

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 38, 2025

Date: *January 22, 2025*

Time: *13:00 – 16:00*

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/66326171704?from=addon>

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University, §1 - §7, §9 - §10)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Fredrik Ronquist (NRM, Swedish Museum of Natural History)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University, §1 - §7, §9 - §10)

Other participants:

Olli Kallioniemi (Director of the DDLS research program, §1- §2, §4 - §10), Chair of the meeting

Siv Andersson (KAW representative)

Jan Ellenberg (Director SciLifeLab, §1- §2, §4 - §10)

Ylva Engström (Chair of SciLifeLab Board, §2 - §4)

Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology, §6 - §10)

Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director, §6 - §10)

Peetra Magnusson (DDLS Research School director, §6 - §10)

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)

Mojgan Seraji (Collaboration manager, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

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

Wojtek Potrzebowski (Data Science Coordinator, SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Members not attending:

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

Next meeting: March 13, April 24, June 10, August 27, October 2, November 11, December 15, 2025

Agenda 2025-01-22

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

<https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/pabrDgjXL8nr9pD>

1	<p>Meeting formalities</p> <p><i>Erik Kristiansson was chosen to attend the minutes. Due to conflict of interest for Erik K. in §8 that item was attended by Janne Lehtiö.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Steering group approved the previous minutes.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Olli Kallioniemi</p> <p>Appendix: 1. Previous minutes, 24-12-16</p>
2	<p>Director's update (See presentation "January 22_DDLS SG presentation" page 3-20 for details)</p> <p><u>Update from the DDLS director with highlights and news from the DDLS program.</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A NRG meeting with discussion about DDLS fellows' concerns – Feb 13 • The DDLS/WASP-HS call is now closed with 26 applications and eligible applications are now under review. SG will be updated on-line as the matter goes to the board. Decisions will be taken by the SciLifeLab board, Feb 11. • Continued collaboration DDLS/WASP-HS with an Interdisciplinary Sandpit Workshop May 14-16 (Exploring Human and Social Challenges in Data-Driven Life Sciences) • Decisions will be taken for the NEST call applications by WASP and SciLifeLab board in March and April. • Ola Spjuth has been assigned the role as AI lead for SciLifeLab. A national AI strategy for SciLifeLab will be developed by the AI lead together with director and co-director of SciLifeLab. <p><i>The expression of Interest calls for RDCP's is now open: RDCP call 2025 - SciLifeLab</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Olli Kallioniemi</p>
3	<p>DDLS directorship from July 1st, 2025</p> <p><i>Presentation by SciLifeLab board chair, Ylva Engström about the process and board view on the DDLS directorship. The mandate for our current DDLS Director will expire June 30. A new DDLS director will be appointed and after consulting with KAW the SciLifeLab board will decide on the candidate during this spring.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Ylva Engström</p>
4	<p>Recruitment of 11 new DDLS fellows (See presentation "January 22_DDLS SG presentation" page 22-33 for details)</p> <p><i>In accordance with the latest donation from KAW to the DDLS program, a new round of DDLS fellows will be recruited (recruitment 3.0). A discussion about the recruitment, timing and preferred research profile of the 11 new DDLS fellows</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Olli Kallioniemi</p>

