

**DDLS Steering group meeting no. 20, 2022****Date:** *December 14, 2022***Time:** *13:00 – 16:00***Zoom:** <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/69166723339>**Attending members:***Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)**Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)**Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)**Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)**Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)**Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)***Other participants:***Olli Kallioniemi (Director SciLifeLab, Director of the DDLS research program), Chair of the meeting**Siv Andersson (KAW representative)**Jenny Alfredsson (Acting Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)**Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)**Heidi Törmänen Persson (DDLS collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)**Titti Ekegren (DDLS coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)**Ulrika Wallenquist (DDLS coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)**Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)**Elvan Helander (DDLS controller, Operations Office SciLifeLab)**Björn Nystedt (Head of facility for the Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI)**Johan Inganni (DDLS Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab, §1-6)**Heidi Howard (ELSI advisor)**Marija Cvijovic (DDLS Research school director)***Members not attending:***Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)**Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)**Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director)**Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (Lund University/WCMM, National SciLifeLab Committee chair)*

## Agenda 2022-12-14

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:  
<https://nextcloud.dckube.scilifelab.se/s/rd2AAyH8jZyjnZp>

1	<p><b>Meeting formalities</b></p> <p><i>Carolina Wählby was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Information and decision about the DDLS Strategy, §8. DDLS Strategy will be postponed to the next DDLS SG meeting in January. The revised agenda was approved by the DDLS Steering group.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group <b>approved</b> the previous minutes.</i></p> <p><b>Directors update</b> (see presentation “Dec 14_Steering group slides”, page 3-16 for details)</p> <p><i>The WASP and DDLS joint call for research projects 2022 is now approved by both the WASP and SciLifeLab boards and will open mid-December with a deadline at the end of March 2023. A digital network meeting will be arranged on 27<sup>th</sup> of January, followed by local networking at Umeå, Stockholm, Göteborg, Lund and Linköping (not confirmed yet).</i></p> <p><i>The application to KAW for: “Program for Academic Leaders in Life Science (PALS)” a collaborative network for Fellows from SciLifeLab, DDLS and WCMM was approved and granted 20 MSEK. The next joint fellows’ meeting will be organized by SciLifeLab on April 26-28, 2023 in Saltsjöbaden Stockholm.</i></p> <p><i>Planning for a DDLS advisory committee (DAC) meeting in 2023 is on-going. At the SciLifeLab board meeting no. 60, Dec 6 the following was decided:</i></p> <p><i>The SciLifeLab board mandated the SciLifeLab Director to work with the chair of the IAB to nominate an advisory committee for a half-a-day virtual review of the DDLS program in the spring of 2023. The chair of the board will approve the committee.</i></p> <p><i>Some suggestions of DDLS advisory committee (DAC) members:</i></p> <p><u>Nominated IAB members</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jan Ellenberg, EMBL Heidelberg, Germany</li> <li>• Sören Brunak, Technical University of Denmark, Denmark</li> </ul> <p><u>Suggested additional international experts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ewan Birney, EBI</li> <li>• Fabian Theis, Helmholtz Munich</li> <li>• Florian Jug, Human Technopole Milan</li> <li>• Anna Kreshuk at EMBL.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> <b>1. Previous minutes,</b> <b>221116</b></p>
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2	<p><b>Update from DDLS support</b> (see presentation “Dec 14_Steering group slides”, page 17-28 for details)</p> <p><i>The open call to find additional members to the RA expert groups for Cell and molecular biology and Epidemiology and biology of infection has closed. Despite widespread communication efforts only 7 nominations were received, and unfortunately mainly from KTH, KI and SU giving a very narrow national representation. The next step will be to personally contact people at other universities to find additional nominees. The nomination form will be kept open until late January.</i></p> <p><i>The first DDLS fellows reporting has been concluded. Seven (out of nine) DDLS fellows sent in their reports. The reported data can be found on Nextcloud in the folder named “DDLS Fellow reporting_2022”.</i></p> <p><i>It is time to start planning for the DDLS Annual conference 2023. A Scientific committee must be nominated and discussions about theme and focus should get started.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Heidi T. Persson</i></p>
3	<p><b>DDLS Fellow presentation</b></p> <p><i>Presentation from Johan Bengtsson-Palme at Division of Systems and Synthetic Biology, Department of Biology and Biological Engineering, Chalmers</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Johan Bengtsson-Palme</i></p>
4	<p><b>Introduction of research school director</b> (see presentation “Dec 14_Steering group slides”, page 31-43 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation of Marijas background and research in the field of computational biology. Marija also shared her vision and goal for the DDLS graduate school:</i></p> <p><i>“A graduate research school that will give students the flexibility to tailor their education to their skills and interests as they evolve. The school will provide an environment that encourages creative thinking, interdisciplinary collaboration, and high-stakes, high-reward research with a direct impact on the societal challenges we are facing”.</i></p> <p><i>Overcoming (bureaucratic and mental) barriers in interdisciplinary educational programs –what we need to do:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Define desired entry skills for data-driven life science programs</i></li> <li>• <i>Suggest basic core curriculum for Data-Driven Life Science Graduate Education</i></li> <li>• <i>Define generic skills and competences that data-driven life science students should acquire</i></li> <li>• <i>Showcase possible career paths for Data-Driven Life Science Researchers</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Presenter: Marija Cvijovic</i></p>

