The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from Board Meeting no. 79, September 17, 2025

Present board members

Ylva Engström (SU, chair), Anna Arnqvist Björklund (UMU), Martin Bergö (KI §2-§15), Mats Larhed (UU, §1-§10), Mikael Lindström (KTH §2-§15), Carina Mallard (GU), Lena Mäler (SU), Christoph Varenhorst (Astra Zeneca, §1-§12)

Absent

Jonas Larsson (LU)

Other participants

Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS, Region Stockholm, §1-§2), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (LU, §1-§8), Jan Ellenberg (Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Annika J. Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Sandra Falck (OO, Head of operations), Johan Rung (Head of Data Centre, §4), Anna Lidin (OO, §1-§4a), Heidi Törmänen Persson (OO, §4), Mojgan Seraji (OO, §4d), Disa Larsson Hammarlöf (OO, §9), Titti Ekegren (OO, secretary), Åsa Westeson (OO, secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. Information was provided about the Chair's decision on assignment of Head of Operations (Sandra Falck) according to meeting no. 78, §9, 2025-05-21. Ylva Engström also notified that item §5a will have to be immediately approved. §14 was removed, since all received partner announcements include the generic texts already approved by the SciLifeLab Board.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab board appointed Anna Arnqvist Björklund to approve the minutes of the meeting, in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the minutes from meeting no 78, May 21, 2025.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the agenda.

2. Update from Director, incl. quarterly update

Jan Ellenberg provided an update on the ongoing work related to the strategic areas identified as focus areas for SciLifeLab. An update was also provided on the actions and news from platforms, capabilities and sites during the second quarter of 2025.

3. Financial update

Sandra Falck provided a brief financial update, focusing on the increased national funding in the latest Research and Innovation Bill. Plans and timelines for decisions regarding remaining 2025 funding were presented, as well as strategic initiatives and upcoming budget decisions 2026.

The new Grant Management system is now in an implementation and testing phase.

Finally, an update on the progress of the DDLS Phase 3 budget was presented.

4. Data and AI

4a. DDLS phase 3 application and budget

DNR: HS-2025-0914

Jan Ellenberg presented the ongoing preparation of the application for phase 3 of the DDLS program. The phase 3 application provides an opportunity to adjust funding allocations within the fixed 12-year DDLS budget framework of 3,3 BSEK. Key aspects of the adjustments are:

- Launching of a new postdoc program
- Aligning the funding scheme for new fellows
- Defining new strategic initiatives for phase 3:
    - Continue to build competence
    - Create and sustain impact
    - Integrate DDLS data services and bring in AI

4b. Integrated Data Service (IDS) update

Jan Ellenberg provided an overview of the IDS project, emphasizing its objective to substantially enhance the infrastructure's capacity for data management and analysis to enable seamless data flow and multi-omics data integration between SciLifeLab's technology platforms. Fifteen data scientists as well as five new AI positions are about to be recruited across the SciLifeLab platforms to strengthen the data management and analysis capacity.

4c. E-infrastructure

Johan Rung, Head of Data Centre, gave an update on how the SciLifeLab strategic direction for AI and data will require a more active role regarding IT services, particularly concerning compute and storage, as has been pointed out by the International Advisory Board. Immediate actions and more long-term directions were discussed.

4d. DDLS PhD recruitment calls

DNR: HS-2025-2150, HS-2025-2152

Jan Ellenberg informed about the recruitment of DDLS PhD students in Phase 3, starting in the fall of 2025 in order to strengthen the DDLS PhD program in the research school. The funded projects should be in line with the DDLS strategy and have a novel and original data-driven perspective, be of high scientific quality and combine the life science and data science research areas.

It is suggested that the SciLifeLab Board approves the presented document as a standing guideline for coming years with the same framework unless significant changes in budget or process are necessary.

A discussion took place on the importance of reaching out to relevant stakeholders and the best ways to communicate the call.

Decisions:
The SciLifeLab Board approved the Call for projects for academic PhD students, according to Appendix A.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the Call for projects for industrial PhD students, according to Appendix B.

