



newsletter



Department of Biomedicine

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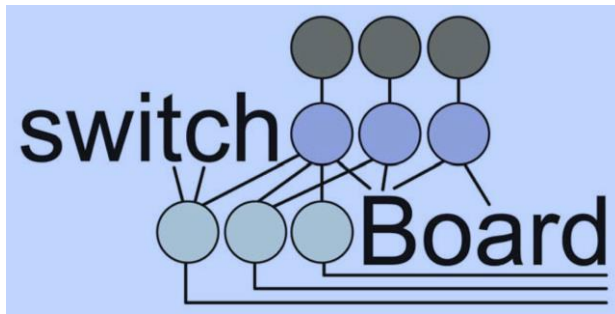
Dear all,

The autumn semester is a time for grant awards and denials, and most of our researchers have experience with both categories. UiB as a whole, however, has an excellent track record of being the university in Norway with [most success in its grant applications towards the EU](#), according to the Research Council of Norway. In this regard, it is a pleasure to congratulate two of our researchers with being awarded grants through two different educational promotions from the EU: Meg Veruki and Stein Ove Døskeland. Our congratulations!

Finally, I will take the opportunity to promote the Faculty of Medicine and Dentistry's enduring focus on The Medical Student Research Program, a long-term and successful project which secures attractive PhD candidates for the Faculty. This autumn's announcements of PhD positions from the Faculty demonstrate the importance of this program. In the realities of the budget negotiations, we should understand the Faculty's decision to prioritize the candidates from the Research Program in the recruitment process, but this is a temporary measure. The Medical Student Research Program is a long-term strategical commitment and I encourage everyone to actively facilitate projects for candidates from this program.

*Sincerely,
Rolf K. Reed*

New Horizon 2020 “European Training Network” at the Department of Biomedicine



*In the eye of the observer:
Visual processing at the heart of the retina*

Meg Veruki and Espen Hartveit at the Department of Biomedicine are partners in the successfully funded Horizon 2020 European Training Network (ETN) “switchBoard”, which will be launched on Nov 01, 2015. This multipartner training network consists of 7 academic partners, 1 non-profit research organisation, and 3 private sector partners with research groups from 9 countries (UK, Netherlands, Italy, Austria, Switzerland, Israel, Germany, Norway). The network is coordinated by the University of Tuebingen, Germany.

The ETN will provide an international, interdisciplinary platform to educate 15 young scientists at the interface of neurobiology, information processing and neurotechnology with a focus on visual processing in the retina including experimental neuroscience, vision/retina research in health and disease, theoretical / computational neuroscience, neurotechnology and neuron-hardware interfaces, and opto-electronic engineering. One of the annual meetings for the network will take place in Bergen in the summer of 2017.

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