

The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from Board Meeting no. 85, June 2, 2026

Navet, BMC, Uppsala

Present board members

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

Other participants

Jan Ellenberg (Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Annika Jenmalm-Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Sandra Falck (OO, Head of operations), Maria Thuveson (OO, Vice Head of operations), Åsa Westeson (OO, secretary), Anna Lidin (OO, §§1-4), Elvan Helander (OO, §4b), Catarina Rydin (Campus Solna Committee, §7 on zoom), Linda Sandblad (SciLifeLab Umeå, §10 on zoom), Markus Heidenblad (SciLifeLab Lund, §10 on zoom), Elisabet Carlsohn (SciLifeLab Gothenburg, §10 on zoom), Fredrik Elinder (SciLifeLab Linköping, §10 on zoom), Isolde Palombo (OO, §10 on zoom), Johan Rung (Data Centre, §11), Josefin Lundgren (OO, §§12-13 on zoom), Per Lek, (OO, §12 on zoom)

Absent

Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS, Region Stockholm, adjunct member), Titti Ekegren (OO)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board appointed Mats Larhed to approve the minutes of the meeting, in addition to the chair.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the minutes from meeting no 84, April 15, 2026.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the agenda, with a few changes in the order of specific items. For clarity, the protocol follows the order of the agenda as it was sent out.

1a. SciLifeLab Directors' decisions

Ylva Engström informed about decisions made during the period March 30 – May 15, 2026, by the SciLifeLab director, the DDLS program director and research school directors and the SciLifeLab Head of Operations.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the information to be noted to the minutes.

1b. Board meeting dates 2027

Suggested dates for the board meetings 2027 were presented:

- Friday February 12, 9-12 (zoom)
- Thursday April 22, 9-12 (zoom)
- Wednesday May 26, 10-17 + dinner (Uppsala)
- Thursday September 16, 9-12 (zoom)
- Tuesday October 19, 9-12 (zoom)
- Thursday November 25, 10-17 + dinner (Solna)

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board decided on the suggested dates for 2027.

2. Update from Director, incl. quarterly report (Q1, 2026)

Jan Ellenberg presented the ongoing work within the organization, focusing on Data Services and SciLifeLab's national governance. Jan also provided a quarterly update on the highlights from Q1, 2026, including research community, infrastructure, Data Centre, strategic areas and sites, among other things.

3. Infrastructure

3a. OligoNova evaluation and budget

DNR: HS-2026-1206

OligoNova is a national SciLifeLab unit within the Drug Discovery and Development (DDD) platform hosted by Gothenburg University. OligoNova is funded mainly by KAW and local funding but also partly by national SciLifeLab funding. Continued funding beyond Q2 2026 is conditional on an international mid-term review, which was conducted in April 2026. The reviewers concluded that the DDD program has been highly successful and strategically important for Swedish academic drug discovery, and that the addition of oligonucleotides as a therapeutic modality represents a logical and valuable expansion of the platform's capabilities. However, they also identified several areas for further improvement, including a clearer definition of OligoNova's value proposition and success criteria. They further recommended that future planning for OligoNova be aligned with the long-term strategy of the DDD platform, which is currently under development.

The Board decided to maintain funding for the second half of 2026 at the current level while this work is undertaken.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board approved continued national SciLifeLab funding of OligoNova during Q3-Q4 2026 and allocate 2 MSEK from national SciLifeLab funds for this period.

The SciLifeLab Board decided to request that SciLifeLab management returns with a longer-term strategic and financial proposal for OligoNova beyond 2026, informed by the recommendations from international review.

4. Finance and budget

4a. Financial update

The budget framework and planned relative funding distribution between the different sections of the budget (Infrastructure, SciLifeLab Initiatives and National Operating costs) was presented, demonstrating a balanced distribution in line with previous years. A preliminary outline of the 2027 budget was presented with tentative allocations towards strategic initiatives and National Operating costs.

The budget plan demonstrates that the increased funding from the last research bill, is allocated in line with strategic priorities, and that the accumulated surplus is consumed. A balanced budget sustaining beyond this research bill period is planned, however some activities would need to be reduced should no increased funding be provided for the next funding period.

Budget planning for 2027 will continue at the coming meetings and updated figures will be provided as we approach decision on the 2027 budget.

4b. DDLS surplus allocation guidelines for Phase 2 and onwards

DNR: HS-2026-1212

As the DDLS program is shifting from build-up to delivery and sustained operations, coordinated financial planning is required to support long-term objectives. Additional funding needs arise, and the available surplus funding is expected to be lower in Phase 2 and onwards, compared to Phase 1. This combination of increasing commitments and flexibility needs requires structured and forward-looking approach to surplus allocation.

