

## **DDLS Steering group meeting no. 30, 2024**

**Date:** *January 24, 2024*

**Time:** *13.00 - 16.00*

**Zoom:** <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/64571250875>

### **Attending members:**

*Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)*

*Matts Karlsson (Linköping University, §1 - 4, §5 - 10)*

*Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)*

*Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)*

*Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)*

*Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (Lund University/WCMM. National SciLifeLab Committee chair, §4 - 10)*

*Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)*

### **Other participants:**

*Olli Kallioniemi (Director SciLifeLab, Director of the DDLS research program), Chair of the meeting*

*Siv Andersson (KAW representative)*

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

*Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab, §3 - 7)*

*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)*

*Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)*

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

*Jessica Lindvall (Head of Training for Training Hub, §1 - 7)*

*Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab, §2 - 10)*

*Erika Erkstam (Event coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab, §1 - 3)*

### **Members not attending:**

*Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)*

*Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)*

*Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)*

## Agenda 2024-01-24

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

<https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/4kMGKLLH9G5MLKQe>

1	<p><b>Meeting formalities</b></p> <p><i>Fredrik Ronquist was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group <b>approved</b> the previous minutes.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> <i>1.Previous minutes, 23-12-06</i></p>
2	<p><b>Directors update</b> <i>(see presentation, “January 24_DDLS_Steering group slides” page 3-24 for details)</i></p> <p><i>Welcoming Sara Hallin to the DDLS steering group. She is Professor in Soil Microbiology at the Department of Forest Mycology and Plant Pathology, SLU.</i></p> <p><i>The first call for collaborative projects for fellows in the PALS network has been concluded and out of 17 approved projects, DDLS fellows are part of 4 projects (3 main applicants and 1 co-applicant).</i></p> <p><b>SG participation at the IAB meeting</b> <b>FEB. 7. SESSION 2: FACILITATE THE TRANSFORMATION OF LIFE SCIENCE DATA INTO KNOWLEDGE</b> <i>Presentation Data-Driven Life Science program</i> <b>14:30-15:30</b> 30’ <i>Overview, Siv Andersson, Olli Kallioniemi</i> 15’ <i>Research area specific (What’s cooking),</i> 3’ <i>Epidemiology &amp; Biology of infection, Oliver Billker</i> 3’ <i>Cell and molecular biology, Margit Mahlapuu</i> 3’ <i>Evolution and biodiversity, Fredrik Ronquist</i> 3’ <i>Precision Medicine and Diagnostics, Janne Lehtiö</i> 15’ <i>Data Centre, Johan Rung</i> <b>15:30-16:15 – Discussion</b> <i>All DDLS SG members are welcome to participate at the session.</i></p> <p><i>The call for a research school director is closed and 14 applications were received. Four candidates will be invited for interviews.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

	<p><u>Upcoming meetings and events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Launch of SciLifeLab Training portal, February 5, 2024, 15:30, Campus Solna, or by live stream</b> <a href="https://www.scilifelab.se/event/launch-of-the-scilifelab-training-portal/">https://www.scilifelab.se/event/launch-of-the-scilifelab-training-portal/</a></li> <li>• Annual PALS conference – June 3 – 5, 2024 in Umeå</li> <li>• SciLifeLab &amp; DDLS fellows retreat, August 28-29, 2024</li> <li>• DDLS Annual Conference 2024, Date: Nov. 13-14</li> </ul> <p><u>DDLS research area symposia</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Evolution and biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with OIKOS meeting, March 12-15, 2024</li> <li>• Cell and molecular biology symposium, April/May 2024, Gothenburg</li> <li>• Evolution and biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with Swedish Systematics Association, Nov. 2024, Gothenburg</li> </ul> <p><u>NRG meetings 2024</u> Feb 15, 13-15 May 15, 13-15 Sep 4, 13-15 Nov 20, 13–15</p>	
3	<p><b>DDLS Annual conference</b> A lunch to lunch meeting with 2 international speakers, 3 keynote speakers and 3 fellow speakers is planned. The concept with pre-lectures related to the conference topic was very appreciated. Some topics discussed:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sensitive data/swarm learning/synthetic data</li> <li>• Digital twins for precision medicine and for ecosystems</li> <li>• Open data</li> </ul> <p>One topic per session?</p> <p>Scientific committee:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chris Erdmann (SciLifeLab Data Centre)</li> <li>• Janne Lehtiö</li> <li>• Olli Kallioniemi</li> <li>• 2 DDLS fellows (to be asked)</li> </ul>	<p>Presenters: Olli Kallioniemi, Erika Erkstam</p>
4	<p><b>Update from Data Centre / Instruction for the Data Science Nodes</b> (see presentation, “January 24_DDLS_Steering group slides” page 26-37 for details)</p> <p>Presentation of the DSN staff employed both under WABI and Data Centre. Since the employment, line management and the working environment is separately handled for DSN staff, there is a risk of gaps or mixed messages across the stakeholders involved. It is very important to create a good working environment for the DSN staff.</p>	<p>Presenter: Johan Rung</p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> Draft instruction for Data Science Nodes</p>