The SciLifeLab Board delegated to the DDLS Research School Directors to finalize any remaining minor adjustments.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the process and call texts as templates for the future years such that, unless any major changes are needed, the DDLS RS can launch an annual call for PhD projects with the academy and industry as outlined in Appendix A and Appendix B.

5. Technology development

5a. Technical Development Projects (TDP) call launch

DNR: HS-2025-2151

Annika Jenmalm Jensen presented the suggestion to merge the upcoming Technology Development Project (TDP) call with the planned Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness (PLP) call, as well as integrating staff resources from NBIS and the Data Centre, into a single major call. The draft call text, including a proposed review process, was also presented.

A clarification concerning the eligibility requirements will be added to the call text.

Decision:
*The SciLifeLab Board approved the overall outline of the TDP call, including a suggested funding level of **30 MSEK (2026–2027)** from national funding.*

The SciLifeLab Board approved this item to be immediately adjusted.

6. Translation to healthcare

Jan Ellenberg reported about the ongoing work on establishing joint molecular medicine units at the University Hospitals of founding and partner universities, as formulated in the SciLifeLab Application to Vinnova's Cluster of Excellence call entitled: "Breakthrough Technologies in Molecular Life Science to Power Precision Medicine and the Future of Healthcare in Sweden".

7. Innovation

Mia Phillipson gave an update on the plans to structure and increase the support to development of early-stage ideas into validated, investment-ready, high-impact ventures at SciLifeLab, building on in-house technology expertise, entrepreneurial experience and industrial contacts. An application named "SciLifeAccelerator: A national Technology-First Engine to Forge Sustainable Life Science Ventures" was submitted in Vinnova's Cluster of Excellence call.

Discussion followed regarding the importance to tie in the existing relevant stakeholders in this sector with the aim is to address an identified gap in current system.

8. Sites strategy planning

DNR: HS-2025-2153

Jan Ellenberg informed about the process initiated to develop site specific strategies that align with overall mission of SciLifeLab while also highlighting the unique profile, strengths, and focus areas of each site. The site strategies will serve as a foundation for future discussions and applications for annual extended budgets for site-specific activities. By defining local priorities in the context of the national mission, the aim is to ensure transparent, coherent, and strategic allocation of resources.

A first discussion took place at the Strategic Management Group meeting on September 16th.

9. Training strategy development

Disa Larsson Hammarlöf presented the plans for a new training strategy at SciLifeLab. Training and career development have been identified as central to SciLifeLab, and a coordinated effort is of strategic importance. A Training strategy working group will be established during the autumn 2025, and a first draft strategy will be ready early 2026. During spring 2026 the strategy will move towards implementation.

10. Summary of strategic topics for future investments

Sandra Falck presented a short summary of items §4-§9, with regards to their potential future investment needs.

11. Mandate periods for capabilities, steering groups etc.

Sandra Falck presented a brief overview of the current positions and mandate periods of the groups and constellations of representatives in scientific, advisory and decision-making bodies throughout the organization. Information regarding processes for renewals and upcoming decisions was also provided.

12. Platform steering groups

12a. Approval of infrastructure platforms steering groups

Annika Jenmalm Jensen presented the suggested composition of the infrastructure platforms steering groups, according to appendix A.

Conflict of Interest declaration:
Anna Arnqvist Björklund declared a conflict of interest regarding the decision on the Platform Steering Group for the CBGE platform and abstained from participating in the decision-making process.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab Board approved the proposed Platform Steering Groups for the SciLifeLab platforms: Genomics, Bioinformatics, and CBGE, as outlined in Appendix A, for the funding period 2025–2028. The members of these SciLifeLab platform steering groups will also serve as the steering groups for the VR-funded platforms NGI, NBIS, and CBCS, in accordance with Appendix A.

Any replacements of steering group members during the funding period should be approved by the SciLifeLab Director.

12b. Approval of new member in the Drug Discovery and Development platform (DDD) steering group

Annika Jenmalm Jensen presented the suggested Nina Herne as a replacement for Ann-Christin Malmborg Hager – who has asked to step down from the assignment – as a new member of the DDD platform steering group.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab Board approved to assign Nina Herne as member of the DDD platform steering group (mandate period September 17, 2025 until December 31, 2026).