Sandra Falck presented the suggested guidelines.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the Surplus allocation guidelines for Phase 2 and onwards.

4c. Alpha Cell budget (KAW 2026.0017)

DNR: HS-2026-0776

Jan Ellenberg presented the draft budget for Alpha Cell donation letter KAW 2026.0017, aimed to fund three fellows connected to the program. One fellow is planned to be recruited to SU and two to KTH. The budget allocates funding for the fellows and for supporting activities, and will be submitted to the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation upon approval by the Board.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the budget for the Alpha Cell donation letter KAW 2026.0017, according to §4c Appendix A and §4c Appendix B, for submission to the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation.

5. SciLifeLab collaborations/strategic partnerships

5a. RIKEN MoU

DNR: HS-2026-1203

Over a decade of collaboration through the RIKEN-KI-SciLifeLab Symposium series, has resulted in the suggestion to formalise a continued companionship between SciLifeLab and RIKEN. The proposal is to sign a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the planned delegation visit in Stockholm on November 5, 2026. The MoU is suggested to cover the three RIKEN centres:

- Center for Integrative Medical Sciences (IMS)
- Center for Brain Science (CBS)
- Center for Biosystems Dynamics Research (BDR).

Discussion followed, with the outcome that the final version of the MoU after legal review will be distributed to the SciLifeLab Board, and the final authorization to the Director to sign will be approved by the Board through a decision *per capsulam* or at an upcoming board meeting.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board considered the proposed collaboration with RIKEN, covering the three RIKEN centres IMS, CBS and BDR, to be of strategic relevance to SciLifeLab and expressed support for its formalisation through a Memorandum of Understanding on the terms described, once the legal review is finalized.

5b. FoHM MoU

DNR: HS-2026-1204

Recent health crises have identified a critical gap, in the lack of formalized partnerships that clearly define how organizations collaborate and coordinate during emergencies. As a first step in this direction, SciLifeLab and The Public Health Agency of Sweden (Folkhälsomyndigheten) have developed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to establish a framework for long-term strategic collaboration in areas of mutual importance for public health, life science research, and national preparedness.

Discussion followed, with the outcome that the final version of the MoU after legal review will be distributed to the SciLifeLab Board, and the final authorization to the Director to sign will be approved by the Board through a decision *per capsulam* or at an upcoming board meeting.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board considered the proposed collaboration with The Public Health Agency of Sweden (Folkhälsomyndigheten) to be of strategic relevance to SciLifeLab and expressed support for its formalisation through a Memorandum of Understanding on the terms described once the legal review is finalized.

5c. NAISS MoU

DNR: HS-2026-1205

With Data Services becoming a key strategic area for SciLifeLab, it is essential to secure access to compute- and storage services with the capacity, accessibility and technical solutions required by both infrastructure platforms and the research community. In order to do this in a clearly organized and coordinated way across the organisation, and aligned with the university activities in the area, SciLifeLab needs to formalize mandates and agreements at the central level.

SciLifeLab and the National Academic Infrastructure for Supercomputing in Sweden (NAISS) have initiated work on a Memorandum of Understanding, covering NAISS AI Factory and NAISS hosted KAW resources and all SciLifeLab platforms.

Discussion followed, with the outcome that the final version of the MoU after legal review will be distributed to the SciLifeLab Board, and the final authorization to the Director to sign will be approved by the Board through a decision *per capsulam* or at an upcoming board meeting.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board considered the proposed collaboration with NAISS to be of strategic relevance to SciLifeLab and expressed support for its formalisation through a Memorandum of Understanding on the terms described, once the legal review is finalized.

6. Closure of the National SciLifeLab Committee

DNR: HS-2026-0872

A new governance structure for SciLifeLab was launched June 1, 2025, with the establishment of the Strategic Management Group (SMG), which is a fully national advisory body to the director. In addition, national leadership groups have been established at the major Swedish higher education institutions, and representatives from these groups are now incorporated into SMG, ensuring continued national coordination, representation and alignment of strategic activities across the organization. With this transformation, the National SciLifeLab Committee (NSC) has fulfilled its mandate and accomplished its assigned task.

