SciLifeLab

DDLS Steering group

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 22, 2023

Date: **March 8, 2023**
Time: 13:00 – 16:00
Zoom: https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/61953945174

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (Lund University/WCMM. National SciLifeLab Committee chair)

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 (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

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)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Björn Nystedt (Head of facility for the Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI)

Heidi Howard (SciLifeLab and DDLS ELSI advisor, §1, 5-11)

Marija Cvijovic (DDLS Research School Director)

Päivi Östling (Scientific Lead for Precision Medicine at SciLifeLab, §2, 4-5)

Eva Berglund (Coordinator for Precision medicine capability at SciLifeLab, §2, 4-5)

Clemens Wittenbecher (DDLS Fellow, Chalmers, §3)

Members not attending:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Next meeting: April 11, May 10, June 20, August 29, October 4, November 14, December 13, 2023

DDLS Steering group

Agenda 2023-03-08

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

1	**Meeting formalities**	*Presenter:*
		Olli Kallioniemi
	Erik Kristiansson was chosen to attend the minutes.	
		Appendix:
	The DDLS Steering group **approved** *the previous minutes.*	***1.*** *Previous minutes, 230119*
	Directors update	
	(see presentation, "March 8_Steering group slides" page 4-21 for details)	
	DDLS Advisory committee (DAC)	
	The DAC meeting is scheduled as a half day zoom meeting on June 21.	
	Draft agenda (short discussion and questions after each topic)	
	• *KAW view point, Siv Andersson*	
	• *Overall program, Olli Kallioniemi*	
	• *Present fellows research (short 5 min presentations of some fellows)*	
	• *DDLS fellows' recruitments, Carolina Wählby, Erik Lindahl and Oliver Billker*	
	• *Research school, Marija Cvijovic, Ulrika Wallenquist and Mojgan Seraji*	
	• *Training, Jessica Lindvall*	
	• *Data platform and data science nodes - Johan Rung and Björn Nystedt*	
	• *Overall discussion, questions and initial feedback from DAC*	
	Preferred outcome:	
	• *General view on progress so far*	
	• *Input for phase II and beyond (are we achieving the general goals of realizing the data-driven future)*	
	• *Advise on specific parts of the strategy (DDLS fellows' program, research school, PhD recruitments, training, ELSI/policy, data infrastructure)*	
	• *Important that we receive both the positive feedback as well as the critical feedback so we can continue to improve the program*	
	Mandate for DDLS SG members	
	The assignment for all SG members expires on Dec 31, 2023. All current members will be personally asked if they are available and if so, wish to continue for a second term from Jan 2024 and onwards. The composition and role of the DDLS SG, and if members should be representatives of the partners vs. experts/ambassadors of DDLS at the national level was discussed. In line with this, one suggestion is to also invite a representative from SLU,	

DDLS Steering group

	Healthcare/industry and/or DDLS fellows to SG. To be inclusive but still keep the steering group at a reasonable size is a balancing act. *The DDLS SG minutes will be made available on the SciLifeLab web (work in progress)* *The call for DDLS/WASP-HS collaborations is launched and an online network meeting was organized on March 6.* ***Upcoming meetings and events*** • *DDLS national reference group meetings - May 2, Sept 13, Nov 22* • *Data-driven life science and the RDA: Leveraging global data communities in regional initiatives and cross-border infrastructures - March 24, 2023* • *DDLS Fellows virtual kick-off - spring* • *NMMP (PALS) annual scientific conference - April 26-28, 2023 for SciLifeLab, DDLS and WCMM fellows* • *EMBL-SciLifeLab Data Science workshop - May 15-16, 2023* • *DDLS advisory committee (DAC) meeting - June 21, 2023* • *SciLifeLab and DDLS fellow retreat - August 2023* • *SciLifeLab international advisory board (IAB) meeting - late autumn 2023 or early 2024* • *DDLS fellow meeting - Nov 15, 2023 (in connection with Annual conference)* • *DDLS Annual Conference - November 15-16, 2023 (lunch to lunch)* • *SciLifeLab Science Summit, Genomics of Biodiversity and Evolution - September 20, 2023. Aula Magna. (Scientific committee: Kerstin Lindblad-Toh, Matthew Webster, Love Dalén, Leif Andersson)*	
2	**Update from DDLS support** *The DDLS strategy 2nd version is now published: https://www.scilifelab.se/data-driven/ddls-strategy* *Johan Inganni presented the on-going work with the DDLS pages on the SciLifeLab website:* Data-Driven Life Science (DDLS) - SciLifeLab *and the work done together with Science to create an interactive website with the purpose of explaining DDLS (data lifecycle) in an educational manner (also called a micro-site).*	*Presenter: Heidi T. Persson, Johan Inganni*
3	**DDLS Fellow presentation** *Presentation by Clemens Wittenbecher at the Division of Food and Nutrition Science, Department of Biology and Biological Engineering at Chalmers University of Technology. Clemens presented his research about metabolomic profiling for precision nutrition.*	*Presenter:* Clemens Wittenbecher