13. Approval of Platform Directors, Platform Co-Directors and Platform Coordination Officers 2025-2028

Annika Jenmalm Jensen presented the suggested Directors, Co-Directors and Coordination officers for the SciLifeLab platforms, during the period October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2028.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab Board approved the suggested Platform Directors (PDs), Platform Co-directors (Co-PDs) and Platform Coordination Officers (PCOs) October 1, 2025 - December 31, 2028, according to Appendix A.

14. DDLS Fellow recruitment ads

The item was omitted. All received partner announcements include the generic texts approved by the SciLifeLab Board *per capsulam* June 16, 2025.

15. Other items

No other items.

Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday October 15, 10.00-12.00 (Zoom)
- Wednesday November 19, 10.00-17.00 (on-site Solna)
- Wednesday December 17, 10.00-12.00 (Zoom)
- Wednesday February 11, 2026, 8.30-12 (Zoom)

Åsa Westeson, secretary

Titti Ekegren, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström, chair

Anna Arnqvist Björklund

Call for Academic PhD Projects in Data-driven Life Science

Generic Description of the DDLS PhD Program

The SciLifeLab and Wallenberg National Program for Data-Driven Life Science (DDLS) is a 12-year initiative funded with a total of 3,3 billion SEK from the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation. The purpose of the program is to recruit and train the next-generation of data-driven life scientists and to create globally leading computational and data science capabilities in life science in Sweden.

One part of the program is to establish a research school for 260 PhDs, within both academia and industry. The aim of the DDLS Research School is to educate highly skilled and competent professionals who will make a significant contribution to the field of life science research in Sweden.

The PhD students will be recruited to a host university/organization in Sweden, aiming to link them up with strong local research environments as well as with the national DDLS program.

As the PhD candidates are recruited at a host university in Sweden, they will be enrolled as members of the DDLS Research School and expected to take part in the DDLS Research School activities (networking events, courses, scientific visits, etc.).

The DDLS program will focus on four strategic areas of data-driven research: cell and molecular biology, evolution and biodiversity, precision medicine and diagnostics, epidemiology and biology of infection.

We are now launching a competitive grant call for group leaders (and hence potential PhD student supervisors) to suggest exciting data-driven research projects and training opportunities for PhD students in the four strategic areas of data-driven life science. In this call, 25 academic PhD projects will be awarded.

What is Data-driven Life Science?

Data-driven life science is a field of research that focuses on using data, computational methods and artificial intelligence to study biological systems and processes. This approach can include assembling, sharing, integration and advanced analysis of large amounts of data from diverse sources, including experiments, observations, and simulations, in order to gain a better understanding of how living organisms function.

For a PhD project to be considered data-driven it has to have a clear data science component such as the use of advanced data analysis techniques, from statistics to machine learning involving either method development or novel application of data science methods to life science problems. Projects that only involve laboratory research or that depend solely on the acquisition of large amounts of new biological data from e.g. laboratory experiments or patient materials will not be given priority. However, laboratory research to validate and extend data-driven insights can be included.

Role of the DDLS Research School

The focus of the research school is to engage the students with a national network and in annual network activities. The DDLS Research School will complement already existing graduate schools and other training activities at universities, and it does not represent a full standalone national PhD training program. Specific national DDLS Research School courses will be provided to assure that the students will, at the end of their education, have proficiency in data handling and analysis, integration of multidisciplinary knowledge and ethics.

The supervisors of the DDLS PhD students are expected to be active in organizing and contributing course material and training events of the DDLS Research School. The students will also have access to a plethora of other training events and courses arranged by the SciLifeLab Training Hub.

Requirements

Project proposals in the four DDLS research areas are welcome. The funded projects should be in line with DDLS strategy and have a novel and original data-driven perspective, be of high scientific quality and combine life science and data science topics and provide an excellent training environment. The project applicant, i.e. the main supervisor of the PhD student must have a secured employment at a Swedish University during the suggested PhD period.

