

The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from Board Meeting no. 86, September 22, 2026

Zoom meeting

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), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (adjunct member, GMS, Region Stockholm)

Other participants

Jan Ellenberg (Director), Sandra Falck (OO, Head of operations), Annika Jenmalm-Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Maria Thuveson (OO, Vice Head of Operations, §§1-7), Åsa Westeson (OO, secretary), Anna Lidin (OO, §§1-4), Ulrika Wallenquist (OO, §5a), Disa Larsson Hammarlöf (OO, §9)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.

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 85, June 2, 2026.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the agenda. During the meeting §8c was handled before §8a and §8b. For clarity, the minutes follows the order of the agenda as it was sent out.

1a. SciLifeLab Directors' decisions

Ylva Engström informed about decisions made during the period May 16 – August 31, 2026, by DDLS program director and Research School directors.

Decision:

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

2. Update from Director, incl. quarterly report (Q2, 2026)

Jan Ellenberg presented the ongoing work within the organization, highlighting:

- Data service & AI – key piece in the continued work to develop SciLifeLab
 - o Open language model launched at SciLifeLab, motivated by research integrity, data sovereignty, flexibility and independence
 - o Sverker Holmgren appointed chair of the Data Service Strategy group
- Translation to healthcare – follow-up meetings with the Excellence Cluster for groundbreaking technologies team, including preparation for interviews coming up in November, awaiting the final selection of the 65 applications

Jan also provided a quarterly update on the highlights from Q2, 2026, including research community, infrastructure, Data Centre, strategic areas and sites, among other things.

3. Mandate for Co-Director & Infrastructure Director

Co-Director Mia Phillipson and Infrastructure Director Annika Jenmalm Jensen were asked to leave the meeting for this item.

These assignments are appointed by the SciLifeLab Board as described in the SciLifeLab steering documents, and the current terms for the co-director and the infrastructure director are coming to an end by December 31, 2026. Renewal of current assignments shall be taken by Board decision.

Jan's proposition is to renew Mia Phillipson as Co-Director and Annika Jenmalm Jensen as Infrastructure Director with a Board decision at the October meeting, and they are both available for another assignment period. Ylva suggested reaching out to their respective department heads to confirm continued support by the employer for renewed assignments.

4. Financial update

The budget framework and planned relative funding distribution between the different sections of the budget were presented by Sandra Falck, who also presented an update of the preliminary outline of the 2027 budget, with tentative allocations towards strategic initiatives and National Operating costs. The financial update was presented with a slightly modified outlook moving towards showing division of costs according to content rather than grouped after budget technical reasoning. Budget work continues with next to final figures to be shown at the October Board meeting, followed by budget decision at the November meeting.

The tentative budget for 2027 was discussed with emphasis on the plans for using surplus and allocating funding towards deploying strategic initiatives, while at the same time ensuring a long-term sustainable and balanced budget.

5. DDLS

5a. Process for affiliation of PhD students to DDLS Research School

DNR: PA-2026-3294

The DDLS Research School has so far been available only to PhD students directly funded through the DDLS program. To further strengthen the DDLS Research School, a PhD Student Affiliate Program is suggested to be launched, with four yearly calls giving a total of 60 affiliated PhD students receiving the same benefits as the other PhD students within DDLS.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the proposed structure for the DDLS RS Affiliate Program, as outlined in Appendix A, and the proposed text of the 2026 Call, as outlined in Appendix B.

In addition, the SciLifeLab Board delegated to the DDLS Research School Director(s) for the PhD Program to finalize any remaining adjustments.

5b. Formalization of the inclusion of DDLS Fellow representatives in DDLS Steering group

DNR: HS-2026-2004

Representatives from the DDLS Fellows Council have served as adjunct members of the DDLS Steering group since the beginning of 2026. To further strengthen the role of the DDLS fellows within the DDLS program, it is proposed that two representatives from the DDLS Fellows community are included as full members in the steering group.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the inclusion of two representatives from the DDLS Fellows community as full members of the DDLS Steering Group from January 1, 2027.

In addition, the SciLifeLab Board delegated to the Chair of the Board to make the annual appointments of DDLS Fellow representatives, except in cases where the Board is considering the renewal of the DDLS Steering Group as a whole.

5c. Renewal of DDLS Steering group members

DNR: HS-2026-1400

Jan Ellenberg provided a background on the DDLS steering group and the process for reviewing the composition and establish principles and procedures for appointments for the next mandate period. The process will include a review of the current membership, assessment of future needs and selection criteria, nomination of candidates and confirmation of appointments.

A list of nominees will be provided to the SciLifeLab Board prior to its decision on the composition of the DDLS Steering group at the meeting on November 18, 2026.

6. IAB members

DNR: HS-2026-2006

Jan Ellenberg outlined the procedure of adding new members to the International Advisory Board before the IAB site visit in March 2027. Decision on new members are planned to be taken as soon as all candidates have confirmed their availability, foreseen for the October Board meeting.

7. KTH Scientific Director assignment

DNR: HS-2026-1210

The process for recruiting a permanent KTH Scientific Director has been finalized, suggesting to appoint KTH professor Anna Herland for the role. She will replace Peter Nilsson who has been interim Scientific Director since Hjalmar Brismar stepped down in June 2026.

