

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 26, 2023

Date: August 29, 2023

Time: 12.30 - 17.00

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/65803893939>

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director, §1-5)

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director, §3 - 9)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet, §2 - 9)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology, §3 - 9)

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)

Elvan Helander (DDLS controller, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Björn Nystedt (NBIS support manager, Wallenberg Advanced Bioinformatics Infrastructure (WABI))

Jessica Lindvall (Joint Head of Facility Support and Infrastructure NBIS)

Marija Cvijovic (DDLS Research School Director)

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

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Members not attending:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Agenda 2023-08-29

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

<https://nextcloud.dckube.scilifelab.se/s/yHybBMJrEjryga6>

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Erik Kristiansson was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group approved the previous minutes.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p>Appendix: <i>1. Previous minutes, 230620</i></p>
2	<p>Directors update <i>(see presentation, "DDLS August 29_Steering group slides" page 3 -28 for details)</i></p> <p><u><i>Changes in DDLS management:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- Congratulations to Niklas B. who is named new Executive Director of the Innovative Health Initiative. Niklas will leave the DDLS SG from January 2024.</i> <i>- Marija Cvijovic will leave the assignment as DDLS research school director from October 1st 2023.</i> <p><i>The second phase of DDLS fellow recruitments is on-going. All 19 positions are advertised and the deadline is October 15. Read more here: DDLS Fellows recruitment - SciLifeLab and please spread the information.</i></p> <p>Upcoming meetings and events</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• DDLS national reference group, September 13 at 13.00 – 15.00</i> <i>• SciLifeLab Science Summit, Genomics of Biodiversity and Evolution September 20, Aula Magna, Stockholm</i> <i>• DDLS fellow meeting Nov 16, Stockholm</i> <i>• DDLS Annual Conference, November 15-16, Stockholm</i> <p>DDLS research area symposia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>• Precision medicine and diagnostics, Sept 6, Uppsala</i> <i>• Evolution and biodiversity, Sept 21, Stockholm</i> <i>• Epidemiology and biology of infection, Oct 25, Stockholm</i> <i>• Cell and molecular biology, Nov 17, Stockholm</i> <p><i>The board of KAW will visit SciLifeLab at Campus Solna on the 5th of September. Olli will give a status update of the DDLS program.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