Eligibility: The call is open to all researchers in Sweden who can act as a main supervisor or a co-supervisor for a PhD student. The same applicant can be the main supervisor in only one academic project application and one industrial project application, but can act as co-supervisor in applications by other PIs.

Exclusion from eligibility: Researchers that have DDLS funding (ongoing or decided) for a DDLS PhD student in any of the following DDLS projects:

- DDLS Academic PhD Project Call 2023
- DDLS Academic PhD Project Call 2024

or

- that have been awarded a DDLS fellow position with DDLS fellow start-up package

are **not eligible** to apply as main supervisors for *academic* PhD projects in the current call.

Note: DDLS fellows may apply as co-supervisors for *academic* and *industrial* PhD projects in the current call, and they may also apply as main supervisors for *industrial* PhD projects (see the Call for DDLS Industrial PhD Projects for details on requirements and eligibility).

Project participants (supervisors and students) are expected to be active contributors and participants in the national DDLS community events, training activities, seminars, and symposia organized by the DDLS Research School.

Any necessary co-funding needed for a KAW-funded project is the responsibility of each university/department/supervisor and should be ensured via a letter of commitment from the head of the department/faculty.

Required Documents

Please note that you must not exceed the page limitation for the respective part as indicated in the template (Project proposal, max 4 pages including references; Description of the research and training environment, 1 page; CV of the main supervisor 2 pages + 1 page of 10 top publications; CV of the co-supervisor(s) 1 page each).

You must use the templates provided in the application system. Not adhering to the page limitations and the templates provided in the application system will exclude the application from the process.

- Letter of commitment from the Head of Department/faculty. **You must use the template for the Letter of Commitment provided in the application system.**
- CV of the main applicant/supervisor (max 2 pages + 1 page top 10 publications)
- CV of the co-supervisor(s) (if applicable) (max1 page per co-supervisor)
- Research project proposal: (max 4 pages including references). Describe the field of research and the central questions, include the specific aims of the suggested PhD project, the material and methods, data analysis and computational approaches as well as the contributions from the team of supervisors. Indicate what additional costs are encountered in the project and how such costs will be covered from other funding sources. Indicate why this project together with the main supervisor and the co-supervisor(s) are ideal to promote the goals of the DDLS and the specific DDLS research area, both in terms of research questions and the training of next-generation life scientists. **A separate subsection named "Description of Data-driven Methods Used and/or Developed within the Project" is required**.
- Description of the research and training environment
  (max1 page), including the following: what is the local research environment of the main supervisor (laboratory, department, faculty, university) and how this links to the DDLS program goals and provides a good training environment with sufficient critical mass of expertise. Describe how the team of supervisors will collaborate and the training plan for the PhD student. Describe any local graduate school/doctoral program the student will be affiliated with and how this could provide synergistic benefits.

Evaluation Process and Decisions

Project proposals and supervisors are evaluated and ranked by international and national reviewers. If necessary, a pre-evaluation might be applied. Projects are evaluated according to defined **DDLS evaluation criteria**:

- Scientific quality of the project
- Merits of the applicant and co-applicants (scientific and training)
- Fit and contribution of the project to the DDLS program
- Quality of the supervision plan and the training environment

We will also consider inclusiveness and diversity.

Decisions

The projects will be evaluated by an international evaluation committee and the final decision of funding will be made by the SciLifeLab Board. In the 2025 call, 25 projects will be selected. **No written feedback will be provided**. The accepted supervisor(s) are then eligible

to be part in the next step, the selection of the PhD students as part of an international call. The supervisors(s) are then also invited to take part in the activities of the DDLS program, the DDLS Research School and contribute to associated training events.

The next steps in the process will be provided later on, but are briefly described here for completeness.

Selection process of the PhD student candidates: International announcement of all positions
After the board decision is done, SciLifeLab will coordinate an international announcement for all academic DDLS PhD positions. This will be done jointly together with all DDLS partner organizations that have been granted a PhD slot. The announcement details will be available via links to the SciLifeLab web site and local sites.

Each university with a granted project can also announce the position at their respective websites to meet the local rules and regulations. The local announcement should clearly indicate that the PhD position is part of a large national DDLS program.

