to get access. Thus, quite a few have collected personal items or their wireless computer accessories for their home offices. Any such requests or other matters regarding operations at IBM should be addressed to this email. Do not come to the building unless this has been agreed with us beforehand. We will be happy to receive your suggestions to optimize the communication and arrangements and try our best to help.

You have certainly noted that new information comes in daily and we try to keep you updated about things that are particularly relevant for us. However, most of the information and implemented measures are relevant for the entire University and available at uib.no/korona. Please, check there first, in case you are wondering about something.

Finally, remember that we all share the same challenge. However, some may cope better than others. Home office is something not too many of us have much experience with or necessity for, usually. We also have some young colleagues that come from far-away countries and may not have a social network in Bergen. Therefore, it is even more important now to keep in touch and care about each other.

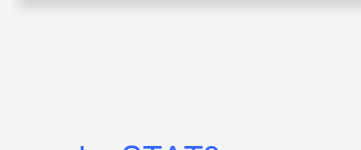
A few positive things haven't changed though: the days are becoming longer again, and the sun also still exists!

I wish you and your closest a relaxing weekend and hope you all stay healthy and in good spirits!

Hakkes

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.

[Trifluoperazine prolongs the survival of experimental brain metastases by STAT3-dependent lysosomal membrane permeabilization.](#)

Zhang X, Ding K, Ji J, **Parajuli H**, **Aasen SN**, **Espedal H**, Huang B, Chen A, **Wang J**, **Li X**, **Thorsen F**.

Am J Cancer Res. 2020 Feb 1;10(2):545-56

[Proteome and Phosphoproteome Changes Associated with Prognosis in Acute Myeloid Leukemia.](#)

Aasebø E, **Berven FS**, Bartaula-Brevik S, Stokov T, Hovland R, Vaudel M, Døskeland SO, McCormack E, Bath TS, Olsen JV, Bruserud Ø, **Selheim F**, **Hernandez-Valladares M**.

Cancers (Basel). 2020 Mar 17;12(3). pii: E709. doi: 10.3390/cancers12030709.

[Potential sphingosine-1-phosphate-related therapeutic targets in the treatment of cerebral ischemia reperfusion injury.](#)

Han M, Sun T, Chen H, **Han M**, Wang D.

Life Sci. 2020 Mar 10;249:117542. doi: 10.1016/j.lfs.2020.117542.

[Functional homo- and heterodimeric actin capping proteins from the malaria parasite.](#)

Bendes AA, Chatterjee M, Götte B, **Kursula P**, **Kursula I**.

Biochem Biophys Res Commun. 2020 Mar 2. pii: S0006-291X(20)30400-9. doi: 10.1016/j.bbrc.2020.02.119

Funding Announcements

Utlysning: hjerte- og karsykdommer og kreft

Familien Blix' fond til fremme av medisinsk forskning ble opprettet 1. desember 1983.

Formålet med fondet er å støtte medisinsk forskning, særlig innen feltene **hjerte- og karsykdommer og kreft**, inkludert medisinsk diagnostikk innen disse feltene.

Støtte fra fondet vil i særlig grad gå til forskningsprosjekter som kombinerer basal- og klinisk forskning, med spesiell vekt på søknader fra yngre forskere. Søknad om støtte sendes til fondets styre v/advokat Erik Keiserud, BA2 Center, Bygdøy alle 2, 0257 Oslo, enten ved vanlig post eller vedlagt e-post til erik.keiserud@outlook.com. Den må skrives på fastsatt skjema som vil bli tilsendt ved henvendelse til e-postadresse: goe@hjort.no.

Frist: 25. juni 2020

Call for funding: Cardiovascular disease and cancer

The Blix Family Fund for the Advancement of Medical Research was established on December 1, 1983.

The purpose of the fund is to support medical research, especially in the fields of **cardiovascular disease and cancer**, including medical diagnostics in these fields.

