

The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from Board Meeting no. 83, February 11, 2026

Zoom meeting

Present board members

Ylva Engström (SU, chair), Anna Arnqvist Björklund (UMU), Martin Bergö (KI), Mats Larhed (UU, §§1-9c), Jonas Larsson (LU), Mikael Lindström (KTH), Carina Mallard (GU), Lena Mäler (SU), Christoph Varenhorst (Astra Zeneca, §§1-7), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (LU)

Other participants

Jan Ellenberg (Director), Annika Jenmalm Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Sandra Falck (OO, Head of operations), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Titti Ekegren (OO), Åsa Westeson (OO, secretary), Anna Lidin (OO, §§1-5), Elvan Helander (OO, §4), Anna Frejd (OO, §5), Josefin Lundgren Gawell (OO, §8), Johan Rung (Data Centre, §9), Hanna Kultima (Data Centre, §§9b-d), Björn Nystedt (NBIS, §§9b-d), Ola Spjuth (SciLifeLab AI lead, §9d)

Absent

Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS, Region Stockholm)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed the participants and opened the meeting. Ylva Engström notified that items §7a will have to be immediately adjusted.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board appointed Lena Mäler to approve the minutes of the meeting, in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the minutes from meeting no 82, December 17, 2025.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the agenda.

2. Update from Director

Jan Ellenberg briefly presented the ongoing work within the organization and provided a quarterly update on the highlights from Q4 2025.

3. Directors' decisions 2025

Ylva Engström informed about decisions made during 2025 by the SciLifeLab director, the DDLS program director and research school directors, the PULSE program director and the SciLifeLab Head of Operations.

3a SciLifeLab Director's decisions

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board noted the information to the minutes.

3b DDLS Program Director's decisions

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board noted the information to the minutes.

3c DDLS Research School Directors' decisions

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board noted the information to the minutes.

3d PULSE Program Director's decision

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board noted the information to the minutes.

3e SciLifeLab Head of Operations decision

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board noted the information to the minutes.

There was a request by the Board to, if possible, present the decisions more often than once a year. Åsa and Sandra will investigate how this can be done.

4. Finance & Budget

4a. Financial update

Sandra Falck provided an overview of SciLifeLab's funding sources and an end-of-year account of national surplus at KTH and UU. The surplus is expected and in line with the decisions taken during 2025.

There was a request from the Board to receive more detailed information ahead of the meetings for all financial updates. Detailed information is currently provided prior to financial discussion and decisions, but would be valuable also for shorter information.

4b. WABI surplus in DDLS

DNR: HS-2026-0399

Sandra Falck presented the suggestion to utilize the expected surplus (7.5 MSEK) from the DDLS phase 2 budget to cover WABI activities planned on the SU side April-November 2026, to ensure that the SU-funded positions within WABI can be sustained through the end of 2027.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the use of the expected Phase 2 surplus for personnel related direct and indirect costs within the DDLS Operative Area WABI incl. Cryo-EM within the WABI surplus (7.5 MSEK) to allow for continuation of WABI staff.

4c. DDLS surplus guideline process

Since the DDLS program has developed into an operational delivery phase, there is a need to modify the surplus allocation guidelines for phase 2 and onwards to allow for long-term planning and more flexibility within the program.

Work on the updated guidelines is ongoing and will be brought to the Board for approval later this year.

4d. DDLS Research School calls for Industrial and Academic projects

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

Jan Ellenberg summarized the DDLS Research School project call, where PIs have applied for PhD projects, academic or industrial. 134 applications were received for academic projects, and 17 for industrial projects. All applications went through an eligibility check and then pre-screened by members of the DDLS community. The evaluation that followed was executed by an international review committee of 22 experts, chosen from the DDLS evaluator pool.

Projects suggested for funding were primarily prioritized based on the average review score and the discussions during the assessment meeting.

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson reported a conflict of interest.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board approved to fund the suggested DDLS Research School academic PhD projects, according to 4d Appendix A.

The SciLifeLab Board approved to fund the suggested DDLS Research School industrial PhD projects, according to 4d Appendix B.

5. SciLifeLab Annual Report for 2025

DNR: HS-2026-0398

The SciLifeLab annual report is a key document describing the activities and progress of SciLifeLab over the past year. The SciLifeLab report is an appendix to the KTH report and a formal requirement from the government to report back on activities and development in relation to received funding.

Following approval by the SciLifeLab board, the KTH board takes the formal decision to approve the annual report for SciLifeLab as part of the KTH's own annual report to the government on February 18, 2026.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the annual report for 2025.

6. PLP interim lead and process forward

DNR: HS-2026-0403

One of the two scientific leads of Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness (PLP), Ulf Ribacke, has taken a six-month leave of absence from the assignment. To ensure continuity Dr Jessica Alm is proposed to be appointed as interim scientific lead on 25% January to June 2026.