	<p><i>Discussion about the instructions for DSNs on the process for project identification for both NBIS and Data Centre. The DDLS steering group should be involved in project discussions after the projects have been prioritized for technical merits by the Data center. Decisions about projects receiving long-term Data center support and services will be decided by the DDLS program director after DDLS SG discussion. Discussion will continue in the next meeting to ensure the DDLS RA and DSNs and the hosting site are all in alignment regarding their roles and responsibilities.</i></p>																			
5	<p><b>Action plan for PMD-DSN</b></p> <p><i>The results from the community survey have been discussed in the PMD RA experts' group and a workshop with researches will be arranged to discuss content.</i></p> <p><i>Some issues discussed from the survey include how to:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Visualize and make data accessible</i></li> <li>• <i>Build interconnected resources</i></li> <li>• <i>Feed data in a systematic way into PM from other sources, such as SciLifeLab, registries, GMS, university hospitals etc.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>European projects on data sharing (i.e. TEF) are invited to the discussions about the PMD-DSN content.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Janne Lehtiö</i></p>																		
6	<p><b>Calls for PhD projects</b></p> <p><i>(see presentation, "January 24_DDLS_Steering group slides" page 40-46 for details)</i></p> <p><u><i>Outcome:</i></u></p> <p><i>227 applications for the Academic PhD call</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• <i>Precision Medicine and Diagnostics (PMD)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>103</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• <i>Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>71</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• <i>Evolution and Biodiversity (EB)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>31</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• <i>Epidemiology and Biology of Infection (EBI)</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>22</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>M/F ratio</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>143/84</i></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>17 applications for the Industrial call</i></p> <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• <i>Precision Medicine and Diagnostics</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>14</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• <i>Cell and Molecular Biology</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>2</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td style="padding-left: 20px;">• <i>EB+ EBI</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>1</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td><i>M/F ratio</i></td> <td style="text-align: right;"><i>10/7</i></td> </tr> </table> <p><i>After pre-screening and prioritization at the national level (DDLS research area expert groups and NBIS), the applications will be sent to the DDLS Advisory Committee, where applications within each research area will be reviewed by 2-4 DAC reviewers. Following scoring, ranking and panel meeting, the final outcome will be decided together with chair of the board Ylva Engström together with KAW (Siv Andersson). Many DDLS SG members were applicants themselves, and hence DDLS SG will not be engaged in the</i></p>	• <i>Precision Medicine and Diagnostics (PMD)</i>	<i>103</i>	• <i>Cell and Molecular Biology (CMB)</i>	<i>71</i>	• <i>Evolution and Biodiversity (EB)</i>	<i>31</i>	• <i>Epidemiology and Biology of Infection (EBI)</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>M/F ratio</i>	<i>143/84</i>	• <i>Precision Medicine and Diagnostics</i>	<i>14</i>	• <i>Cell and Molecular Biology</i>	<i>2</i>	• <i>EB+ EBI</i>	<i>1</i>	<i>M/F ratio</i>	<i>10/7</i>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>
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	<p><i>processing of the applications.</i></p> <p><i>However, the DDLS steering group discussed about general aspects of the call and the process, such as the different number of applications per research area as well as the low number of applications for the industrial call.</i></p>	
7	<p><b>Revision of "Terms &amp; Conditions for DDLS fellow funding" for recruitment phase 2</b></p> <p><i>The Terms and conditions for DDLS fellow funding document needs to be revised to clarify some financial parts and some other adjustments prior to the second phase DDLS fellows' recruitments. The content of the document was discussed and DDLS SG members could also e-mail comments until Jan 29. The document needs to be approved by the SciLifeLab board on February 13<sup>th</sup>.</i></p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> <i>The DDLS steering group agrees that the DDLS recruitments WG and DDLS support team will finalize the document and send it to the SciLifeLab board for approval.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> <i>Terms &amp; Conditions for DDLS fellow funding. v2</i></p>
8	<p><b>Update from Research areas</b></p> <p><i>The mandate period for members in the RA expert groups needs to be renewed. DDLS SG will need to discuss and decide as to whether there is a need to rewrite the description of the tasks of the RA expert groups? Should there be some rotation in the group composition to open up for new ideas? Should new RA experts be recruited by call or nominations?</i></p> <p><b>Evolution and biodiversity</b> <i>(see presentation, "January 24_DDLS_Steering group slides" page 49-59 for details):</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Fourth mini-symposium in conjunction with Nordic OIKOS meeting in Lund, March 12-15</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Kelly Swarts, DDLS Fellow at SLU Umeå, gives keynote lecture</i></li> <li>○ <i>Tobias Andermann, DDLS Fellow at UU, gives an invited talk in the DDLS session followed by five contributed talks</i></li> <li>○ <i>Joint meeting with Planetary Biology on March 13</i></li> <li>○ <i>Joint meeting with DDLS Fellows on March 15</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>• <i>Fifth mini-symposium in conjunction with systematics association mtg in Gothenburg, fall 2024</i></li> <li>• <i>Sixth mini-symposium in conjunction with Evolution in Sweden mtg in Linköping in spring 2025</i></li> <li>• <i>Added a coordinator to the expert group, Emma Granqvist</i></li> <li>• <i>DSN node:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Recruitments nearing completion</i></li> <li>○ <i>Seeking dialog with Planetary Biology and DDLS DC / NBIS about prioritization of tasks for the infrastructure work of the node</i></li> <li>○ <i>Working on candidates for reviewing WABI/long-term support applications.</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>RA-leads</i></p>

