



UPS General Meeting

You are welcome to join our general meeting where you have an opportunity to meet us and connect with us in person! If you would like to get involved as an active member of UPS, then it is the perfect opportunity to learn more about the offices and tasks. You can discuss with the existing office members how to manage responsibilities and the time investment required. Fika will be served!

Venue: Glasburen (in front of KBC cafe)

Date: Monday 23rd February

Time: 16:00 – 17:00

Social events by postdocs for postdocs

Umeå Postdoc Society organizes social events to enhance the work/life balance and help to connect the postdoc community in Umeå.



INVITES YOU TO A NEW
Pub Night
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 18h
LION BAR
Storgatan 55
PLEASE REGISTER HERE: 

Pub Night

The UPS Social Events Office invites you to Pub Night, the event where you can meet others and have nice food and drink after work.

Date: Thursday 19 February 2026

Time: 18.00

Venue: Lion Bar, Umeå

CONTACT: Katerina at katerina.cervena@umu.se
(+46 722267698)

If you are joining, please fill out the form [HERE](#)



UMEÅ POSTDOC SOCIETY
Beers for purchase!
Invites you to a new:
BOARD GAME NIGHT
FRIDAY, 06TH OF FEBRUARY
Starting at 6:30 pm
UPSC Fika Room (Next to KBC cafeteria, KBC building)
Please register here 

Board Game Night

The first Board Game Night of the year is taking place on Friday, the 6th of February, from 18.30 onwards at UPSC Fika Room. Bring your own favourite game too! Please scan the QR code for more info and registration!



UMEÅ POSTDOC SOCIETY
Tavelsjö ice skating and BBQ
Skip the roses, grab your skates and come along!
14th Feb
Read more and register 

Please contact Ira at +46730278960
iryana.yakovenko@umu.se

Ice skating & BBQ

Have no plans for Valentine's Day? Come along with us as we go ice-skating in Tavelsjö on Saturday, 14th of February.

Transport tickets, [skate rentals](#), and BBQ food are personal expenses, while the fire/BBQ organisation is on us! Please register [HERE](#).

Career Development events by postdocs for postdocs

These are events aimed at arming postdocs with skills to advance their careers.

Grant Writing & Evaluation Workshop

We are very excited to announce a Grant Writing and Grant Evaluation Workshop on 9th to 12th of February. We invite PhD students, postdoctoral researchers, and early-career researchers to participate. More information and the registration form can be found by scanning the QR code.



Six Principal Investigators from different departments at Umeå University will be featured in a series of one-hour Zoom webinars, spread across four days. During this time, they will offer practical insights into preparing competitive grant proposals and understanding how applications are assessed by review panels, followed by short discussions.

Research highlights – Madhusree Mitra

My current research explores the overlooked roles of lipids in plant structural biology, bridging wood chemistry and cuticle biochemistry. In one project, I am investigating how lipids persist within the wood cell wall even after exhaustive solvent extraction—challenging the long-standing assumption that they exist solely as extractives. Using a combination of targeted depolymerization, advanced microscopy, and chromatographic analysis, we have detected lipid-derived monomers firmly associated with the lignocellulosic matrix. This work suggests that lipids may form integral components of the wood cell wall, with potential implications for wood chemistry, biomass processing, and structural modelling.

In parallel, I am examining how xylan 4-O-methyl-glucuronic acid residues could act as molecular anchors for cuticular lipids in plant epidermis. Through biochemical and genetic approaches in hybrid aspen, we are uncovering evidence for covalent linkages between polysaccharides and cuticular aliphatics such as ω-hydroxy fatty acids. These findings suggest a new structural interface between the cell wall and cuticle, opening avenues for collaboration across plant biochemistry, material science, and molecular biology.



Pint of Science

Pint of Science is an international event, where scientists (from all backgrounds) present their research in a bar.

The Umeå Postdoc Society is part of the Pint of Science organization in Umeå. Please reach out to us if you are interested in giving a talk or volunteering for the event. Please scan the QR code!



