

## **DDLS Steering group meeting no. 32, 2024**

**Date:** April 25, 2024

**Time:** 13.00 - 16.00

**Zoom:** <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/69813723892>

### **Attending members:**

*Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)*

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

*Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)*

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

*Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University, §1 - 7)*

### **Other participants:**

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

*Siv Andersson (KAW representative)*

*Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director, §1 – 2)*

*Peetra Magnusson (DDLS Research School director)*

*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)*

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

*Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)*

### **Members not attending:**

*Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)*

*Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)*

*Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)*

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

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

## Agenda 2024-04-25

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

<https://nextcloud.dc.sciifelab.se/s/TdydWY4NdTkLs5T>

1	<p><b>Meeting formalities</b></p> <p><i>Tuuli Lappalainen 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:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> <b>1. Previous minutes, 24-03-11</b></p>
2	<p><b>Meet our Research school Directors / Directors update</b> <i>(see presentation "April 25_DDLS SG, page 3 – 39 for details)</i></p> <p><i>DDLS Research school directors, Olof Emanuelsson and Peetra Magnusson presented themselves and their visions for the DDLS research school.</i></p> <p><i>Directors update:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>KAW approved the DDLS phase 2 application and granted 740 MSEK for the period 2024.04-2026.03</i></li> <li>• <i>How do we ensure the DDLS program to be relevant 10 years into the future within Data- and AI-driven life science? Is there a need for an AI-strategy?</i></li> <li>• <i>Planning of the DDLS Annual conference is on-going and 2 keynote speakers have been invited so far. Still only one DDLS fellow in the scientific committee.</i></li> <li>• <i>Some preliminary points from the coming IAB report were discussed, see slides 36 – 39.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Work on the Rules of procedure (arbetsordning) for the DDLS program is on-going, and after a first round of revision the following timeline applies:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ <b>April 30 – May 6:</b> <i>Comments from DDLS SG &amp; DDLS program office</i></li> <li>➤ <b>May 6 – 13:</b> <i>Second &amp; final Reading</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Olli/Gunilla</i></li> <li>○ <i>DDLS program Office</i></li> <li>○ <i>Jenny/ Anna HR</i></li> </ul> </li> <li>➤ <b>May 14 – 17:</b> <i>Finalization of the document (WG)</i></li> <li>➤ <b>May 20:</b> <i>Send to SciLifeLab board for approval on May 28<sup>th</sup></i></li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> <i>The DDLS SG approve the presented process and timeline for finalization of the Rules of procedure (arbetsordning) for the DDLS program.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>RS Directors, Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

	<p>The next DDLS SG meeting, June 12 will be an on-site Strategy Day in Stockholm. Some suggested topics for the agenda are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ AI roadmap and AI actions for DDLS (and/or SciLifeLab, also a discussion on 10-yr future)</li> <li>✓ Focus on the strategic objective 5 - Create partnerships and impact on society at large - (Per Lek invited?)</li> <li>✓ Focus on the strategic objective 6 – Policy actions &amp; ELSI actions</li> <li>✓ Research community programs: DDLS + other funding partners (WASP, Natl, SFO, WCMM?)</li> <li>✓ Collaboration with WASP-HS</li> </ul> <p><u>Upcoming meetings and events</u> DDLS research area symposia:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell and Molecular Biology, 25-26 April, Gothenburg</li> <li>• Epidemiology and Biology of Infection, Oct or Dec, Uppsala.</li> <li>• Precision Medicine and Diagnostic, Nov 5, Linköping</li> <li>• Evolution and Biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with Swedish Systematics Association, Nov. 2024, Gothenburg</li> <li>• Evolution and Biodiversity symposium January 2025: Linköping [with Evolution in Sweden]</li> <li>• Evolution and Biodiversity symposium Fall 2025: Umeå?</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• NBIS AI and IO Seminar Series: <b>Digital twins and integrative systems biology</b>, May 17, Gunnar Cedersund, Linköping University</li> <li>• <b>SciLifeLab &amp; DDLS fellows retreat, August 28-29, 2024</b>, at Hesselby Castle, <a href="https://www.hesselbyslott.se/">https://www.hesselbyslott.se/</a>.</li> <li>• <b>The Disruptive Role of Data and AI in the Life Sciences - A Joint Conference between DDLS, WASP, and WASP-HS</b>, Sept 24-25, Gothenburg</li> <li>• <b>DDLS Annual Conference 2024</b>, Date: Nov. 13-14, Stockholm and Zoom.</li> </ul>	
3	<p><b>Discussion about Expression of Interest for new RA expert group members</b> (see presentation “April 25_DDLS SG, page 40 – 47 for details)</p> <p>The call for new members to the RA expert groups has closed and 15 expression of interests were received; 2 for EBI, 4 for EB and 9 for PMD. The RA-leads will choose and present their new expert group composition for Phase 2. Members will be approved by DDLS Directors decisions.</p> <p><u>Evolution &amp; biodiversity</u> wish to include; Juan Rocha and Sara Hallin as new experts. <u>Epidemiology &amp; biology of infection</u> wish to include; Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam and Vicente Pelechano Garcia as new experts. Birgitta Henriques-Normark will leave the RA expert group. <u>Precision medicine &amp; diagnostics</u> wish to include; Rikard Landberg, Annikka Polster and Ziad Hijazi as new experts. The PMD RA expert group is unfortunately heavily male-dominated and additional nominations are welcome.</p>	<p>Presenter: Heidi T. Persson, RA-leads</p>

