
The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 54, January 27, 2022

Present members

Ylva Engström (SU)(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), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director, absent § 5), Annika Jenmalm Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (chair NSC, §§ 1-6), Jenny Alfredsson (Acting Head of operations/OO, absent § 8), Sandra Falck (Acting vice Head of Operations/OO, absent § 8), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS), Anna Höglund Rehn (secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström opened the meeting.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Annika Stensson Trigell to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab board approved the Chair decisions:

- VC-2021-0016 Revised process for DDLS fellow approval
- VC-2021-0042 TDP call- allocation of funding
- VC-2021-0069 DDLS steering group member.

The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no. 53.

2. Update from the Director

Olli Kallioniemi presented an update from SciLifeLab.

3. SciLifeLab Annual report 2021

VC-2021-0059

Following approval by the SciLifeLab board, the KTH board takes the formal decision to approve the annual report for SciLifeLab.

Jenny Alfredsson presented the SciLifeLab Annual report 2021.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the annual report for SciLifeLab 2021 to be presented to the KTH board for final approval.

Decision on the financial parts of the report will be made per capsulam in the beginning of February.

4. DDLS progress report 2021

VC-2020-0034

According to the donation letter from Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation (KAW) KAW 2020.0239 an interim report about the DDLS program is to be sent to KAW by January 31, 2022. The report describes how the organization, management and leadership of the DDLS program has been set up within the SciLifeLab organizational structure with decision bodies, support functions and connections with the 11 partner organizations; the progress, ongoing and planned activities, during the first year as well as a short description of the finances. The detailed finances for 2021 will be reported to KAW separately according to their process.

Olli Kallioniemi presented the report that was approved by the DDLS steering group on their meeting January 18, 2022. Olli Kallioniemi also gave an update regarding upcoming DDLS events and the ongoing DDLS Fellow recruitment process.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the DDLS progress report to be sent to the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (KAW).

5. Reopened COVID-19 vaccine call (with KAW funding)

VC-2021-0017

In November 2020, Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (KAW) granted SciLifeLab 40 MSEK for research related to COVID-19 vaccines (KAW 2020.0299). A call was opened, and 10 applications were funded (SciLifeLab board minutes no. 49). From that donation, 7 MSEK remained unused (5 MSEK from one of the granted projects that ended up not being executed and 2 MSEK that was never distributed).

Given the urgency and the complex and acute Omicron situation, it was decided (in consultation with the chair of the board as well as with KAW) to open a call for a total of 7 MSEK targeting only the already funded SciLifeLab/KAW COVID-19 projects. The purpose was to allocate 1-2 MSEK/ project to help projects to quickly address current scientific and society challenges related to Omicron, and collaborate with each other and with the SciLifeLab Infrastructure.

The call was formally announced to the community of funded projects between December 10 and December 17, 2021. Five applications were submitted and the proposals were reviewed by representatives from SciLifeLab Management Group and by Prof. Jan Holmgren (GU), chair of the committee for evaluation of the vaccine projects.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the process and about the suggested funding.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board decided to fund the top-ranked proposals below with a total of 7 MSEK from KAW donation letter KAW 2020.0299.

Name of SciLifeLab/KAW supported project on vaccine effect	PI Name	Suggested funding (MSEK)
COMMUNITY Study	Charlotte Thålin, Karolinska Institutet	1,0
Durability and quality of SARS-CoV-2 responses after vaccination of highly immunocompromised recipients of CAR T cell therapy and allogeneic stem cell transplantation	Karin Loré, Karolinska Institutet	1,0
High Resolution Analysis of Vaccine-Induced Responses in SARS-CoV-2 Experienced Individuals	Mattias Forsell, Umeå University	1,71
Covid-19 vaccination in immunocompromised individuals: An interdisciplinary framework to gain mechanistic insight into durable immunity to SARS-CoV-2 infection	H-G. Ljunggren, M. Buggert, S. Aleman, Karolinska Institutet & Karolinska University Hospital	2,0
Register-based large-scale national population study to monitor Covid-19 vaccination effectiveness and safety (RECOVAC)	Fredrik Nyberg, University of Gothenburg	1,29
Sum		7 MSEK

6. Response to the IAB report VC-2020-0031

The international advisory board of SciLifeLab had a meeting via Zoom on October 19-22, 2021. Discussions took place on all aspects of SciLifeLab and many presentations were held.

At the board meeting no 53, on November 11, 2021, the board was informed about the preliminary feedback from Jan Ellenberg, chair of IAB. The final report was received on January 21, 2022.

Olli Kallioniemi presented the major points and recommendations of the IAB report, which followed by discussion.

Decision:

The board decided to make the SciLifeLab IAB report available after the minutes of this board meeting have been approved.

The report will be made available on the SciLifeLab web site and featured in the news. The SciLifeLab response to the IAB report will then be made available after the board has reviewed and discussed the response in its next meeting on March 9, 2022.

7. **Stärkt fokus på framtidens forskningsinfrastruktur - remissvar** VC-2021-0061

The investigation regarding the future organization, steering and funding of research infrastructure (SOU 2021:65 Stärkt fokus på framtidens forskningsinfrastruktur), by special investigator Tobias Krantz, was sent out for comments by January 12, 2022.

The four founding universities as official referral instances have responded. SciLifeLab, albeit not an official referral instance, has also sent in a response. SciLifeLab response was based on previous discussions with the board and with the four host universities.

Sandra Falck informed about the responses.

8. **Prolongation of assignment as acting Head of Operations and acting vice Head of Operations** VC-2020-0018

While awaiting the finalization of the revised SciLifeLab steering documents, Jenny Alfredsson has been assigned as acting Head of Operations (HOP) since August 2019, and Sandra Falck has been assigned as acting vice Head of Operations (vHOP) since June 2021. The last assignments were decided by the board at the meeting no. 51, May 19, 2021, and these assignments are valid until March 31, 2022.

The time period was set with the plan that the revision of the steering documents should have been finished by the end of 2021, so that long-term assignments for these two key roles at the Operations Office could be considered. Since this has not yet happened, SciLifeLab will need new assignments as HOP and vHOP to retain the functions of the entire organization, specifically the Operations Office and the KTH and UU parts of it.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggestion.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board decided to prolong Jenny Alfredsson's assignment as acting Head of Operations for SciLifeLab from April 1, 2022 until new decisions are made, but no longer than December 31, 2022.

The SciLifeLab board decided to assign Sandra Falck as acting Vice Head of Operations for SciLifeLab from April 1, 2022 until new decisions are made, but no longer than December 31, 2022.

9. **Director's decisions 2021**

'Delegationsordning för SciLifeLab' regulates the decision rights for the SciLifeLab board and how these can be delegated.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the Director's decisions made 2021.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board noted the information to the minutes.

10. Other issues

There were no other issues.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday March 9, 10.00-15.00 ZOOM
- Tuesday May 31, 11.00-17.00 in Uppsala (dinner afterwards)
- Wednesday September 21, 10.00-15.00 ZOOM
- Tuesday November 8, 10.00-16.00 in Solna

Anna Höglund Rehn, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström

Annika Stensson Trigell