

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 35, 2024

Date: *October 2, 2024*

Time: *9.00 - 12.00*

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/66766429601>

Attending members:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University, §4 - §8)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University, §3 - §11)

Other participants:

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

Siv Andersson (KAW representative, §1 - §5)

Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director)

Jan Ellenberg (Director SciLifeLab)

Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre, §2 - §5)

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)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Björn Nystedt (Head of unit Bioinformatics Long-term Support, WABI, §1 - §5)

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

Members not attending:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

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

Agenda 2024-10-02

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

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

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Sara Hallin was chosen to attend the minutes.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group approved the previous minutes.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p> <p>Appendix: 1. Previous minutes, 24-08-26</p>
2	<p>Welcoming new SciLifeLab director and presentation of DDLS Steering group members</p> <p><i>Presentation from new SciLifeLab director and short presentations of present DDLS Steering group members and participants in the meeting.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Jan Ellenberg, DDLS SG</i></p>
3	<p>ELSI help desk</p> <p><i>SciLifeLab/DDLS needs to strengthen the ELSI aspects and ensure that all operations include and cover ELSI aspects. SciLifeLab Data Centre receives many questions from researchers related to operational and practical aspects of ELSI and thereby see a need for an “ELSI helpdesk” with a dedicated ELSI person. This helpdesk needs to be integrated in the overall ELSI structure at SciLifeLab.</i></p> <p><i>EMBL have encountered similar issues and are happy to share experiences.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Johan Rung</i></p>
4	<p>Future strategy; Launch of RCP's, ELSI (See presentation “October 2_DDLS SG presentations, page 6 - 18 for details)</p> <p><i>ELSI:</i> <i>To build an ELSI structure in large diverse organizations is challenging and therefore a dedicated ELSI working group with representatives from the SciLifeLab strategic council, the DDLS Steering group, Operations office and SciLifeLab Data Centre is needed. SciLifeLab strategic council will follow up the ELSI activity question for a coordinated effort.</i> <i>DDLS SG members of the ELSI working group is to be decided.</i></p> <p><i>AI Strategy:</i> <i>The work to establish an AI lead and AI coordination is ongoing. The role of the AI-lead is being defined and Ola Spjuth has accepted to take on the assignment (0,25 FTE). The next step will be to strengthen the resources to an AI team and a coordinator.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Olli Kallioniemi</i></p>

	<p>Research Community Projects:</p> <p><i>The plan is to launch a call for Data-driven research communities that could include 3-30 collaborative researchers that can work together to produce and make use of common data resources. There is a possibility to fund these for the next period with surplus funding. A change in the Research Community Program (RCP) concept was discussed and one suggested model would be to place more focus on data, for example by coordinating research materials, biobanks, data production and sharing as well as utilization. A clear definition of the desired communities is important, such as whether they should be tight communities around a specific topic or larger overarching multidisciplinary communities united by e.g. a given technology? How can SciLifeLab infrastructure participate? Scientific excellence, and generation of new knowledge as well as a datacentric vision should be the key.</i></p> <p><i>A draft for an Expression of interest call for forming research / data communities will be prepared and presented at the next DDLS SG meeting.</i></p> <p><u>Summary – Planning of new efforts</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AI Lead and AI coordination <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Step 1: Launch of a role for AI lead ○ Step 2. Strengthen resources to the DC AI team that works with the AI lead • Assignment of an ELSI group <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Define assignment and group composition 2. Identify possible ELSI group members or launch an open call ○ Project team: SciLifeLab representative (Director or MG member) DDLS representative (Director or SG member) Support: Coordinator, call system expert, comms, finance • Set up an Expression of Interest call for forming research / data communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Objective: Define the call for a community program call. Inspiration is the SciLifeLab Research Community Programs (RCPs) ○ Team to finalize the call text 	
5	<p>Reallocation of Phase I surplus discussion (See presentation “October 2_DDLS SG presentations, page 20 - 31 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation of the DDLS Phase 1 surplus allocation process, highlighting long-term funding exceeding Phase 1, balance for unforeseen activities and distribution of surplus funding.</i></p> <p><i>Phase 1 surplus from the category “Unforeseen activities” is suggested to go to the following activities:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research community building (NESTs) • ELSI activities (including ELSI helpdesk) • Increased funding to the four RA’s (coordination support) • Extra funding to the DDLS research school and Training Hub collaboration 	<p>Presenter: Jenny Alfredsson</p> <p>Appendices: 5a. Phase 1 financial follow-up_ver 02.</p> <p>5b. Reallocation of Phase 1 surplus for unforeseen activities_ver. 02.</p>

