

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 29, 2023

Date: December 6, 2023

Time: 13.00 - 16.00

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/68732420342>

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

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, §1 – 3b)

Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology, §1 - 5)

Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

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)

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

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Members not attending:

Niklas Blomberg (ELIXIR director)

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Agenda 2023-11-06

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

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

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, 231114</i></p>
2	<p>Directors update <i>(see presentation, “December 6_DDLS_Steering group slides” page 3-29 for details)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>- The calls for Academic and Industrial PhD Projects were launched on November 24. Deadline January 10, 2024.</i> <i>- The call for a new Research school director is out. The call is open from December 6 until January 16 2024.</i> <p><i>Erik L, Erik K, Carolina and Oliver agreed to be part of the evaluation group and also to participate in the interviews with the candidates.</i></p> <p><i>The definition of Data-Driven research should again be re-emphasized and the DDLS recruitment committee will consider the following 4 points to see if a candidate fits the profile of the national DDLS program:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <i>1) Is the candidate fellow applying a <u>data-driven strategy</u> or is he/she driven primarily by experiments or technologies?</i> <i>2) Would the candidate fellow be able to <u>analyze data him/herself and develop data analysis methods</u> or will he/she need to hire bioinformaticians/data science experts to analyze her data? Would the fellow <u>analyze just his/her own data</u> or create data-pipelines that could scale up for others or apply data integration from other sources?</i> <i>3) How would the fellow contribute to the national DDLS program in terms of <u>open science, data-driven methodology and expertise as well as in training of DDLS PhD students and postdocs in computational and data science?</u></i> <i>And given all of the above:</i> <i>4) How would the DDLS fellow’s profile be <u>different from that of the SciLifeLab and WCMM fellows?</u> Since DDLS is a strategic national program, such unique data-driven elements should be clearly evident in each recruitment to the DDLS fellow program. DDLS recruitments should not just replicate or overlap with the profile for SciLifeLab or WCMM fellows or traditional wet lab scientists.</i> <p>ACTION: <i>the DDLS steering group is in favor of the above statement and supports the definition. The criteria will be sent to the DDLS recruitment groups.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>


	<p><u>Upcoming meetings and events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SciLifeLab & DDLS fellows retreat, August 28-29, 2024 • DDLS Annual Conference 2024, Date: Nov. 13-14 <p><u>DDLS research area symposia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evolution and biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with OIKOS meeting, March 12-15, 2024 • Cell and molecular biology symposium, April/May 2024, Gothenburg • Evolution and biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with Swedish Systematics Association, Nov. 2024, Gothenburg 	
3a	<p>Action plans for Data Science Nodes (DSNs)</p> <p><i>As discussed at the DDLS SG meeting on November 14, there is a need to clarify and document the concept of the DSNs across all research areas. The concept of a DSN is complex due to i) the no. of distinct parties engaged in forming it (DC, WABI, RA, host university), ii) the local and national roles, and iii) the need to ensure supervision of technical aspects, and prioritization of scientific aspects.</i></p> <p><i>To complement the general plan for DSN's each of the DSNs in collaboration with their RA expert group will be asked to prepare a plan for short-term (1-year) and for more long-term activities (3-5 years) and provide these to the DDLS SG for evaluation. The PMD-DDLS will do this first in the next DDLS meeting, which could serve as a model for other DSNs later on.</i></p> <p>Summary of action items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>General plan for all the Data Science Nodes. To be prepared for the next DDLS SG meeting by Johan Rung. A refined description on what is a Data Science Node (DSN), including organization and line management, project management, coordination of scientific community consultations, roles of host university, DDLS research area, and SciLifeLab Data Centre/NBIS. The description shall extend and clarify what was communicated at the time of the Expression of Interest.</i> ➤ <i>The 1 yr./ 3 yr. action plan for PMD-DSN will be presented by Janne Lehtiö at the DDLS SG meeting on January 24, 2024.</i> ➤ <i>The 1 yr./ 3 yr. action plan for CMB-DSN will be presented by Margit Mahlapuu at the DDLS SG meeting on March 11, 2024</i> ➤ <i>Other DSNs will develop their plans accordingly, building on the experience of the PMD DSN at KI, which is more advanced already, as well as its coordination with DC, WABI, host univs, RA experts and other local and national stakeholders.</i> 	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>
3b	<p>WABI: Adjusted operations under DDLS (see presentation, "December 6_DDLS_Steering group slides" page 35-40 for details)</p> <p><i>The mission of WABI is to enable excellent Data-Driven Life Science research, by ensuring that peer-reviewed research projects have access to advanced</i></p>	<p><i>Presenters: Olli Kallioniemi, Björn Nystedt</i></p> <p>3b. Policy document for</p>