5	<p><b>Discussion about DDLS research school</b> (see presentation “Dec 14_Steering group slides”, page 45-52 for details)</p> <p><u>Timeline for yearly admission to the to the DDLS research school</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase 2 (2024-2026): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 20 academic + 7 industry PhD students</li> <li>• 20 academic + 8 industry PhD students</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Phase 3 (2026-2028): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 academic + 7 industry PhD students and 25 academic + 10 Industry Postdocs</li> <li>• 25 academic + 8 industry PhD students and 20 academic + 10 Industry Postdocs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Phase 4 (2028-2030): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 academic + 7 industry PhD students</li> <li>• 25 academic + 8 industry PhD students</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Phase 5 (2030-2032): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 25 academic + 15 Industry Postdocs</li> <li>• 20 academic + 10 Industry Postdocs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><u>Reflections from the DDLS SG:</u> It is important to run the recruitments early in the year to catch international students, maybe adds should be out already in January/February? Could the number of students recruited be reduced to free more money for other costs? The allocated sum calculated by KAW is based on salary costs and 18% indirect costs. In addition, there should be a general pot of money available for networking activities.</p> <p><u>Research school management group (RSMG)</u> Tasks / mandates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preparation of the budget for decision by the SciLifeLab board and decide on the budget within the framework decided by the board</li> <li>• Responsibility for scientific excellence, quality and the range of courses offered by the Research school</li> <li>• Responsibility for follow-up of PhD students</li> <li>• Responsibility for up-to date connection with the research community</li> <li>• Initiating external evaluation of the Research school</li> </ul> <p>Composition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4 RA-representative (i.e. fellow/ RA-expert group)</li> <li>• 1 Industry representative</li> <li>• 1 Training representative (i.e. representative from the Training hub)</li> <li>• 1 DDLS SG-representative</li> <li>• 1 Ethical Conduct representative (representative from OO)</li> <li>• 1 PhD representative</li> </ul> <p><u>Reflections from the DDLS SG:</u> The representation of a PhD-student in the Research school management group is important and initially maybe a PhD-student from a DDLS fellow’s research group</p>	<p>Presenter: Ulrika Wallenquist</p>
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	<p>could join? It is important to make sure that the representatives in the RSMG are experienced in the formalities and the legal aspects of recruiting and employing PhD students in Sweden.</p>	
6	<p><b>Update from the DDLS Industry dialogue meeting</b> (see presentation “Dec 14_Steering group slides”, page 54-62 for details)</p> <p>DDLS industry dialogue meeting took place virtually on Nov 30 and was well received and a number of industry representatives attended. The meeting provided both presentations and group discussions around questions regarding DDLS-industry collaborations. Other topics discussed were; should students be employed at the company or at the university? Recruitments on PhD publications and questions about IP rights.</p> <p>IP agreements can be an issue that delays the student’s publications and an agreement regulating IP rights and publication needs to be prepared for industrial PhD-students. For larger companies things are often easier to arrange than for startups and small companies.</p> <p>To reach out to more industry and small companies DDLS could organize another event with SwedenBio and LIF. DDLS should also be visible at meetings including industry such as Nordic Life Science Days and Uppsala LIFE (arranged by STUNS).</p> <p><b>Models for PhD Recruitment</b></p> <p>Three models have been discussed: 1) a student centric model (an international call for students 2) a PI centric model and 3) a project-centric model.</p> <p>The latest discussions resulted in a hybrid model mixing model 1 and model 3, that would give the following approach:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Phase I: quality control of the projects and PIs (Model 3)</li> <li>• Phase II: quality control of the PhD candidates (Model 1)</li> <li>• International Calls open at all the selective universities with the granted PIs</li> <li>• A DDLS Evaluation Committee ranks the potential candidates</li> <li>• The granted PIs select the candidates</li> </ul> <p><u>Reflections from the DDLS SG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There needs to be a 2-way selection so both PIs and PhDs can choose</li> <li>- PIs can specify research areas and at the interviews selected PhD candidates can choose from a number of available projects</li> <li>- The selected top candidates for the PhD positions must be “confirmed” by DDLS representatives to ensure compatibility with DDLS.</li> <li>- Choosing the best international students are important. We need to find stellar candidates.</li> </ul>	<p>Presenter: Mojgan Seraji</p>

