The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 66, November 8, 2023

Present members
Ylva Engström (SU) (chair), Martin Bergö (KI), Henrik Cederquist (SU), Lena Eliasson (LU), Mats Larhed (UU) (until § 10), Mikael Lindström (KTH), Katrine Riklund (UmU), Christoph Varenhorst (AstraZeneca) (until § 11)

Not present member
Carina Mallard (GU)

Other participants
Olli Kallioniemi (Director) (absent § 10), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director) (absent § 10), Annika J Jensen (Infrastructure Director) (absent § 10), Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations/OO) (absent § 10), Sandra Falck (Vice Head of Operations/OO) (absent § 10), Per Arvidsson (§ 13), Anna Frejd (OO, §§ 11d-12), Disa Hammarlöf (OO, §§ 14-18), Lars Johansson (OO, §§ 1-7, 9, 13-18), Anna Lidin (OO, §§ 1-9) (absent § 10), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (absent § 10), Ulf Ribacke (§ 9), Kristian Sandberg (§ 13), Ulrika Wallenquist (OO, §§ 8, 11), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson, (absent § 10) Anna Höglund Rehn (OO, secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed all members and opened the meeting.

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

The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no. 65, September 26, 2023.

The SciLifeLab board approved the Chair’s decisions about new members in the SciLifeLab International Advisory Board, IAB, VC-2022-0069 (2023-10-02, 2023-10-17, 2023-10-19).

The SciLifeLab board approved the agenda.

Item 8 was handled after item 10.

2. Update from the Director

Olli Kallioniemi presented the quarterly update from SciLifeLab.
3. **Financial update**

Jenny Alfredsson presented a brief financial overview of the different sources of funding to SciLifeLab and a preliminary forecast for the year 2023, in light of the agreed budget for 2023, and the estimated year-end national surplus at KTH and UU.

4. **Infrastructure update**

Annika J Jensen presented an update regarding the SciLifeLab infrastructure.

5. **SciLifeLab Infrastructure – General terms and conditions for funding**

VC-2023-0067

At the board meeting on September 26, 2023, the SciLifeLab board mandated to the Infrastructure Director to update the document “SciLifeLab Infrastructure – General terms and conditions for funding” to specify measures for the future, particularly in cases where a unit is not collaborating with the platform leadership or with the infrastructure management or if it is otherwise not following good infrastructure practices.

Annika J Jensen informed about the updated version of the document.

**Decision:**

*After discussion the SciLifeLab board decided to postpone the decision.*

6. **Cellular immunomonitoring unit – analysis report**

VC-2023-0019

At the board meeting on April 12, 2023, Olli Kallioniemi informed about the concerns that good infrastructure practice in line with SciLifeLab’s expectations for national infrastructure units (terms and conditions for funding) may have not been followed at the Cellular Immunomonitoring (CI) unit. The board approved the suggestion of an independent analysis as to what has happened and mandated the chair to guide the process in between board meetings and to appoint an independent expert to perform the analysis.

The matter was brought up for the SciLifeLab International Advisory Board (IAB), and Dr. Sirpa Jalkanen, member of the IAB, was asked to carry out the analysis and together with Jan Ellenberg, chair of the IAB, issue a statement of the situation.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the process. The IAB analysis report and suggestion for decision will be brought up at the next board meeting.
7. Expensive instruments call
VC-2023-0063

Since 2018, SciLifeLab has arranged annual calls for funding of expensive instruments (in the range of 2 MSEK and above) for the infrastructure. About 10–20 MSEK is reserved annually from the infrastructure budget for this purpose, and for the call 2023 the budget was 15 MSEK. The call was open June 12 – September 18, and the platforms were allowed to submit 2–3 applications each after internal prioritization at the platform level. Altogether 17 applications were submitted, and the proposals were reviewed and ranked by the Management Group.

In addition to the 15 MSEK investment in the Infrastructure budget for 2024, it was suggested to use 8 MSEK of undistributed surplus of SciLifeLab NAT funding available at KTH (VOBA) to co-finance the instrument “Thermo Astral Mass Spectrometer”. This newly launched next-generation Orbitrap MS instrument is a strategically important investment that would keep the SciLifeLab infrastructure at the cutting-edge in the proteomics area.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the allocation of funding according to appendix 1.