Application process of the PhD student candidates
The PhD student candidates will submit their applications to the respective university, according to the local application instructions. The candidates can apply to multiple positions but will need to file each application separately at each university.

Evaluation of the PhD student candidates
All supervisors with approved projects select their PhD candidates from the international joint PhD call according to the timelines set by the DDLS program. The purpose of the joint timelines is to promote the national aspect of the program.

During the recruitment process at each local department with granted supervisors, a DDLS representative is recommended to be present at the interviews but they will not participate in the scoring and selection of the candidates.

The role of the DDLS representative during the interviews is to support the recruitment process and ensure that the candidates meet the overall requirements of the DDLS program and the DDLS Research School. A one-page description of the selection process, including a summary of the main applicants from the call is requested by the DDLS Program Office. After approval by the DDLS Program Director or the DDLS Research School Director, the selected candidates will be eligible for funding.

Conditions for Funding
The DDLS program finances both 4-year full-time PhD positions as well as positions for 5 years at an 80% effort. It is currently expected in this call that 25 projects/PhD positions in academia will be awarded. The supervisors of the approved projects, together with the head of department, will be asked to sign an agreement containing the Terms and Conditions of the DDLS funding. The granted funds will not be available until the PhD student is recruited by the department/university. The incurred project costs will be requisitioned according to the funding conditions for all DDLS activities.

Financial Information

- The grants will be funded by KAW. The supervisors, departments or faculties are responsible for any necessary co-funding needed at each university.
- 3,25 MSEK total KAW funding per project.
- Out of the total KAW funding, max. 165 KSEK can be allocated for running costs during the project period defined.
- A maximum of 20% of the amount granted by KAW can be allocated for premises and overhead costs.
- There is also a maximum coverage of 52,5 % for LKP (payroll overhead) on personnel costs.
- The reimbursement method is through submitting requisitions to KTH/SciLifeLab.. KTH/SciLifeLab will coordinate the transfer of payments process. Information about the financial process flow and reporting templates will be provided for this purpose at a later stage.
- No funding can be directed to industry, industrial partners or other public sectors in this call.

Call for projects (October 1 – November 17)

Application deadline

- November 17 2025, 15:00 CET

Expected Timeline for Selection of Projects (November 2025 – February 2026)

- Evaluation (November - January)
- List of selected projects (February)

Expected Timeline for Selection of PhD Students (April – June 2026)

- Joint international announcement of the positions (April 2026)
- Evaluation of the applications and interviews (According to each university)
- List of selected PhD students – offer and acceptance (From May)
- Start of the individual projects (October or upon agreement between supervisor and PhD student, preferably not later than October 2026)

For questions, please contact ddls-rs@scilifelab.se

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DDLS will establish a research school for 260 PhDs, with two components, one focussing on academic PhD students and one for industrial PhD students. The aim of the DDLS Research School is to educate highly skilled and competent professionals who will make a significant contribution to the field of life science research in Sweden.

The industrial PhD students will be employed or recruited to a company in the life science sector in Sweden, aiming to link them up with strong local research environments at universities as well as with the national DDLS program. The admission process and training will take place at the participating companies and universities (for admission, see section "Application Process of the PhD student candidates"). Please note that research institutes and various types of state, regional, municipal works and bodies do not count as industry and therefore cannot receive funding from the program. The industrial partners/companies must be based in Sweden, have a significant activity in Sweden (such that the project benefits Sweden in the long-term) and adhere to Swedish laws and regulations.

As the PhD candidates are admitted to a host University in Sweden, they will be enrolled as members of the DDLS Research School and are expected to take part in the DDLS Research School activities (networking events, courses, scientific visits, etc.).

The DDLS program will focus on four strategic areas of data-driven research: cell and molecular biology, evolution and biodiversity, precision medicine and diagnostics, epidemiology and biology of infection.

We are now launching a competitive grant call for the supervisors to suggest exciting data-driven research projects and training opportunities for PhD students in the four strategic areas of data-driven life science. In this call, 8 industrial PhD projects will be awarded (each with a main supervisor at a university and co-supervisors in the industry).

What is Data-driven life science?