CONTACT: Preeti at preeti.moar@umu.se (+46700252629)



What's Happening on Campus



FIKA EFTER EN FORSKARE
Medicinsk forskning för alla
UMEÅ UNIVERSITET

Fika efter en forskare

Listen to talks from faculty members on their favourite topics and have fika whilst you're at it! Popular talks happening on certain Saturdays at Väven; you can also follow the lectures online at umu.se/live.

Next talk: Feb 21 at 13.00. More information [HERE](#)

Science lunches at Curiosum

Read more [HERE](#)



Mon 2 FEB

EURAXESS Sweden webinar: Your first steps in Sweden

🕒 22:00 - 23:30

📍 Webinar

Read more [HERE](#)

SEMINAR. Join the webinar: Your first steps in Sweden: Get insight to administrative processes on population registration, health care and banking.

Useful information for Umeå postdocs

If you are new to Umeå. Visit our website for useful information [HERE](#)

Digital map at campus — With the digital maps, it is easy to find your way around the Umeå campus, the hospital area and the Arts Campus. You can view the map in your computer's browser and in the app on your phone. Check out [MazeMap](#)

Do you have any suggestions for content for Umeå Postdoc News?

The content of the newsletter is intended to facilitate and support Postdocs at UMU and SLU by focusing on relevant activities.

If you have any suggestions, let us know at our [website](#)



Seminar Series

MedChem Seminar Series

Feb 03 - [Ilona Rissanen](#), University of Helsinki
Feb 10 - [Marie Spohn](#), SLU Uppsala
Feb 17 - [Pål Stenmark](#), Stockholm University
Feb 24 - [Björn Burmann](#), University of Gothenburg

15:15 in KB.E3.01 (Lilla hörsalen, 3rd floor, KBC-building)

SSIBS@UmU

Feb 06, 14:00 - Fredrik Elinder, Linköping University **Location:** KBE301-Lilla hörsalen
Feb 13, 14:30 - Katharina Ribbeck, MIT, USA **Location:** Major Groove
Feb 20, 14:00 - Andrew Roe, University of Glasgow, UK **Location:** Major Groove

IceLab Lunch Pitches

Lunch Pitches are a series of short talks and discussion organized by IceLab as a way to bridge gaps between scientific disciplines and encourage new collaborative efforts for the love of launching and landing new ideas.



Lunch pitch dates for 2026: 11 February, 25 February

Learn more [HERE](#)

Beyond Calls

This is a recurring group meeting for researchers at Umeå University who want to strengthen their understanding of what makes funding applications successful.

Learn what really works directly from fellow researchers and guest funders. Bring your questions, share your experience and connect with colleagues who want to sharpen their proposals and build strong networks for future calls.

Thu **19** FEB
⌚ Thursday 19 February, 2026
at 12:00 - 13:00
📍 Mustang Sally (AWL)

Learn more [HERE](#)

Arctic connect



For people, ideas and opportunities in the Arctic.

Don't miss the opportunity to stay informed and strengthen your network!