**Cell and molecular biology**

(see presentation, “January 24\_DDLS\_Steering group slides” page 60-63 for details):

- The Cell and molecular biology – DDLS symposium is scheduled April 25 – 26, 2024 in Gothenburg, lunch to lunch
  - Day 1 will be all about science and includes a Tour to SciLifeLab facilities in Gothenburg (optional)
  - Day 2 at AstraZeneca to discuss innovations in Life Science, including a Networking lunch and Voluntarily Tour; The Amazing Journey the story about AZ in Mölndal (read more about the program: [Cell and Molecular Biology - DDLS symposium - SciLifeLab](#))
- The community survey has been launched (deadline Jan 28<sup>th</sup>), [Community survey - DDLS DSN CMB \(typeform.com\)](#). After analysing the results of the survey, there are plans to launch a call to survey CMB National Service Needs (1-page abstract) together with the local DSNs.

**Epidemiology and biology of infection**

(see presentation, “January 24\_DDLS\_Steering group slides” page 64-68 for details):

- Next Expert Group meeting: 29 January 2024
- Mini-symposiums
  - Summer 2024: focus on environmental epidemiology
  - Autumn 2024: “Pathogen-host interactions”
  - Spring 2025: focus on infectious disease surveillance and modelling
- Initiative for environmental infection epidemiology and the exposome
  - Eight Swedish research groups including DDLS fellows active in the area were will discuss in February. Planned zoom meeting over the next couple of weeks.
  - Then to engage with PLP group, data science node
  - Broader call for related projects together with the DSN will follow.
  - Group may organise a DDLS EBI summer symposium.

**Infection biology across scales – EMBL-SciLifeLab workshop on infection**

Session themes:

Theme 1 - Environmental epidemiology, pathogen genomics, pandemic preparedness

Theme 2 – Antimicrobial resistance

Theme 3 – Microbiome

Theme 4 – Imaging infection – from organisms to structure

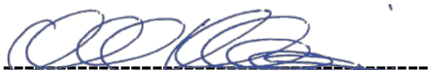
Place: At the Swedish EMBL node in Umeå.

Times: Potential dates -- Last week of May, June 13/14, June 17/18

**Precision medicine and diagnostics (see §5):**

- Francis Lee will leave the RA expert group and a new WASP-HS representative is needed

9	<p><b>Update from DDLS support</b></p> <p><i>Due to lack of meeting time most of the DDLS support updates were postponed and can be found in the slide deck on page 69 – 77.</i></p> <p><i>There is an on-going work to create a rule of procedure for the DDLS program. A draft document has been prepared and it will now be circulated to Olli and Gunilla for review. The DDLS steering group will also be able to comment on the document before final approval by the SciLifeLab board on May 28<sup>th</sup>.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Heidi T. Persson</i></p>
10	<p><b>Other issues</b></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



Fredrik Ronquist, Attending minutes