Next meeting: April 11, May 10, June 20, August 29, October 4, November 14, December 13, 2023

DDLS Steering group

4	**Presentation of the SciLifeLab Roadmap for Precision Medicine Capability** *Presentation of the SciLifeLab precision medicine capability and the PM roadmap.* *It is important not to make siloed PM strategies but to include DDLS, the Data Science nodes (both PMD and EBI) and the SciLifeLab strategic platforms. Suggestions on how to achieve this are welcome.* *Another issue is how to make translational research and data sharing between academia and healthcare. The current focus of PM capability is on research data but there will be a need to access clinical data, such as from the health care records.* *Comments from DDLS SG:* *There will be an EU mandate to make healthcare data available via EHDS in the next five years – there is support from big countries in the EU and it is a DG SANTE priority. Can DDLS / SciLifeLab become part of the Swedish response and solution in discussion with Government?* *Maybe think about what we can offer to the regions - DDLS is not offering to "do the fishing" but might be very well placed in helping to "teach how to fish"?* *DDLS can offer in this respect:* *1. SciLIfeLab/DDLS is already a partner in recent EHDS EU grants in Sweden* *2. Training and knowledge about what resources are needed and how to organize secondary health care data use within the region* *3. DDLS will deliver useful assets (e.g. the data portals such as the COVID-19 data portal)* *4. People - there will be a lot of skilled people coming out of DDLS. The health care regions can attract young scientists in the field* *The dialogue with the regions is very important.*	*Presenter: Päivi Östling* ***Appendix:*** ***4.*** *SciLifeLab PM roadmap*
5	**Assignment to represent SciLifeLab/DDLS at the national level in Health Data aspects** *There is a need for an expert to plan the clinical / health care data strategy at SciLifeLab / DDLS and represent a contact point in discussions with stakeholders. Today this mission is dispersed in many of the SciLifeLab functions and one expert to handle all issues would be beneficial.* *This assignment would include:* • *Reports to the DDLS SG/MG/Dir, works day-to-day with DC, DDLS RAs and PM, and SciLifeLab OO/external relations* • *Creates a strategy how SciLifeLab/DDLS will contribute to clinical/health data analysis*	*Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi*

Next meeting: April 11, May 10, June 20, August 29, October 4, November 14, December 13, 2023

DDLS Steering group

	• *Responsibility to represent SciLifeLab/DDLS towards the health care regions, towards the government agencies and towards industry when it comes to health data* ***ACTION****: The DDLS Steering group agrees to launch a call for an assignment to represent SciLifeLab/DDLS in national level discussions regarding Health Data*	
6	**WABI/Data Working Group update** *This issue was postponed and will be presented and discussed at the next DDLS SG-meeting, April 11.*	*Presenter:* Björn Nystedt, WABI/Data WG
7	**Requests from partners to change Research Area for DDLS fellows' positions** *In response to a request for proposals, Uppsala University (UU) suggests a change of the research area for its phase 2 DDLS fellow recruitment from Epidemiology and biology of infection (EBI) to Precision medicine and diagnostics (PMD). No other partner requested any changes to the research areas. Therefore, this request from UU will not shift the balance between the number of DDLS fellows between the research areas much. Furthermore, this change represents an internal change for one partner and will not cause any budgetary or financial implications.* *Arguments in favor of a change of RA for DDLS fellow recruitment at UU:* • *UU is currently the only university with a medical faculty in the DDLS program that does not have a fellow position in the PMD research area* • *UU has good infrastructure and capabilities for data-driven PM research with research & technology at UU, translation and diagnostics at SciLifeLab platforms and a newly established Precision Medicine Center Uppsala (PMCU) in partnership with Uppsala University Hospital and Region Uppsala.* • *The change of research area to Precision medicine broadens the position and provides a broader recruitment area. There is a possibility that some PMD applicants would also have EBI RA interests.* ***ACTION****: The DDLS Steering group supports the request from Uppsala University and recommends that the SciLifeLab board decides in favor of this request prior to final decision by the Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation.*	*Presenters:* Olli Kallioniemi, DDLS recruitments WG ***Appendix:*** *7. Request from Uppsala University to change RA for DDLS Fellow recruitment*
8	**ELSI proposal for SciLifeLab/DDLS** *(see presentation, "March 8_Steering group slides" page 34-55 for details)* *Presentation of ELSI and the long term ELSI goal to integrate ELSI in every aspect of SciLifeLab and DDLS.*	*Presenter:* Heidi Howard ***Appendix:*** *8. Short ELSI proposal March*

