SciLifeLab

The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 68, February 13, 2024

Present members
Ylva Engström (SU, chair), Martin Bergö (KI, §§ 3-11), Henrik Cederquist (SU), Lena Eliasson (LU), Mats Larhed (UU), Mikael Lindström (KTH), Carina Mallard (GU), Katrine Riklund (UmU, §§ 1-6), Christoph Varenhorst (AstraZeneca)

Other participants
Olli Kallioniemi (Director, §§ 1-9), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director, §§ 1-9), Annika J Jensen (Infrastructure Director, §§ 1-9), Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations/OO, §§ 1-9), Titti Ekegren (OO, § 7), Sandra Falck (Vice Head of Operations/OO, §§ 1-9), Anna Frejd (OO, § 4), Åsa Johansson (§ 6), Anna Lidin (OO, §§ 1-4), Heidi T Persson (OO, § 7), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (§§ 1-9), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (§§ 1-9), Anna Höglund Rehn (OO, secretary)

1.   Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed all members and opened the meeting.

<u>Decisions</u>:
The SciLifeLab board appointed Henrik Cederquist to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no. 67, January 22, 2024.

The SciLifeLab board approved the agenda.

2.   Update by 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 the outcome for the year 2023 in relation to the agreed budget for 2023, including the current year-end national surplus at KTH and Uppsala University.

4.   SciLifeLab Annual Report 2023
VC-2023-0068

The SciLifeLab annual report is a key document describing the activities and progress of SciLifeLab over the past year and a formal requirement from the government to

report back on this and the received funding.

Following approval by the SciLifeLab board, the KTH board takes the formal decision to approve the annual report for SciLifeLab as part of the KTH's annual report to the government.

Jenny Alfredsson presented the SciLifeLab Annual report 2023.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board approved the annual report for SciLifeLab 2023 to be presented to the KTH board for final approval.

5. Director's decisions 2023

Ylva Engström informed about decisions made 2023 by the Director.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board noted the information to the minutes.

6. Grants for Clinical Technology Development Projects
VC-2024-0014

The SciLifeLab capabilities for Precision Medicine (PM) and Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness (PLP) have decided to launch a joint call for Clinical Technology Development Projects. The call will support adaptation of technologies at the SciLifeLab infrastructure and PLP units for well-defined clinical applications. Projects are expected to lead to an application that has potential to advance diagnostics, treatment, or follow-up and to have a specified timeline for clinical implementation.

The total budget for the call is 4.2 MSEK, and the typical grant size will be 300,000-500,000 SEK for one year.

Åsa Johansson, Scientific Lead of Precision Medicine, informed about the suggested call.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved the launch of the call according to the time plan.

7. DDLS

7a. Update from the DDLS Director

Olli Kallioniemi gave an update regarding the DDLS program.

7b.   Terms and Conditions for DDLS fellows funding
VC-2024-0015

The document 'Terms and conditions for DDLS fellows' funding' stipulates the specific conditions for funding of the DDLS fellow recruitment packages. The first version of this agreement was approved by the SciLifeLab board at meeting no. 56 and signed by all host units, DDLS fellows and DDLS program representatives during phase 1. For the DDLS fellow recruitments of phase 2 there is a need to update the document and clarify some financial parts.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab board approved the Terms and conditions for DDLS fellow funding_v2 (appendix 1) and delegated to the chair of the board to be the signatory of the document.

7c.   DDLS Data Science Nodes – extension of node status
VC-2024-0016

The DDLS donation letter from Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation specifies funding for data support and databases, organized by the SciLifeLab Data Centre. In 2022 funds were allocated for a total of 12 FTEs for four Data Science Nodes (DSNs), one DSN for each research area of the DDLS. At meeting no. 57 the SciLifeLab board approved host universities for the DSNs.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the suggestion to prolong the current assignments of DSNs so that the development and technical work can proceed throughout the phase 2 funding of the DDLS.

Decision:
The board decided to extend the assignments to organize DDLS Data Science Nodes until the end of the second funding period of the DDLS (March 30, 2026) to the current DSN host organizations:

- *Uppsala University for the DDLS Data Science Node in Evolution and Biodiversity, in collaboration with the Swedish Museum for Natural History*
- *Umeå University for the DDLS Data Science Node in Epidemiology and Biology of infections.*
- *Chalmers University of Technology for the DDLS Data Science Node in Cell and Molecular Biology.*
- *Karolinska Institutet for the DDLS Data Science Node in Precision Medicine and Diagnostics.*

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8.   National SciLifeLab Committee, NSC, update

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson gave an update from the NSC meeting on January 23, 2024.

