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## The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

### Minutes from board meeting no 50, 10 March 2021

#### Present members

Carl-Henrik Heldin (UU)(chair), Fredrik Elinder (LiU), Anders Gustafsson (KI), Anders Karlhede (SU), Göran Landberg (GU), Lotta Ljungqvist (Cytiva), Katrine Riklund (UmU), Stellan Sandler (UU), Annika Stensson Trigell (KTH)

#### Other participants

Olli Kallioniemi (Director)(§§ 1-4), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Annika Jenmalm Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (chair NSC), Staffan Svärd (§§ 1-2), Jenny Alfredsson (Acting Head of Operations/OO), Disa Hammarlöf (§§ 1-3), Alice Sollazzo (§§ 1-3), Anna Höglund Rehn (secretary)

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### 1. Meeting formalities

Carl-Henrik Heldin opened the meeting.

#### Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board appointed Anders Gustafsson to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.*

### 2. Pandemic preparedness capability – update

Staffan Svärd, appointed lead for the pandemic preparedness capability, gave an update about activities done and future plans.

### 3. COVID-19 – second phase of the program

Dnr VC-2020-0032

SciLifeLab has launched five new calls with the aim of continuing the SciLifeLab-KAW national COVID-19 research program and pandemic preparedness. Call 1 concerned funding of proposals from existing research areas in the SciLifeLab-KAW COVID-19 research program and call 2 concerned proposals from individual scientists with new contributions to the research program. KAW has provided 50 MSEK donation to fund these two calls.

For call 1, 27 proposals were sent in and for call 2, 49 proposals were sent in, together requesting about 184 MSEK. The proposals for call 1 were prescreened by the SciLifeLab Management Group and proposals for call 2 were prescreened by Olli Kallioniemi, Mia Phillipson and Staffan Svärd, then evaluated and scored by external reviewers.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the process to select the proposals for funding.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved the funding of proposals in the call 1 (39.5 MSEK, appendix 1) and call 2 (10.5 MSEK, appendix 2) with a total of 50 MSEK.*

*The board also approved the conditions for funding and the nomination of these projects as participants of the SciLifeLab-KAW COVID-19 research program.*

Olli Kallioniemi and Mia Phillipson was not present when the decision was made.

#### **4. DDLS – Data Centre mandate**

Dnr VC-2021-0023

Support for databases and data handling is an important part of the Data-Driven Life Science program, and has an allocated budget of 140 MSEK during the first three years. In this first phase of the program, a range of technical services and tools will be developed to support the new scientific strategies of the DDLS program and to strengthen the international impact of Swedish data-driven life science. Building this will require active coordination and management, using competence which already exists within the SciLifeLab Data Centre.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggestion to involve SciLifeLab Data Centre in the DDLS program.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board decided to assign SciLifeLab Data Centre to lead the work on databases and data support within DDLS, and to give SciLifeLab Data Centre the mandate to represent DDLS in data/computing discussions with national and international stakeholders, reporting to the DDLS steering group.*

*The board decided to give SciLifeLab Data Centre the responsibility to support the DDLS program in all data and IT related issues.*

*Until dedicated DDLS funds are available, the national funding for SciLifeLab Data Centre can be used to support its tasks in the DDLS program in 2021.*

#### **5. SciLifeLab Director – prolongation of appointment**

Dnr VC-2021-0024

The government has decided to permit an exception from § 3 in the Ordinance (2013:118) for SciLifeLab so that the appointment of the SciLifeLab Director Olli Kallioniemi can be prolonged two additional years beyond what is regulated.

