



eLIFE – news on life at LIFE

Thursday 1 November 2007

Email to the editors: elife@life.ku.dk

Final deadline for editorial changes is Wednesday before publication of eLIFE on Thursday.

Editorial changes may occur in relation to the online newsletter.

As regards links in the newsletter, please refer to the Danish online version at the faculty's website http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev.aspx

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, Editor, Communications, glb@life.ku.dk

Announcements

Election meeting and election bar for young voters – Friday 9 November, 3.00 to 6.30 pm in the Ceremonial Hall at Frue Plads

This news item was created on: 31 October 2007

What topics are important to young people in this election campaign? Is it education, research, the environment, taxation or something completely different?

On Friday 9 November – under the heading “Young voters” – some of the leading politicians will be discussing the topics and issues which occupy the minds of first-time voters and students. Young people, including students of the university, are invited to an election meeting in the Ceremonial Hall at the University of Copenhagen. Thomas Larsen, political editor of the Danish daily *Berlingske Tidende*, and Pro-rector Lykke Friis will chair the debate.

Before the meeting, the participants can ask the politicians video questions via YouTube. Some of the questions

will be shown at the election meeting. The questions can be uploaded to the panel at www.virtuel.ku.dk

"We want to provide young voters, including the students at the University, with the opportunity of influencing the politicians via the Internet and experience the atmosphere that characterises a good old election meeting in the form of a ceremonial hall full of people," says Pro-rector Lykke Friis.

After the election meeting, stand-up comedian Mette Frobenius will be entertaining the audience with political satire in the election bar, where the participants will have the opportunity to meet representatives from the youth sections of the parties as well as election experts from the University of Copenhagen.

The event will take place on Friday 9 November from 3.00 to 6.30 pm in the Ceremonial Hall at Frue Plads, Copenhagen K. The event is organised by the University of Copenhagen and *Berlingske Tidende*.

Jacob Søby Bang, Head of Communications

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 31 October 2007

Seminar in Nanobioscience - Thursday 8 November at 3.00 pm in lecture hall 3-14

This news item was created on: 26 October 2007

The Art of Building Small – from molecular switches to molecular motors

Professor Ben L. Feringa, Jacobus van 't Hoff Distinguished Professor of Molecular Sciences, Stratingh Institute for Chemistry, University of Groningen

The fascinating structures and complex functions present in biological systems offer a great challenge to develop synthetic nanostructured materials with functions controllable at the molecular level. In our body, a fascinating collection of ingenious molecular motors makes it possible for our cells divide, so we can use our muscles and so the consumption of ATP can be used to generate force and mobility.

For the bottom-up construction of photo and electro-active nanosystems, we focus on the following aspects of such endeavours: organisation and self-assembly, photochemical switching and control of motion. Key features are the control of molecular and supramolecular chirality and dynamic processes.

Molecular switches are designed as trigger units and as molecular memory and electronic elements. Chiroptical molecular switches are described aiming at data storage systems at the molecular level. Diarylethylene molecular switches are explored in order to control dynamic self-assembly and holographic pattern formation as well as to achieve electronic communication at the molecular level. Finally spiropyran photochemical switches are used in the design of a protein-based mechanosensitive nanovalve that can be triggered by light.

Molecular motors stand out among the most challenging goals in nanoscience and will provide the heart of future molecular level machinery. The design and synthesis of a light-driven motor is reported in which for the first time energy consumption is coupled with repetitive unidirectional rotation. The construction of second and third-generation molecular motors is presented. An approach to demonstrating a molecular motor at work involves the amplification of the molecular motion to control organisation at the supramolecular level. The acceleration of the molecular motor by synthetic modifications is also reported. Furthermore the assembly of molecular motors on surfaces will be outlined as will chemical-driven motors to achieve translational and rotary motion.

Thursday 8 November at 3.00 pm – Main Meeting of the Danish Chemical Society
Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen
Thorvaldsensvej 40, 1871 Frederiksberg C

Lecture hall 3-14

Knud J. Jensen, Department of Natural Sciences, kjj@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 October 2007

IT Learning Center – autumn courses 2007

This news item was created on: 26 October 2007

The IT Learning Center will be holding a number of courses and workshops during the autumn. You can, among other things, get inspiration on how to use E-learning, attend a course in the E-learning platform Absalon or in GroupWise, Excel etc.

As something new, we will be holding a workshop in the use of the Adobe Connect program, which is a desktop video program that makes it possible to communicate on the Internet via webcams, sound and file sharing.

Read more at our website where you can also register for the courses: <http://www.itlc.kvl.dk/kurser.aspx>

Gitte Preisler, IT Learning Center - DVJB, gjp@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 26 October 2007

Education

The Danish-American Fulbright Commission will be holding two events in the week ending 18 November

This news item was created on: 31 October 2007

The Danish-American Fulbright Commission will be holding two events for students during the "International Education Week" in the week ending 18 November.

- 1) Guidance meeting on studies in the USA for undergraduate students on 12 November from 3.00 to 4.30 pm.
- 2) Meeting on how to apply for grants on 15 November from 3.00 to 4.30 pm.

Read more about the events here:

If you are interested in studying in the USA, you should mark 12 November from 3.00 to 4.30 pm in your calendar, where we will be holding an information meeting for all those interested in studying in the USA at

undergraduate level (bachelor students). It may very well be your best investment if you plan to study stay in the USA.

At the meeting, we will discuss, among other things, topics such as testing, admission procedures and visa procedures.

For planning purposes, please register at: advising@daf-fulb.dk, stating the following:

"Jeg deltager den 12. november" (I will be attending on 12 November) as well as your name, telephone number and at which level you study.