9.   IAB visit February 7-9, 2024
VC-2022-0070

Olli Kallioniemi gave some reflections from the International Advisory Board, IAB, visit in Uppsala February 7-9, 2024. The IAB will send a written report to the board, to be discussed at the next board meeting.

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 SciLifeLab Director.

Ylva Engström informed about the ongoing recruitment negotiations. When the negotiations are finished there may be a need for an extra board meeting.
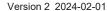
11.   Other issues

No other issues were raised.

Upcoming meetings

- 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   Henrik Cederquist

Version 2_2024-02-01

SciLifeLab & Wallenberg National Program for Data-Driven Life Science (DDLS)

- Conditions for funding of DDLS fellows in phase 2

Background

The SciLifeLab and Wallenberg National Program for Data-Driven Life Science (DDLS) is a 12-year initiative funded with a total of 3.1 billion SEK (about 300 MEuro, 350 MUSD) from the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. The purpose of the 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 19 during phase two of the program, to the following four strategic data-driven research areas:

- Cell and molecular biology

- Evolution and biodiversity

- Precision medicine and diagnostics

- Epidemiology and biology of infection

Purpose of this agreement

This agreement stipulates the specific conditions for funding for each of the 19 recruitment packages during phase two of the program. The funding for the DDLS program is provided by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation (KAW), is regulated by the KAW donation letter (KAW 2020.0239), and all decisions regarding allocation of funds are taken by the SciLifeLab Board as outlined in the donation letter.

Even though this agreement has a non-binding status, abiding by it is of importance both for the program and the DDLS fellows to be successful. The parties of this agreement are the hosting department/University/Swedish Museum of Natural History (NRM) hiring the fellow, the DDLS fellow and SciLifeLab and KTH Royal Institute of Technology (KTH) representing the program.

The hiring department/University/NRM have the personnel and work environment responsibility of the DDLS fellow. In addition, we expect the hired DDLS fellow to commit to the Terms and Conditions of funding of the DDLS program that are outlined in this agreement and connected to the funding received.

All questions regarding the DDLS fellow's position and this agreement must be directed to KTH/SciLifeLab using this email address: ddls@scilifelab.se.

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Conditions for funding: DDLS Fellow recruitments, phase 2

By signing this agreement, the following terms and conditions are approved:

1. Each DDLS Fellow/Recruitment package is supported by 17 MSEK of KAW funding for a 5-year period. The host organization guarantees co-financing of the DDLS fellow package for the entire period in accordance with the terms and conditions stated in the KAW donation letter (2020.0239).

2. The host organization typically recruits and hires the DDLS fellow as Biträdande lektor according to the Higher Education Ordinance (Högskoleförordningen (1993:100 chapter 4, §4a)), and agrees to this commitment in accordance with these regulations. The position at universities will be tenure-track with a right to be evaluated for promotion to tenured associate professor. The positions at NRM and Umeå university (where the positions are hosted by MIMS as an EMBL associated institute) are research positions and not formally tenure-track appointments.

3. The DDLS fellow is expected to contribute to this program with a full-time effort. Part- time arrangements will only be possible during the first 6 months to enable transitioning at the start of the DDLS fellowship, otherwise Swedish labor law is applicable. Each DDLS fellow position formally belongs to and is placed under one of the four DDLS research areas.

   Another exception to the full-time commitment rule applies when the fellow has teaching duties at a partner institution. In these situations, the fellow is allowed to dedicate up to a maximum of 20% of their time to teaching and can thus receive funding from the government's teaching grant for this service

   Additionally, throughout the 5-year DDLS funding period, fellows have the option to apply for other external funding. Fellows are encouraged to contact KTH/SciLifeLab well in advance to prevent any funding issues that might conflict with the requirements set by KAW particularly regarding the full-time effort requirement. Each case will be evaluated individually, and the decision-making process will be initiated for each case only through contacting KTH/SciLifeLab.

4. Each DDLS fellow's funding package will be financed for a maximum of 5 years in accordance with the funding conditions in the KAW donation letter. The maximum requested KAW funding cannot exceed 17 MSEK. Extension of the 5-year funding limit is only possible based on leave acceptable according to Swedish labor law.