7	<p><b>Update from RA-leads</b></p> <p><u>Precision Medicine &amp; diagnostics RA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The mini-symposium at KI, Dec 12 was well attended with 114 participants and a number of good speakers. The DDLS fellows from the RA attended and gave presentations.</li> <li>• Work with the Precision medicine road map is ongoing, input is welcome</li> <li>• Applications to the recently re-announced KI DDLS Fellow positions are under evaluation and public seminars with top-ranked candidates will be held in late January 2023.</li> </ul> <p><u>Evolution &amp; biodiversity RA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meeting with the RA experts' group was held 29<sup>th</sup> of November</li> <li>• Next meeting, February 9 – Marija Cvijovic is invited</li> <li>• On-going work with The Evolution and Biodiversity Research 2023 conference, 10 – 12 January in Uppsala in collaboration with Evolution in Sweden. All details are almost set and 200 participants are registered (<a href="#">Evolution in Sweden 2023 – SciLifeLab</a>).</li> <li>• Planning has started for the next mini-symposia in September 2023. The symposia will be organized the day after SciLifeLab Science Summit. Matt Webster is leading the scientific committee and will reach out to OO about the details. He is also part of the planning committee for the SciLifeLab Science Summit.</li> </ul> <p><u>Epidemiology &amp; biology of infection RA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The hybrid mini-symposium in Gothenburg, arranged Dec 7 – 8 went well with talks from both external speakers and DDLS fellows. The symposium attracted 45 on-site and 26 zoom participants on day 1 and 40 on-site and 18 zoom participants on day 2.</li> </ul> <p><u>Cell &amp; molecular biology RA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A mini-symposium is planned for September 2023</li> <li>• Call for new members to the RA experts' group is underway. It has so far been hard to attract candidates outside of the Stockholm area. Erik will try to recruit on-site in Lund. It would be great to have a representative from Uppsala. Chalmers also should be represented since they host the DSN in Cell &amp; molecular biology</li> </ul>	Presenters: RA-leads
8	<p><b>DDLS Strategy</b></p> <p>Issue postponed to next DDLS SG meeting in January</p>	Presenter: Heidi T. Persson

9	<p><b>Update from Data Centre &amp; DSN</b> (see presentation “Dec 14_Steering group slides”, page 67-77 for details)</p> <p>The DSN recruitment campaign is launched, see web for more information: <a href="#">DP-DSN-recruitment - SciLifeLab</a>. Position ads are published locally at the host organizations and also on the SciLifeLab career page, in Nature, NyTeknik and Science careers. Ads are closing January 16, 2023.</p> <p>Work with the IT Infrastructure is progressing and services and hardware have been added to the storage/service platforms at KTH, NSC and UPPMAX. Some updated statistics from the SciLifeLab Data Repository and SciLifeLab serve was presented.</p> <p><b>The SciLifeLab-EMBL Data Science Workshop</b> will be organized in Uppsala, May 15-16, 2023. The following is planned for workshop preparations:</p> <p><u>Target group</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- SciLifeLab and EMBL technical personnel</li> <li>- IRL: Max 300 p</li> </ul> <p><u>Workshop format</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Venue: Eva von Bahr, Nya Ångström, Uppsala</li> <li>- Hybrid event</li> </ul> <p><u>Deadlines</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Dec 15: Expert groups assign a Chair</li> <li>- Jan 16: Expert group to submit 1) a short description of their workshop session/workgroup agenda, 2) 2-3 workshop speakers, 3) Quote for communications purpose</li> <li>- End of Jan/beginning of Feb: Meeting between Scientific committee, Expert group chairs and admin (Prel. Jan 30 or Feb 2)</li> </ul> <p><u>Scientific committee</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rolf Apweiler, EMBL-EBI</li> <li>• Jan Korbel, EMBL</li> <li>• Rupert Lück, EMBL</li> <li>• Johan Rung, SciLifeLab</li> </ul> <p><u>Project coordination</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sarah Kaiser, EMBL</li> <li>• Disa Larsson Hammarlöf, SciLifeLab</li> </ul>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> Johan Rung, Björn Nystedt</p>
11	<p><b>Other issues</b></p> <p>No further issues. The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Olli Kallioniemi</p>

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*Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting*

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*Carolina Wählby, Attending minutes*