8. SciLifeLab Infrastructure budget 2024
8a. Compensations for assignments
VC-2023-0069

At the September 26 board meeting the suggestion to implement three levels of compensations for assignments at SciLifeLab was presented. The three flat levels reflect both the variety of assignments and the seniority of the people appointed to carry out these assignments. These three levels replace the current two-level system.

Jenny Alfredsson informed about the suggestion.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved three levels of compensations for assignments:

- Coordinator level assignments at 1,2 MSEK/year for 1 FTE effort.
- Senior level assignments at 1,6 MSEK/year for 1 FTE effort.
- Professor level assignments at 2,0 MSEK/year for 1 FTE effort.
The SciLifeLab national budget is divided into three parts: Platforms, SciLifeLab joint initiatives and Operations, and these define what is planned for each year. The funding to the platforms and joint initiatives is transferred to recipients each month according to the budget, whereas the operations part reflects the on-going operations, i.e. all the operational activities that SciLifeLab have planned for the year, and thus the actual outcome may differ from budgeted costs. The SciLifeLab Infrastructure budget for 2024 will be sent to the KTH board for final approval at their meeting on November 22.

Jenny Alfredsson presented the finalized infrastructure budget for the platforms, initiatives and operations for 2024.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the SciLifeLab Infrastructure budget for 2024 according to appendix 2.

8c. Distribution of LÄK funding to Drug Discovery and Development, DDD, units
VC-2023-0049

The total LÄK funding to the Drug Discovery and Development platform was approved as part of the SciLifeLab Infrastructure budget (§ 8b).

Jenny Alfredsson informed about the suggested distribution of LÄK funding to the DDD units.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the suggested distribution of LÄK funding to DDD units 2024 according to appendix 3.

9. Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness. PLP

9a. Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness, PLP, budget 2024
VC-2023-0064

The total funding for the PLP program is 31 805 MSEK for 2024 but there is also a surplus of 4 215 MSEK from earlier years, making a total sum of 36 020 MSEK to be spent 2024, the last year of the PLP funding from the government.

Ulf Ribacke informed about the planned PLP budget 2024.
Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the PLP budget for 2024 according to appendix 4.

9b. PLP call for testing of PLP capabilities
VC-2023-0056

The PLP program at SciLifeLab decided to launch a new call, which will make it possible to test and improve the existing capabilities and technologies within PLP. The call was open between September 27 and October 23, 2023, and 18 proposals were submitted.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved to fund 10 proposals with a total of 5 MSEK according to the PLP budget 2024.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Proposal title</th>
<th>Submitter</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Proposal mean score</th>
<th>Suggested Funding</th>
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<td>Mattias Forsell</td>
<td>UMU</td>
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<tr>
<td>Testing and evaluating diagnostic preparedness and biobanking: A cross-platform collaboration for validating new diagnostic assays and reviewing PLP capacities</td>
<td>Jessica Alm</td>
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<td>EnBiFlu, testing the efficiency of multifaceted environmental assessment of avian influenza threats and outbreaks</td>
<td>Anna Székely</td>
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<td>Infections in travelers</td>
<td>Tobias Allander</td>
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<td>Integrative Outbreak Simulation: A One Health Approach for Enhanced Pandemic Preparedness</td>
<td>Rene Kaden</td>
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<td>Identification of molds and yeasts using Nanopore sequencing and MALDI-TOF.</td>
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<td>Rapid establishment of comprehensive laboratory pandemic preparedness for enteroviruses - RAPID-SEQ-Entero</td>
<td>Jan Albert</td>
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<tr>
<td>Next-generation serology of emergent flavivirus infections</td>
<td>Anders Bergqvist</td>
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</table>

10. Director for SciLifeLab – nomination
VC-2022-0060

The mandate for Olli Kallioniemi as Director for SciLifeLab ends June 30, 2024. In the regulation (Förordning om Nationellt centrum för livsvetenskaplig forskning SFS 2013:118), 3§, it is stated that the SciLifeLab board appoints the Director for SciLifeLab.

At meeting no. 60, December 6, 2022, the board appointed a nomination committee and established tasks for the committee.
Ylva Engström informed about the work of the committee, the nomination process and suggested nomination.

**Decisions:**
The SciLifeLab board approved the suggested nomination of Director for SciLifeLab from July 1, 2024, and the suggestion to start recruitment negotiations with the candidate as soon as the reference taking process is finished.