The meetings will be held in our rooms in Fiolstræde 24, 3rd floor. See under News at www.wemakeithappen.dk

Annica Nielsen, Internationalisation and Developing Countries, anie@life.ku.dk

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 31 October 2007

Staff news

Death: Torben Hansen, Department of Natural Sciences

This news item was created on: 31 October 2007

Service Assistant Torben Hansen, Department of Natural Sciences, has passed away. The flag flew at half-mast at LIFE on Tuesday 30 October.

Head of Department Susanne Sørensen:

"We have today received the sad message that Torben Hansen, Service Assistant at the Department of Natural Sciences, has died. He died suddenly and unexpectedly and far too young. We will miss his good humour and kind-hearted nature."

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gib@life.ku.dk – latest update 31 October 2007

Two new deputy directors appointed at the University of Copenhagen

This news item was created on: 31 October 2007

On 1 December, two new, strong profiles will join the management and administration at the University of Copenhagen.

Bo Bendsen will become the new Deputy Director of Group IT, and Jens-Peter Lynov will become Deputy Director of the University's new Innovation and Scientist Service.

Jens-Peter Lynov, 54, was formerly employed as head of department at Risø National Laboratory, the Technical University of Denmark, and has many years of experience with the promotion of the commercialisation of research findings. In his new job, he will be developing the innovation activities of the University of

Copenhagen and will, among other things, ensure that the University achieves a bigger share of the large international research programmes, e.g. the EU's framework programmes.

Bo Bendsen, 40, leaves a job as business director at NNIT A/S and has, among other things, previously established an IT function at Novo Nordisk to support R&D. Bo Bendsen will be developing the overall architecture of the University within administrative IT and improving the support of central processes at the departmental, faculty and group levels.

"We are very pleased to welcome two such competent profiles to the University of Copenhagen. The appointments mark a giant leap forward in terms of reorganising the joint administration of the University, as was decided earlier this year, to future-proof and strengthen the University," says Rector Ralf Hemmingsen.

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, gjb@life.ku.dk – latest update 31 October 2007

Veterinarian Surgeon Gert Skibsted Jacobsen has died – obituary

This news item was created on: 29 October 2007

Gert Skibsted Jacobsen began his career as a veterinary surgeon in 1995 and was soon after offered employment at the Large Animal Hospital, University of Copenhagen, responsible for anaesthesia.

Gert's great commitment and knowledge was a major factor in the development of the area of anaesthesia of large animals.

Gert obtained and integrated knowledge from human medicine and brought veterinary anaesthesia and patient monitoring at the hospital to the highest level, generously communicating his knowledge to all staff groups. Gert believed that a successful operation requires a team effort from and a pat on the shoulder to all staff groups involved, something which increased the everyday job satisfaction. Both through his daily teaching of veterinary students and his untiring guidance of colleagues from all over the country – often outside normal working hours – Gert has contributed to ensuring that the anaesthetisation and pain management of horses and production animals take place according to the highest professional and ethical standards. Just a few days before his death, he gave advice, over the telephone, not least in connection with his large project on the layout of the new operating theatres and anaesthesia systems of Tåstrup Hospital, developed in collaboration with his large network of contacts. He will, unfortunately, never see the final results of his efforts.

Gert's brilliant sense of humour and cheerfulness made us sometimes forget that he suffered from a serious illness: cystic fibrosis. Gert never saw himself as a victim and learned everything about his illness. He mastered it better than the doctors that regularly had to hospitalise him. When he returned to work after having been absent due to illness, he never complained, because as he used to say: There is no point in giving up. Gert's approach to life constantly reminded us to get the best out of life – no matter what burdens you are facing.

Gert died on 23 October at the age of 40. We will all miss him very much, and we will always admire this very special person who enriched our lives. Our best wishes and hopes for the future go to Anne and his young daughter Katrine.

On behalf of all colleagues at the hospital,

Professor Pia Haubro Andersen

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 29 October 2007

Research

New Danish alliance creates the world's strongest research environment within food

This news item was created on: 29 October 2007

With the conclusion of a strategic collaboration agreement between the Faculty of Life Sciences, University of Copenhagen, and Wageningen University in the Netherlands, the world's strongest food environment has today seen the light. The agreement will have an enormous influence on food research, the Danish business sector and within the field of education.

To begin with, the alliance will focus on research within the field of food and on the establishment of joint MSc programmes within dairy and sensorics, respectively, the first of their kind – both are expected to start in September next year.

Again this year, Danish students will be able to follow part of their food study programmes at Wageningen among the world's leading scientists. Also Danish food companies will benefit from the new strategic collaboration agreement which, among other things, will pave the way for more research collaboration and industry-related supplementary training. The new strategic collaboration is a big step towards increased internationalisation and mobility at the University of Copenhagen.

This type of strategic collaboration is one the main items in the action plan for internationalisation of the Faculty of Life Sciences at the University of Copenhagen. It our future goal to conclude similar agreements with selected universities abroad to meet the challenges in the global market. According to Dean Per Holten-Andersen, close and extended collaboration with selected universities which are the world's leading within specific professional areas is the best way to meet the demands of the future for internationalisation of the study programmes, while at the same time ensuring top-notch study programmes and research.

For more information, please contact Grete Bertelsen, Head of Department, Department of Food Science, on tel. 353 33212, email: grb@life.ku.dk

Press release

Katherina Ludvigsen
Communication officer

Gudrun Lau Bjerno, glb@life.ku.dk – latest update 29 October 2007

Research funds etc.

See the online version at

http://www.life.ku.dk/Maalgruppe/medarbejdere/life_internt/nyhedsbrev/forskningsmidler.aspx

Here you will find all calls with active links