	<p>ACTION: The DDLs steering group supports the list of activities to be funded using phase 1 surplus, and for the list to be sent to the SciLifeLab board for approval and then to the final approval by KAW.</p>	
6	<p>DDLs communications and visual identity</p> <p><i>Presentation of status of the ongoing work with the DDLs visual identity, templates and guidelines for DDLs communication.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> <i>Johan Inganni</i></p>
7	<p>Update from DDLs Program Office (See presentation "October 2_DDLs SG presentations, page 33 - 47 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation of DDLs program office and the support for the program that includes SciLifeLab Operations Office, Data Centre and NBIS. The extended program support also includes coordinators and administrators at all 11 partner organizations and other KAW funded programs.</i></p> <p><i>Even though the SciLifeLab event call is open to DDLs Fellows the DDLs Program office receives a number of requests for financial support to both courses and events. To increase awareness about DDLs and encourage collaborations a process has been prepared to handle requests for event support:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Open call period (request can be handled at any time)</i> • <i>Request should be sent to ddls@scilifelab.se and include a description and budget.</i> • <i>Requests of less than 200 000 SEK KAW funding will be decided by the SciLifeLab Head of operations after consultation with the DDLs program office.</i> • <i>KAW funding terms and conditions apply</i> <p><i>To receive support, the event must:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Support the mission of accelerating the data-driven life science paradigm shift in Swedish academia</i> • <i>Support Swedish scientists and universities to get closer to the global forefront in data-driven life science</i> • <i>Increase awareness of DDLs to the broader research community in Sweden and abroad</i> • <i>Have a national focus, and accept participants from all over Sweden.</i> • <i>Be organized in Sweden.</i> • <i>Prominently feature SciLifeLab, the DDLs program and the financier KAW in advertisements (nationally) and during the event.</i> • <i>Have co-funding for the event.</i> • <i>Last at least one full day, and</i> • <i>The primary organizer(s) should be academic (group leader, PhD student or post doc)</i> 	<p><i>Presenters:</i> <i>Heidi Persson,</i> <i>Erika Erksam</i></p>

	<p>Update about the DDLS Annual conference 2024. Information and registration: DDLS Annual Conference - SciLifeLab</p>	
8	<p>Re-assignment of DDLS Advisory Committee</p> <p>All previous member have been asked to continue as DDLS advisors on a 1-year assignment, and the following have accepted to be re-nominated:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Toni Gabaldon, Institute for Research in Biomedicine, ES • Alexander Schönhuth, Universität Bielefeld, DE • Jaume Bacardit, Newcastle University, UK • Alexandros Stamatakis, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, DE • Tero Aittokallio, Oslo University Hospital, NO • Sofia Kirke Forslund, Max Delbrück Center, DE • Anthony Mathelier, University of Oslo, NO • Matti Nykter, Tampere University, FI • María Rodríguez Martínez, Yale School of Medicine, USA <p>This committee will mainly work as a project evaluation committee, reviewing applications for research school projects. For more strategic advice about the DDLS program the SciLifeLab international advisory board should be involved.</p> <p>ACTION: The DDLS Steering group agree to re-assign members of the DDLS advisory committee according to the list above. The DDLS steering group also agrees to add a few additional members after approval by the Research school directors and the DDLS program director.</p>	<p>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</p> <p>Appendix: 8. Re-assignment of DAC</p>
9	<p>Update from DDLS Research Areas</p> <p>Evolution and biodiversity (See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG presentations, page 51 - 52 for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5th mini-symposium, November 18-19, 2024 (In conjunction with systematics association mtg in Gothenburg) • 6th mini-symposium, spring 2025 (In conjunction with Evolution in Sweden mtg in Linköping) • 7th mini-symposium, fall 2025 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Option 1: DDLS-specific meeting in Umeå ○ Option 2: Joint meeting with BioSyst EU in Uppsala <p>DSN node:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory of DSN infrastructure project ideas recently closed • Five applications, ranked by the DDLS expert group in Evolution & Biodiversity • Undergoing technical feasibility analysis • Decision meeting on October 11 	<p>Presenters: RA-leads</p>