	<p>The mandate period for the assignment differs between the different RA expert groups and after a discussion the DDLS SG agrees that the period of mandate can differ between the RA expert groups and also between members within a group and that the RA-lead can chose a mandate period that suits the group and the tasks.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The DDLS Steering Group approve the presented RA expert groups for phase 2, and that the mandate period might differ between and within the RA expert groups.</p>	
4	<p><b>New call for DDLS-WASP joint strategic initiatives/projects (NEST)</b></p> <p>The aim, outline and process for a new call for DDLS-WASP joint strategic initiatives/projects (NEST) was presented (see presentation “April 25_DDLS SG, page 48 – 59 for details).</p> <p><u>Comments from DDLS SG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Excellent to have societal aspects included in the evaluation criteria since that covers also governmental agencies. This includes more than healthcare and the text should reflect that</li> <li>• A 20% commitment to the project is quite high and might exclude some researchers, and a 10 % commitment is better.</li> <li>• The main PI and co-PI should be able to show a higher fraction of employment in Sweden than elsewhere.</li> </ul> <p>The draft call text will be sent to the DDLS SG members on April 26 for comments (deadline May 13). After that the text will be finalized prior to sending it to the SciLifeLab board for approval at the board meeting on May 28.</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The DDLS Steering Group approve that, after input from DDLS Steering Group members and from the WASP program, the call text will be finalized and sent to the SciLifeLab board for decision.</p>	<p>Presenter: Ulrika Wallenquist</p>
5	<p><b>New call DDLS/WASP-HS Research initiation grants</b></p> <p>Outline, aim, scope and evaluation criteria for a new call for DDLS/WASP-HS Research initiation grants was presented (see presentation “April 25_DDLS SG, page 60 – 69 for details).</p> <p>Proposed timeline:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>March-May:</b> Input from WASP-HS Management Team and DDLS Steering Group on call text and process</li> <li>• <b>May 28<sup>th</sup></b> Decision in SciLifeLab Board (May) about call</li> <li>• <b>June:</b> Call opens</li> <li>• <b>November:</b> Call closes</li> <li>• Reviewing period (3 weeks)</li> </ul>	<p>Presenter: Ulrika Wallenquist</p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> 5. Draft of call text and process</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dec:</b> Assessment meeting</li> <li>• Input from WASP-HS Management Team and DDLS Steering Group on suggestion from meeting</li> <li>• <b>Feb 2025:</b> Decision of approved applications in SciLifeLab Board</li> <li>• <b>June 2025:</b> Project start</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The DDLS Steering Group approves to send the call to the SciLifeLab board for decision. The DDLS Program director was delegated to make minor adjustments to the call and the process.</p>	
6	<p><b>Terms and Conditions for the approved PhD projects</b></p> <p>Presentation of the document: “Terms and conditions for funding for DDLS PhD Projects in Phase II”. This document will be approved by the SciLifeLab board on the May 28<sup>th</sup> meeting. The agreement for Industrial DDLS PhD projects will be in the form of a decision letter and approved by the SciLifeLab board in September.</p> <p><u>Comments from SG:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The PhD student will automatically be affiliated to SciLifeLab but the PI will (if they choose to) have to apply to be a SciLifeLab group Leader</li> <li>• If the funded project is ended ahead of time due to the student leaving, the funding will be terminated. If the PI leaves, the department needs to provide a substitute supervisor for the student. As a default, the funding is hence connected to the student and not to the supervisor.</li> <li>• However, in the case of early departure of a student, the PI could have the option to apply transferring the funds to another eligible student in their lab.</li> <li>• The section saying that PI’s are expected to take part in teaching should be changed to: PI’s are encouraged to take part in teaching</li> <li>• Should PhD students be affiliated through SciLifeLab e-mail addresses?</li> </ul> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The DDLS Steering Group delegates to Olli K. or DDLS RS Directors Petra Magnusson and Olof Emanuelsson to continue with the details of the final version of the T&amp;C for funding, which is then sent to the SciLifeLab Board for approval (May 28).</p>	<p>Presenter: Mojgan Seraji</p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> 6. Draft of Terms and Conditions for PIs in DDLS RS</p>
7	<p><b>Approval of new DDLS Advisory Committee</b></p> <p>Presentation of the DDLS Advisory Committee and their assignments (see presentation “April 25_DDLS SG, page 75 – 76 for details).</p> <p><b>ACTION:</b> The DDLS Steering Group agrees that the presented list of DAC members is to be sent to the SciLifeLab board for approval.</p>	<p>Presenter: Ulrika Wallenquist</p> <p><b>Appendix:</b> 7. Appointment of DAC</p>

