SciLifeLab

The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 57, May 31, 2022

Present members
Ylva Engström (SU)(chair), Henrik Cederquist (SU, until 16.30), Lena Eliasson (LU), Anders Gustafsson (KI, until 15.30), Mats Larhed (UU), Katrine Riklund (UmU), Annika Stensson Trigell (KTH), Christoph Varenhorst (AstraZeneca)

Other participants
Olli Kallioniemi (Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Annika Jenmalm Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Fredrik Elinder (LiU, § 11), Sandra Falck (Acting vice Head of Operations/OO), Disa Hammarlöf (OO, § 11), Elvan Helander (OO, § 5), Anders Karlhede (SU, § 11), Lars Johansson (OO, §§ 6-7, 11), Anna Lidin (OO, § 3-4, 11), Per Ljungdahl (CS Director, part of § 11), Heidi T Persson (OO, §§ 5, 11), Johan Rung (Data Centre, § 5), Stellan Sandler (UU, § 11), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS, from § 7), Staffan Svärd (UU, § 6-8), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (chair NSC, from § 6), Anna Höglund Rehn (OO, secretary)

1.   Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed all members and opened the meeting. All members presented themselves.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board appointed Katrine Riklund to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no. 56.

2.   Update from the Director

Olli Kallioniemi presented the quarterly update from SciLifeLab.

3.   Financial update

Anna Lidin presented an introduction of the different sources of funding to SciLifeLab, a financial overview of the national funding to SciLifeLab and a preliminary forecast for the year 2022. The process for the SciLifeLab infrastructure budget 2023 was outlined.

4.   Mapping of costs at SciLifeLab
VC-2022-0030

Recently many developments have brought up the issue of large differences in costs for SciLifeLab activities, especially rental and overhead costs and other fees at Campus Solna as well as within the national infrastructure platforms with units placed

at different sites/universities. Olli Kallioniemi and Anna Lidin informed about the plans for mapping of cost structures, overheads and rents at Campus Solna and at other sites.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab Board decided to set up a working group at SciLifeLab consisting of representatives of the leadership, the operations office, and SciLifeLab controllers to map costs at Campus Solna and at SciLifeLab Uppsala. The four Integration Directors will be asked to assist the working group when required.

It is important that the university directors at KTH and the other host universities, as well as relevant financial units, will collaborate in this process.

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

5a. Director's status update

Olli Kallioniemi and Johan Rung gave an update regarding the DDLS program.

5b. DDLS Data Area Nodes and WABI
VC-2021-0057

The DDLS donation letter from The Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation (KAW), specifies support to bioinformatics and data through earmarked funding to WABI, which is organized by NBIS, and for data support and databases package, organized by the SciLifeLab Data Centre (DC).

At the meeting on November 11, 2021, the board approved the DDLS budget for 2022 which allocates funds for 10 FTEs for WABI and 12 FTEs for Data Science Nodes (Data Area Nodes, DANs) as part of the data support and databases section of the DDLS budget. The purpose of these resources is to build a national capability in the form of four Data Science Nodes (DSN), and to strengthen the link between the central DDLS/DC technical data platform and the bioinformatics platform (NBIS). At the same meeting the board approved the process to launch a call for expression of interest (EoI) to host DAN and WABI staff. The call was open to the 11 DDLS partner organizations to propose to host the Data Science Node in one of the four scientific fields of DDLS.

The call was launched in November 2021 and dead lined on March 18, with seven EoIs submitted. The submitted EoIs were then assessed by an external advisory evaluation committee.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the evaluation process, and the suggested funding and conditions for funding. Discussion followed both on the suggestions and on potential conflict of interest for the board members.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Mats Larhed to approve part of this paragraph of the minutes in addition to the chair and Katrine Riklund.

The SciLifeLab board approved Uppsala University as a Data Science Node for the DDLS Research Area Evolution and Biodiversity with the defined conditions stated below. Mats Larhed did not take part in the decision.

The SciLifeLab board approved Umeå University as a Data Science Node for the DDLS Research Area Epidemiology and biology of infection with the defined conditions stated below. Katrine Riklund did not take part in the decision.

The SciLifeLab board approved Chalmers University of Technology as a Data Science Node for the DDLS Research Area Cell and Molecular Biology with the defined conditions stated below.