	<p><i>bioinformatics and data science competence, and by providing knowledge transfer and broad community training.</i></p> <p><i>Project proposals are evaluated and ranked based on scientific excellence by a Proposals evaluation committee (PEC). PEC members are nominated by the four DDLS RA expert groups, two potential PEC members for each open position representing their respective RA. The DDLS/WASP Working Group suggests two potential PEC members for each open position representing Data Science.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS program Director appoints the PEC members from the above nominations, striving for a good competence spread, gender balance, and university/partner spread.</i></p> <p>ACTION: <i>The DDLS Steering group approved the policy document for DDLS WABI with some minor comments and gave Björn Nystedt mandate to update and finalize the document. The final policy document will be uploaded in the Nextcloud folder “23-12-06_no. 29”.</i></p>	DDLS WABI
4	<p>Update from Research areas</p> <p><u>Cell and molecular biology:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The mini symposium on Nov 17 was very well received with DDLS fellows, RA group experts and other attendees.</i> • <i>Next RA-specific mini-symposium is scheduled April 25 – 26, 2024</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>Day 1 will be all about science</i> ○ <i>Day 2 at AstraZeneca to discuss collaborations and commercialization</i> • <i>A community survey will be opened. Plans are made for a short webinar to inform about the survey.</i> <p><u>Precision medicine and diagnostics:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Francis Lee will leave the RA experts group and a new WASP representative is needed</i> • <i>The PMD RA actively works to establish contacts with national registries and biobank Sweden and connects to the PMD-DSN.</i> • <i>Discussions about feasibility studies to test PM capabilities are ongoing.</i> <p><u>Epidemiology and biology of infection:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Environmental epidemiology is discussed as a flagship area and 5 research groups have been identified</i> • <i>Overlapping data with the PMD RA so there is a need for communication and collaboration between the research areas</i> • <i>Creating a community with the PLP capability</i> • <i>Planning a future symposium</i> • <i>The recruitment of staff to the corresponding DSN is progressing nicely, hopefully all 3 candidates will be in place early 2024.</i> 	Presenters: RA-leads

	<p><u>Evolution and biodiversity:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A very active community • Plans for upcoming symposia <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ March 12-15, 2024, Lund, co-arranged with OIKOS meeting (Nordic Oikos 2024 Nordic Society Oikos), ○ Nov. 2024, Gothenburg, co-arranged with Swedish Systematics Association ○ Spring 2025 symposia linked to the Evolution in Sweden meeting ○ Fall 2025: a meeting in Umeå ○ DSN in EB: 2 new staff members will start in early 2024. One position still vacant. 	
5	<p>DDLS management, organization and steering (see presentation, “December 6_DDLS_Steering group slides” page 42-40 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation and discussion about strategic vs operational management, mandates and how to get engagement for tasks such as operational procedures and evaluations.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SG is instrumental in planning of the DDLS program • How can we engage people for evaluations? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Involve DDLS fellows ○ Involve PI’s once funded by DDLS to evaluate calls ○ use the RA expert group members in the decision phase? • How can SG be more engaged and operational? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Select vice members for SG members – involve more junior researchers that have more time? ○ Appoint responsible SG member(s) when deciding an action and give that person the mandate to speak and decide on behalf of the DDLS steering group in the decided matter. This would make it easier to execute and follow up the outcome of the DDLS SG decisions and discussions. • How can we better involve the DDLS fellows in the running and development of the program? 	<p><i>Presenters:</i> Jenny Alfredsson, Olli Kallioniemi</p>
6	<p>Update from DDLS support</p> <p><i>The planning of the DDLS annual conference 2024 needs to start. A scientific committee must be chosen by December 2023 or latest in January 2024.</i></p> <p><i>Some suggested topics for the 2024 conference might be:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Big data analysis ➤ Generative AI 	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Erika Erkstam</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Temporal/longitudinal data</i> ➤ <i>Modelling and causality</i> <p><u><i>Some thoughts about the organization and structure of the conference</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ <i>Branding is important, keep a generic program and 1-2 focused sessions</i> ➤ <i>Good to start with pre-lectures on the conference theme</i> ➤ <i>Nice to repeat activities from year-to-year in order to establish traditions for the training community (PhDs and postdocs)</i> ➤ <i>Parallel sessions by Research areas?</i> ➤ <i>Keep the conference in the Stockholm area</i> <p><i>Please suggest keynote speakers to Erika. They need to be contacted as soon as possible.</i></p>	
7	<p>Other issues</p> <p><i>No further issues.</i></p> <p><i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting



Erik Kristiansson, Attending minutes