Fund support will, in particular, go to research projects that combine basic and clinical research, with special emphasis on applications from younger researchers. Send applications to erik.keiserud@outlook.com (member of the Board of Directors). It must be written on a prescribed form which will be sent by e-mail address: goe@hjort.no

Deadline: 25 June 2020

Viking Olov Björk's scholarship in applied biomaterial research of 275 000 Swedish Crowns

Viking Olov Björk's scholarship supports research in the intersection between medical technology and its close to clinical applications. This covers research and development within such areas as **tissue engineering, nanotechnology or biomaterial research**.

The scholarship is to be given to a young researcher at a Nordic university who has shown scientific skills in the field and shown aptitude for leadership within the scientific field supported by the scholarship.

The scholarship proceeds should be used to finance the recipient's costs for a longer visit to a high ranking international research institute. The visit shall be commenced within a year after the funding.

Researcher with employment at, or other similar strong **collaborative link with Uppsala University shall prevail**. Such link requires a well witnessed, and the year before application established collaboration in a research project that has Uppsala University as principal organization.

Application shall be written in English and includes CV, research plan for the project expected to be carried through at the foreign institute, certificate from the foreign site confirming access to and availability of resources, statement from tutor/similar at the own Nordic university, and finally budget for the stay abroad.

A brief written travelogue shall be sent to the Office for Medicine and Pharmacy within six months after return from the stay abroad.

Full applications received by the Office for Medicine and Pharmacy in a digital form under the address jin.saida@uadm.uu.se not later than April 1, 2020 are considered. The application shall be submitted in the form of one single pdf file. Mark the application mail subject line "Viking Olov Björk's scholarship".

Application deadline: 1 April 2020

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

Horizon 2020 – European Research Council ERC Frontier research grants

[ERC Advanced Grant](#) - This year is the last call for ERC Advanced Grant in Horizont 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 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 [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 capability 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



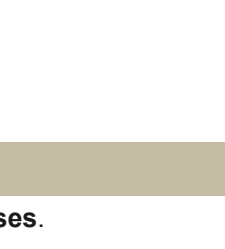
NEW Joint Programming Initiative [Aquatic pollutants, human health and the environment](#)

The three Joint Programming Initiatives (JPIs) on Water, Oceans and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) have pre-announced a joint transnational call for research and innovation projects on **risks posed to human health and the environment by pollutants and pathogens present in the water resources**.

The call AquaticPollutants will support research and innovation projects that establish integrated and cross-sectoral approaches for risk-management combining the research areas of contaminants of emerging concerns (CECs), pathogens and antimicrobial resistance.

The projected call budget is approximately 25 million Euro, co-funded by European Commission.

Deadline (pre-proposals) 16 April 2020



Research Council of Norway

Upcoming calls for researcher projects:

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

Deadline: 20 May 2020



European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership ([EDCTP](#))

In 2019, EDCTPs supports clinical research and related activities on **poverty-related diseases**. [Paediatric drugs for poverty-related diseases \(RIA\)](#)

Deadline: 16 March 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

Cancer Society (Kreftforeningen)

NEW Rosa Sløyfe - funds research that result in treatments customized to breast cancers, cancer stages, or other individual factors

The Norwegian Cancer Society and the Norwegian Breast Cancer Society welcome proposals to Rosa Sløyfe 2020 – **Personalized breast cancer treatment**. The funds made available through this call come from the [Rosa Sløyfe campaign](#) (Pink Ribbon), held in October each year.

We welcome proposals within the following areas:

- *Detection, development and/or evaluation of **diagnostic tools** for breast cancers.* Here we include research on biomarkers or genomics which may differentiate cancer subtypes, the development of tests to detect these differences, whether the tests are sufficiently specific and sensitive for personalized treatment purposes.
- *Detection, development and/or evaluation of **personalized treatments** for breast cancers.* Here we include research on working mechanism of potential treatment compounds, mechanisms or compounds that distinguish between identified differences, evaluation of whether the compounds can treat cancer or prevent metastasis or relapse.

NOK 1-5 million

Deadline: 31 March 2020

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](#)

Subsiding 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