

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 25, 2023

Date: June 20, 2023

Time: 13:00 – 16:00

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68042192432>

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University, §1-3, 5-11)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University, §4-11)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

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, §1 - 5)

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)

Elvan Helander (DDLS controller, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Björn Nystedt (Head of unit Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI)

Marija Cvijovic (DDLS Research School Director)

Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology)

Johan Trygg (Umeå University, DDLS DSN Epidemiology and biology of infection)

Paolo Bientinesi (Umeå University, DDLS DSN Epidemiology and biology of infection)

Nathaniel Street (Umeå University, DDLS DSN Epidemiology and biology of infection)

Members not attending:

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

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

Next meeting: August 29, October 4, November 14, December 6, 2023

Agenda 2023-06-20

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:

<https://nextcloud.dckube.scilifelab.se/s/8PxtCHsaCSxwnL7>

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Fredrik Ronquist was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>Margit Mahlapuu (GU) has been appointed chair of the DDLS Cell and molecular biology research area experts group and will therefore be adjunct to the DDLS Steering group meetings from this meeting and as long as she has this assignment.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group approved the previous minutes.</i></p> <p><u>Addition to the agenda:</u> <i>MIMS as a site for the UmU DDLS fellow positions. This will be discussed as a separate item under §2.1</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p>Appendix: <i>1. Previous minutes, 230510</i></p>
2	<p>Directors update <i>(see presentation, “June 20_Steering group slides” page 3 -23 for details)</i></p> <p><u>DDLS related topics from SciLifeLab board meeting no. 64, 23-05-24:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Approval of Fellows profiles, DDLS Fellows phase 2</i> <i>- All submitted profiles approved.</i> • <i>WASP-DDLS joint call for research projects</i> <i>- All suggested applications approved.</i> • <i>WASP-HS DDLS call for seed-money funding</i> <i>- All suggested applications approved</i> • <i>DDLS steering group nominations:</i> <i>DDLS SG members approved for a three-year period from January 1, 2024, until December 31, 2026:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Oliver Billker, Professor at Umeå University, Director MIMS</i> • <i>Matts Karlsson, Deputy Vice-Chancellor for Research at Linköping, National Academic Infrastructure for Supercomputing in Sweden (NAISS)</i> • <i>Erik Kristiansson, Professor at Chalmers/University of Gothenburg</i> • <i>Janne Lehtiö, Professor at Karolinska Institutet, SD for SciLifeLab, KI</i> • <i>Erik Lindahl, Professor at Stockholm University</i> • <i>Tuuli Lappalainen, Professor at KTH Royal Institute of Technology, Director of NGI. Joint appointment at NY Genome Center</i> • <i>Fredrik Ronquist, Professor at Museum of Natural History</i> • <i>Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson, Professor at Lund University/WCMM, Chair of NSC</i> • <i>Carolina Wählby, Professor at Uppsala University</i> 	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sara Hallin, Professor at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, SLU • DDLS Director – prolongation of appointment of Olli Kallioniemi as Director for the DDLS program, until June 30, 2025. <p>Upcoming meetings and events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DDLS advisory committee (DAC) meeting - June 21, 2023 • SciLifeLab and DDLS fellow retreat - August 24 - 25, 2023 • SciLifeLab Science Summit, Genomics of Biodiversity and Evolution - September 20, Aula Magna, Stockholm • DDLS fellow meeting - Nov 15, 2023 (in connection with Annual conference) • DDLS Annual Conference - November 15-16, 2023 (lunch to lunch) 	
2.1	<p>MIMS as a site for the UmU DDLS fellow positions</p> <p><i>Umeå University has sent a request to have MIMS (Laboratory for Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden) as the site for the two new DDLS fellow positions in Umeå. While DDLS SG or SciLifeLab board does not approve the site or department within a university, this is a special case due to the fact that MIMS is the Nordic EMBL-node and the fact that these positions will be announced as 5+4 year researcher positions without tenure track. DDLS funding covers the first 5 years while UmU/MIMS funds the extension. Even though the positions don't include a tenure track, most previous MIMS researchers have stayed in Sweden and have also been competitive in seeking positions elsewhere in Sweden. Therefore, the MIMS 5+4 year EMBL model could still be considered to contribute towards bringing young talent to long-term positions in Sweden, which is the expected outcome of the DDLS program and that of the KAW. Discussions have been held with Ylva Engström (chair of SciLifeLab board) and Siv Andersson (KAW representative), and both are willing to accept MIMS as a hosting site for UmU DDLS fellow positions in phase II.</i></p> <p>ACTION: The DDLS steering group agrees to accept MIMS as the site for hosting DDLS fellows in phase II at the Umeå University, including the 5+4 year model and the use of the researcher position. The DDLS steering group would like to encourage Umeå university and MIMS to describe their plan on how they would ensure that successful, high-profile DDLS fellows will be provided opportunities commensurate with those of other DDLS fellows in Sweden. UmU and the DDLS office will also make sure that the position advertisement is appropriately documenting the type of the position and that all the other DDLS program documents and instructions take into account the exception now suggested for UmU.</p>	<p>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</p>

