

DDLS Steering group meeting no. 42, 2025

Date: August 27, 2025

Time: 9.00 - 12.00

Zoom: <https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/65626301433?from=addon>

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)

Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University, §1 - §2)

Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)

Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet, §1 - §5)

Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)

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

Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Other participants:

Jan Ellenberg (Director of the DDLS research program), Chair of the meeting

Siv Andersson (KAW representative)

Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology, §1 - §5)

Lukas Käll ((DDLS Research School director)

Sandra Falk (Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)

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)

Elvan Helander (DDLS Controller, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Johan Inganni (Communications officer, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

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

Hanna Kultima (vice Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)

Ola Spjuth (AI lead, SciLifeLab)

Erika Erkstam (Events coordinator, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Anna Lidin (Controller, Operations Office SciLifeLab)

Members not attending:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)

Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Next meeting: October 2, November 11, December 15, 2025

Agenda 2025-08-27

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud:
<https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/FWmya2ASF7Wg4xe>

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>Presenter: Olli Kallioniemi</p> <p>Appendix: 1. Previous minutes, 25-06-10</p>
2	<p>Update from the Director</p> <p><i>(See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 3- 29 for details)</i></p> <p><i>An update briefly presenting the areas of strategic importance to SciLifeLab and the work that has been done so far. The implementation of the Integrated Data Services is on-going, and the recruitment of 15 new staff scientists will start in September.</i></p> <p><i>Training is becoming increasingly important in SciLifeLab, and work has begun to develop an overarching training strategy. A first draft is planned for the beginning of the year 2026.</i></p> <p><i>As part of the ongoing focus on the scientific impact of the DDLS program and to leverage the expertise recruited to the initiative, the DDLS Program Director plans to appoint two Co-Directors to support and contribute to strategic discussions and program organization.</i></p> <p><i>Erik Kristiansson and Carolina Wählby have kindly agreed to take on this task.</i></p> <p>NOTE: The DDLS steering group is positive of the concept of co-directors and supports the nomination of Erik K and Carolina W to take this role.</p>	<p>Presenter: Jan Ellenberg</p>
3	<p>SciLifeLab AI strategy</p> <p><i>(See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 30- 46 for details)</i></p> <p><i>A presentation was given outlining the process of preparing a SciLifeLab AI strategy. The work is led by Ola Spjuth, appointed AI Lead at SciLifeLab together with an AI strategy/Reference group including DDLS Fellows. A public hearing will be arranged on September 26 followed by feedback from international experts.</i></p> <p><i>It is currently being prepared to announce the position of AI-lead at SciLifeLab in the coming months in an international recruitment for a new</i></p>	<p>Presenter: Ola Spjuth</p> <p>Appendix: 3. SciLifeLab AI Strategy-DRAFT-20250820</p>

	<i>professor position at SciLifeLab.</i>	
4	<p>Planning the DDLS Research School Postdoc program <i>(See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 47- 55 for details)</i></p> <p><i>The scope and structure of the DDLS research school postdoc program was presented and discussed.</i></p> <p><i>The duration of the postdoc positions was highlighted and the model of 2-year positions with possibility for an extra 3rd year for the most talented was discussed. Postdocs/hosting departments should then apply for an extra year. Another model would be to make all positions 3-year grants and to accordingly reduce the number of available positions to match the budget for the postdoc program.</i></p> <p><i>Two alternative models were presented for the employment of industrial postdocs. One model showing postdocs being employed by academia giving predictable employment and security together with "Lärarundantaget" for IP. The second model with postdocs being employed by the industry might bring less predictable employment and security for small/start-up employers and any IP remains with the company.</i></p> <p><i>The DDLS Research School director for the postdoc program recommended to allow for both employment types and to let the applicants indicate their preference when applying. KAW intended for industrial postdocs to be employed by the industry but are open for continued discussion when first experiences with the industry postdocs are made.</i></p>	Presenter: Lukas Käll
5	<p>Strategic Priorities for Phase 3 and the application and budget <i>(See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 57- 76 for details)</i></p> <p><i>A presentation of the strategic considerations that we face as we now enter the 3rd phase of the DDLS program and the process of preparing the phase 3 application.</i></p> <p><i>The proposed funding adjustments that will be suggested in the application were presented. The main suggestion would be that funds for the 11 new fellow positions would be tracked within the Phase 3 action period rather than splitting it across Phase 3, 4 and 5, and that the DDLS Postdoc Program will be strengthened with annual calls. How to best implement this within the DDLS donation letters will be clarified with KAW. The budget for strategic initiatives was presented and discussed.</i></p> <p><i>The application will now be reviewed and commented on by the DDLS Director, Co-Directors, and the DDLS Program Office before being submitted to the DDLS Steering Group for feedback by October 2. The SciLifeLab Board will decide regarding the DDLS Phase 3 application at its meeting on October 15, prior to submitting the application to KAW on October 30.</i></p>	Presenters: Jan Ellenberg, Heidi T. Persson, Elvan Helander

