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## The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

### Minutes from board meeting no 56, March 9, 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), Annika Jenmalm Jensen (Infrastructure Director, absent § 5), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (chair NSC, from § 6), Jenny Alfredsson (Acting Head of operations/OO), Stefan Bertilsson (part of § 6), Markus Cartas-Johansson (§§ 11-12), Sandra Falck (Acting vice Head of Operations/OO), Lars Johansson (§§ 9-10), Heidi T Persson (§ 8), Johan Rung (§ 8), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS, until § 9), Alice Sollazzo (§ 6), Staffan Svärd (§ 4), Olga Vinnere Pettersson (part of § 6), Anna Höglund Rehn (secretary)

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#### 1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström opened the meeting.

##### Decisions:

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

*The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no. 54 and meeting no. 55.*

#### 2. Update from the Director

Olli Kallioniemi presented the quarterly update from SciLifeLab.

#### 3. Financial update

Jenny Alfredsson presented a financial overview of the funding of SciLifeLab and a preliminary forecast for the year 2022.

#### 4. Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness, PLP

##### 4a. Call for Technology Development Projects at Clinical Microbiology Laboratories – funding (PLP-CM)

VC-2021-0066

In December 2020, SciLifeLab was commissioned by the government to build capacity to be equipped to assist in future pandemics, supported with additional governmental funding to SciLifeLab. The assignment was to through research, competence and technology development optimize SciLifeLab operations to support

and complement other societal functions such as authorities, municipalities and regions in pandemic laboratory preparedness. The development of these activities should take place in consultation with the Swedish Public Health Agency (FoHM).

To meet these aims, SciLifeLab has started the Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness program (PLP) with a national network of laboratory capabilities. In order to expand this network and to get closer to clinical microbiology labs in Sweden the PLP program invited suggestions of Technology Development Projects (TDPs) that can develop services and capabilities with the potential to generate important capabilities within the PLP network at the major Clinical Microbiology laboratories in Sweden.

Eleven proposals were received and evaluated. Of these, eight applications are suggested to be funded.

Staffan Svärd, lead of Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness, informed about the call and suggested funding.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved to fund eight proposals (appendix 1) with a total of 7.96 MSEK.*

The funding will be regulated via Conditions for funding.

**4b. Call for new PLP capabilities, PLP-2**  
VC-2022-0013

Staffan Svärd informed about the suggestion of a call for new Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness capabilities, the evaluation process and timeline.

The aim of this Expression of Interest (EoI) call is to develop services and capabilities that will facilitate laboratory pandemic preparedness and to address big questions within infectious diseases like antimicrobial resistance. In this call the PLP program will support 4-5 new capability building projects that will become part of the PLP network. The maximum grant size that can be applied for is 4 MSEK (2 MEK/year).

The board approved the plans for a new call. Decision of funding of the projects is expected at the SciLifeLab board meeting on 31 May 2022.

**5. Infrastructure Director – expansion of assignment**  
VC-2022-0014

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggestion to expand the assignment of SciLifeLab Infrastructure Director Annika Jenmalm Jensen. The new effort is suggested to be 75%. The financial implication is 0.5 MSEK/year, which fits within board-approved budgets.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved the increased engagement of Annika Jenmalm Jensen as an Infrastructure Director to a level of 75% effort starting 1 March 2022.*

**6. Capability for Planetary Biology scientific leads**

VC-2021-0060

SciLifeLab aims to build a capability for Planetary Biology, connecting the unique competencies of SciLifeLab infrastructure platforms, technologies, and data-driven life science with the research communities in the field of planetary biology.

At the SciLifeLab board meeting no 53, 11 November 2021, the board decided to launch a call for a scientific lead for the planetary biology capability. 13 applications were submitted (three teams and five single applicants).

