

VC-2024-0062

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## SciLifeLab PULSE

### Minutes from National Steering Committee (NSC) meeting no 1, June 12, 2025

#### Present members

Mia Phillipson (UU, SciLifeLab PULSE Director, chair), Christos Samakovlis (SU), Elisabet Carlsohn (GU), Aristidis Moustakas (UU), Linda Sandblad (UmU), Håkan Billig (GU), Hjalmar Brismar (KTH), Fredrik Elinder (LiU), Magnus Johansson (ÖrU), Carsten Daub (KI), Markus Heidenblad (LU)

#### Absent:

Marjo Puumalainen (Sweden Bio, SciLifeLab PULSE NSC member)

#### Other participants

Jenny Alfredsson (UU, SciLifeLab Head of Operations), Maria Bäckström (UU, SciLifeLab PULSE Coordinator), Kristian Sandberg (UU, Co-Director SciLifeLab Drug and Discovery Development platform)

## 1. Meeting formalities

Mia Phillipson welcomed all members and opened the meeting. All members presented themselves.

#### Decision:

*The SciLifeLab PULSE National Steering Committee appointed Markus Heidenblad to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.*

## 2. Information and update from the Program Management Group

Management and coordination, communications, outcome of the call including statistics, training and the timeline ahead was presented. The plan for PULSE development and continuation was also shared.

Discussion on the challenges with having the call for new SciLifeLab group leaders at the same time as the SciLifeLab PULSE call. This has been evaluated and will be taken into consideration for the 2026 SciLifeLab PULSE call.

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### **3. Evaluator panel approval**

Information on the approval as a per capsulam decision made on 2025-04-01

### **4. Work program for SciLifeLab PULSE National Steering Committee**

Discussion on the tasks for the PULSE NSC. The committee will mainly be a decision-making committee, and meetings twice a year unless extraordinary circumstances will be sufficient. Feedback and input from the committee are welcome, and updates on the program progress will be sent to the committee regularly.

### **5. SciLifeLab PULSE Training report, spring 2025**

No questions raised. Should questions occur, these can be sent to [pulse@scilifelab.se](mailto:pulse@scilifelab.se) for forwarding to Jessica Lindvall, SciLifeLab PULSE Training Director.

### **6. Decision on selection of the first cohort of PULSE postdocs**

A description of the evaluation process, scoring model, and presentation of statistics for the selected candidates was provided. Based on the quality of the proposals, six proposals for the entrepreneurial track and 18 proposals for the academic track passed evaluation criteria and were shortlisted for suggested approval to the committee. One of the entrepreneurial candidates was changed into the academic track since the Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) for the project results otherwise would go to the industrial partner involved. Three postdocs in the entrepreneurial track will get additional funding from the DDD platform. Two candidates withdrew their application due to other job offers. The decision about selected postdocs will be distributed once the meeting minutes are approved - first to the candidates, and then to the national SciLifeLab management structures.

#### Decision:

*The SciLifeLab PULSE National Steering Committee approved the 24 candidates listed in Appendix A, that have passed the entire evaluation process, as SciLifeLab PULSE postdocs.*

### **7. Non-disclosure agreement with the SciLifeLab PULSE Ethics Advisor**

Suggestion to mandate the Coordinator to negotiate and execute a non-disclosure agreement, for and on behalf of all parties of the Partnership, with the SciLifeLab PULSE Ethics Advisor

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Decision:

*The SciLifeLab PULSE National Steering Committee approved to mandate the Coordinator to negotiate and execute a non-disclosure agreement, for and on behalf of all parties of the Partnership, with the SciLifeLab PULSE Ethics Advisor. See Appendix B.*

N.B One of the members abstained from voting, but this did not affect the decision, as a majority vote was achieved.

**8. The PULSE National Steering Committee will have the role of Scientific and Impact committee, assure national focus and that Postdocs are embedded in SciLifeLab and local environments.**

The chair welcomed input from the National Steering Committee. The committee discussed whether the NSC members need to act as mentors for the SciLifeLab PULSE postdocs, and was informed that no individual follow-ups with the PULSE postdocs is required from the committee.

