

The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from Board Meeting no. 80, October 15, 2025

Present board members

Ylva Engström (SU, chair), Anna Arnqvist Björklund (UMU), Martin Bergö (KI), Mats Larhed (UU), Jonas Larsson (LU), Mikael Lindström (KTH), Lena Mäler (SU, §1-§4a), Christoph Varenhorst (Astra Zeneca)

Absent

Carina Mallard (GU)

Other participants

Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS, Region Stockholm, §2-§3b), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (LU), Jan Ellenberg (Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Annika J. Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Sandra Falck (OO, Head of operations), Anna Lidin (OO, §2-4a), Johan Rung (Head of Data Centre, §3b), Ulf Ribacke (UU, PLP Capability Lead, §3c-§3d), Alice Sollazzo (OO, §3c-3d), Heidi Törmänen Persson (OO, §4a), Ola Spjuth (SciLifeLab AI lead, §4b), Titti Ekegren (OO), Åsa Westeson (OO, secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. Ylva Engström notified that items §3b, §3c and §4a will have to be immediately approved.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Jonas Larsson to approve the minutes of the meeting, in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the minutes from meeting no 79, September 17, 2025.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the agenda.

2. Update from Director

Jan Ellenberg reported on the ongoing implementation of the data and AI strategy, emphasizing integration of data management and analytics, and the launch of new recruitment for data science and AI positions. The scale and impact of the infrastructure, recent technology development initiatives, and major collaborations both nationally and internationally were highlighted. Several successful events have been held recently, reflecting a period of significant progress and strategic growth for the organization.

3. Finance and budget

3a. Financial update, incl. 2026 budget plans

Sandra Falck presented the financial update, focusing on the 2026 budget to be decided at the next board meeting. Planned allocations for infrastructure, strategic initiatives, and national operating costs were explained. The rationale for budget increases was discussed, and Sandra explained that operating costs are budgeted as maximum estimates, with actual expenses tracked and adjusted throughout the year.

3b. E-infrastructure allocation from 2025 budget

DNR: HS-2025-0076

SciLifeLab's technology infrastructure is increasingly data heavy, and the data and AI revolution is transforming life science research in general. Responding to this increased focus on data & AI, investments are required to meet the requirements of advanced users. Expansion of the existing storage service at KTH, as well as advancement of the technology development for AI are proposed.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved an allocation of 3,2 MSEK from the SciLifeLab 2025 national funding for the strategic initiative e-infrastructure, for fast storage at KTH (1,7 MSEK) and Cloud credits (1,5 MSEK) according to Table 1 below.

The SciLifeLab Board approved this item to be immediately adjusted.

Table 1. SciLifeLab Budget 2025 (kSEK)

INFRASTRUCTURE	2024	2025
Infrastructure	181 623	216 863
National site Gothenburg	1 000	1 000
National site Lund	1 000	1 000
National site Umeå	1 000	1 000
National site Linköping	1 000	1 000
Drug Discovery and Development (incl new modality)	59 224	58 784
OligoNova	4 000	4 000
SCILIFELAB INITIATIVES		
Precision Medicine Capability inkl. TEF	5 650	725
Planetary Biology Capability	3 150	3 600
Strategic Research Initiatives (e-infrastructure)		3 200
Infrastructure Expensive Instruments	22 595	13 429
Training hub	2 863	2 650
Data Centre	10 800	9 000
IDS, new funds		5 000
NATIONAL OPERATING COSTS		
National Operating Costs	63 644	68 844
Total costs	357 548	390 095
Funding NAT	287 252	387 171
Funding LÄK	59 061	61 086
Surplus initiative NAT	8 000	
Surplus initiative LÄK	1 800	
Sum	-1 435	58 162

3c. PLP national call funding

HS-2025-1287, HS-2025-0076

At board meeting no 78, May 21st, the SciLifeLab board approved the launch of the call “National open call for pandemic preparedness projects” during 2025. The call closed August 25th and the applications have been reviewed. Ulf Ribacke presented the evaluation process and the proposed grantees.

Conflict of Interest declaration: Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson declared a conflict of interest regarding the decision on the PLP national call funding and abstained from participating in the decision-making process.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the funding of the 12 proposals for National Open Call for Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness, as detailed in Table 2 below, with a total allocation of 25.14 MSEK.

The yearly funding is 12,57 MSEK which is an increase of 570 kSEK per year compared to previously budgeted. In the PLP budget 2025 the funding for ”National open calls for pandemic preparedness projects” is 12 MSEK and the remaining 570 kSEK is proposed as a reallocation from the budget item “Collaboration with SciLifeLab Capabilities”.

The SciLifeLab Board approved this item to be immediately adjusted.

Table 2. Suggested PLP call funding.