8	<p><b>DDLS visual identity</b> (see presentation “April 25_DDLS SG, page 78 – 93 for details).</p> <p><i>Presentation of the on-going work with a DDLS visual identity. Examples were shown for presentation material, such as a one page PowerPoint slide describing the program, word documents, posters etc.</i></p> <p><i>Comments from SG:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is a need of image material with a DDLS identity</i></li> <li>• <i>A stamp-size DDLS item/graphical element is needed for acknowledging funding in e.g. powerpoint presentations or on web sites etc.</i></li> </ul> <p><i>Existing DDLS visual elements, graphics and a general DDLS slide deck can be found here: <a href="https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/Kk2szB3riDm325t">https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/Kk2szB3riDm325t</a></i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Johan Inganni</i></p>
9	<p><b>Update from WABI</b> (see presentation “April 25_DDLS SG, page 95 – 97 for details).</p> <p><i>Presentation of applications from the WABI call Round 240202 and their distribution over the four DDLS research areas. Work is on-going to propose a new WABI evaluation committee, nominations are still being collected.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS SG discussed how research groups supported by WABI funding can be integrated into the DDLS community and if DDLS/WABI could request involvement and visibility.</i></p> <p><i>How can we make better use of good applications that do not fit in the WABI model but still could be an excellent match for collaborations with e.g. specific DDLS fellows?</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Björn Nystedt</i></p>
10	<p><b>AI strategy for DDLS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>How do we take into account global AI developments, how do we position DDLS internationally and nationally?</i></li> <li>• <i>What will be our impact 10 years from now?</i></li> </ul> <p><u><i>Comments from SG:</i></u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is a need to connect the abstract vision with some action</i></li> <li>• <i>Maybe share lessons learned? Arrange workshops/ journal clubs with case stories?</i></li> <li>• <i>Have an annual event focused on AI and practical use of AI?</i></li> <li>• <i>What is the scope of our AI use, where do we focus?</i></li> </ul> <p><i>This will be further discussed on the DDLS strategy meeting, June 12.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

11	<p><b>Update from DDLS Fellow recruitment, 2.0</b></p> <p><i>In total 682 applications were received. Two candidates have so far accepted offers; Antonio Lentini (Precision medicine &amp; diagnostics at LiU) and Kaisa Thorell (Epidemiology &amp; biology of infection at GU).</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>There is an impression that the overall quality of applications at some sites may not always be quite as high as in round 1.</i></li> <li>• <i>Local recruitments more common this time</i></li> <li>• <i>The DDLS recruitment WG has had more dialogue with partners this time.</i></li> <li>• <i>So far some of the positions will need to be re-advertised, likely in the autumn of 2024 as round 2.5.</i></li> </ul>	<p><i>Presenters: DDLS recruitments WG</i></p>
12	<p><b>Update from Research areas</b></p> <p><b>Evolution and biodiversity</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Evolution and Biodiversity symposium, co-arranged with Swedish Systematics Association, Nov. 2024, Gothenburg</i></li> <li>• <i>Evolution and Biodiversity symposium January 2025: Linköping [with Evolution in Sweden]</i></li> <li>• <i>Evolution and Biodiversity symposium Fall 2025: Umeå?</i></li> <li>• <i>DSN node is planning for a community survey to explore prioritization of tasks for the infrastructure work of the node</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Precision medicine and diagnostics</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Precision Medicine and Diagnostic symposium, Nov 5, Linköping</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Cell and molecular biology</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>The request for research infrastructure proposals for Data Science Node in CMB is now open (open from 22 April until 15 May). Sverker/Thomas will schedule an introductory webinar shortly.</i></li> <li>• <i>The CMB symposium lunch to lunch is ongoing, April 25-26. 112 participants have signed up for Day 1 and 101 participants for Day 2 at AstraZeneca.</i></li> </ul> <p><b>Epidemiology and biology of infection</b> (see presentation "April 25_DDLS SG, page 104 – 107 for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Mini-symposiums</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <i>Autumn 2024 (2nd half of October-beginning of November) in Uppsala: focus on environmental epidemiology</i></li> <li>○ <i>EMBL-SciLifeLab workshop: Infection Biology Across Scales 3-4 February 2025, Umeå</i></li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Presenters: RA-leads</i></p>

	<p><i>On-going discussions about questionnaire/survey for DSN projects.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><i>Meeting with RA EBI DSN leaders on 18 April to discuss infrastructure project prioritization process and other issues</i></li> </ul>	
13	<p><b>Other issues</b></p> <p><i>No further issues.</i> <i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

2024-05-14



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Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting

2024-05-11



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Tuuli Lappalainen, Attending minutes