3	<p>New DDLS steering group members 2024</p> <p><i>As presented in the directors' update, Sara Hallin, SLU has been appointed as new member in the DDLS Steering group from January 2024. To introduce Sara to the DDLS program and all upcoming activities such as, DDLS fellow recruitments, research school strategy and KAW application a suggestion is to adjunct Sara to the DDLS steering group meetings from August 2023.</i></p> <p>Action: The DDLS Steering group agree to adjunct Sara Hallin, SLU to the steering group from August 2023.</p>	<p>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</p>
4	<p>DDLS phase 2 Budget (see presentation, "June 20_Steering group slides" page 25 - 36 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation of results from phase I – 2022 with budgets and balance left per operative areas. The total balance left shows 33 MSEK. The main part, 66% of balance left is due to the delays in the DDLS fellows recruitments. Part of the balance left represents surplus that can be transferred to other operative areas, while the rest will be transferred to the next phase to be used within the same operational area.</i></p> <p><i>A first draft of estimated costs in line with the completed detailed activity plan will be presented on the DDLS SG meeting, August 29.</i></p> <p><i>The operative areas of "research school & training" and "networking" will be added to the existing operational areas in phase II.</i></p> <p><i>RA-leads expressed a wish to be able to have all planned mini-symposia as physical on-site meetings if the budget allows that.</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Elvan Helander</p>
5	<p>WASP-DDLS joint call for research visit (see presentation, "June 20_Steering group slides" page 37 - 45 for details)</p> <p><i>After evaluation by two DDLS- and two WASP researchers, the DDLS program director and the WASP-RMG chair, the following 2 applications are suggested for funding:</i></p> <p>1) AI-powered Automated Imaging Farm for Generative Human Cell Modeling</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant: Wei Ouyang, KTH (DDLS fellow) • Host: Manu Prakash, Stanford University • Duration of visit <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Part 1 Oct. 2023 - Feb. 2024 • Part 2: Sept. 2024 - Feb. 2025 • Budget 721 000 SEK (mainly running cost, travel etc) 	<p>Presenter: Ulrika Wallenquist</p>

	<p>2) Develop the necessary tools for understanding the complex relationship between neural network activity, stimuli, and a behavioral readout in IC</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Applicant: Melisa Beatriz Maidana Capitan, LiU (postdoctor) • Host: Fredrik Lindsten LiU • Duration of visit 12 months <p>Budget 750 000 SEK (mainly salary)</p> <p><u>Comments from the DDLS steering group:</u> Since Wei Ouyang just was provided a prestigious and highly competitive privileged position as a DDLS fellow, it would be unfortunate and counter-productive to his own independent career and for his emerging research group at KTH, if he spent long time away from his lab. KAW has intended the DDLS program to bring talent to Sweden, and hence using this funding to host fellows abroad was questioned. A shorter research visit would in this case be better and more beneficial for both the PI and his research group and ideally such research visits in the future should be carried out by his postdocs or PhD students.</p> <p>Action: The DDLS steering group decided that Wei Ouyang will be granted 50% of the applied budget to enable a research visit with a maximum total duration of 6 months at Stanford University hosted by Manu Prakash. Six months was considered a maximum time that DDLS fellows can spend abroad without extra arrangements and permission from the DDLS Steering group and from KAW. Funding to DDLS fellows aims specifically to recruit talent (to stay) in Sweden.</p> <p>and, The DDLS steering group accept Melisa Beatriz Maidana Capitan to be granted the applied budget for at 12-month research visit at Linköping University hosted by Fredrik Lindsten.</p>	
6	<p>Research school - model for PhD recruitment and timeline (see presentation, "June 20_Steering group slides" page 46 - 49 for details)</p> <p><u>Some questions related to the call for research projects were discussed:</u> Q: Should the call for projects be open for universities outside of DDLS? - Yes Q: Are DDLS partners restricted to apply only within the research areas (RA) where they have fellows? - No, this call must be broad and open to excellent scientists in good research environments at all universities within the four RAs. Q: should DDLS fellows be allowed to apply? - The call for research projects are meant primarily for the broad research community. It is possible that DDLS fellows could act as co-supervisors or in the thesis committees of the students in order to network out and create collaborate PhD projects, but this will be reviewed on a case-by-case. DDLS should not send a signal to suggest all DDLS fellows to apply, at least not as primary supervisors.</p>	Presenter: Marija Cvijovic