	<p><i>was initiated and some topics from the discussions are:</i></p> <p>Identifying Research Gaps and Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Collect CVs and ideas from current fellows to identify research areas that could complement their existing work.</i> • <i>Ask fellows for input on where announcements might have the greatest impact.</i> • <i>Use open and broad announcements, emphasizing key program assets such as research environments and computing services to attract candidates.</i> • <i>If research gaps in the DDLS program are identified, ensure they align with the research profiles sought by partner organizations. Leave topics open but prioritize AI development and new computer science technologies.</i> <p>Timing and Focus Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Align recruitment efforts with the US recruitment phase to maximize competitiveness.</i> • <i>Shift focus from recruiting life science researchers adopting AI tools to attracting AI experts for technology development.</i> <p>Placement and Departmental Needs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recognize that life science departments may not always provide suitable environments for AI experts.</i> • <i>Consider departments and environments that are also connected to IT, mathematics, and computational science to offer teaching opportunities and attract AI researchers.</i> <p>Maintaining Life Science Connections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Ensure life science remains central to the DDLS program while connecting AI researchers to life science interfaces.</i> • <i>Assess whether the current DDLS research areas are limiting the recruitment of AI developers and computational scientists.</i> <p>Evaluation and Review Process</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Involve external reviewers with expertise in AI and computational science to assess candidates.</i> • <i>Expand local research committees at partner organizations to include individuals knowledgeable about AI who can identify top AI talent.</i> <p>Advertisements and Research Focus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Emphasize the development of AI tools in advertisements, placing less priority on specific research topics.</i> • <i>Highlight interdisciplinary collaboration as a key aspect of the program.</i> <p>Creating Suitable Environments</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Recognize that "true" AI researchers may fit best in math or computational science departments rather than life science departments.</i> • <i>Encourage collaboration between departments to create environments</i> 	
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	<p>conducive to AI-focused DDLS fellows. Strengthen ties with programs like WASP to enhance these efforts.</p> <p>Attracting the Right Talent</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on recruiting computer science talents interested in engaging with life science. • Prioritize candidates with the ability to build collaborations across disciplines. <p>Some of these points will be reflected at the upcoming NRG meeting.</p>	
5	<p>Update from DDLS Program Office (See presentation “January 22_DDLS SG presentation” page 35-41 for details)</p> <p>The annual DDLS conference will take place on November 12–13, 2025, with suggestions for the event outlined on slide 36 of the presentation materials. Given the strong attendance in previous years, a new idea is to organize parallel sessions for the Research Areas on the second day, allowing more DDLS fellows the opportunity to present their research.</p> <p>Another suggestion from the Steering Group is to include flash talks by new DDLS fellows on the first day, providing them with an opportunity to introduce themselves.</p> <p>The planning process for the 2025 conference begins now. If you would like to provide input, suggest changes, or propose new directions, please contact Erika. (erika.erkstam@scilifelab.uu.se).</p> <p>A summary of the DDLS directors' decisions and the Head of Operations' decisions related to the DDLS program during 2024 was presented.</p> <p>The survey for partner organizations (see appendix) will be sent out in the last week of January, with a planned deadline of March 10. The survey will be presented at the upcoming NRG meeting, Feb 13th and the result presented and discussed at the next DDLS Steering Group meeting.</p> <p>An updated light version of the DDLS operational plan was presented, the detailed plan is found in the SG nextcloud folder.</p>	<p>Presenter: Heidi T. Persson</p> <p>Appendix: 5. DRAFT Survey to DDLS partner organizations</p>
6	<p>Presentation from RA leads</p> <p>Evolution and biodiversity (See presentation “January 22_DDLS SG presentation” page 43-44 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, January 13-15, 2025 (In conjunction with Evolution in Sweden mtg in Linköping) • 7th mini-symposia, fall 2025 (DDLS specific symposia organized by DDLS fellows in Umeå) 	<p>Presenters: RA-leads</p>