The SciLifeLab board approved Karolinska Institute tentatively as a Data Science Node for the DDLS Research Area Precision medicine and diagnostics with the defined conditions stated below. KI is asked to work together with SciLifeLab Data Centre and WABI to revise their plan and present a new plan for approval. The updated plan should be presented to the DDLS steering group for approval and sent to the board for confirmation at the next board meeting. Anders Gustafsson did not take part in the decision.

Conditions for hosting DSN/DAN and WABI staff:

Hosting organizations are expected to take responsibility for the employment of the personnel, but all recruitments must be coordinated with SciLifeLab Data Centre and WABI/NBIS. Personnel are expected to participate full-time in projects led by SciLifeLab Data Centre (DSN/DAN staff) and NBIS (WABI staff). The approved hosts shall engage in a close dialogue with SciLifeLab Data Centre, NBIS, the DDLS steering group (and the research area leads) to define working processes and national activities in accordance with the DDLS program strategy, within the DDLS budget approved by the SciLifeLab board. Hosting organizations will be allocated funding through the DDLS program covering the associated costs of these activities until 2024-03-31.

For DSN/DAN personnel, the hosting organizations need to accept the regular co-financing requirements of KAW-funded projects: Maximum 18% of the awarded KAW grant can be used for indirect costs and premises costs and also the maximum ceiling for payroll taxes and social security contributions (LKP/LBK) to be financed is 50% of gross salaries.

For WABI personnel, the hosting organizations need to accept regular co-financing requirements according to the NBIS consortium agreement: (where gross salary and running costs are covered, including LKP/LBK and up to 35% addition for indirect costs and premises costs combined).

Extension of the node status beyond the initial funding period will be considered by the board in their last meeting in 2023, and is conditional on the extension by KAW of the DDLS program and the successful launch of each node and the data node concept, to be reviewed by SciLifeLab during the second half of 2023.

To avoid confusion between terminology for the node itself and for the different staff categories, the nodes shall in the future be referred to as "Data Science Nodes" (DSN) and the staff categories as "SciLifeLab Data Centre staff" and "WABI staff".

5c. Call for seed-money DDLS-WASP HS
VC-2022-0031

In the donation letter regarding DDLS from The Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation (KAW), funds have been allocated for collaboration with another KAW financed research program, Wallenberg AI, Autonomous Systems and Software Program – Humanities and Society (WASP-HS). The goal is to form multidisciplinary collaborations and to bridge the gap between the different research communities.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about a joint call for seed-money funding that is planned to be launched. The call is aiming to enable collaborative research efforts between the research communities, is suggested to be launched on June 8 and will close in the beginning of September. After the reviewers have evaluated the applications, the decision of grant approval is to be taken by the SciLifeLab board in November. Projects are to start in 2023.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved the call text and the process.

The SciLifeLab board delegated to the director of SciLifeLab to finalize any remaining issues with the call text and process, and in agreement with the DDLS and WASP-HS joint working group appoint reviewers.

5d. DDLS budget 2022 – update and revision
VC-2021-0050

The DDLS program is regulated by the KAW donation letter (KAW 2020.0239), and the SciLifeLab Board needs to approve the DDLS budget each year. The budget process requires interaction between the DDLS steering group, the budget working groups and the DDLS Operations Office. At the Board meeting on February 3, 2021, a tentative three-year budget for the entire phase 1 of the DDLS program (2021-2023) was agreed upon, and subsequently approved by the KAW. The DDLS detailed budget for 2022 was approved by the board on November 11, 2021, and by the KAW on December 13, 2021.

Following approval of the 2022 DDLS budget there have been some substantial changes to several of the operational areas. In order to distribute the total KAW funding left in accordance with the time-line of these changes, as well as to follow up

the program funding correctly, the current 2022 budget needs to be revised. This revision of the 2022 DDLS budget has been discussed and communicated with KAW.

Elvan Helander and Johan Rung informed about the 2022 budget update and revision.

5e. DDLS Fellows subject area descriptions (ämnesområden) - revision
VC-2021-0035

To ensure broad and similar DDLS Fellow profiles, the subject of each position will be described starting with a text common for all recruitments in each area, followed by the university-specific descriptions on the local research environment. The subject area descriptions for DDLS Fellow positions was approved by the SciLifeLab board at the meeting no 51, on May 19, 2021. The texts describing the subject area of Data driven precision medicine and diagnostics, and Data driven cell and molecular biology have been slightly revised to further emphasize the data-driven life science aspect of the research areas. These revisions were suggested by the DDLS recruitments working group and agreed to by the DDLS steering group (DDLS steering group meeting no 13, March 23, 2022).