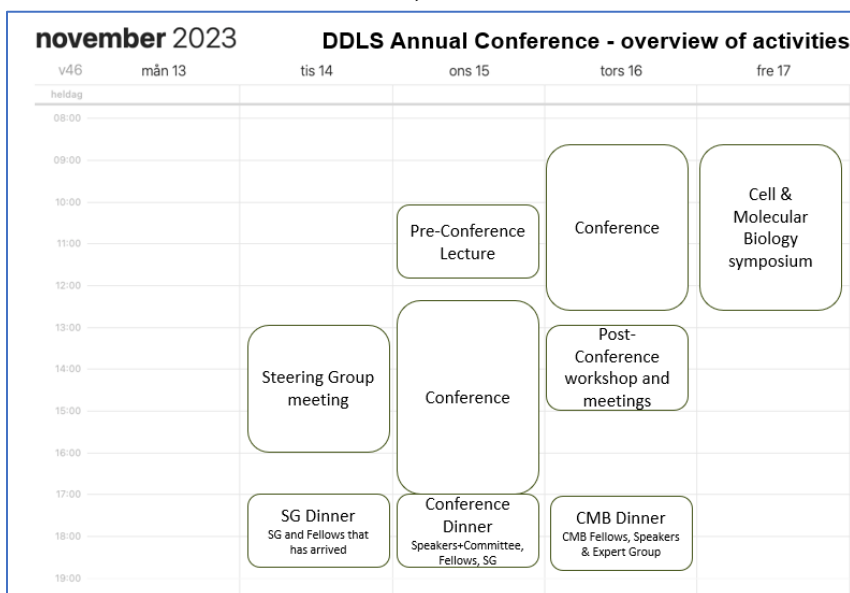
3	<p>Strategy (see presentation, “DDLS August 29_Steering group slides” page 29 -44 for details)</p> <p>Long-term strategies for the DDLS programme were discussed together with actions to be taken as a response to the DDLS Advisory Committee (DAC) report and recommendations.</p> <p>Some discussion topics and comments in highlight from DDLS SG:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remain leading and avoid early “lock-in” <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Coordinate remaining PI recruitments to fill gaps, slow down recruitment until that is achieved, consider a third round of recruitment for newly emerging “high-risk” areas? ○ Prime Data-Driven research at universities to create impact ○ Collaborate with data science and AI experts even though they are not within life science or connected to WASP ○ Identify gaps and create co-creative environments • Form a truly integrated and collaborative DDLS student community <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Motivate PI’s with funding for collaborations? ○ Need to carefully choose PI’s with right motivation. Maybe combine with a mentor program given by NBIS to create synergy? • Use the postdoc programme to link the DDLS groups collaboratively and with the Swedish life science community at large. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use similar postdoc fellowships to promote joint work with the SciLifeLab and WCMM fellows as well as with WASP, following a similar model as within DDLS and with industry. • Take full advantage of the ability of SciLifeLab to support, integrate and coordinate collaborative work <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ What incentives do SciLifeLab platforms have to provide trainings? ○ SciLifeLab platforms can be a tool, might not be a lot of new activities, more to articulate how to make it available. To describe how the SciLifeLab platforms feed in to DDLS, how data will flow to Fellows. Aggregate and build competitive data sets. ○ Highlight the big amount of data internationally, SciLifeLab infrastructures needed for data management and sharing of data. • Ensure impact by propelling basic and applied data driven life science to the next level <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Importance of interdisciplinary DDLS research ○ Access to connect registry data in web searchable formats • Stay at the cutting edge of AI technology revolution <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Need to engage the DDLS community in AI technology ○ Getting access to public data is a problem. Always new data coming up and with that new rules, there is no global standard. Is a continues effort. 	<p>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</p>
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	<p>New ideas to discuss</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Joint DDLS – WASP NEST (Novelty, Excellence, Synergy, Team) environments? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start with small NEST's in already on-going fields? Low hanging fruits but we might miss the more high-risk areas • Call for communities? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcasing and driving strong assets and building low cost structures in DDLS and SciLifeLab platforms, focusing on methods including the research community. • Find areas to work with already within the RA, cocreation environments • Grant with seed-money to stimulate community building. Invest as a portfolio - if e.g. 30% get follow-up funding then it is a real success. 	
4	<p>Model for Research school and call for projects (see presentation, "DDLS August 29_Steering group slides" page 45 - 72 for details)</p> <p><i>Discussion about the call for projects: can DDLS fellows apply? And should PI's have a specific background?</i></p> <p><i>The main PI should be data driven and the project need to have components of computational research and a PI skilled in computational science. Emphasis should be put on project plans and environment and don't exclude DDLS fellows.</i></p> <p><i>Updated plan for the recruitment of the DDLS PhD students has been sent to the university representatives for comments both to the DDLS national reference group (NRG) and to the national training reference group (TRG) with a deadline of September 29.</i></p> <p><u>Research school courses:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Is there incentive for platforms/infrastructure to give courses. Does this improve if they get money for each educated student or support for courses? - key is quality and not quantity, important to have some competition related to giving courses. <p><i>The SciLifeLab code of Conduct is now published, read more: Code of conduct - SciLifeLab</i></p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> Marija Cvijovic, Ulrika Wallenquist, Mojgan Seraji</p>
5	<p>Principles for DDLS phase 2 Budget (see presentation, "DDLS August 29_Steering group slides" page 73- 85 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation of budget cycle and information about current surplus and how to handle surplus between financial phases.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Total amount of Phase 1 surplus is not known until end of Q2 2024 ✓ Reallocation of Phase 1 surplus can be approved by SG 	<p><i>Presenters:</i> Jenny Alfredsson, Elvan Helander</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Funds designated for long-term operations, such as DDLS-WASP joint projects or Fellows' packages, that naturally extend beyond the phase duration, may not be reallocated ✓ Reallocated surplus can be used for additional strategic/community building activities not already in the annual budget <p><i>Principles for Phase 2 budget</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only the designated no of FTEs can be executed within the approved budget for each OA during a given period. • New recruitments not listed in the detailed budget for a given period will require board approval. • New budget items (within the overall budget framework) addressing new activities can be approved by Head of Operations up to 200 KSEK. • New activities (within overall budget framework) with budgets exceeding 200 KSEK will require formal decision: Directors decision with SG support. 	
6	<p>Update from Research areas</p> <p><u>Precision medicine and diagnostics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini symposia “Emerging data-driven approaches to cancer” – Sept. 6 • Community survey – what do scientists expect from the PMD research area and DDLS in general. Received 60 replies. • VR grant to develop PMD measurements with healthcare. Joint application with GMS to join in data structures with Vinnova and Swelife • DSN PMD has recruited 2 WABI and 2 DC persons. <p><u>Cell and molecular biology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have had first meeting with fellows; discussed expectations from RA expert group. Fellows want to have advise, training and industrial collaborations. • First meeting with RA expert group in two weeks. • Mini symposia will be arranged on Nov.17th in connection to the DDLS annual conference. DSN will join both mini-symposia and RA expert group meeting. 	Presenters: RA-leads
7	<p>Update from DDLS support (see presentation, “DDLS August 29_Steering group slides” page 87- 95 for details)</p> <p><i>SciLifeLab International advisory Board (IAB) site visit 2024:</i> IAB will advise on the DDLS program and DDLS SG will be invited. Save the dates 7-9 Feb, 2024. DDLS achievements, plans forward and challenges will be described in the IAB report.</p>	Presenter: Heidi T. Persson