   If there is a need for 6-year positions before tenure evaluation, the funding of this last year is the responsibility of the department/University/NRM. Long-term commitment of salaries of tenured group leaders is also the responsibility of the hosting department/University/NRM.
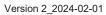
Eligible costs within the DDLS program covered by the support from KAW with pre-defined funding conditions could typically be: direct salary costs for the DDLS fellow for 5 years (for exceptions see clause 3), and direct salary costs for other members of the Fellow Package (for example for two PhD positions for 4 years and two postdoc positions for two years), as well as part of payroll taxes and social security contributions (LBK/LKP/LKT), running costs, depreciation and, premises and overhead/indirect costs. However, KAW has a limit on how much of the funding can be used to cover payroll taxes and social security, premises and overheads. For all cost and budget related details see Appendix A.

5. Each DDLS Fellow and their group members are expected to actively participate in the national DDLS program and in the DDLS research community, including the specific DDLS research area in question. The Fellows and their teams should make efforts to contribute to a variety of activities in DDLS, such as collaborative research programs, national training activities, policy actions, and outreach.

6. Each DDLS Fellow will be expected to participate in teaching and organizing courses for the national DDLS network, including participation as faculty for the national DDLS research school. The PhD students of the fellows are expected to register and participate in the same school.

7. The DDLS fellow's host department is expected to provide the DDLS fellow with a supporting research environment with possibilities for local research interaction, research collaborations and adequate space for the research group. The department is expected to support the fellow to set up the necessary working conditions and infrastructure for carrying out their work, including fulfilling the expectations of fellows outlined in points 5 and 6 above. It is possible and recommended to engage the DDLS fellow in teaching at the home department and organization. Though the teaching load must not interfere with the research tasks or the DDLS fellow's expected participation in national DDLS training and community actions. In Stockholm, the DDLS fellows from KTH, KI and SU will have their primary location at the SciLifeLab Campus Solna.

8. The DDLS fellows will join the national DDLS fellow program, and will in addition to the local host university career development programs be offered mentoring, as well as interactions with other Swedish Fellow programs (e.g. The Program for Academic Leaders in Life Science (PALS), an official collaboration aiming to connect PIs of the DDLS, SciLifeLab and WCMM Fellow programs.).

9. The DDLS fellows are expected to follow the SciLifeLab data policy (Appendix B), including FAIR principles for research data, as well as making all data generated as part of the program as openly available as possible (with restrictions for e.g. sensitive human data or industrial collaborative programs). DDLS fellows are responsible for ensuring that all their DDLS-funded team members also abide by the data policy.

10. All DDLS fellows are expected to include SciLifeLab as an affiliation as part of their primary affiliation (e.g. Department, SciLifeLab, University), and they must include the following sentence: "This work was supported by the SciLifeLab & Wallenberg Data Driven Life Science Program (grant: KAW 2020.0239)", as an acknowledgement in all publications, research and educational presentations, popular science appearances and press releases. Acknowledgements are expected as long as the fellow is associated with the DDLS program, or if their research is otherwise funded by the program, or the KAW grant.
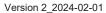
11. DDLS fellows and their host departments are expected to provide bibliometric, personnel and financial data (national and international grants etc.) upon request to KTH/SciLifeLab for annual and other reporting, as well as take part in international evaluations and advisory meetings regarding DDLS/SciLifeLab.

12. Once the DDLS fellow has become tenured by the host department/university/NRM the DDLS fellow will transition to become a senior DDLS fellow of the DDLS alumni community and will enjoy continued affiliation with the DDLS program. Senior alumni fellows will take part in peer mentoring of the next-generation of DDLS fellows and other DDLS scientists (during the years 5-12 of the DDLS program). The senior alumni fellows are expected to continue to be active members in the program (where the points 4-8 above will apply to some extent but these details will be available once applicable).

13. The DDLS fellow and the representatives of the host organization/department have read and agreed to the terms and conditions of this agreement. The department will forward the financial /requisitioning information in the attached appendix to the person responsible for the project finance and accounting processes at the host organization/department (Appendix A. Financial specifications and instructions for requisition of costs).

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Name of hosting department/University/Organization:

_____

Date: _____   Date: _____

_____   _____
Director of the DDLS program   *Head of department/unit*

Name: Name:

Date: _____

_____
Chair of the Board at SciLifeLab

Name:

Read and agreed by the DDLS Fellow

Date: _____

_____
DDLS Fellow

Name:

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Appendices:

A. Financial specifications and instructions for requisitioning of costs

B: SciLifeLab data policy

Appendix A. Financial specifications and instructions for requisitioning of costs

1. The KAW funding allows a maximum of 18 % of the approved KAW funding (17 MSEK) to be used for overhead (indirect costs) and premises costs. Additionally, there is a maximum coverage of 50% for LKP (payroll overhead) on gross salary costs.