Data-driven life science is a field of research that focuses on using data, computational methods and artificial intelligence to study biological systems and processes. This approach can include assembling, sharing, integration and advanced analysis of large amounts of data from diverse sources, including experiments, observations, and simulations, in order to gain a better understanding of how living organisms function.

For a PhD project to be considered data-driven it has to have a clear data science component such as the use of advanced data analysis techniques, from statistics to machine learning involving either method development or novel application of data science methods to life science problems. Projects that only involve laboratory research or that depend solely on the

acquisition of large amounts of new biological data from e.g. laboratory experiments or patient materials will not be given priority. However, laboratory research to validate and extend data-driven insights can be included.

Role of the DDLS Research School

The focus of the research school is to engage the students with a national network and in annual network activities. The DDLS Research School will complement already existing graduate schools and other training activities at the universities. Specific national DDLS Research School courses will be provided to assure that the students will at the end of their education have proficiency in data handling and analysis, integration of multidisciplinary knowledge and ethics.

The students will also have access to a plethora of other training events and courses arranged by the SciLifeLab Training Hub.

Requirements

Project proposals in the four DDLS research areas are welcome. The funded projects should be in line with the DDLS strategy and have a novel and original data-driven perspective, be of high scientific quality and combine the life science and data science topics and provide an excellent training environment. One main academic supervisor, one industrial co-supervisor and one deputy industrial supervisor must be presented in the project application. The main academic supervisor must have a primary employment at a Swedish university during the suggested PhD period and the two industrial co-supervisors must also have a secured employment (min 80% each) during the suggested PhD period at the company. The company should be financially sufficiently stable to take the responsibility for the doctoral student over several years and possess enough scientific competence to contribute to and benefit from the knowledge gained in the project. The supervisors, as project applicants, are responsible and expected to advise the industrial PhD student throughout the PhD period.

Eligibility: The call is open to all researchers in Sweden who can act as a main supervisor or a co-supervisor for a PhD student. The same applicant can be the main supervisor in only one academic project application and one industrial project application, but can act as co-supervisor in applications by other PIs. DDLS fellows can apply to the DDLS Industrial PhD Project Call 2025 as main supervisors.

Restrictions for applicants with ongoing or decided DDLS industrial PhD projects:
Academic researchers who were granted funding as main supervisors in the DDLS Industrial PhD Project Call 2023 or in the DDLS Industrial PhD Project Call 2024 are eligible to apply as main supervisors in the current call, **but** they must collaborate with a new industrial partner. Likewise, industrial partners that were funded in the DDLS Industrial PhD Project Call 2023 or in the DDLS Industrial PhD Project Call 2024 are eligible to apply in the current call, **but** they must collaborate with a new main academic supervisor. However, these researchers or industrial partners may apply as co-supervisors for *academic* and *industrial* PhD projects in the current call, and they may also apply as main supervisors for *academic* PhD projects (see the Call for DDLS Academic PhD Projects for details on requirements and eligibility).

Project participants (supervisors and students) are expected to be active contributors and participants in the national DDLS community events, training activities, seminars, and symposia organized by the DDLS Research School.

The selected industrial PhD students will be employed by the company at least 80% of full time, and the company is responsible for any necessary co-funding which should be ensured by a letter of commitment from the company. The industrial doctoral student does not need to be identified at the time of application but must be admitted to the industrial doctoral program and be employed at the company before the start of this project.

Required Documents

Please note that you must not exceed the page limitation for the respective part as indicated in the template (Project proposal, max 4 pages including references; Description of the research and training environment, 1 page; CV of the main supervisor 2 pages + 1 page of 10 top publications; CV of the co-supervisor(s) 1 page each).

You must use the templates provided in the application system. Not adhering to the page limitations and the templates provided in the application system will exclude the application from the process.