Mikael Lindström presented the process leading to the suggestion at hand.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board decided to appoint Anna Herland as SciLifeLab KTH Scientific Director for the period October 1, 2026 until September 30, 2029.

8. Strategic partnerships

Jan Ellenberg presented the background and procedure for initiating and formalizing SciLifeLab's strategic partnerships, including legal coordination according to the power of attorney that was signed by the rectors of the four founding universities in 2024.

8a. RIKEN MoU

DNR: HS-2026-1203

SciLifeLab and the Japanese research institute RIKEN have collaborated for more than a decade through the RIKEN-KI-SciLifeLab Symposium series. Building on this and formalizing a collaboration between the RIKEN centers in life science and SciLifeLab was suggested at Board meeting no. 85, and is now documented in a Memorandum of Understanding, ready for approval by the Board.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between SciLifeLab and RIKEN (Appendix A), under condition that the wording for the initial presentation of SciLifeLab is aligned and identical between all MoU:s.

The SciLifeLab Board also mandated the SciLifeLab Director, Prof. Jan Ellenberg, to sign the MoU between SciLifeLab and RIKEN on its behalf at the signing ceremony in Stockholm on 5 November 2026, in accordance with the standing Power of Attorney issued by the four founding universities (KTH dnr HS-2025-2539)

8b. Folkhälsomyndigheten MoU

DNR: HS-2026-1204

SciLifeLab and the Public Health Authority of Sweden (Folkhälsomyndigheten, FHM) have identified the need for strengthened long-term strategic collaboration to address significant societal health challenges. Formalizing the collaboration was suggested at Board meeting no. 85, and is now documented in a Memorandum of Understanding, ready for approval by the Board.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the Memorandum of Understanding between SciLifeLab and Folkhälsomyndigheten (Appendix A), under condition that the wording for the initial presentation of SciLifeLab is aligned and identical between all MoU:s.

The SciLifeLab Board also mandated the SciLifeLab Director, Prof. Jan Ellenberg, to sign the MoU between SciLifeLab and Folkhälsomyndigheten on its behalf, in accordance with the standing Power of Attorney issued by the four founding universities (KTH dnr HS-2025-2539).

8c. EMBL MoU

DNR: HS-2026-2016

SciLifeLab formalized the collaboration with the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in 2021 through a Memorandum of Understanding, which will expire in December 2026. The collaboration under this MoU has been an active and successful, with joint activities, meetings and conferences, exchange of staff and joint successful EU projects. The aim, shared by the new EMBL director general Tony Hyman and SciLifeLab director Jan Ellenberg, is to renew the MoU, and to present an updated version to the SciLifeLab Board for approval during the fall of 2026.

9. Training strategy development

DNR: HS-2026-2017

Disa Larsson Hammarlöf provided an update concerning the development of the SciLifeLab Training Strategy that is being developed to strengthen national coordination, expand training for infrastructure staff and researchers, and support innovation. The strategy, based on broad community input, proposes a central Training Team within the Operations Office and a Training Roadmap to guide implementation across all SciLifeLab entities. The strategy will be presented for Board approval once finalized, late 2026/early 2027.

10. Expensive instruments call update

DNR: HS-2026-2008

Annika presented the eighth Expensive Instruments call, where 17 applications have been received. The purpose of the call is to offer possibilities for the infrastructure platforms to acquire or replace strategically important instruments that cannot be financed within the individual platform budgets. Applications are reviewed by the Scientific Directors, and a proposed allocation of the funds will be presented to the Board for decision at the October meeting.

11. New members DDD platform steering group

DNR: HS-2026-2015

The Drug Discovery and Development platform (DDD) at SciLifeLab receives a separate funding stream from the government (LÄK), and is governed by the DDD National Steering group, composed of academic and industry/innovation representatives, meeting six times a year to set priorities, strategies and decide on intake of new projects to the portfolio.

New suggested steering group members are Peter Nygren, Anna Rudin and Malin Lemurell.

Christoph Varenhorst reported a conflict of interest regarding the decision concerning Malin Lemurell, and thus did not participate in that decision.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab Board decided to approve Peter Nygren as member of the DDD platform steering group for the mandate period October 1, 2026 until December 31, 2030.

The SciLifeLab Board decided to approve Anna Rudin as member of the DDD platform steering group for the mandate period January 1, 2027 until December 31, 2030.

The SciLifeLab Board decided to approve Malin Lemurell as member of the DDD platform steering group for the mandate period January 1, 2027 until December 31, 2030.

12. Other items

No other items.

Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday October 21, 2026 (Zoom)
- Wednesday November 18, 2026 (Solna)
- Friday February 12, 2027 (Zoom)

Åsa Westeson, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström, chair

Anna Arnqvist Björklund

Signature page

This document has been electronically signed
using eduSign.

eduSign

Electronically signed by

Ylva Engström

eduSign

Date and time of signature

2026-09-29 08:20 GMT

Authenticated by

Stockholms universitet

Electronically signed by

Anna Arnqvist Björklund

eduSign

Date and time of signature

2026-09-29 08:35 GMT

Authenticated by

Umea University

Electronically signed by

Åsa Westeson

eduSign

Date and time of signature

2026-09-29 09:19 GMT

Authenticated by

Kungliga Tekniska högskolan (KTH)