

Newsletter

from FUGE Mid-Norway

www.ntnu.no/fuge

Edition 1. 2009

Editorial – Small grants for basic research from NFR

The Research Council of Norway has completed the distribution of grants to programmes that had an application deadline in summer 2008. Again, we see that the grants to so-called independent research are much less than what is needed. In several of the areas of open research, the allocation percentage is around 10% or lower. In the most relevant application programme for the majority of FUGE researchers, FRIBIO / BIOMED, 10.1% of the applications were given grants. In the humanities it was even less, a modest success rate of 6.9%. It is far easier if you are wise enough to research something within a priority area. Research on international climate agreements gave grants to 67% of those who had applied. It is a regrettable structural problem for Norwegian research that these strategic programmes are in place of, and not in addition to, the open research programmes. This particularly limits the grants to basic research. On the positive side, we note again that Trondheim researchers took a greater part of the funds in FRIBIO / BIOMED than the size of the research environment would suggest. Funding was awarded a total of six projects at NTNU, four at the Faculty of Medicine and two at the Faculty of Natural Sciences and Technology. The University of Bergen received funding for four projects this time, while Tromsø did not receive any funding despite having 17 applications. There is a huge effort behind such a pile of applications and it is hardly a worthwhile use of resources for the research community when 9 of 10 applications end as paper waste.

Best regards, Magne Børset
Leader FUGE Mid-Norway committee

FUGE Mid-Norway award 2009

The FUGE Mid-Norway prize was awarded for the first time on Tuesday 16 December 2008. There were several excellent papers nominated for the award, however, it was PhD candidate Ingvill Bjellmo Johnsen and Professor Marit Anthonsen (LBK/DMF) who won the prize. They were each awarded a diploma, a work of art and NOK 30 000.

When the nominated papers were reviewed, emphasis was placed on a single publication which had elements of functional genomics and the main focus of the work was done in Trondheim.

The paper that was awarded the FUGE Mid-Norway award 2008 was:
"Toll-like receptor 3 associates with cSrc tyrosine kinase on endosomes to initiate antiviral signaling" published in [EMBO journal](http://www.embojournal.org) 2006;25,3335-46.

Our cells activate a "programme" that is part of the human immune defence to eliminate intruders such as viruses. The work by Johnsen et al., describes a mechanism of white blood cells that help to fight virus infections. The authors show that specific and important component enzymes called Src kinase, and transcription factors, called IRF3 and STST-21, work together with specific receptors in the cell (Toll-like receptor 3) to combat viral infection.

FUGE Mid-Norway offers its congratulations to this excellent publication and the FUGE Mid-Norway award for 2008.



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Course in writing applications for funding

Røe Communication AS and FUGE Mid-Norway are organizing a course in writing applications for funding on 6 May and 13 May. The course will give the participants individual feedback on individual applications. Please see the announcement at <http://www.ntnu.no/fuge/seminar> (in Norwegian) or <http://www.ntnu.no/research/fuge/seminars> (in English).

Application deadline: 2008-04-01

News from NFR

(The Research Council of Norway)

The FUGE-NFR web page has been re-designed and is constantly updated with news related to functional genomics. ([Link to FUGE-NFR](#)).

Summary of news from NFR:

- [Nye midler til forskningsinfrastruktur](#)
- [Utlysning av nærings-PhD](#)
- [Vil kartlegge torsken i rekordfart](#)
- [Europeisk toppstipend til Moser og Lund](#)

Publications

Novel publications since last news letter:

- [B. Sitter, et al., Progress in Nuclear Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy \(2008\)](#)
- [Tessem MB et al., Magn Reson Med. 2008 Sep;60\(3\):510-6](#)
- [Kusnierczyk A et al., Plant, Cell and Environment \(2008\) 31, 1097–1115](#)

Chronicle in Nasjonen 2009-01-26 by Professor Atle Bones: [Planter og Grønnologi](#)