**9. Closure of the meeting**

*Other items:*

- 1. A Doodle for the next meeting in autumn 2025 will be sent out together with the minutes.*
- 2. For improvements of the next call, input and feedback from HR-representatives and other university functions are welcome.*
- 3. Statistics on the interviews per university will be sent to the committee together with the minutes.*

The chair thanked the participants and closed the meeting.



Maria Bäckström, secretary

Minutes approved by:



Mia Phillipson



Markus Heidenblad

Proposal	Proposal title	Name of applicant	Gender	PULSE host university	Track	Score - written	Score - Interview 1	Score - Interview 2	Weighted final Score - written	Weighted final Score - Interview 1	Weighted final Score - Interview 2	FINAL SCORE*
<a href="#">PULSE-042</a>	Lung Neo-Omics: Integrative multiomics discovery and validation of neoantigens for lung cancer precision medicine	Alberto M. Arenas Molina	Male	Karolinska Institutet	Academic track	4,8	4,5	4,9	2,2	1,6	1,0	4,7
<a href="#">PULSE-051</a>	Unlocking membrane permeable cyclic peptides for use as therapeutics	Anna M P Carbery	Female	Karolinska Institutet	Entrepreneurial track	4,3	4,1	4,8	1,9	1,4	1,0	4,3
<a href="#">PULSE-086</a>	Repressing quorum sensing communication in <i>Staphylococcus aureus</i> as an alternative therapeutic strategy to control bacterial tolerance to antibiotics	Heba Khateb	Female	Karolinska Institutet	Academic track	4,2	3,9	4,2	1,9	1,4	0,8	4,1
<a href="#">PULSE-106</a>	Targeted Precision: Advancing Oligonucleotide and DNA Nanostructure Therapeutics for High-Risk Neuroblastoma	Lionel Leck	Male	Karolinska Institutet	Academic track	4,3	3,5	3,9	1,9	1,2	0,8	3,9
<a href="#">PULSE-093</a>	Longitudinal analysis of the molecular patterns of the menstrual cycle	Irene Duba	Female	KTH	Academic track	3,7	4,6	4,9	1,7	1,6	1,0	4,3
<a href="#">PULSE-063</a>	Targeted lipid nanoparticles for brain repair: a dual mRNA therapy for GLUT1-DS using advanced models	Ana Spencer	Female	KTH	Academic track	4,2	4,7	4,9	1,9	1,6	1,0	4,5
<a href="#">PULSE-099</a>	Integrative approaches to biomarker identification for early diagnosis of neurological complications induced by arboviral infections	Patricia Sosa Acosta	Female	KTH	Academic track	4,3	4,5	4,4	1,9	1,6	0,9	4,4
<a href="#">PULSE-031</a>	SMARD: Small Molecule-Assisted Cell Reprogramming to cDC1	Peng Wei	Male	Lund University	Academic track	4,2	4,4	4,8	1,9	1,5	1,0	4,4
<a href="#">PULSE-046</a>	Development of an Integrated Platform for Engineering High Affinity Binders to Target Membrane Proteins for Degradation	Melike Berksöz	Female	Lund University	Entrepreneurial track	4,3	4,1	4,4	1,9	1,4	0,9	4,3
<a href="#">PULSE-054</a>	Causality in recombination suppression at a colour morph supergene	Guillaume L. Lavanchy	Male	Lund University	Academic track	4,6	5,0	4,7	2,1	1,8	0,9	4,7
