

## EMNERAPPORT – INSTITUTT FOR BIOMEDISIN

ANNUAL EVALUATION REPORT – DEPARTMENT OF BIOMEDICINE

Emnekode: <i>COURSE CODE:</i>	<b>BMED340</b>	Semester / år:	<b>Spring semester 2020</b>
Emnenavn: <i>COURSE NAME:</i>	<i>Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience</i>	SEMESTER / YEAR:	
Emneansvarlig: <i>COURSE COORDINATOR:</i>	<b>Espen Hartveit</b>	Godkjent:	Studieleder IBM 17.06.2020
Rapporteringsdato: <i>DATE OF REPORT:</i>	<b>2020-06-16</b>	APPROVED: (admin.)	

### INNLEDNING / INTRODUCTION:

Kort beskrivelse av emnet, inkl. studieprogramtilhørighet. Kommentarer om evt. oppfølging av tidligere evalueringer.

*SHORT COURSE DESCRIPTION, INCLUDING WHICH STUDENTS/CANDIDATES MAY ATTEND. COMMENTS TO CHANGES BASED ON PRIOR EVALUATIONS.*

*Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience* (10 ECTS) is a course available for students attending a Master's Programme, as well as other master students at the University of Bergen and visiting students who fulfil the pre-requirements.

The course aim is to give the students necessary intellectual tools to understand and appreciate the complexities of the nervous system at the molecular and cellular level. The course runs over a period of about 15 weeks, and consists of 35 hours of lectures/seminars as well as 4 laboratory demonstrations each lasting 4 hours.

12 students were registered for the course this semester;

- 1 Bachelor student in Molecular Biology (MAMN-MOL),
- 2 visiting/exchange students (INTL-MN), and
- 2 guest students at The Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences, 1 at PhD level (ZDGMNFAK) and 1 at master level (ZMAMNFAK). Furthermore
- 5 Master Student in Biomedical Sciences (MAMD-MEDBI), and
- 2 Medical students (PRMEDISIN) also attending the Medical Student Research Programme at the Faculty of Medicine (MEDFORSKL).

For course descriptions, visit <http://www.uib.no/en/course/BMED340>

For previous evaluation reports, please visit <https://kvalitetsbasen.app.uib.no/popup.php?kode=BMED340>

### The evaluation report for 2019 listed following changes planned for 2020:

- For the 2020 teaching year we will use a new textbook, published in 2018, geared to an introductory level of neuroscience. The breadth of the course will be slightly reduced with more concentration on the cellular properties and functions of neurons. The number of lectures will go up slightly, to 38 hours (19 double lectures) to allow the lecturers to go into more detail and give the students more time to ask questions. Lecturers will be encouraged to provide more clear learning goals for the students.
- The course will be spread out over a longer time, with at least 2 weeks for a study period before the exam to give students enough time to process the material.
- Also for 2020, the obligatory laboratory reports will be graded as pass/no pass instead of a letter grade. The assistants in some of the laboratories will be better prepared to help the students.

## Changes due to the outbreak of global COVID-19 (coronavirus disease) spring semester 2020:

The teaching period for this course was planned from the beginning of February until end of April, with 18 lectures and 1 journal club (2 hours each), as well as 3 laboratory demonstrations (4 hours each). The spread of SARS-CoV-2 virus made Norway go into a "lockdown" on the 12<sup>th</sup> of March, this included closing the university's campuses and facilities for teaching and examination. At that time, 7 of 18 lectures and 1 of the demonstrations had been held. The students got this information from the course coordinator:

11 Mar at 23:40

BMED340: lectures and lab demos

Dear BMED340 students:

As you may already have been informed, all teaching/instruction (lectures, lab courses) at the Faculty of Medicine has been canceled starting Thursday March 12. This is due to the ongoing corona/COVID-19 pandemic. Unfortunately, this will hit you hard and it will be difficult and challenging times for us all.

**We will continue to post all electronic material for the planned lectures and lab demos as originally planned. We will also do our best to stay in touch with you via the net.**

We will have to see if there are any possibilities for more "real time" or online contact with you, e.g. lectures or discussions with the possibility of interactive contact. Please be patient with us until we have investigated the options available and what can be done within a reasonable period of time.

Best regards,  
Espen Hartveit  
(course coordinator 2020)

The Section of Academic Affairs announced this information regarding examination:

### Important information about the exam in BMED340, spring semester 2020

Stian Krog

All sections

22 Apr at 10:15

- Because of the covid-19 pandemic, the former physical exam in BMED340 has been changed to a home exam, which will be available through our exam system **Inspera**, accessible through any internet browser. We recommend Google Chrome for optimal functionality, but several other browsers, such as Safari and Firefox, will also work well.
- Time for the exam is **Friday May 15, from 09:00 to 12:00.**
- Although this is a home exam, the intention is not that your work during the exam should involve searching online or consulting books, lecture notes or other help tools. We cannot prevent you from consulting such sources, but please note that the workload/amount of writing necessary to complete the exam within the allotted time is calibrated in such a way that you might not have time to do both research and write up the questions – use your knowledge and experience from the course, and spend your time writing instead of searching. **Collaboration with others during the exam is not allowed** – the examiners will bear this in mind when reading submissions, and violations to this rule will be treated as cheating (see below).