Mia Phillipson also informed about the process forward to recruit a permanent PLP lead, in case Ulf Ribacke chooses to resign, an item that will be brought up for decision at the June board meeting. Until then the roles and responsibilities within PLP will be refined, taking the future development of the strategic area into consideration.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the appointment of Dr. Jessica Alm as Interim Scientific Lead (25%) January 1 - June 30, 2026, with compensation of SEK 200,000.

7. Infrastructure

7a. TDP call

DNR: HS-2025-2151

To promote cutting-edge technology development of the SciLifeLab infrastructure and encourage collaborations for this purpose between the infrastructure platforms and the research community, a call for Technology Development Projects (TDP) was organized in the fall of 2025. 67 applications came in and were evaluated by 18 reviewers.

Annika Jenmalm-Jensen presented the outcome of the evaluation and the projects suggested for funding.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board approved funding of the suggested projects according to §7a Appendix A.

The SciLifeLab board approved this item to be immediately adjusted.

7b. OligoNova update

Annika Jenmalm-Jensen gave a short update on the OligoNova mid-term review, which will take place on April 13, 2026. The review will be conducted in accordance with the SciLifeLab Board decision at the time of the establishment of OligoNova, stating that an international mid-term evaluation should be carried out after approximately four years.

8. Excellence cluster update

VR and Vinnova will launch a joint call with a deadline June 3, 2026. The call will be open for both funded and non-funded planning projects.

Mia Phillipson gave a status report on the ongoing work with the excellence clusters. On a SciLifeLab leadership level, two flagship cluster planning projects with pan SciLifeLab involvement are being pursued:

1. Vinnova: Breakthrough Technologies in Molecular Life Science to Power Precision Medicine and the Future Healthcare in Sweden
2. VR: Integrated X-ray and biomedical imaging for the future of pathology (IXBI)

9. Data, AI & IT

9a. Inclusion of Data Centre in the Rules of Procedure (Arbetsordning)

DNR: HS-2026-0409

In pace with SciLifeLab's transformation towards a data-driven life science, the Data Centre (DC) has – since it was started in 2016 – grown in task, funding and organizational complexity. The SciLifeLab steering documents do currently not refer to the DC at all. The Board has previously tasked the director to oversee the SciLifeLab management organization. Going forward, this work should include overseeing the scope and tasks of the DC, as well as preparing for inclusion of the DC in the SciLifeLab Rules of Procedure (Arbetsordning).

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board decides to mandate the SciLifeLab Director to initiate work for revised Rules of Procedure (Arbetsordning) to include the Data Centre.

9b. Data update

Johan Rung updated on the Data, IT and AI within the organization. SciLifeLab's role is to coordinate (not duplicate) national e-infrastructure, aligning closely with NAISS, universities' IT, and local compute centers to secure scalable compute and storage for life science. The Data Centre already runs around 40 services for over 2.000 users and is expanding storage, long-term archiving, integrated data services (IDS), and AI engineering capacity, with strong emphasis on security, compliance and FAIR data.

9c. IDS update

Björn Nystedt provided an update on how SciLifeLab is scaling up its efforts to handle data flows and infrastructure, and the key strategic initiative Integrated Data Services (IDS). By integrating services across SciLifeLab's infrastructure platforms, IDS aims to enhance user interaction, streamline data management, and support the development of new analysis tools. In order to oversee the operational coordination of this cross-platform effort, a dedicated IDS Project Management Team has been appointed by the SciLifeLab Director. The first IDS core projects focus on development efforts of strategic importance to SciLifeLab's platforms, typically requiring alignment and shared resources across multiple platforms and units.

9d. AI strategy

DNR: HS-2025-2423

Ola Spjuth described the project carried out to develop a SciLifeLab AI strategy, carried out during 2025. Input has been collected at a public hearing within the SciLifeLab community in September, as well as feedback from international experts. The document has been checked for alignment with the IDS project, the e-infrastructure and the training strategy. The plan is that the strategy will be revised on a yearly basis.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the SciLifeLab AI strategy.

10. Other items

No other items.

Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday April 15, 2026, 9.00-12.00 (Zoom)
- Tuesday June 2, 2026 (Uppsala)
- Tuesday September 22, 2026 (Zoom)

Åsa Westeson, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström, chair

Lena Mäler

DDL Research School academic projects suggested for funding

Academic projects 25 slots

Precision Medicine and Diagnostics (10 slots)

