

Assignment description DDLS RA expert group

Background

The SciLifeLab and Wallenberg National Program for Data-Driven Life Science (DDLS) focuses on four strategic areas for data-driven research: Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB), Biodiversity and Evolution (BE), Epidemiology and Biology of Infection (EBI) and Precision Medicine and Diagnostics (PMD). Activities within the four strategic research areas (RAs) of the DDLS program are planned and coordinated by four research area specific expert groups.

Role of the DDLS RA expert groups

The expert groups are important in creating and promoting communities and collaborations across scientists within and between the research areas. The RA expert groups work together with DDLS fellows in each area, PhD student and postdoc communities, the DDLS Research School and Training Hub, Data Science Nodes, WABI Bioinformatics. The DDLS RA expert group works under the DDLS steering group and represents an important interaction between DDLS community and the industry, healthcare and other external stakeholders.

Description of the RA expert groups and the assignment of members:

- Each expert group consist of 5-9 experts plus a chair of the group.
- Profile of RA expert group members: Members of the DDLS research area specific expert group are established experts in the DDLS field of interest. The RA experts can be from one of the partner organizations or from the Swedish life science community at large (industry, healthcare, etc). The members are expected to support the broad national role of DDLS. Hence, they are representatives of their research fields, not those of a particular university or a specific research theme or a project.
- Term of office is 2 years. This term matches the funding periods of the program. A member can be renominated once, and exceptionally two times.
- After each period, changes in the membership are suggested by the chair to the DDLS steering group, with justifications, and decisions are made by the DDLS Program Director. There should be rotation of at least one third of the members between each funding phase, i.e. at least 2-3 new candidates joining, some leaving.
- The procedure for nominating new members is open, but should ideally involve either an open call or nominations from the community.
- Due to the starting phase of the program, rotation of members between phase 1 and phase 2 is not enforced, but the RAs are are still encouraged to consider additional/new members
- Level of engagement of the experts varies depending on the tasks and the phases of the program and the RA in question, but the members are encouraged to be pro-active in developing their roles. The RA experts convene in a meeting approximately every other month and organize national meetings twice per year. Expert group members should make efforts to participate in the meetings. The overall level of engagement is not expected to exceed 5% There is no compensation for this assignment.
- RA expert group members are eligible to apply for DDLS funding, but if they do, they will be conflicted to participate in any processing and evaluation of applications for such a call.
- The role of a DDLS research area specific expert group is to:
 - o Advise on research area specific strategies and research profiles of the DDLS

- Suggest and co-organize activities and community events around the research area topics
 - Advice on the design of calls and take part in evaluation or pre-screening of grant calls
 - Advise and support the DDLS fellows, post docs and PhDs within the area
 - Advise and support DDLS data services and bioinformatics support, the training hub and research school within each research area
 - Engage the national DDLS community within each RA, consider policy issues as well as relevant ethical, legal and social challenges.
- RA lead/chair: One member is nominated as chair with the mandate to lead and coordinate the work of the research area and the expert group.
- The initial chairperson for each expert group is a DDLS steering group member. The chair position can be changed upon suggestion from the expert group or the DDLS steering group.
 - The chair will be adjunct to the DDLS steering group if not already a steering group member.
 - The role of the chair can be renewed once
 - The RA experts can also define a co-chair to help the coordination of the tasks
- Coordination support: It is possible to assign a coordinator for the expert group.