### 11. DDLS

#### 11a. Update from the DDLS Director

Olli Kallioniemi gave an update regarding the DDLS program.

#### 11b. DDLS Research School – recruitment model for PhD students

**VC-2023-0052**

The DDLS Research School will, according to the donation letter, start in 2024 at phase 2 of the DDLS program. In total about 200 PhD students will take part in the Research School program. The first year of the Research School, 27 doctoral students will be recruited and 28 the following year.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the model for recruitment of PhD students to the DDLS Research School that has been developed.

**Decisions:**
The SciLifeLab board approved the DDLS research school recruitment and operational models and delegated to the DDLS program director to finalize any remaining adjustments that may be needed.

#### 11c. DDLS Research School – call for projects for academic PhD students

**VC-2023-0053**

The DDLS Research School will start in phase 2 during the fall of 2024. To find the best supervisors, projects and research environments for the doctoral students, there will be an open call for principal investigators (potential PhD student supervisors) to submit proposals for PhD research projects within the four DDLS research areas. The funded projects should be in line with DDLS strategy and have a novel and original data-driven perspective, be of high scientific quality and combine the life science and data science research areas.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggested call for academic PhD students.
Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the call for projects for academic PhD students and delegated to the DDLS program director to finalize any remaining minor adjustments.

11d. DDLS Research School – call for projects for industrial PhD students
VC-2023-0053

The DDLS Research School will start in phase 2 during the fall of 2024. To find the best projects and research environments for the doctoral students, there will be an open call for projects for industrial PhD research projects within the four DDLS research areas. The funded projects should be in line with DDLS strategy and have a novel and original data-driven perspective, be of high scientific quality and combine the life science and data science research areas.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggested call for industrial PhD students. A discussion followed on the definition of industrial PhD students.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the call for projects for industrial PhD students and delegated to the DDLS program director to finalize any remaining minor adjustments.

11e. DDLS Phase 1 adjustment of budget
VC-2022-0045

The DDLS program is governed by the KAW donation letter (KAW 2020.0239), and the SciLifeLab board needs to approve the detailed DDLS budget each year. For Phase 1 of the DDLS program, there is an allocated maximum funding specified in the donation letter (SEK 580 million) and the total budget and costs for Phase I activities (planned and carried out) must not exceed the maximum funding allocated by KAW in accordance with the donation letter.

The detailed 2023 DDLS budget (period January 2023. – March 2024) was approved by the SciLifeLab Board on November 8, 2022 and finally approved by KAW in late November 2022.

For the operational area number 4. Advanced Bioinformatics Support (WABI) including Cryo-EM there were 12 FTEs budgeted for in the detailed 2023 DDLS budget for the recruitment of Data Science Node/WABI personnel. The recruitments have been much slower than anticipated and thus the total cost for this operational area for Phase I will be lower than budgeted for.

Some of the existing personnel at WABI will be budgeted for in Phase II as part of Advanced Bioinformatics Support (WABI) including Cryo-EM. These persons are now budgeted for as part of a separate KAW donation to WABI at SU, but in order to
maximize the usage of both the DDLS and the WABI/SU donations over time there is a request from WABI to begin allocating costs for some of the existing personnel at WABI already in 2023, which is during Phase I.

Jenny Alfredsson informed about the suggestion.

**Decisions:**
*The SciLifeLab board approved that the costs for some of the existing personnel at WABI, budgeted for in Phase II as part of Advanced Bioinformatics Support (WABI) including Cryo-EM, can also begin generating costs within the 2023 DDLS WABI budget.*

11f. **DDLS Phase 2 application and budget**
VC-2023-0050

According to the donation letter from Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation, a continuation application is to be submitted for each new phase. The application for Phase II describes how the program has been set up during the first phase with the objectives for the program, the overall structure, and the utilization of the budget. Achievements for Phase I and plans for Phase II are described according to the strategic objectives of the program. Additionally, the application suggests two modifications of the financial strategy, in order to reach maximum impact of the program: periodic adjustments and adaptable framework.

The DDLS Steering Group decided in their meeting October 4, 2023, to send the report to the SciLifeLab board for approval before being sent to the KAW.

Jenny Alfredsson informed about the DDLS Phase II application and budget.