Proposal title	Name of main supervisor	Main supervisor affiliation	Proposal
Early detection of lung cancer through fusion of chest CT and clinical variables	Anders Eklund	Linköping University	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:128
Mapping the Epigenetic Landscape of Multiple Sclerosis: Integrative and Interpretable AI Approaches to Disease Mechanisms and Progression	Maja Jagodic	Karolinska Institutet	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:143
Integrated Analysis of ctDNA	Jens Lagergren	KTH - Royal Institute of Technology	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:082
Data-driven discovery of molecular subtypes and resistance mechanisms in chronic lymphocytic leukemia	Richard Rosenquist Brandell	Karolinska Institutet	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:090
Blood-based biomarkers and molecular changes in preclinical dementia	Ida Karlsson	Karolinska Institutet	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:101
Multi-omics analyses of colorectal cancers	Tobias Sjöblom	Uppsala University	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:133
Multiomics analysis of immune clonal niches in breast cancer	Camilla Engblom	Karolinska Institutet	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:161
Guiding Breast Cancer Therapy Through AI-Interpreted Patient-Centric Protein Modules	Henrik Johansson	Karolinska Institutet	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:011
Learning to find the needle in the haystack: Heterogeneous Hierarchical Multiple Instance Learning for Computational Pathology	Joakim Lindblad	Uppsala University	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:088
Uncertainty-aware extraction of clinical information from unstructured medical reports	Sara Hamis	Uppsala University	DDL Academic PhD Projects 2025:141

Cell and molecular biology (8 slots)

Proposal title	Name of main supervisor	Main supervisor affiliation	Proposal
Data-Driven Modeling of Protein Conformational Dynamics through Integration of LiP-MS and Deep Learning	Ilaria Piazza	Stockholm University	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:066
Mapping single cell expression networks with connectogenomics	Ian Hoffecker	KTH - Royal Institute of Technology	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:109
Beyond the Tissue Section: Reference-Free 3D Spatial Omics for Single-Cell Resolution in Intact Organs	Patrik Ståhl	KTH - Royal Institute of Technology	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:086
A virtual cellular reprogramming screening platform	Filipe Pereira	Lund University	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:053
Contextual modelling of IDP interactions in cancer - from proximiomes to structural assemblies	Maria Sunnerhagen	Linköping University	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:079
Computation analysis of cerebellar network dynamics in learning	Anders Rasmussen	Lund University	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:113
Deep Probabilistic Models of MS2 Fragmentation for Improved Spectrum Matching	Lukas Käll	KTH - Royal Institute of Technology	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:006
Deep learning-based image analysis for the development of next generation RNA therapeutics	Anders Wittrup	Lund University	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:139

Epidemiology and Biology of infection (3 slots)

Proposal title	Name of main supervisor	Main supervisor affiliation	Proposal
Please pass the plasmid: single-cell surveillance of antimicrobial resistance genes in microbiomes	Johan Henriksson	Umeå university	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:142
CRITICAL AI - Comprehensive Research on InfectIons Across the Lifespan using AI	Anne-Marie Fors Connolly	Umeå University	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:089
Towards a mechanism-aware multi-label prediction framework for antimicrobial peptides	Michaela Wenzel	Chalmers University of Technology	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:136

Evolution and biodiversity (4 slots)

Proposal title	Name of main supervisor	Main supervisor affiliation	Proposal
Decoding the high-dimensional genotype-phenotype space by multi-objective optimization and machine learning	Jonas Warringer	University of Gothenburg	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:044
Evolution of protein domain architectures in the AI-era.	Arne Elofsson	Stockholm University	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:078
Duplicity: the catalysts of polyploid evolution resolved through integrative pangenomics	Levi Yant	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:063
The code that shapes the body: AI and digital phenotyping to decode evolutionary morphology in domesticated animals.	Elin Hernlund	Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences	DDLSSAcademicPhDProjects2025:147

DDL Research School industrial projects suggested for funding

Industrial projects

Proposal title	Name of the main supervisor	Main supervisor affiliation	Name of the industrial co-supervisor	Affiliation of the industrial co-supervisor	Proposal id
Accelerating Orally Bioavailable Cyclic Peptide Drug Discovery with AI	Patrick Bryant	Stockholm University	Alessandro Tibo	Astra Zeneca	DDLIndustryPhDProjects2025:018
Cross-Species Representation Learning for Translational Disease Insights	Kevin Smith	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Christos Matsoukas	AstraZeneca AB	DDLIndustryPhDProjects2025:023
Development of machine-learning methods to improve binding-affinity estimates	Ulf Ryde	Lund University	Jon Paul Janet	AstraZeneca	DDLIndustryPhDProjects2025:010
Data-Driven Modeling of Human Biology Using Real-World Multimodal Laboratory and Registry Data	Wei Ouyang	KTH Royal Institute of Technology	Sebastian Bujwid	ABC Labs	DDLIndustryPhDProjects2025:011
From Explainable to Actionable and Reversible Epigenetics: A Transformer-based Foundation Model for DNA Methylation in Longitudinal Cohorts	Sara Hägg	Karolinska Institutet	Mika Gustafsson	PredictMe AB	DDLIndustryPhDProjects2025:014
RIBO-LINC: Linking data-driven solutions and RNA innovation for liver and cardiometabolic health	Claudia Kutter	Karolinska Institutet	Li-Ming Gan	Ribocure	DDLIndustryPhDProjects2025:028
Biomarker driven precision diagnostics	Anders Ståhlberg	University of Gothenburg	Mikael Kubista	MultiD Anlyses AB	DDLIndustryPhDProjects2025:022