	<p>Precision medicine and diagnostics</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Precision Medicine and Diagnostic symposium, Nov 5, has been postponed and will be arranged in spring 2025 in Linköping. The PMD RA experts' group have 3 new members (Rikard Landberg (GU), Annikka Polster (Chalmers), Ziad Hijazi (UU)) PMD DSN is involved in the launch of the precision medicine Data portal. 	
10	<p>Update from DDLS research school (See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG presentations, page 53 - 55 for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The call for DDLS research school courses is closed and 18 proposals were received. These are currently under evaluation. The SciLifeLab board approved all research school related items on the board meeting Sept 17th, both calls for academic PhD projects and industrial PhD projects, Terms and conditions for academic supervisors in industrial PhD projects and the decision letter for industrial PIs. All PhD students are invited to pre-kick-off and social event on Nov 13 in connection to the DDLS annual conference. 	<p>Presenter: Olof Emanuelsson, RS-director</p>
11	<p>Update from DDLS Fellow recruitment, 2.0 – Recruitment round 2.5? (See presentation "October 2_DDLS SG presentations, page 57 for details)</p> <p>Three positions will be re-announced and discussions are on-going about the time for a potential joint re-announcement campaign.</p>	<p>Presenter: Carolina Wählby</p>
12	<p>Director's update</p> <p>The first joint conference between DDLS, WASP and WASP-HS was held at the Wallenberg conference center in Göteborg on the 24-25th of September with the theme: "the Disruptive role of data and AI in the Life Sciences". The conference had key note talks mixed with presentations from researchers of joint projects (DDLS/WASP or DDLS/WASP-HS). Especially the DDLS/WASP-HS projects generated broad interest and discussions. WASP-HS will now also be funded by KAW to collaborate with DDLS and a lot of discussions are ongoing about future collaborations.</p> <p><u>Upcoming meetings and events</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DDLS research area EBI symposium, Navet Uppsala 7–8 oct SciLifeLab Day in Uppsala, Universitetshuset, 17 oct. SciLifeLab PULSE consortium meeting & information webinars October-November DDLS Annual Conference 2024, Hilton Slussen, Stockholm 13-14 Nov. Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists, 8-13 dec. Stockholm Symposium & Bankett, 12 dec. <p>2025:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DDLS Evolution and Biodiversity, Linköping, 13-15 Jan. EMBL-SciLifeLab-DDLS Infection Biology workshop 2025, 3-4 Feb. Hfp Leadership course, 5-7 Feb. DDLS Cell and Molecular Biology symposia, march/April 	<p>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PALS annual network meeting, 2-4 June • SciLifeLab/DDLS Fellows retreat, 25-26 Aug. • SciLifeLab Group Leader retreat, Skogsheim & Wijk, 18-19 sept. • Science Summit, Oct 1, (DDD+biomarkers) Aula Medica • DDLS Annual Conference 12-13 Nov. (Wednesday-Thursday) 	
13	<p>Other issues</p> <p>No further issues. The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</p>	<p>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</p>



Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting

Sara Hallin, Attending minutes

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