2. The DDLS program and KTH/SciLifeLab will not provide additional funding if the costs of the entire fellow package exceed the approved KAW funding amount.

3. During the DDLS fellow package funding period large deviations (+/- 10% per cost type) that may occur from the submitted budget needs to be communicated to KTH/SciLifeLab. The cost distribution across different direct cost items can only be modified after approval.

4. Only KTH/SciLifeLab can contact KAW regarding the DDLS funding conditions, budget and requisition questions.

5. The DDLS fellow's hosting department will appoint a finance officer who will report the financial results for the DDLS fellow package internally to the partner organization's assigned SciLifeLab Finance Coordinator (SFC) twice a year. The SFC serves as a central figure in managing and overseeing the financial procedures related to all the SciLifeLab/DDLS funded activities within the partner organization. The Finance Officer is advised to contact the partner organization's SFC for guidelines on internal reporting deadlines and the procedures for transfer of requested funding to the institution. Details about the reporting periods and the corresponding final submission deadlines to KTH/SciLifeLab are specified later in point 10.

6. The grant will be transferred retroactively twice a year corresponding to the reported actual costs, provided that all the cost elements and the supporting documentation are approved. At the end of the 5th year, the requested total funding should not exceed the approved 5-year budget of the DDLS fellow package (17 MSEK).

7. The requisitions will be supported by actual DDLS fellow package cost information (profit and loss statement/resultaträkning) that is extracted from the universities'/NRM's accounting system for each reporting period defined below.

8. Every unit that cooperates within the same DDLS fellow package will have its own dedicated and single project number created in the partner's accounting system.

All related costs that incur for that specific fellow package at the cooperating unit need to be registered on that single and unit-based project number.

9. In the case the DDLS fellow's position is discontinued, or if the DDLS fellow leaves the program before the end of the 5-year funding period, a case-by-case decision will be made by the SciLifeLab board on the continued support. We expect that continued support to the DDLS fellow's research group members may be possible until the end of their contracts, with minimal running support and other fixed costs. No new hires or major costs can be made after the DDLS fellow is no longer employed and/or supported by the DDLS program. If the DDLS fellow transitions elsewhere, but wishes to continue part-time, this will need to be considered case-by-case and approved by the SciLifeLab board.

10. The SFC sends one compiled requisition to KTH/SciLifeLab for all the DDLS funded activities occurring at the partner organization per period defined as below. The requisitions will also include the requested funding for the DDLS fellow package per period with the cost report derived from the accounting system.

- For the period January 01 – June 30 by August 20 the same year the latest
- For the period July 01 – December 31 by February 20 the following year the latest

KTH/SciLifeLab can at any time during the year ask for additional financial reports for the DDLS fellow package if needed.

For any inquiries related to the financial processes of the DDLS Program, please direct your questions to the following email address: ekonomi.ddls@scilifelab.se.

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Appendix B: SciLifeLab data policy

SciLifeLab Data Policy (version 1.2)

As the national infrastructure for life science and operator of the large life science research program (KAW-funded Data Driven Life Science, DDLS), SciLifeLab has a leading role in shaping the future of research data practices. In line with this responsibility, we hereby express our firm commitment to the values of 1) Open Science, 2) Transparent research, and 3) FAIR (Findable, Accessible, Interoperable, Reusable) principles as described in the following documents:

1) The EU open science policy: https://ec.europa.eu/info/research-and-innovation/strategy/strategy-2020-2024/our-digital-future/open-science_en

2) Research Transparency definition https://www.ucl.ac.uk/research/strategy-and-policy/research-transparency

3) Wilkinson, M., Dumontier, M., Aalbersberg, I. et al. The FAIR Guiding Principles for scientific data management and stewardship. Sci Data 3, 160018 (2016). https://doi.org/10.1038/sdata.2016.18

SciLifeLab will contribute to the international life science research community according to these principles, and engage with Open Science/FAIR initiatives. This document will refer to all research programs driven or coordinated by SciLifeLab, including services operated by SciLifeLab infrastructure platforms and research carried out in the context of the DDLS program.