TOP proposal title	Main Applicant	Affiliation	Platform	Unit	2026 NAT (KSEK)	2027 NAT (KSEK)	2026 PLP (KSEK)	2027 PLP (KSEK)	2026 NBIS (FTE resources)	2027 NBIS (FTE resources)	2026 Data Centre (FTE resources)	2027 Data Centre (FTE resources)
Time-resolved cryo-EM - resolving molecular mechanisms at the milliseconds and microseconds scale	Marta Carroni	SU	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	Cryo-EM	1 400	1 400			0,25	0,25		
Spatial mRNomics	Rapoulos Spalinskas	SU	Spatial Biology	In Situ Sequencing	1 400	1 400						
Reshaping Bio NMR by AI: Fully automated assignment and structure in hours	Ulrika Brath	GU	Integrated Structural Biology	Swedish NMR Centre	900	900						
Spatial multiomics integration	Asa Björkstrand	Chalmers	Bioinformatics	Support, Infrastructure and Training	900	900			1,00	1,00	0,50	0,50
From Correlation to Causation: Linking CRISPR Perturbation with Cell- and Tissue Profiling at Scale	Bernhard Schmiere	KI	Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering	CRISPR Functional Genomics	1 400	1 400						
QUICK-CN: Ultra-low-input copy-number analysis at scale	Jessica Nordlund	UU	Genomics	National Genomics Infrastructure	1 400	1 400						
High-Resolution Multiomics: Advanced Integrated Spatial Multiomics for next-generation diagnostics	Carolina Oses Sepulveda	KTH	Spatial Biology	Spatial Proteomics	1 400	1 400						
Q-Loop – Quality-Controlled Workflow Manager for Microscopy	Mathieu Coincon	SU	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	Cryo-EM	900	900			0,50	0,50	0,20	0,20
Cell-specific Proteome 3D Structural Atlas by Structural Elucidation of Proteins in Cellular Environment (SEPCE)	Massimiliano Gaetani	KI	Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering	Chemical Proteomics	1 400	1 400						
Spatial Multi-Omics on a Single Tissue Section	Katrina Titova	SU	Spatial Biology	In Situ Sequencing	1 400	1 400			0,10	0,10		
ACE – AI-guided Intracellular Cyclic-peptide Engine	Per Arvidsson	KI	DDD	TPP and DSA	1 400	1 400						
MultiPlex Spatial Interactomics Integrating In-situ Proximity Ligation Assay and Cell Painting for AI-Powered Drug Discovery and Precision Medicine	Malin Jarnius	UU	Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering	Chemical Biology Consortium Sweden	1 400	1 400					0,10	0,10
Enabling the next big transformation in Genomics: Combining Pangenomes and the Ancestral Combination Graph	Per Ureberg	UU	Bioinformatics	Support, Infrastructure and Training	100	100			1,00	1,00		
BIoVAT - Biodiversity Variant Analysis Toolkit	Henrik Lantz	UU	Bioinformatics	Support, Infrastructure and Training					0,50	0,50		
Next-Generation Spatial Omics: Enabling Host-Microbe-Immune Insights via SmT and Spatial VDJ	Anja Mezger	KTH	Spatial Biology	National Genomics Infrastructure			1 250	1 250	0,50	0,50		
3D spatial profiling of transcripts and proteins in tissue	Hans Blom	KTH	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	Integrated Microscopy Technologies			1 250	1 250	0,25	0,25		
Development of a High-Accuracy, High-Throughput Droplet-PTA Platform for scWGS	Julia Brauning	LU	Clinical Genomics	Clinical Genomics Lund			1 250	1 250	0,25	0,25	0,10	0,10
Capture-based long-read metagenomics for detection of pathogens and antimicrobial resistance	Bianca Stenmark	ORU	Clinical Genomics	Clinical Genomics Örebro			1 250	1 250				
AbPEA-NGS: Monitoring Antibody Reactivity Using High-Throughput Proximity Extension Assays	Mikael Åberg	UU	Proteomics	Affinity Proteomics Uppsala			1 500	1 500				
HOT-Lab: Anticipatory and Reactive Structural Biology Technologies for Pandemic Preparedness	Cecilia Persson	GU	Integrated Structural Biology	Swedish NMR Centre			1 500	1 500	0,25	0,25	0,10	0,10

Total: 15 400 15 400 8 000 8 000 4,60 4,60 1,00 1,00

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