Mia Phillipson informed about the evaluation process and the nominated candidates, Olga Vinnere Pettersson, UU, and Stefan Bertilsson, SLU, who introduced themselves and their views on Planetary Biology.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved the assignments of Olga Vinnere Pettersson, UU, and Stefan Bertilsson, SLU, as scientific leads for the Planetary Biology capability, starting 1 April 2022, for an initial period of one year. This assignment can be prolonged assuming that the budget for 2023 is approved accordingly.*

*The board gives a mandate to the Director Olli Kallioniemi, in consultation with the evaluation panel and the two above-nominated leads to choose up to 4 additional co-leads for the Planetary Biology capability in order to expand the expertise and host university and career diversity of the PB program. Each co-lead will have 0,1 FTE assignment (bringing the total to 1 FTE).*

**7. Extended funding for SciLifeLab National Fellow year 5+6**

VC-2022-0015

In 2014 the SciLifeLab board decided to initiate a SciLifeLab National Fellows program. As for the SciLifeLab Fellow positions at the host universities, it was suggested, but not decided, that the candidates should be evaluated for a permanent position after 3.5 years with the possibility of extension for another 2 years with SciLifeLab national funding in the case of a positive evaluation. Three SciLifeLab National Fellows have since been appointed.

At the SciLifeLab Board meeting no 36, 29 May 2019, the Board decided to fund two of the three SciLifeLab National Fellows with 1 MSEK annually for year 5 and 6, provided that they received a positive evaluation and were offered employment and additional funding from the host university of 1 MSEK per year. No decision was taken previously for Jonas Barandun, UmU.

Mia Phillipson informed about the suggestion to fund Jonas Barandun.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board decided that Jonas Barandun will be funded 1 MSEK annually for year 5 and 6, provided that he receives a positive evaluation and is offered employment and additional funding from the host university of 1 MSEK per year for year 5 and 6.*

**8. SciLifeLab and Wallenberg National Program for Data-Driven Life Science, DDLS**

Olli Kallioniemi gave a brief update regarding the DDLS program.

**8a. Terms and conditions for DDLS Fellows' funding**  
VC-2022-0017

The purpose of the DDLS program is to recruit and train the next generation of data-driven life scientists and to create globally leading computational and data science capabilities in life science in Sweden. As part of this program, a total of 39 internationally outstanding early career group leaders will be recruited in total, whereof 20 during phase one of the program.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the document Terms and conditions for DDLS Fellows' funding which stipulates the specific conditions for funding for each of the 20 recruitment packages during phase one of the program.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved the Terms and conditions for DDLS Fellows' funding agreement version 1 with some adjustments (appendix 2).*

**8b. SciLifeLab/DDLS Data Policy**  
VC-2022-0016

FAIR is about data quality, research integrity, reproducibility and transparency, and it can be expected that SciLifeLab in a transparent way expresses the principles that motivates its activities towards Open Science and FAIR. Therefore, the Data Centre and the Bioinformatics Platform (NBIS) has developed such a document, a Data Policy, that details these principles, states the ambition to let them motivate future SciLifeLab activities, and concretely exemplifies potential actions that may involve research or infrastructure.

The SciLifeLab/DDLS Data Policy is a reference document, which can be used for communicating the principles that are important regarding data, and may have concrete future consequences at SciLifeLab through their application in different contexts, such as terms and conditions for funding, project prioritization, or evaluation criteria. The document will be updated and revised on a regular basis, and subsequent versions will be brought for decisions at the board.

Johan Rung, head of SciLifeLab Data Centre, gave a background to the suggestion.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved the SciLifeLab/DDLS Data Policy version 1 (appendix 3) and requested the Director and the Data Centre/NBIS chair to finalize the document according to the comments, and after consultation with MG and SciLifeLab platforms.*

*The board mandated the Chair of the board to approve the next revised document and to bring the final version to the board's attention in the May 2022 meeting.*

**8c. DDLS Fellows SU – approval of KAW funding to top candidates**  
VC-2022-0011

At the board meeting no. 49 on 3 Feb 2021, the board approved the general recruitment process and conditions for funding for the recruitment of DDLS Fellows. In the meeting on 19 May 2022, the board approved the final recruitment profiles and recruitment timeline.

At the board meeting no. 52 on 22 September 2021, the board approved the suggested process for approval of DDLS Fellow candidates and gave the chair the mandate to approve them.

SU had two positions open in Cellular and Molecular Biology. Due to potential conflict of interest, the chair has lifted the final decision for the board to make.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the process and suggestion.

Decision

*The SciLifeLab board approved the statement of the DDLS-steering group regarding the two top-ranked DDLS fellow candidates at Stockholm University.*

**9. Response to the IAB report**  
VC-2020-0031

In October last year, SciLifeLab finalized the report to the International Advisory Board (IAB), and a virtual IAB visit took place on October 19-22, 2021. The IAB has now finished their strategic evaluation, and has compiled a report with recommendations aiming to further strengthen SciLifeLab as a leading national research infrastructure. The IAB requested that SciLifeLab prepares an initial response to these suggestions. The IAB comments have previously generated action groups and the board is suggested to consider these for executing specific complex tasks.