- Letters of commitments from both the Head of Department of the academic main supervisor and the research director (or equivalent) of the company. **You must use the template for the Letter of Commitment provided in the application system.**
- CV of the academic main supervisor (max 2 pages + 1 page top 10 publications)
- CV of the industrial co-supervisor, including the industrial deputy co-supervisor (max 2 pages + 1 page top 10 publications)
- CV of the academic or additional industrial co-supervisor(s) (if applicable) (max 1 page per co-supervisor)
- Research project proposal: (max 4 pages including references). Describe the field of research and the central questions, include the specific aims of the suggested PhD project, the material and methods, data analysis and computational approaches as well as the contributions from the team of supervisors. Indicate what additional costs are encountered in the project and how such costs will be covered from other funding sources. Indicate why this project together with the main supervisor and the co-supervisors are ideal to promote the goals of the DDLS and the specific DDLS research area, both in terms of research questions and the training of next-generation life scientists. **A separate subsection named "Description of Data-driven Methods Used and/or Developed within the Project" is required**.
- Description of the research and training environment
    - (max 1 page), including the following: what is the local research environment of the main supervisor (laboratory, department, faculty, university) and the environment and input that the company co-supervisors provide. Describe how the team of supervisors will collaborate and the training plan for the PhD student. Describe any local graduate school/doctoral program the student will be affiliated with and how this could provide synergistic benefits.

Evaluation Process and Decisions

Project proposals and supervisors are evaluated and ranked by international and national reviewers. If necessary, a re-evaluation might be applied. Projects are evaluated according to defined **DDLS criteria:**

- Scientific quality of the project

- Merits of the applicant and co-applicants (scientific and training)
- Fit and contribution of the project to the DDLS program
- Impact for the industry
- Quality of the supervision plan and the training environment

We will also consider inclusiveness and diversity.

Decisions
The projects will be evaluated by an international evaluation committee and the final decision of funding will be made by the SciLifeLab Board. In the 2025 call, we will select 8 projects. **No written feedback will be provided**. The accepted supervisor(s) are then eligible to be part in the next step, the selection of the PhD students. The supervisors(s) are then also invited to take part in the activities of the DDLS program, the DDLS Research School and contribute to associated training events.

The next steps in the process will be provided later on, but are briefly described here for completeness.

Selection process of the PhD student candidates: International announcement of positions
The industrial PhD supervisors are welcome to announce the recruitment via a joint international announcement coordinated by SciLifeLab. However existing employees of the industry can also apply to these PhD student positions.

Application process of the PhD student candidates
The PhD candidate will be employed by the company and must also be admitted to a doctoral program at the university to ensure the academic and scientific quality of the project. Therefore, applicants should submit their applications to the company. The company will coordinate the university admission process in collaboration with the main academic supervisor, who is based at the university. The applicants should not apply directly to the university at this stage. The candidates can apply to multiple positions.

Evaluation of the PhD student candidates
All supervisors with approved projects can start the recruitment process of their PhD candidate at their local department and company according to the timelines set by the DDLS program. The purpose of the joint timelines is to promote the national aspect of the program.

During the recruitment process at each company and the associated university department with granted supervisors, a DDLS representative is recommended to be present at the interviews but will not participate in selecting the PhD candidates.

The role of the DDLS representative during the interviews is to support the recruitment process and ensure that the candidates meet the overall requirements of the DDLS program and the DDLS Research School. A one-page description of the selection process, including a summary of the main applicants from the call is requested by the DDLS Program Office. After approval by the DDLS Program Director or the DDLS Research School Director, the selected candidates will be eligible for funding.

Conditions for Funding
The DDLS program finances both 4-year full-time PhD positions as well as positions for 5 years at an 80% effort. It is currently expected that 8 industrial projects/PhD positions will be awarded in this call. The main supervisors of the approved projects, will be asked to sign an agreement containing the Terms and Conditions of the suggested DDLS funding. The granted funds will not be available until the PhD student is recruited by the company. The incurred project costs will be requisitioned according to the funding conditions for all DDLS activities.

The company and the academic supervisors also need to have an agreement regarding IP-rights. This agreement has to be signed and sent to the DDLS Program Office.