**Decisions:**
*The SciLifeLab board approved the DDLS Phase II application and budget to be sent to Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation and delegated to the DDLS program director to finalize any remaining minor adjustments.*

12. **SciLifeLab Roadmap 2.0**
VC-2023-0054

SciLifeLab has developed substantially since the launch of the Roadmap in 2019 and there have been major changes in the life science community and society. To stay relevant and aligned with the scientific community’s and research infrastructures’ goals and objectives, the strategy document needs to be revised. The aim of the revision is to reflect emerging research and infrastructure developments globally; organizational changes; and the new challenges. The goal is to increase clarity about SciLifeLab’s strategic orientation and to prioritize strategic actions.
At the board meeting on September 26, 2023, the board approved the suggested outline and strategic objectives for the revision of the Roadmap.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the suggestion of the development of SciLifeLab’s updated Roadmap and to make it available for comments to the SciLifeLab community and beyond, including the SciLifeLab International Advisory Board, industry, and healthcare representatives and other stakeholders.

13. Drug Discovery and Development, DDD, platform - update

The SciLifeLab board has asked the Drug Discovery and Development, DDD, platform for a yearly update on developments.

Per Arvidsson and Kristian Sandberg gave an update on the latest developments, challenges and opportunities and future ideas at the DDD platform.

14. EATRIS

VC-2023-0065

Sweden is a member of EATRIS (European infrastructure for translational medicine) which has the status as an ERIC (European Research Infrastructure Consortium). The objective of EATRIS is to bring together infrastructure resources and services with academic and industrial research communities to translate scientific discoveries into benefits for patients.

Annika J Jensen informed about the suggestion to submit a joint application for membership in EATRIS for all SciLifeLab platforms and units. Annika J Jensen also informed about the discussions with Vinnova about suggested future hosting and funding a Swedish EATRIS node.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board mandated the Infrastructure Director to submit an application on behalf of SciLifeLab infrastructure for membership in EATRIS.

The SciLifeLab board mandated the Infrastructure Director to continue the discussions with Vinnova and Uppsala University about the possibility of SciLifeLab becoming a host for the Swedish node of EATRIS from 2024.

15. International Advisory Board visit 2024 - report

VC-2022-0070

A report to SciLifeLab’s International Advisory Board (IAB) has been compiled.
Olli Kallioniemi updated on the report content and informed about the site visit program, where a closed session with the SciLifeLab board and the IAB is planned for February 7.

**Decisions:**
The SciLifeLab board endorsed the Report to be provided to the SciLifeLab International Advisory Board 2023.

### 16. Scientific Directors – new mandate period

According to the 4-part agreement between Karolinska Institutet, KTH, Stockholm University, and Uppsala University, each party should nominate a Scientific Director. The mandate period for present Scientific Directors ends in December 2023 and all parties have been asked to nominate a Scientific Director for the period from January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2026. Karolinska Institutet, KTH, and Uppsala University have sent in nominations for Scientific Directors.

**Decisions:**
The SciLifeLab board approved the nominations of Scientific Directors for the period from January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2026:

- Carsten Daub, Karolinska Institutet
- Hjalmar Brismar, KTH
- Aristidis Moustakas, Uppsala University

*Decision about Scientific Director for Stockholm University will be taken at the next board meeting.*

### 17. SciLifeLab Group Leaders – process, definition

SciLifeLab Group Leader (SGL) concept has been a topic of multiple discussions and has significantly evolved over the years as well. While initially the challenge was that group leaders were defined differently between Stockholm (Campus Solna) and Uppsala, today the challenge is to normalize the definition across the country.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the draft document that has been developed, which outlines a plan on how to reorganize the SciLifeLab Group Leader (SGL) concept. This is meant to clarify criteria for SGL to be applicable to the whole country. The plan also includes a description of a new process for SGL nominations and evaluation.

**Decisions:**
The SciLifeLab board agreed with the plan to reorganize the national SciLifeLab Group Leader concept. The IAB is first asked to comment on these documents and these comments will also need to be taken into account. The board mandates the
Management group, together with SciLifeLab committees and Site Directors/committees to carry out the new process for SGL nominations and evaluation in 2024, with consideration for additional recommendations from the IAB.

18. SciLifeLab annual report 2023
VC-2023-0068

As part of reporting SciLifeLab activities and funding to the government, SciLifeLab will produce an annual report that is included in the KTH annual report as an appendix. Following approval by the SciLifeLab board, the KTH board takes the formal decision to approve the annual report for SciLifeLab.