Next meeting: April 11, May 10, June 20, August 29, October 4, November 14, December 13, 2023

SciLifeLab
DDLS Steering group

		2023.
	An action is suggested to push 3 ELSI topics forward in the DDLS program: *1. Bring ELSI discussions into all meetings and events to create awareness* *2. Include ELSI on the web pages of DDLS* *3. Present DDLS ELSI plan for the DDLS advisory committee in June.* *Specific ELSI questions may be relevant to each research area. Priorities related to each research area can be sent to Heidi H (heidi.howard@med.lu.se)* <mark>*A policy group should be established – who wants to be part of that group?*</mark>	
9	**DDLS Research school and models for recruitment** *(see presentation, "March 8_Steering group slides" page 56-67 for details)* *Presentation of a Recruitment Model for the DDLS PhD Program.* *The aspects considered in the model are:* ▪ *Open international recruitments (with a national-level announcement)* ▪ *Access to the best projects in the field and attract the best PhD candidates* ▪ *Increase diversity and recruitment base* ▪ *Bring innovative research ideas to DDLS via open call and competition to host DDLS PhD students* ▪ *Strengthen Sweden's research reputation in Data-Driven Life Science internationally* *The recruitment process for DDLS PhD program will contain two phases:* ▪ *The first phase is to examine the **scientific excellence** of the project and all aspects related to the project that are of interest such as **feasibility of the project** and the **suitability of the supervisors**. The eligibility of the supervisors will also be evaluated according to The Higher Education Ordinance (1993:100) and the standard operating procedures at the local university.* ▪ *The second phase will be to evaluate the PhD candidate based on excellence and suitability and to match the student with the PI and project and vice versa.* *Suggested timeline for selection of projects (phase I):* ▪ *Call for potential projects (mid Sept – mid Oct)* ▪ *Evaluation by DDLS (mid Oct – end of Nov)* *List of selected projects (beginning of Dec)* *Application (phase II):* ▪ *Applications are submitted via the online application system provided by SciLifeLab* ▪ *Required documents: CV, motivation letter (interest in specific area),*	*Presenter: Marija Cvijovic* ***Appendix:*** ***9.*** *Recruitment model and process*

Next meeting: April 11, May 10, June 20, August 29, October 4, November 14, December 13, 2023

SciLifeLab
DDLS Steering group

	transcripts, certificates and two recommendation letters *Suggested Timelines for the Selection of PhD Students, 2024* ▪ *Announcement of the positions (Jan – February)* ▪ *Evaluation of the applications (March)* ▪ *Interviews (March)* ▪ *List of selected PhD students – offer and acceptance (beginning of April)* ▪ *Start of the individual projects (mid -August - October 1or upon agreement between PI and PhD student, preferably not later than October 1)* *Reflection from the DDLS Steering group:* *- It would be beneficial if student candidates could be physically invited to partner locations to see the facilities and the lab environment.* **ACTION**: *The DDLS Steering group supports this presented model for recruitment to DDLS PhD program.*	
10	**Update from RA-leads** *This issue was postponed until the next DDLS SG-meeting, April 11.*	*Presenters: RA-leads*
11	**Other issues** *No further issues.* *The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!*	*Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi*

Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting

Erik Kristiansson, Attending minutes

Next meeting: April 11, May 10, June 20, August 29, October 4, November 14, December 13, 2023