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

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the draft response to the IAB report. The draft will be sent out to stakeholders for comments. At the next board meeting discussion will follow on action items.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved the process for sending the response to the IAB and mandated the Chair and the Director to finalize the document after consulting the stakeholders.*

## **10. SciLifeLab Infrastructure**

### **10a. General update**

Annika Jenmalm Jensen presented an update about the SciLifeLab Infrastructure.

### **10b. Reflections of the IAB report**

VC-2020-0031

Annika Jenmalm Jensen commented on the IAB report and response regarding the SciLifeLab Infrastructure

### **10c. Platform steering groups**

VC-2022-0018

At the meeting on 19 May 2021 the board approved the infrastructure organization, names of platforms and units and the “next-to-final” general steering document SciLifeLab Infrastructure General Terms and Conditions for Funding. The board delegated to the Director and Infrastructure Director to finalize the document. At the same meeting Platform Directors, Platform Co-Directors and Platform Coordination Officers were approved.

In the document “SciLifeLab Infrastructure General Terms and Conditions for Funding” it is regulated that each platform should appoint external bodies to ensure unbiased, SciLifeLab-independent, input on the infrastructure operations. The arrangement of external bodies may differ between platforms and should consider any terms and conditions for funding from other significant financiers and/or specific needs for the platform.

For Platforms/Units receiving major funding from other bodies (e.g. the Swedish Research Council (VR)), the funder typically expects the appointment of a Steering Group. Such Steering Groups can, if agreed with the SciLifeLab Board, assume responsibility for the steering of SciLifeLab funded operations as well (according to SciLifeLab terms and conditions for funding agreements).

Annika Jenmalm Jensen informed about the suggestion.

Decision:

*The SciLifeLab board approved the Platform Steering Groups for NGI and NBIS Platforms to act as a platform steering group also for the SciLifeLab Genomics and Bioinformatics Platforms for the funding period 2021-2024 (members in appendix 4). Replacements during the funding period should be approved by the SciLifeLab Director.*

*The SciLifeLab board approved the Platform Steering Group for CBCS to act as a platform steering group also for the Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering Platform pending the individual members' acceptance (members in appendix 4) for the funding period 2021-2024. Replacements during the funding period should be approved by the SciLifeLab Director.*

**11. SciLifeLab steering documents revision – update**

Annika Stensson Trigell informed about the ongoing revision of SciLifeLab steering documents.

**12. Presentation KTH SciLifeLab lawyer**

Markus Cartas-Johansson, new KTH SciLifeLab lawyer, introduced himself.

**13. Other issues****13a. Board member changes**

The mandate period for some members of the SciLifeLab board ends in April and outgoing members were thanked for all the work they have done in the Board.

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**Upcoming meetings**

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

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Anna Höglund Rehn, secretary

Minutes approved by:

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Ylva Engström

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Anders Karlhede

*Appendix 1*
**Approved TDP projects at Clinical Microbiology Laboratories (PLP-CM)**

<b>Proposal title</b>	<b>Submitter</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Amount funded</b>
Next generation clinical virology	Tobias Allander	KI, Clin Micro KS	1 000 000
Establishing sequencing-based viral diagnostics for future clinical use: towards pandemic and outbreak preparedness in the clinical laboratory	Patrik Medstrand	LU, Clin Micro Lund	1 000 000
Gothenburg Initiative for Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness (GILP)	Magnus Lindh	GU, Clin Micro Gbg	1 000 000
Pre-analytics for Pandemic Preparedness	Martin Sundqvist	ORU, Clin Micro Örebro	1 000 000
Preparedness for tracking resistant and virulent bacterial and fungal pathogens (TRACK-PATH)	Christian Giske	KI, Clin Micro KS	1 000 000
Development of a targeted metagenomic NGS platform for diagnostics and epidemiological surveillance of viral pandemic threats	Lisa Pettersson	UMU, Clin Micro Umu	1 000 000
Rapid typing of emerging variants in a clinical setting	Anders Bergqvist	UU, clin Micro UU	960 000
Metagenomic sequencing for pathogen identification and analysis	Jenny Welander	LIU, Clin Micro Liu	1 000 000
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