At the meeting on February 13, the SciLifeLab board will approve the 2023 SciLifeLab annual report and the KTH board will approve it as part of the annual report on February 20, 2024.

Jenny Alfredsson informed about the process and timeline.

19. Other issues

No other issues were raised.

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday February 13, 2024, 8.30-12.00 via Zoom
- Tuesday May 28, 2024, 10.00-17.00 in Uppsala
- Tuesday September 17, 2024, 8.30-12.00 via Zoom
- Thursday November 7, 2024, 10.00-17.00 in Solna

Anna Höglund Rehn, secretary
Minutes approved by:

________________________________________________________________________
Ylva Engström                                              Mikael Lindström
<table>
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<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Submitter</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Platform</th>
<th>Unit</th>
<th>Name or type of instrument</th>
<th>Acquisition cost (kSEK)</th>
<th>Funding applied for from SciLifeLab (kSEK)</th>
<th>Decided SciLifeLab funding (kSEK)</th>
<th>Decided SciLifeLab surplus funding (kSEK)</th>
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<td>Thermo Astral Mass Spectrometer</td>
<td>Maria Pernemalm</td>
<td>KI</td>
<td>Clinical Proteomics and Immunology</td>
<td>Global Proteomics and Proteogenomics</td>
<td>Thermo Astral Mass Spectrometer</td>
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<td>MERSCOPE a new platform for spatial transcriptomics</td>
<td>Katarina Tiklova</td>
<td>SU</td>
<td>Spatial Biology</td>
<td>In Situ Sequencing</td>
<td>Targeted special transcriptomics commercial platform Merscope from Vizgen.</td>
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<td>Automated XL-MS sample preparation with on-line analysis.</td>
<td>Simon H Ekström</td>
<td>LU</td>
<td>Integrated Structural Biology</td>
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<td>LEAP HDX automation, Part number: leap-hdx-automation-3</td>
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<td>Sample preparation equipment for FIB-SEM</td>
<td>Sara Henriksson</td>
<td>UMU</td>
<td>Cellular and Molecular Imaging</td>
<td>Integrated Microscopy Technologies Umeå</td>
<td>Instrument for processing and sectioning high pressure frozen samples for FIB-SEM</td>
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<td>Orbitrap Ultra-high Resolution Mass Spectrometer (Orbitrap uHRMS)</td>
<td>Stefano Papazian</td>
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<td>Metabolomics</td>
<td>Exposomics</td>
<td>Orbitrap Exploris 480 with liquid chromatograph (LC) interfaced through electrospray (ESI) and atmospheric pressure chemical ionization (APCI)</td>
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<td>Instrument for increased automation and high-throughput screening capability</td>
<td>Stina Berglund Fick</td>
<td>UMU</td>
<td>Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering</td>
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<td>Biomek i5 Automated Workstation</td>
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<td>Quanterix SP-X Imaging and Analysis System</td>
<td>Claudia Fredolini</td>
<td>KTH</td>
<td>Clinical Proteomics and Immunology</td>
<td>Affinity Proteomics Stockholm</td>
<td>Quanterix SP-X System. Analytical platform to perform digital sandwich immunoassays using Simoa® (Single Molecule Array) planar array technology</td>
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<td>Malgorzata Lysiak</td>
<td>LIU</td>
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<td>iScan Dx with Infinium Automated Pipetting System (methylaion, SNP BeadArray analysis)</td>
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Sum: 15000 8000
## SciLifeLab Infrastructure Budget 2024 (kSEK)

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<td><strong>Bioinformatics</strong></td>
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<td>National Genomics Infrastructure (NGI)</td>
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<td>NGI; Single Cell National Network</td>
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<td>NGI; Depreciation cost for new Illumina/PacBio instruments as one-off payment in 2023</td>
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<td>Ancient DNA</td>
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* Funding pending upcoming board decision
### SciLifeLab DDD budget 2024

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**LÄK funding**

| Drug Discovery and Development          | 56 224 kSEK |
| New modality                           | 3 000 kSEK  |
| **Sum to be allocated**                 | **59 224**  | kSEK      |
# SciLifeLab Total budget PLP 2024

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**Research initiatives, including CoVaRR-Net collaboration and meeting support** | 3 315 |

**PLP Antibiotics Meeting, April 2024** | 300 |

**PLP Meeting, August 2024** | 600 |

**Sum costs** | **4 215** |

**Funding, Surplus initiative** | **4 215**