Following the closure of the NSC, the SciLifeLab Rules of Procedure (Arbetsordning) will have to be revised by removing section 4.2 “Direktörens nationella råd”. This revision is to be carried out during the fall 2026 and aligned with any other revisions, to restrict updating the Arbetsordning more than once per year.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board decided to close the National SciLifeLab Committee (NSC), effective June 30, 2026, when the mandate periods for all committee members end. Following the closure of the National SciLifeLab Committee, the SciLifeLab Rules of Procedures (Arbetsordning) will have to be revised removing section 4.2 Direktörens nationella råd. This revision is planned to be carried out fall 2026. To avoid too frequent updates of the Arbetsordning, this revision will be aligned with any other revisions needed in 2026.

The decision was followed by a farewell ceremony for Gunilla, who is stepping down from her role as an adjunct member of the board, representing the NSC.

7. Campus Solna Director assignment

DNR: HS-2026-0874

At board meeting no. 84, April 15, 2026, Hjalmar Brismar was appointed interim Campus Solna Director, succeeding Per Ljungdahl, whose mandate ended on April 30. A process to recruit a permanent director has been conducted during the spring and has now been finalized. Catarina Rydin, chair of the Campus Solna Committee, presented the process and selection criteria that had led to the suggestion to recommend Hjalmar Brismar for the position on a three-year mandate.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board decided to appoint Professor Hjalmar Brismar as Campus Solna Director, effective immediately. The three-year mandate period runs until May 31, 2029, and can be renewed.

8. KTH interim Scientific Director and process forward

DNR: HS-2026-1210

Following Hjalmar Brismar's assignment as Campus Solna Director, he has left the position as KTH Scientific Director (SD). The SDs are appointed by the SciLifeLab board after suggestion from the respective parties, as stated in §7 of the four-party agreement. Awaiting the process of finding a new SD at KTH to be finalized, an interim assignment of Peter Nilsson was suggested.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board decided to appoint Professor Peter Nilsson as interim SciLifeLab KTH Scientific Director, effective immediately. The mandate ends once the ordinary position is filled and at the latest in December 2026.

9. Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness lead

DNR: HS-2026-0403

Mia Phillipson reported on the process of recruiting a lead for Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness (PLP) to fill the vacancy after Ulf Ribacke, temporarily filled by Dr. Jessica Alm.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board decided to appoint Dr Jessica Alm as PLP Scientific lead (50% FTE) from July 1, 2026, to December 31, 2027, with compensation to Jessica Alm's department at KI of SEK 400 000 for 2026 and SEK 800 000 for 2027 from the PLP funding.

10. Site Strategy planning and budget

DNR: HS-2026-2153

In order to strengthen SciLifeLab's national impact and ensure alignment between local site activities and the overarching national strategy, a site strategy process was launched early 2026. Each site has developed a strategy outlining its profile, governance, strengths, challenges, and planned activities during 2027-28. The site directors presented their ongoing work:

- Umeå, Linda Sandblad
- Lund, Markus Heidenblad
- Gothenburg, Elisabet Carlsohn
- Linköping, Fredrik Elinder

11. Data Service Strategy group

Johan Rung presented the background and ongoing work with the Integrated Data Services initiative as well as strategic planning of SciLifeLab Data Services going forward. The aim is to consolidate Data Centre, NBIS, SciLifeLab platforms, DDLS and training outputs into a coherent, lifecycle-managed service portfolio. A cross-unit Data Service Strategy group, chaired by Sverker Holmgren, will define roles, interfaces and sustainability principles, align with universities and national infrastructures, and deliver a written strategy and communication plan by year-end 2026.

12. Industry Access project

The Vinnova-funded Industry Access Project, running August 2024 to November 2026, was presented by project leaders Josefin Lundgren and Per Lek. The goal of the project is to make company access to SciLifeLab's 40+ infrastructures simpler, clearer, and nationally harmonized. An initial survey showed main bottlenecks in cost and pricing models as well as legal issues, plus strong demand for more outreach. The project runs seminars and large national workshops, is sharing materials and cases on the website, and is developing guidelines/templates for contracts and pricing.

13. Excellence Cluster application update

Jan reported on the progress of the Excellence Cluster application, due for submission within one week (June 10). The cluster is led by SciLifeLab and Max IV with university hospitals and universities to bridge technology development and healthcare. It builds joint clinical infrastructure with technology, AI and data development at core, and is structured in ten work packages, with six technology-driven demonstrator projects selected initially to make use of and develop the cluster capabilities. The project integrates innovation support and startup co-location, and leverages Sweden's strength in molecular technologies and health data.

