

CBU seminar series, v.2023

(last modified October 2024 – starting time)

Why have a seminar series? CBU's vision is to undertake competitive research in computational biology and to train PhD students and postdocs to become excellent scientists. It is an essential part of a scientist's training to (1) become able to clearly and convincingly present their own work, (2) broaden their insight into bioinformatics research areas beyond that of their own group, and (3) develop an attitude and culture for scientific seminars and discussions. It is also important that CBU maintains a vigorous culture of communication and exchange internally, between its members.

Staff at CBU have a variety of backgrounds so there should be a strong focus on accessibility for every talk given in this series.

Format: CBU seminars are *scientific talks*, and as such should introduce your research field and formulate your research question(s) in an accessible manner so that other CBUers understand it. A scientific talk also traditionally contains a section explaining the choice of the approach and/or methods to address the research question, and then a presentation of the most important results, followed by a conclusion. Exception to that format will be made for presenters who are not PhD students or postdocs/researchers and wish to present.

Time and place: CBU seminars take place once a week, every Thursday at 11:00 am in the 5th-floor CBU seminar room (aka "Blåbær").

Duration: The speaker can choose between a short (20 minutes) and a long (40 minutes) format. The times are speaking time; discussions come on top of this.

Chairperson: every seminar is chaired by the PI of the presenter. The chair opens the seminar by introducing the speaker and leads the Q&A session. The chair is also responsible for keeping the speaker on time, and close the discussion after a reasonable time to allow members of the audience to reach their next appointments in time.

Seminar committee and its roles: Nathalie Reuter and Iain Johnston, both PIs at CBU, and Pål Gunnestad, CBU admin coordinator, will act as contact points for speakers. Pål is the keeper of the seminar list (see below). Requests for rescheduling a seminar should be addressed to Nathalie and Iain, with CC to Pål and to your own PI.

Seminar list: A list of speakers, together with the dates of their presentation, is prepared in advance for a whole term, by the end of the previous term, ie. before the holiday. Pål Gunnestad is the keeper of the seminar list. He collects names, dates, and titles, and publish them on the online CBU seminar list, in conjunction with the seminar committee. Once the list is published, if the date of your seminar conflicts with other commitments, you might reschedule by exchanging with someone else and informing the committee asap.

Q&A: there will be a prize awarded to the best question.

Feedback: every presenter can choose to receive *constructive* feedback on their talk if they wish. The speaker can choose who is going to give them feedback either by asking the audience, or checking the list at [VolunteersFeedbackCommittee.xlsx](#) where anyone can add their names. Feedback can be anonymous, in which case the speaker should contact the seminar committee who will organize it.

CBU feedback sheets are meant to help the persons giving feedback to provide structured feedback. The feedback sheet contains a small number of categories to focus on, and also a field for additional comments/categories that the speaker might ask about. The feedback sheets are not meant to be given to the speaker at the end of the talk. Instead, the feedback should be discussed with the speaker.