Seminars

Systems biology:

[Seminar by Jens Hollunder](#)

February 27, 2009, 10:00 – 11:00 R54, Realfagbygget, Høgskoleringen 5, NTNU, Trondheim

Conservation Genetics Conference:

Place: Trondheim (Norway), 23-26 May, 2009

The conference integrates theoretical, experimental and applied approaches to conservation genetics. It presents up-to-date knowledge in population genetics, conservation and evolutionary biology, and genomics, by leading researchers in these fields. Two of the plenary speakers are Joop Ouborg (The Netherlands) and Torsten Nygård Kristensen (Denmark). [For more information about the conference and the programme please see the web site.](#)

Action plan FUGE mid-Norway 2009

- Write four newsletters.
- Announce and distribute funds for services at the FUGE technology platforms, funds for international travel on FUGE-related business, funds for service contracts and funds for seminars.
- Continuous updating of the FUGE Mid-Norway website and encourage FUGE communities to update their respective websites.
- Announce PhD and post doc positions from NTNU.
- Organize meetings which present projects with relevance to FUGE.
- Work to increase contact between FUGE and the biological communities that are working with ecology, evolution and biodiversity in the region.
- Increase publicity for functional genomics (for example in Gemini, Courier News, Saturday University, and on the TV programmes Schrödinger's Cat and Newton).
- Invite TTO to FUGE-related seminars to contribute to business development.
- Work to improve the content of systems biology, bioinformatics, patenting, OMICs subjects, and biotechnology / molecular biology in the master's and PhD studies, and help ensure that students are well informed about the possibilities in these areas.
- Contribute to ethical reflection concerning FUGE activities by highlighting the subject in lectures etc. at NTNU in the field of ethics.
- Announce the FUGE Mid-Norway award.

The commemorative exhibition 2010

The commemorative exhibition 2010 is part of Trondheim and NTNU's celebration of 250th anniversary of the founding of The Royal Norwegian Society of Sciences and Letters

Functional genomics has been granted space in the section of the exhibition called: Science and the future. Creative input to the process of setting up the exhibition may be given to the coordinator of FUGE Mid-Norway, Janne Østvang (janneos@nt.ntnu.no).

Deadline: 2008-03-15

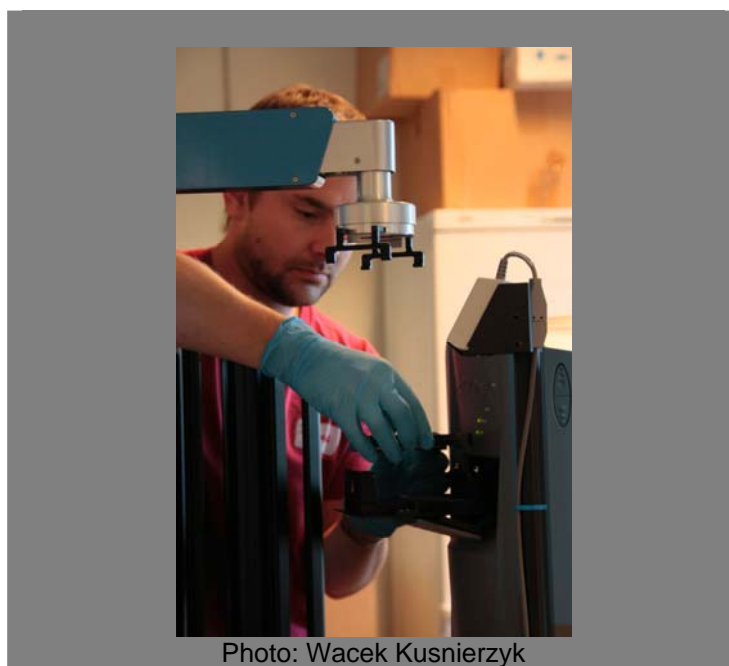


Photo: Wacek Kusnierzyk