- **IMPORTANT:** To avoid plagiarism and blatant copy-pasting from anywhere else, including online sources, all submitted exams will be run through UiB's plagiarism software engine, which is extremely thorough. This does not mean that you cannot use commonly used terms from the field in question, but any pieces of text copied from other sources will get detected - a report will be sent to us for each student submission, where we will be able to analyze clearly whether or not this is taken directly from anywhere on the internet. Anyone caught for plagiarism may have their exam annulled and be subject to disciplinary measures for cheating within the UiB regulation framework! Please use your own words and phrasings, refrain from any copy-pasting, and you will be fine!

- Please note that due to the unusual exam situation, the Faculty of Medicine has decided that exams throughout this semester will be graded "Pass / Not pass (Fail)" instead of by the standard grade scale (A-F).

#### **On the day of the exam:**

- From your home computer or device, please go to <https://vurdering.uib.no> and log in, using your standard UiB username and password. You will find the exam available under "Mine prøver"/"My tests".

- The time frame for the exam is from **09:00 to 12:00**. If you are experiencing lag or down time, the system will compensate you for lost minutes automatically. At closing time, the exam is shut down and you will not be able to write any more.

- Please try to log in a while before the exam starts, around 08:30 or so, in case anything is wrong or you are not able to log in or access the exam - in which case you must call tech support (see below).

- Before/during the exam, please call **92462631** for technical support regarding Inspera or related questions, and **47711320** for academic questions related to the exam.

- This text will also be available in the introduction to the exam, so that you may access the information on demand.

Please contact [studie@biomed.uib.no](mailto:studie@biomed.uib.no) on e-mail if you have any questions before the exam.

Best of luck with the exam!

#### **For BMED340 the close down gave these results:**

- All lectures from 12<sup>th</sup> March until end of the spring semester at campus were cancelled. Instead, the remaining lectures and "lab demonstrations" were changed to a digital format. The goal was to present all lectures as on-line, interactive lectures that also would be available to the students as videos that could be watched at any time. Several lectures were presented in this format. Unfortunately, some teachers decided that they did not want to participate in this arrangement and instead simply made the "hand outs" (PowerPoint, PDF) for a given lecture available for download.
- The exam was changed from an ordinary written exam to a home exam, the time available was reduced from 4 to 3 hours, and the grading scale was changed to "Pass/Fail". In addition, the workload for the exam was increased somewhat to keep them busy and make it more difficult for them

to access "external" sources of information during the time of the exam. The students were informed about these measures before the exam.

#### STATISTIKK / STATISTICS (admin.):

Antall vurderingsmeldte studenter:  
NUMBER OF CANDIDATES REGISTERED FOR EXAMINATION:

10

Antall studenter møtt til eksamen:  
NUMBER OF CANDIDATES ATTENDED EXAMINATION:

9

Karakter- skala GRADING SCALE	«Bestått/ikke bestått»	Bestått / PASS:	9	Ikke bestått / FAIL:	-
	«PASS/FAIL»				

#### KOMMENTARER TIL KARAKTERFORDELINGEN / COMMENTS TO THE STATISTICS:

Emnerapporten utarbeides når sensuren etter ordinær eksamen i emnet er klar. For muntlige eksamener er da resultatfordelingen endelig, men for skriftlige eksamener kan endelig resultatfordeling avvike noe om evt. klagebehandling ikke er fullført.

*THIS REPORT IS PREPARED AFTER ORDINARY EXAMINATION. FOR ORAL EXAMS, THE RESULTS ARE FINAL, FOR WRITTEN EXAMS, THE FINAL GRADING DISTRIBUTION MAY DIFFER SLIGHTLY IF CANDIDATE COMPLAINTS/APEALS HAVE NOT BEEN PROCESSED.*

The final grades are based on a 4 hours written (digital) exam. The ordinary grading scale is A-F, but due to the outbreak of COVID-19 (corona virus) the scale of pass/fail will be utilized in the spring semester of 2020.

#### SAMMENDRAG AV STUDENTENE SINE TILBAKEMELDINGER / SUMMARY OF EVALUATIONS GIVEN BY THE STUDENTS

Spørreundersøkelse via Mitt UiB, annen evaluering, tilbakemelding fra tillitsvalgte og/eller andre.

*COURSE EVALUATION ON MITT UIB, OTHER EVALUATIONS, RESPONSES FROM THE STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES AND/OR OTHERS.*

First semester using SurveyXact as the digital evaluation system. Some of the questions were Multiple Choice Questions (MCQ), while others opened up for the students to give their own opinion as written text.