14. SFO evaluation

Maria outlined the upcoming VR evaluation of the 41 SFO:s (Strategic Research Areas), assessing scientific quality, impact, and institutional contributions. The evaluations will consist of self-evaluations, case studies and interviews and the result will feed into government decisions on future funding and earmarking. The board discussed SciLifeLab's special position (two SFO streams, strong Fellows programs, national impact), the political risk of reallocation, and the need for a coordinated Stockholm-Uppsala narrative verifying the excellence, stressing the importance of maintaining earmarked funding, and highlighting the opportunity for national expansion of a successful model should additional resources be available.

15. Other items

No other items.

Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- Tuesday September 22, 2026 (Zoom)
- Wednesday October 21, 2026 (Zoom)
- Wednesday November 18, 2026 (Solna)

Åsa Westeson, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström, chair

Mats Larhed

Knut och Alice
Wallenbergs
Stiftelse

Stockholm i mars 2026

Rektor
KTH
100 44 Stockholm

KAW 2026.0017


Stiftelsen har beslutat att från ramanslag Life Science I för perioden 2026 - 2031 bevilja 60 000 000 kr till Science for Life Laboratorium för finansiering av tre DDLS Fellows anslutna till *Alpha Cell projektet*.

Enligt stiftelselagen är styrelsens ledamöter personligen ansvariga för att donerade medel utnyttjas för ändamål, som står i full överensstämmelse med ändamålsparagrafen i Stiftelsens stadgar. Medel enligt detta donationsbrev får därför endast utnyttjas för i donationsbrevet angivet ändamål. Administrativa avgifter eller påslag för ospecificerade ändamål kan således inte tillåtas belasta anslaget. Mottagandet av donationen är en bekräftelse på att dessa villkor accepteras av mottagande lärosäte.

Anslaget kommer att utbetalas till ett bankkonto tillhörande KTH efter elektronisk rekvisition som görs via Stiftelsens hemsida <https://kaw.wallenberg.org>. Samtliga rekvisitioner skall följa Stiftelsens budgetuppställning samt vara verifierade på lämpligt sätt. Ytterligare information avseende rekvisitioner återfinns på Stiftelsens hemsida. Inför den första rekvisitionen skall en lista över samtliga personer med attesträtt bifogas den elektroniska rekvisitionen. Listan skall vara undertecknad av huvudmannen.

Stiftelsen förbehåller sig rätten att, i efterhand, följa upp att utbetalda medel använts för det beviljade ändamålet. Anslagsmedel som inte rekvirerats inom den angivna tidperioden, kommer automatiskt att återföras till Stiftelsen.

Högaktningsfullt
KNUT OCH ALICE WALLENBERGS STIFTELSE



C.C. Professor Jan Ellenberg, director@scilifelab.se
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Professor Ylva Engström, ylva.engstrom@su.se

SÄRSKILDA VILLKOR

Dnr KAW 2026.0017 DDLS Fellows anslutna till *Alpha Cell projektet*.

- Projektet syftar till att skapa en grundmodell för att förutsäga metaboliska funktioner hos mänskliga celler och vävnader.
- De tre nya DDLS Fellows tjänsterna skall utlysas inom ämnen relevanta för Alpha cell projektet.
- Två av tjänsterna placeras lämpligen vid KTH och en tjänst vid Stockholms universitet.

Budget

- En budget anpassad till det beviljade beloppet skall vara Stiftelsen tillhanda senast den 1 juli 2026. Stiftelsen kommer att granska den förnyade budgeten och vid behov inleda en dialog med anslagsmottagaren.

- Följande belopp kan maximalt årligen rekvireras från Stiftelsen, Mkr:

2026	6
2027	12
2028	12
2029	12
2030	12
2031	6

- Av det beviljade beloppet får maximalt 20 % avsättas för indirekta kostnader och lokal-kostnader.
- Anslagsmedel som inte rekvirerats senast 2032, kommer automatiskt att återföras till Stiftelsen.
- Stiftelsens budgetmall skall användas, vilken återfinns på hemsidan <https://kaw.wallenberg.org>.
- Budgetfrågor ställs till Stiftelsens medarbetare Caroline Morton (caroline.morton@wallenbergfoundations.se).

Budget KAW 2026.0017 Fellows Alpha Cell			
MSEK			
Package	Focus	Host	Total
Fellow 1	Structure	SU	17
Fellow 2	Protein	KTH	20
Fellow 3	TBD	KTH	17
Recruitment			0,3
Shared AlphaCell Fellow initiatives			5,7
Total			60

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