	<p><i>The call for projects is planned to take place in mid-October, 2023.</i></p> <p><u>Discussion about the PhD recruitment model:</u> <i>Skipping the step “Phase III: Interviews” would reduce administration and make the model less controversial. There could still be joint events after the selection phase to inform about the research school and build the research school community and network. The DDLS steering group is sympathetic to the efforts of a national interview stage, but believes it would be more practical and easier to get the universities’ approval of the recruitment model without the joint interview (Phase III) step.</i></p>	
7	<p>Update from Research areas <i>(see presentation, “June 20_Steering group slides” page 50 - 55 for details)</i></p> <p><i>Report from RA-leads:</i></p> <p><u>Cell & molecular biology RA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The DSN Cell and molecular biology hosted by Chalmers has been approached to discuss collaborations.</i> • <i>Contact has been made with local DDLS fellows in CMB to plan a mini-symposium</i> • <i>A doodle will be sent to the RA-experts group to find dates for meetings.</i> <p><u>Evolution & biodiversity RA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Last expert group meeting April 26 with Marija Cvijovic, next meeting Sept 21</i> • <i>Expert group is in favour of organizing a DSN infrastructure priorities survey</i> • <i>Expert group suggests that DSN infrastructure priorities and plans are presented at RA mini-symposia, inviting feedback from the community</i> • <i>Next EB mini-symposium:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Thursday Sept 21 in Stockholm, the day after the SciLifeLab Science summit. Two keynotes, DDLS and RA updates, three workshops on various topics in data-driven evolution & biodiversity research</i> • <i>Future mini-symposia</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>March 12-15 2024 in Lund (with OIKOS),</i> • <i>fall 2024 with Swedish Systematics Association,</i> • <i>spring 2025 with Evolution in Sweden in Linköping</i> • <i>Reminder to SG from expert group: Checklist for recruitments, do not forget mentorship for fellows</i> <p><u>Epidemiology & biology of infection RA:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>2 more members are nominated for the RA EBI:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Tove Fall, Uppsala University (molecular epidemiology)</i> • <i>Tom Britton, Stockholm University (mathematical statistics)</i> 	<p><i>Presenters: RA-leads</i></p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Expert Group has been invited to SciLifeLab Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness Retreat 2023</i> • <i>Expert Group meetings will be scheduled for next 12 months.</i> • <i>Autumn Symposium: “Data driven analysis of host pathogen interactions”, Oct 25th in Stockholm World Trade Centre</i> 	
8	<p>Update from data support and DSN</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>One IT-manager and three new data stewards have been recruited</i> • <i>NAISS (former SNIC) is forming and Erik Kristiansson is in the steering board</i> • <i>LiU has received an EU grant to create a new big resource for sensitive data</i> • <i>Individual meetings have been held with the DDLS fellows</i> • <i>Some positions at the DSN will be re-advertised.</i> 	<i>Presenter: Johan Rung</i>
9	<p>Strategy and organization for the research area and DSN Epidemiology and biology of infection (see presentation, “June 20_Steering group slides” page 57 - 65 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation from the Epidemiology and Biology of Infection Data Science node at Umeå university.</i></p> <p><i>Overall mission:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Operate a comprehensive national portal for relevant data</i> • <i>Support producers of data in publishing and sharing their data, incl secure services for sensitive clinical registry data</i> • <i>Support consumers of data (e.g. data science community & DDLS Fellows) with computational tools and workflows</i> • <i>Support national education and training initiatives with expert know-how</i> • <i>Five positions have been announced and a number of applications received.</i> • <i>Discussions are ongoing to integrate DDLS Umeå with the SciLifeLab Umeå site.</i> • <i>Relocation is also ongoing to bring together the local data center, bioinformatics & data science support staff.</i> 	<i>Presenters: Oliver Billker, Johan Trygg, Paolo Bientinesi and Nathaniel Street</i>
10	<p>Update from DDLS support (see presentation, “June 20_Steering group slides” page 66 - 73 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation postponed until the next DDLS Steering group meeting.</i></p>	<i>Presenter: Heidi T. Persson</i>
11	<p>Other issues</p> <p><i>No further issues.</i></p> <p><i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i>



Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting



Fredrik Ronquist, Attending minutes