Proposal no. (Anubis ID)	Main Applicant	Main Applicant	Affiliation	Granted (MSEK)
PLPTDP25:012	Sigryn —A safe and flexible cartridge for pathogen imaging	Johan Elf	UU	1,62
PLPTDP25:015	Use of ISCAPE to identify population vulnerabilities in the influenza antibody response	Gunilla B. Karlsson Hedestam	KI	3,00
PLPTDP25:010	Clinical validation of novel methods to diagnose antibiotic interactions and heteroresistance	Dan Andersson	UU	3,00
PLPTDP25:026	Säbo: protection and vulnerabilities to infection	Mattias Forsell	UMU	3,00
PLPTDP25:014	Sialic acid-containing conjugates: A platform for development of antiviral molecules against viruses with pandemic potential.	Niklas Arnberg	UMU	1,98
PLPTDP25:027	Utilizing the Meso Scale Discovery multiplex serology platform and development of novel scalable T cell assays for rapid immunophenotyping to assess the cross-protective potential of current SARS-CoV-2 mRNA vaccination against related, potentially future threat, zoonotic coronaviruses	Hans-Gustaf Ljunggren	KI	1,72
PLPTDP25:025	CRITICAL MICROBES	Anne-Marie Fors Connolly	UMU	1,98
PLPTDP25:035	Maintaining and expanding Sweden’s capacity to assess virus neutralization: “SwedNEXT”	Daniel Sheward	KI	1,98
PLPTDP25:029	Universal Method to Co-Profile RNA Synthesis in Host and Pathogen	Anniina Vihervaara	KTH	1,98
PLPTDP25:033	Towards clinical-grade host response diagnostics for pandemic preparedness	Niklas Björkström	KI	1,98
PLPTDP25:022	Next generation fungal diagnostics	Johan Lindh	UU	0,92
PLPTDP25:032	Next generation clinical virology	Tobias Allander	KI	1,98
Funding (MSEK)				25,140

3d. PLP update and budget 2026

DNR: HS-2025-2422

Ulf Ribacke provided an overview of the Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness (PLP) strategic area and informed about the renewed governmental funding for 2025-2028. The funding for 2026 adds up to 41 976 000 SEK and is suggested to be used for staffing, data portal, network and facilities, annual meeting, wastewater surveillance, and a national open call as well as a SciLifeLab internal call. Decision on the budget for 2026 will be taken at the next board meeting.

4. Data and AI

4a. DDLS phase 3 application incl. budget

DNR: HS-2025-0914

Jan Ellenberg presented the application for phase 3 of the DDLS program, covering the period 2026-04-01 – 2028-03-31. The application describes the achievements since the start of the program and outlines the future plans for phase 3 in line with the program's strategic objectives.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the DDLS Phase 3 application and budget for submission to Knut and Alice Wallenberg foundation and mandated to the DDLS Director and Operations Office revise the final documents according to any comments made by the Board.

The SciLifeLab Board approved this item to be immediately adjusted.

4b. AI strategy presentation

DNR: HS-2025-2423

Ola Spjuth presented and summarized the SciLifeLab AI strategy, which is built on four interconnected pillars; AI-ready data ecosystem, AI-ready compute infrastructure, AI services & technology watch, and Talent development & training. By acting according to the AI strategy at hand, SciLifeLab can establish Sweden as a global leader in responsible, impactful AI for life sciences and healthcare.

Implementation of the AI strategy will be anchored in major research programs such as DDLS and AlphaCell, and partnerships like WASP.

5. Technology development

5a. Expensive instrument call

DNR: HS-2025-2426

The SciLifeLab call for expensive instruments was closed on September 18, 2025, and eighteen applications were received. Annika Jenmalm Jensen summarized the evaluation process, which was carried out by the SciLifeLab scientific directors and site directors, and presented the proposed grantees.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the suggested allocation of funding according to Table 3 below.

Table 3. Suggested Expensive Instruments funding.

Instrument	Applicant	Affiliation	Platform	Unit	Acquisition cost (kSEK)	Granted (MSEK)
Roche Axelos sequencing system	Susanne Hellstedt Kerje	UU	Genomics/ Clinical Genomics	National Genomics Infrastructure	10 000	3 500
High resolution GC-MS	Annika Johansson	UMU	Metabolomics and Exposomics	Swedish Metabolomics Centre	4 500	2 500
Orbitrap Astral Zoom HRMS for Next Generation Small-molecule Research	Stefano Papazian	SU	Metabolomics and Exposomics	Exposomics	11 980	3 000
In Situ Sequencing Sequencer	Katarina Tiklova	SU	Spatial Biology	In Situ Sequencing	4 500	3 500
Multiplexed tissue slide scanner	Charlotte Stadler	KTH	Spatial Biology	Spatial Proteomics	2 730	1 000
In-Chamber Ultramicrotome for Serial Block-Face SEM: Volutome	Julia Fernandez-Rodriguez	GU	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	Integrated Microscopy Technologies Gothenburg	4 500	2 000
SUM						15 500

6. Other items

No other items.

Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday November 19, 10.00-17.00 (on-site Solna)
- Wednesday December 17, 10.00-12.00 (Zoom)
- Wednesday February 11, 2026, 9.00-12.00 (Zoom)
- Wednesday April 15, 2026, 9.00-12.00 (Zoom)

Åsa Westeson, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström, chair

Jonas Larsson

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