Financial Information
- The grants will be funded by KAW. The company where the industrial PhD student is/will be employed is responsible for any necessary co-funding needed for each project.
- 2,5 MSEK total KAW funding is dedicated for salaries and other direct costs for the employer of the industrial PhD student
- 750 KSEK total KAW funding is dedicated to the university for supervision of industrial PhD student for the action period.
- A maximum of 20% of the amount granted by KAW can be allocated for premises and indirect costs (overhead) at the academic supervision unit.
- There is also a maximum coverage of 52,5% for LKP (payroll overhead) on personnel costs.
- The employer of the Industrial PhD student will send invoices, excluding VAT, semi-annually directly to KTH/SciLifeLab.
- The academic organization will send semi-annual cost reporting through the established DDLS financial processes at each academic partner.
- KTH/SciLifeLab will send detailed information about these financial process flows and reporting templates at a later stage to the partners.

Call for projects (October 1 – November 17)

Application deadline
- November 17 2025, 15:00 CET

Expected Timeline for Selection of Projects (November 2025 – February 2026)
- Evaluation (November - January)
- List of selected projects (February)

Expected Timeline for Selection of PhD Students (February – June 2026)
- Announcement of the positions (Optional participation in the joint international announcement: April 2026)
- Evaluation of the applications and interviews (According to each company)
- List of selected PhD students – offer and acceptance (From February)
- Start of the individual projects (October or upon agreement between supervisor and PhD student, preferably not later than October 2026)

For questions, please contact ddls-rs@scilifelab.se

Appendix A

Bioinformatics/NBIS Platform

Chairman: Carl-Johan Rubin, Uppsala university.
Gergely Katona, Göteborgs Universitet
Albin Sandelin, Köpenhamns Universitet
Laura Elo, University of Turku
Eivind Hovig, University of Oslo
Tanja Slotte, Stockholm University
Therese Sørlie, Oslo University Hospital

Genomics/NGI Platform

Åsa Johansson (chair) (Uppsala universitet)
Afshin Ahmadian (KTH)
Qiaolin Deng (Stockholms Universitet)
Björn Reinius (Karolinska Institutet)
Elisabet Carlsohn (Göteborgs universitet)
Anna Hagström (Lunds universitet)
One seat vacant

CBGE/CBCS Platform

Thomas Lundbäck, Director, AstraZeneca, ordförande
Anja Sandström, professor, Uppsala Universitet
Ingrid Wernstedt Asterholm, professor, Göteborgs Universitet
Krister Wennerberg, professor, Köpenhamns Universitet
Marjolein Thunnissen, direktör, MAX IV, LU
Peter Sjö, Chef för läkemedelsforskningsprojekt, DNDi
Stefan Björklund, professor, Umeå Universitet

§13, Appendix A

Infrastructure Platform Directors, Platform Co-Directors and Platform Coordination Officers October 1, 2025–December 31, 2028

Genomics
PD: Tuuli Lappalainen, KTH
Co-PD: Lars Feuk, UU
PCO: Magnus Lundgren, UU

Clinical Genomics
PD: Colum Walsh, LiU
Co-PD: Malin Melin, UU
PCO: Marcela Davila, GU

Proteomics
PD: Masood Kamali-Moghaddam, UU
Co-PD: Claudia Fredolini, KTH
PCO: Claudia Fredolini, KTH

Metabolomics and Exposomics
PD: Johan Trygg, UmU
Co-PD: Rikard Landberg, Chalmers
PCO: Annika Johansson, UmU

Spatial Biology
PD: Mats Nilsson, SU
Co-PD: Charlotte Stadler, KTH
PCO: Katarina Tiklova, SU

Cellular and Molecular Imaging
PD: Marta Carroni, SU
Co-PD: N/A
PCO: Rebecca Howard, SU

Integrated Structural Biology
PD: Björn Burmann, GU
Co-PD: Johan Malmström, LU
PCO: Cecilia Persson, GU

Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering
PD: Anna-Lena Gustavsson, KI
Co-PD: Bernhard Schmierer, KI
PCO: Bernhard Schmierer, KI

Drug Discovery and Development
PD: Per Arvidsson, KI
Co-PD: Kristian Sandberg, UU
PCO: Rebecka Klintenberg, UU

Bioinformatics
PD: Bengt Persson, UU
Co-PD: Björn Nystedt, UU
PCO: Björn Nystedt, UU

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