<a href="#">PULSE-078</a>	EMBLEM: Endocrine disruptors and MetaBoLites Exposure in MASLD progression	Jade Chaker	Female	Örebro University	Academic track	4,6	4,7	4,9	2,1	1,6	1,0	4,7
<a href="#">PULSE-048</a>	Structural proteomics investigations of oxygen sensing and homeostasis	Hamish Pegg	Male	Stockholm University	Academic track	4,0	4,2	4,9	1,8	1,5	1,0	4,3
<a href="#">PULSE-098</a>	COMET: Comparative Omics for Environmental Transcriptomics – Investigating Molecular Adaptations Across Species	Nina Trubanová	Female	Stockholm University	Academic track	3,9	4,4	4,2	1,8	1,5	0,8	4,1
<a href="#">PULSE-081</a>	Longitudinal Establishment of Long-Lived Plasma Cell Responses to Respiratory Viruses: Implications for Vaccine Durability and Antibody-Dependent Enhancement in the Elderly	Jean Claude Balingit	Female	Umeå University	Academic track	4,4	3,7	4,8	2,0	1,3	1,0	4,2
<a href="#">PULSE-088</a>	Single-Cell Metagenomics for Tracking Antimicrobial Resistance in the Gut Microbiome	Chaitra Shankar	Female	Umeå University	Academic track	4,2	4,5	4,8	1,9	1,6	1,0	4,4
<a href="#">PULSE-090</a>	Rational Design of Fluorescent LD-Transpeptidase Specific Probes for Peptidoglycan Biosynthesis: Bridging Computational Chemistry and Microbiology	Barbara Walenkiewicz	Female	Umeå University	Academic track	3,7	4,6	4,9	1,7	1,6	1,0	4,3
<a href="#">PULSE-073</a>	Next-Generation RNA Vaccines for Broad Protection Against Influenza A, SARS-CoV-2, and Emerging Variants	Suparna Chakraborty	Female	University of Gothenburg	Academic track	4,2	3,8	4,8	1,9	1,3	1,0	4,2
<a href="#">PULSE-010</a>	Photoperiodic Regulation of Reproduction in Atlantic Herring	Lijing Tang	Male	Uppsala University	Academic track	4,5	4,2	4,9	2,0	1,5	1,0	4,5
<a href="#">PULSE-024</a>	Uncovering the transposable element origins of mammalian cis-regulatory networks	Isaac Yellán	Male	Uppsala University	Academic track	4,0	4,7	4,8	1,8	1,7	1,0	4,4
<a href="#">PULSE-058</a>	A platform Technology for Cyclic Peptides as Molecular Glues for Proximity-Inducing Pharmacology	Gulshan Amrahova	Female	Uppsala University	Entrepreneurial track	4,4	3,5	4,6	2,0	1,2	0,9	4,1
<a href="#">PULSE-095</a>	Multiplex PLA-flow for Flow Cytometric Detection of Fusion Proteins in Leukemia	Sahar Balkhi	Female	Uppsala University	Academic track	3,7	4,2	4,4	1,7	1,5	0,9	4,0
<a href="#">PULSE-100</a>	Development of uncertainty-aware machine learning models based on DNA-encoded libraries to improve hit identification	Álvaro Serrano Morás	Male	Uppsala University	Entrepreneurial track	4,3	4,4	4,9	1,9	1,5	1,0	4,4
<a href="#">PULSE-108</a>	Sex-specific trajectories of early-life stress: unraveling the neural and molecular underpinnings of neuropsychiatric disorders	Lisa Wiersch	Female	Uppsala University	Academic track	4,2	4,5	4,8	1,9	1,6	1,0	4,4
<a href="#">PULSE-109</a>	Innovative delivery strategies of oligonucleotide-based treatments to treat drug-resistant bacterial pathogens.	Solène Beauvois	Female	Uppsala University	Entrepreneurial track	4,0	4,3	4,0	1,8	1,5	0,8	4,1