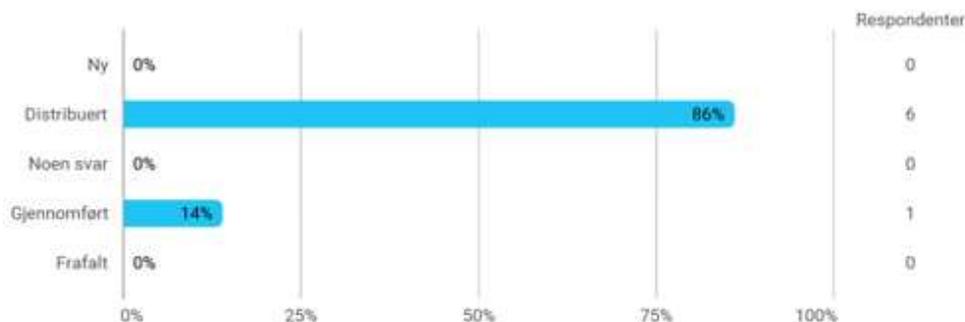
The survey was set up as an anonym survey, and distributed to the students by use of their E mail addresses at UiB. The Survey was distributed the 24<sup>th</sup> of April to the students registered for the exam. Reminders was sent the 18<sup>th</sup> of March to those that hadn't responded so far.

The attendees were asked about the academic content, the organization and the educational level of the teaching, and asked to evaluate the total workload of the course. They were asked to give their responses about the lectures, what they appreciate – or found disappointing – about the course, and to evaluate the given review articles.

Finally came some questions regarding the exam and their learning outcomes.

When the survey closed the 22<sup>nd</sup> May, responses from only 1 student was registered.

#### Samlet status



**RESULTS:** Only one student provided an evaluation. It was overall favourable, but did not comment specifically on any aspects relevant for the sudden changes in organization after March 12. As the student had already had neuroscience as part of the courses during MED3, the feedback was also of somewhat limited value.

**EMNEANSVARLIG SIN EVALUERING OG VURDERING / EVALUATION AND COMMENTS BY COURSE COORDINATOR:**

Faglæreres vurderinger av emnet. *TEACHER COMMENTS.*

Eksempel: Kommentarer om praktisk gjennomføring, undervisnings- og vurderingsformer, evt. endringer underveis, studieinformasjon på nett og Mitt UiB, litteraturtilgang, samt lokaler og utstyr.

*EXAMPLE: COMMENTS ABOUT PRACTICAL IMPLEMENTATION, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS, IF NECESSARY. FUTURE CHANGES/CHANGES IN PROGRESS, STUDY INFORMATION ON THE INTERNET AND MITT UIB, LITERATURE ACCESS, LOCALES AND EQUIPMENT.*

- 1) During an interactive, on-line session with the students before the exam, I received the very clear feedback that they were not happy when lecturers simply supplied digital handouts without an accompanying interactive / video lecture.
- 2) Interactive / online lectures via Zoom worked well for the lecturers that used this format.
- 3) From the scores obtained by the nine students who took the exam, there is no reason to think that we would not have been able to apply our standard grading system. For future situations with similar disruptions to the teaching schedule / organization, I would strongly recommend using our ordinary grading system instead of pass/fail.

**MÅL FOR NESTE UNDERVISNINGSPERIODE – FORBEDRINGSTILTAK / PLANNED CHANGES FOR THE NEXT TEACHING PERIOD – HOW TO BE BETTER:**

- 1) Because of the extraordinary measures that had to be taken this year, related to the Covid-19 pandemic, there are few general lessons that carry over to the next time the course is taught, assuming that the pandemic is over.
- 2) We will continue with the new textbook adopted for this semester ("Neuroscience", by D. Purves and coauthors).
- 3) This was the first time that medical students applied for (and were given) permission to take the course. The motivation of the students who applied seems to be that this is a way for them to obtain credits to be used for the requirements of the Forskerlinje (FL) program. Because of overlap in the academic content, the course credit was reduced from 10 to 6 ECTS. It is a difficult decision to continue to give these students permission to take the course. On the one hand, they hardly showed up for any of the lectures, because of overlap in time with other courses. Because of this, they did not contribute to any discussions etc. Because of the overlap in content with the medical neuroscience course they will already have taken, it will probably be too easy for them to pass the exam without having gained much additional knowledge specific for this course. That said, the two medical students who took the course this year scored at the top of the class during the exam. My recommendation is that we continue to give medical students access and obtain additional experience over a 3-4 year period.

FS – resultatfordeling (graf) / FS – DISTRIBUTION OF GRADING (GRAPH):



FS580.001 Resultatfordeling

Eksamen: BMED340 0 S10 2020 VÅR

Cellulær og molekylær nevrovitenskap - Skoleeksamen

Karakterregel: Beste: Bestått, Bestått: Bestått, Dårligste: Bestått

10,0sp

	Totalt	Kvinner	Menn
Antall kandidater (oppmeldt):	10	6	4
Antall møtt til eksamen:	9	5	4
Antall bestått (B):	9	5	4
Antall stryk (S):	0 0%	0 0%	0 0%
Antall avbrutt (A):	0	0	0
Gjennomsnittskarakter:	,00	,00	,00
Antall med legeattest (L):	0	0	0
Antall trekk før eksamen (T):	0	0	0