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the revisions.

6. SciLifeLab Infrastructure update

Annika Jenmalm Jensen presented an update about the SciLifeLab Infrastructure.

7. SciLifeLab Infrastructure Midterm Checkup process
VC-2022-0032

SciLifeLab platforms are expected to continuously update and provide cutting-edge technologies and services. This is supported additionally through annual calls for expensive instruments and calls for technology development projects. A major evaluation is performed every four years, the last being carried out in the spring of 2020. The evaluation is an essential component of the four-year life cycle and forms the basis for decisions on major changes to be made of the infrastructure and is in sync with the governmental four-year funding period of SciLifeLab. In addition, a midterm checkup is organized in between the major evaluations.

The Midterm Checkup is an internal follow-up of the SciLifeLab Infrastructure operations, focusing on recent development, performance according to terms and conditions for funding, deliverables, and future plans of the Platforms and Units. The aim of the Checkup is to channel general feedback, advice and recommendations from the SciLifeLab management/reviewers about current and future operations, and to get input for the budgeting process of infrastructure funding 2023 and 2024.

Annika Jenmalm Jensen informed about the process for the upcoming Midterm Checkup. Platforms and units are asked to write a short report on operations 2021-2022, and plans for 2023-2024 including requests on increased funding. The reviewer group (SciLifeLab Management Group and chair of National SciLifeLab Committee) will meet representatives from the platforms on October 5-6, 2022, and final decision of infrastructure distribution of funding will be taken by the SciLifeLab board at the November meeting.

8. Call for new PLP capabilities, PLP-2
VC-2022-0013

At the last board meeting, Staffan Svärd informed about the suggestion of a call for new Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness capabilities. 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).

Staffan Svärd informed about 21 proposals that were received, the review process and suggestion of funding the five top-ranked proposals.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved to fund five proposals with a total of 18 MSEK.

Proposal title	Submitter	Affilia-tion	Funding applied for (SEK)	Funding (SEK)
Preparedness by Early Detection of Infections in the Elderly.	Mattias Forsell	UMU	4 000 000	4 000 000
Rapid discovery of neutralizing monoclonal antibodies for first line defense	Gunilla B. Karlsson Hedestam	KI	3 999 750	3 999 750
Monitoring the Swedish population-level Neutralization of current and emerging SARS-CoV-2 variants – "SwedN"	Benjamin Murrell	KI	4 000 000	3 500 000
Pandemic preparedness against antimicrobial resistance through wastewater monitoring	Sanna Koskiniemi	UU	3 998 073	3 500 000
Strengthening population health surveillance and epidemics monitoring by microsampling	Claudia Fredolini	KTH	4 000 000	3 000 000

17 999 750

9. National SciLifeLab Committee (NSC) replacement of members
VC-2019-0038

The National SciLifeLab Committee (NSC) is an advisory group to the Director of SciLifeLab. The SciLifeLab board decided at meeting no. 45, September 23, 2020, to appoint members of the NSC for the period 2020-10-01 – 2022-12-31.

Carina Mallard, Gothenburg University, Tommy Olsson, WCMM, Umeå University and Jan Stenlid, SLU, have asked to resign as members of the National SciLifeLab Committee before the mandate period ends.

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson informed about received nominations. Gothenburg University has nominated Elisabet Carlsohn as new member of the NSC. SLU has nominated Sara Hallin (today deputy) as member and Johan Dicksved as deputy. As member to represent WCMM, Lars Nyberg from Umeå University has been nominated.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved the nominations of Elisabet Carlsohn, Gothenburg University, Sara Hallin, SLU, and Lars Nyberg, WCMM, Umeå University as members of the National SciLifeLab Committee (NSC) and Johan Dicksved, SLU, as deputy, for the period until 2022-12-31.

Decision about members of the NSC for next period is planned to be taken at the board meeting in November.

10. Other issues

10a. Next board meeting

Ylva Engström suggested that the next board meeting starts at 9.00 and ends at 14.00.

11. Strategy discussion

Long-term strategies for SciLifeLab were discussed; actions to be taken as a response to the International Advisory Board (IAB) report and recommendations, the starting phase of the DDLS program, future plans for the SciLifeLab sites, group leader status, and external relations.

Upcoming meetings
- Wednesday September 21, 9.00-14.00 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   Katrine Riklund

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Mats Larhed, § 5b