Carl-Henrik Heldin gave a background to the suggestion to prolong the Director's contract.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board decided to prolong the appointment of Olli Kallioniemi as Director for SciLifeLab until June 30, 2024.*

## 6. Other issues

There were no other issues

### Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday May 19, 11.00-17.00, in Uppsala or by Zoom
  - Wednesday September 22, 10.00-15.00, in Solna
  - Thursday November 11 (preliminary), in Solna
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Anna Höglund Rehn, secretary

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Carl-Henrik Heldin

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Anders Gustafsson

**Call 1. Proposals from existing research areas (RAs) in the SciLifeLab-KAW COVID-19 program**

Research area	Proposal title	Submitter	Affiliation	Decision
<u><b>Biobanks and serology and host response profiling</b></u>	COMMUNITY Study	Thålin, Charlotte	KI	8 000 000 kr
	The Sahlgrenska Collaborative Covid-19 Research Project	Gisslen, Magnus	GU	3 000 000 kr
	Validation and characterisation of novel plasma biomarkers for risk prediction and stratification of COVID-19 patients	Odeberg, Jacob	KTH	1 500 000 kr
	Mechanisms of acute and long-term organ dysfunction in critical COVID-19	Hultström, Micha	UU	1 500 000 kr
	Neurological complications of COVID-19	Rostami, Elham	UU	1 500 000 kr
	MOLRES-COV	Lundkvist, Åke	UU	1 000 000 kr
	Immune dysregulation in patients with long-COVID	Brodin, Petter	KI	3 000 000 kr
<u><b>Genetic studies (virus and host)</b></u>	Efficient Point-of-Care and Variant Detection of SARS-CoV-2 and Other Viruses	Pelechano, Vicen	KI	3 000 000 kr
	High throughput SARS-CoV-2 variant surveillance	Feuk, Lars	UU	2 000 000 kr
<u><b>Environmental virus profiling</b></u>	Advancing environmental virus profiling and risk assessment for public health perspective	Székely, Anna	SLU	5 000 000 kr
<u><b>Drug discovery, development and repurposing</b></u>	CoronaLeadDiscovery (CoLD)	Danielson, Helena	UU	2 000 000 kr
	DDD platform chooses and prioritizes the best drug discovery leads and funds their exploration and further development			2 000 000 kr
<u><b>Host cell systems biology and functional studies</b></u>	A new year, a new threat: detailed molecular investigations of novel SARS-CoV-2 Variants of Concern (VOC) transmission and pathogenesis	Klingström, Jonas	KI	2 500 000 kr
	Identification of druggable coronavirus-human protein-protein interactions	Ivarsson, Ylva	UU	1 500 000 kr
	AI-driven drug and target prioritization for COVID-19	Östling, Päivi	KI	1 000 000 kr
	Fast and accurate drug screening and virus surface profiling	Sezgin, Erdinc	KI	1 000 000 kr
				<b>39 500 000 kr</b>

**Call 2. Proposals from individual scientists with new contributions to the SciLifeLab-KAW COVID-19 research program**

Research area	Proposal title	Submitter	Affiliation	Suggestion
<u><i>Biobanks and serology and host response profiling</i></u>	Targeting blood monocytes and monocyte-derived macrophages to prevent lung injury in COVID-19	Willinger, Tim	KI	1 800 000 kr
	Role of unconventional T cells in acute COVID19 disease, convalescence, and long-COVID syndrome	Sandberg, Johan K.	KI	1 200 000 kr
<u><i>Genetic studies (virus and host)</i></u>	Role of adaptive immune receptor gene polymorphisms in SARS CoV-2 infection	Karlsson Hedestam, Gunilla B.	KI	1 500 000 kr
	Metatranscriptomics in covid-19 patients in order to find new host biomarkers, and elucidate microbial responses	Henriques-Normark, Birgitta	KI	1 500 000 kr
	Loss of chromosome Y (LOY) in specific subtypes of leukocytes may predispose to severe course of covid-19 in males; consequences of LOY for the immune system	Dumanski, Jan	UU	1 500 000 kr
<u><i>Drug discovery, development and repurposing</i></u>	Development of antivirals targeting the SARS-CoV-2 deubiquitinase PLpro	Dantuma, Nico	KI	1 000 000 kr
<u><i>Host cell systems biology and functional studies</i></u>	STARSS: A new fluorescence-based method to measure virions interaction and maturation through rotational mobility	Testa, Ilaria	KTH	1 000 000 kr
	Organotypic human 3D tissue models for mechanistic studies and antiviral drug development	Lauschke, Volker	KI	1 000 000 kr
				10 500 000 kr