6	<p>Update from RA leads (See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 77- 79 for details)</p> <p><i>Brief update from the Epidemiology & Biology of Infection RA and the Evolution & Biodiversity RA regarding collaborations, upcoming meetings, and conferences. All RA expert groups, except for the Precision Medicine & Diagnostics RA, are currently seeking new participants. A joint call for nominations of RA experts will be launched during autumn 2025.</i></p>	Presenters: Research Area leads
7	<p>DDLS Annual Conference, November 12-13, Uppsala (See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 80 - 84 for details)</p> <p><i>Presentation and discussion about the program for the DDLS annual conference. The registration for the conference opens September 3, and can be found here: DDLS Annual Conference - SciLifeLab</i></p> <p><i>The 44th DDLS Steering Group meeting will take place on-site in Uppsala, the day before the conference begins. Pre-conference activities, scheduled for the morning of the first day, include a roundtable discussion with DDLS Fellows and the DDLS Director, a Research School meeting, and an AI/DC meeting.</i></p> <p><i>Following the conference (after lunch on Day 2), there will be opportunities for training sessions and hands-on workshops.</i></p>	Presenter: Erika Erkstam
8	<p>Update about DDLS Fellow recruitments (2,5 & 3.0) (See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 85 - 88 for details)</p> <p><i>The three universities re-recruiting DDLS Fellows in the Phase 2 recruitment round have now reached the evaluation and interview stages. For the ongoing recruitment of 11 new DDLS Fellows, the deadline for universities to share the links to their advertisements is approaching (September 10). The first joint announcement campaign will begin on September 15.</i></p> <p><i>A discussion was held regarding the timing of the second joint announcement campaign for Recruitment 3.0. The DDLS Steering Group expressed a preference for this campaign to take place early in 2026, ideally from late January until March.</i></p>	Presenters: Sara Hallin, Carolina Wählby
9	<p>Update from Data Services (See presentation "August 27_DDLS SG presentations", page 89 - 93 for details)</p> <p><i>An overview of the expanding ecosystem of data and bioinformatics services and resources was presented. The implementation of Integrated Data Services, IDS, is ongoing, and recruitment for staff scientists will begin shortly. In parallel, intensive work is being carried out to identify Technology Development Projects and start activities such as a user portal, sample registry, and improvements to data structures and data</i></p>	Presenters: Björn Nystedt, Hanna Kultima

	<p>flows.</p> <p><i>NBIS/DC held discussions with all four conditionally approved RDCPs over the summer, and all are progressing well.</i></p> <p><i>An overview of the connections between the research community and Data Services/Data-Producing Platforms was presented, followed by discussions on how to manage and strengthen these links within DDLS.</i></p>	
10	<p>Emerging items</p> <p>Future Strategy for the DDLS Data Services</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closer collaboration between DDLS data services analysis and data management services (WABI/DC) in alignment with SciLifeLab strategic IDS initiative • Revisit the Data Science Nodes concept Research area versus data type focused concept Balance geographical focus with distributed teams Clarify data service project governance and timelines. 	Presenter: <i>Jan Ellenberg</i>
11	<p>Other issues</p> <p><i>The DDLS Director shared his thoughts on how to make the DDLS Steering Group meetings more effective. One suggestion was to focus the agenda more on strategic discussions, with background information provided as written material for members to review prior to the meeting.</i></p> <p><i>No further issues.</i></p> <p><i>The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting!</i></p>	Presenter: <i>Jan Ellenberg</i>

Jan Ellenberg, chair of the meeting

Sara Hallin, Attending minutes

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