\*The final evaluation score has been weighted as follows: written research proposal (45%), interview 1 (35%), and interview 2 (20%).

# Ethics Summary Report



<b>Call Reference</b>	HORIZON-MSCA-2023-COFUND-01
<b>Proposal Number</b>	101177199
<b>Acronym</b>	SciLifeLab PULSE

## Ethics Issues

### Personal data

Yes

### Non-EU countries

Yes

### Other ethics issues

Yes

The individual research projects, which will be part of the COFUND programmes are known only at a later stage. For this reason, applicants are asked to develop in their proposals an ethics procedure, which should address all ethics issues identified under Horizon Europe. Therefore, the ethics screening focuses on the analysis of the ethics procedure described in the proposal and provides recommendations for its improvement.

Concerning Personal data: COFUND programmes implement selection procedures to recruit fellows. Therefore, experts draw the beneficiaries' attention on Article 15 – Data protection of the Grant Agreement.

#### a. Analysis of the ethics

~~Because~~ PULSE prepares researchers in high-throughput technologies and data-dense analytical approaches, applied to precision medicine, pandemic laboratory preparedness, planetary biology and drug discovery and development. The ethics parameters of the call, selection and implementation phases are adequate.

#### 1) Application phase

The programme website will provide guidance on the ethical requirements. Applicants will fill out a ethics self-assessment form to include in the application.

#### 2) Selection and evaluation of research proposals

The projects will undergo an ethics assessment/check during the evaluation process. If there are ethical issues, the applicants will need to obtain ethical approval by the hosting university ethics committee. It is the responsibility of the PI to ensure the project receives ethical approval before the research begins.

#### 3) Implementation/ follow-up of research projects

Research will not be allowed to begin until the relevant ethics authorisations have been obtained. The Ethics Committee will monitor the research and assess annually the ethics status, which will be the basis for ethics reports.

#### 4) Ethics training

All fellows will attend a research ethics training course.

#### b. Recommendations

- Recommendation 1 : There is a partner from Canada among the participating organisations. In case activities undertaken in non-EU countries raise ethics issues, the beneficiary must confirm that the research conducted outside the EU is legal in at least one EU Member State.

## Ethics Opinion

Conditional ethics clearance (clearance is subject to conditions, i.e. ethics requirements. The requirements must either be fulfilled before grant signature or become part of the grant agreement)

## External Independent Ethics Advisor/Board

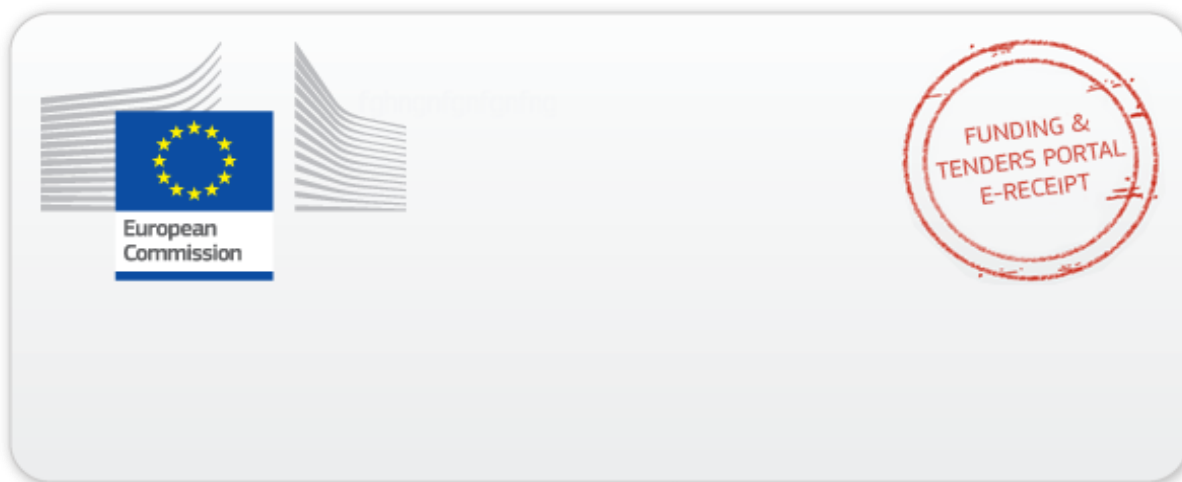
<b>In your opinion, would it be exceptionally necessary to appoint an external independent ethics advisor or an ethics board (with a minimum of three experts) reporting periodically to the Commission/Agency/funding body?</b>	<b>Yes (Ethics Advisor)</b>
An ethics mentor must be appointed to identify and follow-up the ethics aspects in the project but given the size of the grant an independent ethics expert is recommended.	

## Ethics Check or Review during the project

<b>In your opinion, would an Ethics Check or Ethics Review be necessary during the project?</b>	<b>Yes (Ethics Check)</b>
The relevant project officer at the European Research Executive Agency will perform the ethics check based on the ethics deliverables submitted by the beneficiary after each call and at the end of the project.	

## General requirement applicable to all grants

The beneficiaries must ensure that all ethics issues related to activities in the grant are addressed in compliance with ethical principles, the applicable international and national law, and the provisions set out in the Grant Agreement. This includes the ethics issues identified in this report and any additional ethics issues that may emerge in the course of the grant. In case any substantial new ethics issues arise, beneficiaries should inform the granting authority. For each ethics issue applicable, beneficiaries must follow the guidance provided in the [How to complete your ethics self-assessment](#).



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