

Newsletter

from FUGE Mid-Norway

www.ntnu.no/fuge

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Editorial - After FUGE - what is going to happen?

The FUGE program was established by the Research Council of Norway (RCN) after a combined initiative by the university communities. A major focus of the program has been the establishment of technology platforms and networks. Now that these are in place, a more research / problem-oriented approach may be chosen for the future. In autumn 2009, RCN invited researchers to suggest strategies on how further investments in biotechnology should be undertaken – currently called Biotek 2012. Many contributions were received. At the moment the contributions are processed before RCN start their dialogue with policy makers. Step by step the program will be outlined.

A central theme being discussed is: Can we assume that a novel commitment within biotechnology will be able to take over the rate of returns from the research fund as FUGE has had every year? The question is fundamental to the question whether we may assume that politicians acknowledge the general importance of biotechnology research, whether it's about green environment or human illness. If the motivation/insight of politicians is less, it would be better if researchers in Norway could agree on some broad selected thematic headings. If they are carefully chosen, political affiliation may be envisaged. Selected topics should of course be consistent with the goals set in Stortingsmelding No. 30: Climate for research.

Others will argue that we should not go into the discussion of topics in biotechnology, but rather concentrate on describing the quality of research, networking and international contacts. Such qualities are also included in the future goals mentioned in Stortingsmelding No. 30.

We are at a crossroad. Important processes will take place during the next months. Will it be possible for Norwegian researchers to agree on some broad themes defined in biotechnology to ensure solid political commitment? It must involve issues that are socially important and have appeal to politicians. Or, may this approach be too controversial? It is easier for us scientists to agree on quality and network matters, but I doubt that it will work as an inspiration for standard politicians.

Best regards, Rigmor Austgulen
Leader of FUGE Mid-Norway committee

FUGE Mid-Norway board and committee 2010

Regional FUGE Board 2008-2011:

- **Head:** Åse Krøkje (NT, NTNU).
- **Deputy head:** Helge Klungland (DMF, NTNU).
- **Members:** Kjell Bratsbergengen (IME, NTNU), Berge Solberg (SVT, NTNU), Hans Kotlar (StatoilHydro), Trond Ellingsen (SINTEF), Siv Mørkvad (Helse Midt-Norge).
- **Observers:** Rigmor Austgulen (DMF, NTNU) and Marit Otterlei (DMF, NTNU)
- **Secretary:** Janne Østvang (NT, NTNU)

Regional FUGE Committee 2010:

- **Head:** Rigmor Austgulen (DMF, NTNU)
- **Deputy head:** Atle Bones (NT, NTNU)
- **Members:** Finn Drabløs (DMF, NTNU), Eivind Almaas (NT, NTNU), Pål Sætrom (IME, NTNU), Rune Nydal (HF, NTNU), Kjetil Hindar (NINA), Frank Skorpen (HUNT/IKM, NTNU), Trond Størseth (SINTEF).
- **Representative from the national FUGE board:** Marit Otterlei (DMF, NTNU)
- **Secretary:** Janne Østvang (NT, NTNU)

FUGE Mid-Norway award 2009

The 16 December 2009 the third FUGE Mid-Norway Christmas seminar was arranged. Ole Didrik Lærum, professor of pathology from the University of Bergen, held a lecture on research communication. He has always placed emphasis on the popularization of research, and received the Norwegian Research Council mediation award in 2008.

Anastasia Dykyy (19 years) won the Young Scientists Competition in 2009 for a paper on stem cell research. During the Christmas seminar she talked about her experience of participating in the European finals and her research.



FUGE mid-Norway prize

FUGE mid-Norway hand out each year an award for outstanding research. The FUGE mid-Norway prize 2009 went to the post-doctoral PhD. Torunn Bruland, Associate Professor, PhD. Mette Langaas, PhD, Clara-Cecilie Günther and PhD-student Christina Sæter Fjeldbo for the work of "Functional studies Wed transfected cell microarray analyzed by linear regression modeling." Article published in Nucleic Acid Research, 35: e97-107, 2008.

- An important part of this work is that it represents a successful collaboration between the biomedical, experimental milieu and statistically professional communities. This is a good interdisciplinary project, said the jury.

Christina S. Fjeldbo, one of the laureates, gave a brief introduction of the publication awarded with the FUGE mid-Norway award.

FUGE Mid-Norway offers its congratulations to this excellent publication and the FUGE Mid-Norway award for 2009.

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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 28 April and 5 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: 2010-31-03

The commemorative exhibition 2010

The commemorative exhibition 2010 is part of Trondheim and NTNU's celebration of the 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. The exhibition is opening 12 March 2010. For more information please see [here](#).

Travel and Service funds:

FUGE mid-Norway congratulate

Astrid Lægreid, Bin Liu, Jens Rohloff, Trygve Andreassen, Waclaw Kusnierczyk

with the allocated funds for travels.

FUGE mid-Norway congratulate

Arne Sandvik, Atle Bones og Kristian Hveem

with the allocated funds for service contracts.

Funds to buy services from the FUGE platforms

FUGE mid-Norway congratulate

Yngve hansen, Bo Jian, Aina Nedal, Geir Slupphaug, Ingrid Eftedal, Marit W. Anthonsen, Hans Krokan, Sjoerd Hak, Pål Sætrom

with the allocated funds for the purchase of platform services.

Action plan FUGE mid-Norway 2010

- Distribute 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.
- Announce PhD and post doc positions from NTNU.
- Increase publicity for functional genomics. This year FUGE Mid-Norway will take part in the Commemorative exhibition 2010 at Vitenskapsmuseet.
- Invite the Technology Transfer Office (TTO) to FUGE-related seminars to contribute to business development.
- Arrange a writing course.
- Announce the FUGE Mid-Norway award 2010.
- Strengthen cooperation between FUGE and Helse Midt-Norge by distributing a brochure.
- Working strategically for the continuation of the nodes after the end of the FUGE II periode.
- Working strategically for a new strategic area within biotechnology at the Norwegian research council.
- Work proactively with information about FUGE to the researchers.

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:

[Utvikler hormonfri p-pille for menn](#)

[Verdiskaping fra havet](#)

[Nye midler til nettverksbygging](#)



Photo: Øylov Cyvin