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Nätverk inom Life Science Technologies & Biomedicine
Linköping/Östergötland
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Life Science recruitment nearing completion in Linköping

A further two Life Science professorships have been announced in the Linköping University Life Science Technologies & Biomedicine venture.

Two new chairs, one in bioinformatics and one in biological calculation, will soon be filled. The bioinformatics chair will go to Bengt Persson from the Karolinska Institute and the Stockholm Bioinformatics Centre. The Biological Calculation chair will go to Jesper Tegnér, who works at both the Royal Technical University (KTH) in Stockholm and the Stockholm Bioinformatics Centre. The formal announcement has yet to be made, but all parties are in agreement regarding the appointments.

Nine of the sixteen chairs forming part of the Linköping Life Sciences Technologies venture are now filled. The seven previously announced professors are Olle Inganäs (biomolecular and organic electronics), Carl-Fredrik Mandenius (technical biology), Lars Baltzer (organic chemistry), Bo Liedberg (sensor science), Timo Koski (biomathematics), Svante Linusson (biomathematics) and Bengt-Harald Jonsson (molecular biotechnology).

For further information contact:
Lars Holberg
larho@info.liu.se
www.liu.se/lst

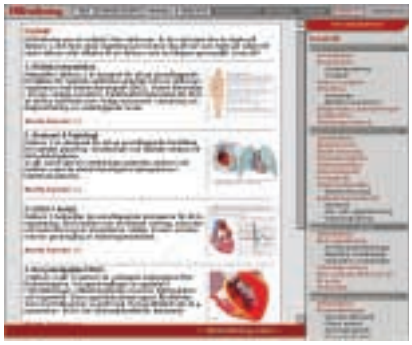
Education that can save lives

Bäwer & Nilsson AB, with the address Berzelius Science Park, University Hospital in Linköping, are specialising in pedagogic e-education for health care personnel. Certain specific courses give university grading.

Jonas Bäwer and Mikael Nilsson are student doctors at Linköping University. Right from the beginning they had the idea of producing educational courses at university level on the Internet, accessible for holders of licences.

Jonas Bäwer said that in the field of medicine, research is being constantly revised and presented. It is therefore important that all personnel working in health care keep their knowledge up-to-date. Electronic education is the perfect medium for this. It is easy to put information in the right place on the Web for access, and the students can work at their own pace and time.

The idea has become a reality, and the two student doctors have formed a company that has just signed its first big deal. A large pharmaceutical company has bought the rights to spread the company's first product, ECG interpretation (EKGtolkning .com) to Sweden's doctors.



Example from EKGtolkning.com

Besides Jonas and Mikael, the company has four other employees. Göran Felldin is the managing director. He is one of the founders of the IT company Intentia.

Göran Felldin said that the whole health care sector is full of subjects and areas that are suitable for e-education. In principle, the market for Bäwer & Nilsson is boundless, with an almost limitless need for both new and further education. They have devised a very efficient and structured model for producing education from an idea. In this way they are an effective link in the chain between need and solution.

Source: Includes magazine in. Number 1, 2002

For further information contact:
Göran Felldin
Goran@bawernilsson.se
www.bawernilsson.se

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New centre for research established in Linköping with support from the University, County Council and Sectra

A new centre for research – Centre for Medical Image Science and Visualization (CMIV) has been established in Linköping.

The product of co-operation between Linköping University, one of the world's leading universities in the field of digital image science, Östergötland County Council and Sectra, the IT and medical technology company, the new centre will further reinforce the position of Linköping in this field. The CMIV will be closely connected to both the National Supercomputer Centre at Linköping University and the radiography department of the University Hospital in Linköping.

The Principal, Anders Persson MD, said that the centre has every chance of being a world-leader.

Using the new technology, which is based on feeding very powerful computers with thousands of images, it is possible to create three dimensional colour images of the body's organs. These can then be twisted and turned, and even 'entered' in the search for possible disease.

The CMIV is under the leadership of Anders Persson, one of Scandinavia's prominent figures in medical visualization. He works in close co-operation with Professors Anders Ynnerman, scientific visualization, Hans Knutsson, medical informatics, specialising in image science, and Örjan Smedby, diagnostic radiology, all members of the faculty of Linköping University, Klas Måre, head of radiology development for the County Council, and Professor Bengt Wranne and Lars Wigström, research engineer, both of US/University of Health.

Torbjörn Kronander, Managing Director of Sectra Imtec AB, said that the Picture Archive and Communication System (PACS) is only the beginning of what can be achieved with digitalisation of radiology departments and hospitals. The CMIV will be a valuable asset to Sectra for both the direct co-operation in advanced forward-orientated research and the attachment of further qualified scientists to the region.

Abdomen in 3D with large insestine

For further information contact:
Anders Persson
Anders.Persson@nsc.liu.se
www.nsc.liu.se

Berzelius Clinical Research Centre aims at strategic Research and co-operation with the pharmaceutical industry

The Proof of Concept Clinic (PoCC) was inaugurated on March 1st. It is a 6-bed clinic for clinical testing (Phases I and II), with opportunities for a 24-hour monitoring, and with a team of experienced physicians and research nurses.

Gudrun Tiger, who is in operational charge of the PoCC, has more than ten years experience in the pharmaceutical industry.

The new gene technology will generate an increasing number of drug candidates. The outcome of this will be an increase in primarily Phase II clinical trials. This is why the Berzelius Clinical Research Centre (BCRC) has gone for an extension of a clinic in co-operation with intensive care, other specialist clinics and primary care.

Bengt Dahlström, president at Quintiles AB, the largest Nordic contract research company, is now chairman of the board of BCRC.

Prof. Folke Sjöberg emphasised that BCRC and the opening of the PoCC provides great opportunities for health care and research in the region.

Director Stig Blom said that BCRC business idea is to assist pharmaceutical and medical-technical companies in cutting the lead-time for clinical trials.

– We are offering the industry a network of specialist clinics and primary care centres with well-trai–ned personnel, a quality-assured operation and a frequently-used IT support.

For further information contact:
Stig Blom
bcrc@lio.se
www.bcrc.nu

New company with tailored proteins

ModPro AB, founded in 2002, is a company that focuses on reducing the lead times required to develop pharmaceuticals.

The business idea is based on intelligent, tailored proteins developed by Professor Lars Baltzer and his research team at Linköping University. These make it possible to search quickly through so-called "libraries" of chemical substances in order to find potential candidates for pharmaceutical applications.

This is especially important in the light of the work of mapping the human genome, which has shown that up to a million proteins regulate and carry out vital life processes in the human body. As a very large number of these proteins may be possible "targets" for pharmaceutical preparations, technologies that provide effective, reliable methods of identifying potentially useful drug candidates are much in demand.

Professor Baltzer says that it is an open secret that the performance of today's screening techniques is extremely poor, and that approximately 80% of the hits are false positive responses.

ModPro AB's ambition is to offer a better alternative to current techniques and to contribute towards rapidly identifying pharmaceutical preparations – especially interaction with targets where there are no known ligands, such as existing medicines or drug candidates.

For further information:
Lars Baltzer + 46 (0)13-28 25 95
Lars.Baltzer@ifm.liu.se