The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from Board Meeting no. 87, October 21, 2026

Zoom meeting

Present board members

Ylva Engström (SU, chair), Anna Arnqvist Björklund (UMU), Martin Bergö (KI), Mats Larhed (UU), Jonas Larsson (LU), Carina Mallard (GU), Lena Mäler (SU)

Other participants

Jan Ellenberg (Director), Sandra Falck (OO, Head of operations), Annika Jenmalm-Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director), Åsa Westeson (OO, secretary), Anna Lidin (OO, §§2-3)

Absent

Mikael Lindström (KTH), Christoph Varenhorst (Astra Zeneca), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (GMS, Region Stockholm), Maria Thuveson (OO, Vice Head of Operations)

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1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed the participants and opened the meeting.

For clarity:

- §7, Expensive Instruments call, is a decision item, not an information item as was stated in the agenda distributed prior to the meeting.
- §8, SciLifeLab Group Leader call, is an information item, not a decision as was stated in the agenda distributed prior to the meeting.

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 86, September 22, 2026.

The SciLifeLab Board approved the agenda, with an addition of an item about the DDLS National Reference Group added to §10.

1a. SciLifeLab Directors' decisions

Ylva Engström informed about decisions made during the period September 1 – October 6, 2026, by DDLS program director and Research School directors as well as the Board Chair.

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

2. Update from Director

Jan Ellenberg updated on the ongoing work within the organization, highlighting:

- Data Services and AI. The SciLifeLab AI Strategy is under implementation, a Data Service strategy under way
- Translation to healthcare. The cluster application is not in process for interview by VR, but remains a focus for the organization

3. Financial update

Sandra Falck presented a next-to-final version of the preliminary 2027 budget, with tentative allocations towards strategic initiatives and National Operating costs, including minor updates compared to what was outlined at the previous meeting. The end of year surplus forecast was also presented. The SciLifeLab 2027 budget will be decided by the Board at the next meeting on November 18, 2026.

4. Approval of IAB members

DNR: HS-2026-2006

According to the SciLifeLab governance framework, the International Advisory Board (IAB) serves as an advisory body to the SciLifeLab Board on strategic and scientific matters. The Board is requested to appoint the proposed members of the International Advisory Board to serve during the upcoming IAB meeting in March 2027, and for the agreed term of office of two years 2027-2028.

Upon request, Jan clarified that he has no recent research publications with any of the two new proposed members, and that he is comfortable with the independence of the group as a whole.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab Board decided to appoint the following experts to be members of the International Advisory Board to SciLifeLab, for the period January 1, 2027, until December 31, 2028:

Rudolf Aebersold, M. Madan Babu, Søren Brunak, Jo Bury, Sirpa Jalkanen, Suliana Manley, Iain Mattei, Kjetil Taskén, Sarah Teichmann.

5. Infrastructure Director assignment

DNR: HS-2026-2244

Annika Jenmalm-Jensen and Mats Larhed left the meeting with reference to conflict of interest.

The current mandate period of Infrastructure Director Annika Jenmalm Jensen will end December 31, 2026. The assignment is appointed by the SciLifeLab Board as described in the SciLifeLab steering documents.

The process of renewal vs new appointment for assignments was discussed in general terms. The Board expressed a wish for an early discussion regarding process, once the renewed mandate period for the Infrastructure Director is in its last year.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab Board decided to appoint Annika Jenmalm-Jensen as Infrastructure Director for the period January 1, 2027, until December 31, 2029.

6. DDD platform steering group members

DNR: HS-2026-2015

The SciLifeLab board appoints members to the DDD (Drug Discovery and Development) platform steering group. Following the appointment of three new members at the previous Board meeting (no. 86), three out of the remaining four members are planned to be renewed, and the fourth to be replaced with a new member to be appointed, at the Board meeting November 18, 2026.

7. Expensive instruments call

DNR: HS-2026-1208

Annika reported on the eighth Expensive Instruments call, where 17 applications have been received and the proposals were subsequently reviewed and evaluated by the SciLifeLab Scientific Directors and Site Directors. As a complement, a few applicants were interviewed. Based on these evaluations, the SciLifeLab Co-Director and Infrastructure Director have prepared the final funding and budget proposal of in total 18.15 MSEK.

Co-funding is conditional and will be followed up on. All applicants will receive feedback on their applications.

Decision:
The SciLifeLab Board approved the suggested allocation of funding according to the list in Table 1.

Instrument	Applicant	Affiliation	Platform	Unit	Acquisition cost (kSEK)	Funding applied for from SciLifeLab (kSEK)	Proposed SciLifeLab funding (kSEK)
Mid-size sequencer	Jessica Nordlund	UU	Genomics	National Genomics Infrastructure	8 600	4 300	2 150
Microscoop Mint - integrating spatial omics with in depth proteomics	Charlotte Stadler	KTH	Spatial Biology	Spatial Proteomics	5 800	4 200	3 500
Atera: Next-Generation Imaging-Based Spatial Transcriptomics	Katarina Tiklova	SU	Spatial Biology	In Situ Sequencing	6 000	3 000	2 500
4th generation super-resolution STED microscope	Hans Blom	KTH	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	Integrated Microscopy Technologies Stockholm	13 000	6 000	5 000
700 MHz NMR console and cryo-bay for high-sensitivity 19F NMR applications	K Cecilia Persson	GU	Integrated Structural Biology	Swedish NMR Centre	9 400	3 000	3 000
Benchtop Fluorescence Activated Cell Sorter	Bernhard Schmierer	KI	Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering	CRISPR Functional Genomics	2 500	2 100	2 000
					SUM		**18 150**

Table 1. Proposed decision of allocation of funding to granted applications in the SciLifeLab Expensive Instrument call 2026

8. SciLifeLab Group Leader call

DNR: HS-2026-2260

The annual call for SciLifeLab Group Leaders was open for applications from June 2 to September 1, 2026. A total of 66 applications were received. The evaluation process is underway, and nominations will be presented for the SciLifeLab board for decision at the board meeting November 18, 2026.

9. EMBL Mou draft

DNR: HS-2026-2016

SciLifeLab and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) intensified the collaboration between the two organizations under a joint Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in 2021. The current MoU will expire at the end of 2026, and there is mutual interest from both organisations to renew the MoU. The SciLifeLab Director and EMBL Director General met September 7 and October 12 to discuss joint areas of interest for collaboration for the MoU renewal. The MoU preparation will follow the set process, inluding legal approval by the SciLifeLab lawyer group (samrådsfora juridik) and using the standardised approved descriptive paragraph on SciLifeLab.

A proposal for a renewed Memorandum of Understanding between SciLifeLab and EMBL will be presented for approval to the Board before the end of 2026.

10. Other items

Mats Larhed brought up the termination of the DDLS National Reference Group. Jan clarified that DDLS NRG was established as an internal DDLS initiative to ensure good communication with the partner universities. This role has now been transferred to SciLifeLab Strategic Management Group (SMG), which makes DDLS NRG redundant. The change was discussed and agreed within DDLS steering bodies. The board agreed on the decision and its operational nature but requested more information ahead of changes of this scope.

Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday November 18, 2026 (Solna)
- Friday February 12, 2027 (Zoom)
- Thursday April 22, 2027 (Zoom)

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Åsa Westeson, secretary

Minutes approved by:

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Ylva Engström, chair Jonas Larsson

Signature page

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