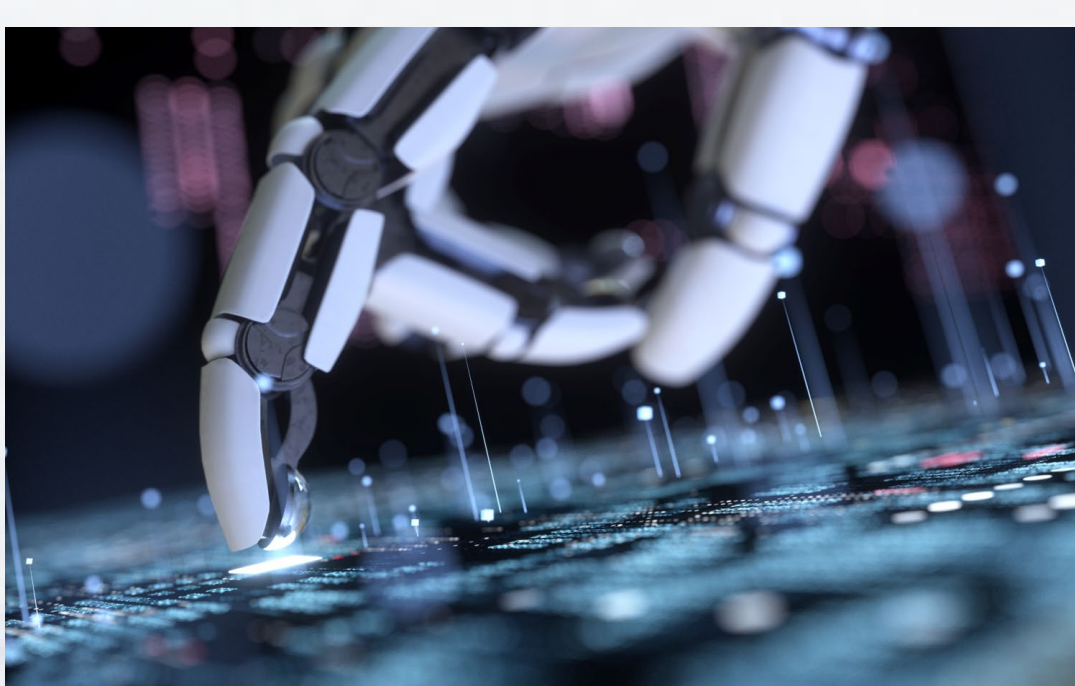
Learn more [HERE](#)

Breakfast - a food and meal summit

Are you hungry for conversations about food and meals? Welcome to Breakfast – a seminar where discussions about food, meals and opportunities for collaboration are at the centre.

Breakfast will be served from 07:45
Friday 27 February 2026 Time: 8.00 – 9.00
Venue: Teacher Education Building, Floor 3

Read more and register [HERE](#)



#friAIday

A series of inspiring talks on Artificial Intelligence organized by the Centre for Transdisciplinary AI (TAIGA) at Umeå University. Participating in #friAIday is your opportunity to share your knowledge about AI, learn more, and discuss a wide range of perspectives on AI.

Sign up [HERE](#)

#Chick flick at Museum of Women's History

Here's something for you and your girlfriends (and allies for women). On the 12th of February, from kl 19 to kl 21, Kvinnohistoriskt Museet opens its doors (for free!) for women-driven movies with feminist themes: this time it's the classic Clueless! No sign up necessary. Just simply come by and enjoy the experience within the museum's cozy setup.

More info [HERE](#)



Events in Umeå

Umeå is a multicultural city – there is something to do for everyone, ranging from music, food, theatre, art, dance to sports and hikes. While winter is around the corner, we have gathered some events in the city this autumn that you might find interesting.

Rally Sweden 2026

Umeå will host the Rally Sweden World Championship on 12-15 February 2026. Over 120 million TV viewers will follow the motoring festival, which is Sweden's largest annual sporting event. The WRC takes place in 13 different locations around the world, and Umeå is unique as it is the only distinct winter rally in the competition!



Read more [HERE](#)

Umeå Jazz Studio

Live Jazz on Thursdays
22 Jan – 21 May

Music from 8:00 PM but from 7:00 PM there is the opportunity to buy something to eat and drink.

For event dates in February, see [HERE](#)



Umeå taste walk

Take a walk in the center of Umeå and visit some of the city's nicest eateries. At each place you get a taste of something delicious and have the opportunity to buy a drink of your choice.

Saturday 7 February 2026 12:00 - 16:00
Saturday 21 February 2026 12:00 - 16:00

Read more [HERE](#)

Find more stuff around town!

Visit Umeå [link](#) Folkets bio [link](#) Biljett centrum [link](#) Norrland opera [link](#)
Allt om Västerbotten [link](#) Umeåregionens bibliotek [link](#) Filmstaden [link](#)

New term – New activities!

Recruitment

We are always looking for active members in the society! If you want to be involved in the organisation of events, conferences, social events or in the functioning of the society, contact us via any of our channels.

Follow us

[umeapostdocs.com](#)

[@umeapostdocsociety.bsky.social](#)

[Umeå Postdoc Society](#)

[@umupostdoc](#)

[Umeå Postdoc Society \(UPS\)](#)

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