	<p><i>The RA-expert group will increase the coordinator assignment from 10% to 15%. The RA-experts group have 7 members and a rotation of members is coming up.</i></p> <p>Precision medicine & diagnostics (See presentation "January 22_DDLS SG presentation" page 45-63 for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The RA-experts group has been updated and the term of office is until March 31, 2026. The RA-experts group have 5 members and new members might be considered.</i> • <i>Mini-symposia planning is on-going.</i> <p>Epidemiology & Biology of Infection (See presentation "January 22_DDLS SG presentation" page 64-67 for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Presentation of the 8 members of the RA-experts group.</i> • <i>Arranged and planned activities</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>October 2024: Symposium on environmental infection epidemiology</i> ○ <i>EMBL-SciLifeLab workshop: Infection Biology Across Scales 3-4 February 2025, Umeå.</i> ○ <i>May 2025: Symposium on modelling infection. Stockholm.</i> ○ <i>Planned: representation at annual virology conference in Smögen, August 2025.</i> ○ <i>Planned: DDLS to sponsor a session at the National Infection Biology Conference in September 2025.</i> ○ <i>Spring Symposium 2026: Focus on pathogen-host interactions</i> <p>Cell & Molecular Biology (See presentation "January 22_DDLS SG presentation" page 68-69 for details)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Upcoming symposium planned 17-18 March in Uppsala at Ångström Lab. The registration is open: Imaging in Cell and Molecular Biology - SciLifeLab</i> • <i>Three symposia planned (Q1 and Q4 2025; Q1 2026)</i> 	
7	<p>Update from DC and the DSN guidelines (data services) (See presentation "January 22_DDLS SG presentation" page 70-75 for details)</p> <p><i>An extended DC Management Group (DCMG) has been established, comprising managers from various operational areas of DC, including DSN staff managers. The DCMG operates using an Agile methodology, holding brief and frequent meetings to plan, coordinate, and follow up on operational work. The focus is on specific, ongoing tasks rather than general organizational, strategic, or program-level issues.</i></p> <p><i>The DCMG is currently working on the DSN guidelines, which will be presented to the DDLS Steering Group at the next meeting.</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter: Johan Rung</i></p>

	<p><i>Update in short:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All teams (including DSN staff) developing software development roadmaps • Ongoing work on information security processes and adherence to NIS2 • Planning meetings with the KI, UmU and Chalmers nodes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • KI: 19/12 and 15/1 with team and management regarding coordination and planning for 2025 • UmU: 20/12 with management regarding coordination and needs for sensitive data management • Chalmers: 16/1 with management and project leaders regarding the roadmap for ongoing projects and allocations through SUPR • Visiting CERN in February to discuss technical frameworks for Open Science and data management • Service uptime since last SG meeting: 99.96% 	
8	<p>Status Update on DDLS PhD Project Calls 2024 (See presentation “January 22_DDLS SG presentation” page 76-83 for details)</p> <p><i>Outcome and Information About the DDLS PhD Project Calls 2024</i></p> <p><u>Conflict of Interest (COI):</u> Erik Kristiansson and Carolina Wählby, who applied to the calls as PI/co-PI, declared a conflict of interest (COI) and therefore did not attend the meeting during this agenda item. Fredrik Ronquist also reported a COI as a reviewer for some of the applications. However, as the DDLS Steering Group did not discuss individual applications, just the process and the outcome of the international evaluation, Fredrik R. participated in the discussion of this item.</p> <p><u>Summary of Applications:</u> A total of 187 applications were received: 167 academic PhD projects 20 industrial PhD projects The applications were evaluated by the DDLS Advisory Committee (DAC), which recommended 19 academic proposals and 7 industrial proposals for funding.</p> <p>For the 8 available slots for industrial PhD projects, the DAC deemed only 7 industrial proposals suitable for funding. The remaining slot for a DDLS Industrial PhD project will likely be carried over to the next call for DDLS Industrial PhD projects.</p> <p>Suggested Action: The DDLS Steering Group agrees that the process of carrying out this evaluation was sound and suggests to forward the recommended proposals to the SciLifeLab board for a final funding decision.</p>	<p><i>Presenters:</i> DDLS RS-directors</p>

9	<p>Ideas and topics for DDLS SG meeting – March 13 (full day meeting)</p> <p><i>A full-day meeting of the DDLS Steering Group is scheduled for March 13th, running from 9:00 - 16:30. The meeting will take place at the World Trade Center in Stockholm, conveniently located near the central station.</i></p> <p><i>The program is not yet finalized, but some of the topics to be covered include:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>DDLS Fellow Recruitment 3.0</i> • <i>The DDLS Research School and its role</i> • <i>Research Areas and their role</i> • <i>AI Strategies for DDLS</i> 	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Olli Kallioniemi</p>
10	<p>Other issues</p> <p><i>No further issues.</i> <i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	<p><i>Presenter:</i> Olli Kallioniemi</p>

Olli Kallioniemi, chair of the meeting



Erik Kristiansson, Attending minutes
(§1 - §7 and §9 - §10)

Janne Lehtiö, Attending minutes (§8)

Signature page

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