This document lays down our guiding principles, expectations and assurances towards pursuing the highest standards of scientific research and data management. We prioritise these principles in our interactions with researchers, infrastructure users, and SciLifeLab stakeholder organizations, and these principles shape our expectations on the service units and users of the national SciLifeLab infrastructure services. A fundamental principle is that data and results from publicly funded research should be made publicly available to the greatest extent possible, as open as possible, as closed as necessary.

SciLifeLab is a collaboration between Swedish academic organizations, and while this document is not legally binding upon the academic community, it will set up expectations for SciLifeLab associated programs. This document does not override or take precedence over current data policies, regulations or obligations that may be in place by other organisations or funders, including data policies at the Swedish universities hosting SciLifeLab.

The commitments and expectations outlined here will have concrete consequences through their application in different contexts, such as terms and conditions for funding, project prioritization, or evaluation criteria. The principles outlined aim to ensure conformity with other legal and ethical obligations as well as official recommendations including;

- Swedish Government's Research and Innovation Bill
  Forskning, frihet, framtid – kunskap och innovation för Sverige (prop. 2020/21:60)
- UNESCO Recommendation on Open Science
  https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000379949.locale=en
- Swedish Research Council recommends open access to research data
  https://www.vr.se/english/mandates/open-science/open-access-to-research-data/the-swedish-research-councils-recommendation.html
- Swedish Research Council recommendation on data management according to FAIR
  https://www.vr.se/english/mandates/open-science/open-access-to-research-data/fair-research-data.html
- EU General Data Protection Regulation
  https://gdpr-info.eu/

SciLifeLab will support national infrastructure units, research programs, affiliated researchers, and users of SciLifeLab services in making their data more widely available "as open as possible, as closed as necessary", in accordance with the European Commission for Open Data principle. We strive to achieve the highest level of reusability of SciLifeLab generated data in line with the FAIR principles.

We will work with our infrastructure, its users and SciLifeLab research programs (including DDLS) to define how these guiding principles can be integrated in future SciLifeLab operations.

SciLifeLab commits to providing the IT services, resources and support required to facilitate adherence to this policy and further promoting high quality, open and reproducible research practices.

SciLifeLab expects all activities organized or funded by SciLifeLab to contribute to building broad national capabilities for life science, such as through making all research output available and as open as possible, including; research data, any material created in the course of research work, output from services platform, records, source research, experiments, samples, measurements, surveys and interviews, methods/protocols, metadata, software and code.

SciLifeLab will join international initiatives for Open Science, in line with the commitments from the SciLifeLab partner universities, for example CoARA and ADORE.software. Such initiatives will also enable SciLifeLab to engage and develop operations in line with the international community.

Examples of potential activities motivated by this Data Policy, that may be developed in the future:

National platforms - part of SciLifeLab infrastructure:

- o Require supported projects to commit to FAIR data sharing, and maintain Data Management Plans (DMPs).
- o Provide the support and tools necessary for user projects to adhere to FAIR data sharing, including providing platform specific meta-data required for reproducibility and data sharing.
- o Make methods and software workflows publicly available.
- o Operate in a way that ensures reproducibility and the ability to trace and audit projects.
- o Make operational data publicly available when specified in SciLifeLab reporting requirements.

Research programmes, including the DDLS program, projects, and users of infrastructure:

- o Manage research data with re-use and reproducibility in consideration throughout the entire research process, and as open as possible, as closed as necessary.
- o Ensure that research involving human biomaterial and data is performed at the highest level of integrity, with appropriate protection mechanisms and ethics review, and in a manner that enables FAIR sharing of data and results through access control mechanisms on secure IT infrastructure.
- o Ensure that projects have an active Data Management Plan.
- o Commit to FAIR data sharing, and ensure necessary resources (funding and staff) for this.
- o Publish research results as Open Access, when these have been achieved through SciLifeLab research programs, including DDLS, or through support by SciLifeLab infrastructure[1].

SciLifeLab board, management and operations office functions:

- o Transparently provide information about operations, including publicly sharing formal protocols, decisions, evaluations and strategies.
- o Make operational data publicly available.
- o Steer research activities towards Openness and FAIRness

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[1] https://www.vr.se/english/mandates/open-science/open-access-to-publications.html

Document information:

Version	1.2
Date of this version:	2024-01-31
Date for original version:	2022-03-01
Host Departments:	Data Centre
Status:	Revision under review
Comment:	This policy will be reviewed and adjusted to reflect recent advances in the field.

Signature page

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