A document describing the DDLS response to the DAC recommendations will be prepared and published on the web.

DDLS Annual Conference 2023, Nov 15 – 16.



Updated DDLS slide deck available:

<https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/QZEREoDKn7rsA7H>

The PALS -program for academic leaders in life science (SciLifeLab, WCMM and DDLS fellows network) is planning its first joint national call, a seed-money type of call with research focused on themes relevant to DDLS, SciLifeLab & WCMM. The call aims to promote additional scientific interactions between the fellows to initiate new, innovative, and cross-disciplinary research collaborations and technology/knowledge/data transfer.

The PALS Steering Group is the decision body for PALS (DDLS Director and DDLS RS director are members). There is a need for evaluators within PALS. How to achieve DDLS perspectives in the evaluation? RA leads will be contacted.

Discussion if there is a need for an external DDLS advisory group to use for evaluations of calls (PhD call, postdoc call, collaboration calls, etc) and as an advisory body and potentially later on also as mentors for DDLS fellows. This advisory group would need to be reimbursed. To be further discussed.

<p>8</p>	<p>Update from data support and data bases, and WABI incl. cryo-EM (see presentation, "DDLS August 29_Steering group slides" page 96- 101 for details)</p> <p><i>Recruitments to the Data Science nodes are on-going, some positions are filled and some positions will need to be re-announced. Data Center is also recruiting a central AI coordinator in collaboration with NBIS.</i></p> <p><i>Next application deadline for Bioinformatics Long-term support (WABI) is October 6. This will include the first WABI Cryo-EM call.</i></p> <p><i>As discussed previously, the joint WABI budget in the parallel KAW funding tracks (DDLS + Stockholm university) has a suboptimal budget peak during 2024-2025. KAW has therefore decided to extend the spending period for the WABI SU grant. Additional current WABI staff at one or more DDLS partner organisations will be moved to DDLS WABI funding already in phase 1 and 2. Björn and Jenny will investigate if this requires a new SciLifeLab board decision and if so, they will prepare accordingly.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Björn Nystedt</i></p>
<p>9</p>	<p>Other issues</p> <p><i>No further issues. The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

Olli

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by Olli

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Date: 2023.09.22

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Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting



Erik Kristiansson, Attending
minutes