SciLifeLab
DDLS Steering group

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DDLS Steering group meeting no. 49, 2026

Date: August 26, 2026
Time: 13.00 - 16.00 at zoom: https://uu-se.zoom.us/j/66070584962?from=addon

Attending members:

Oliver Billker (Umeå University, MIMS director)
Erik Kristiansson (Chalmers/ Göteborg University)
Tuuli Lappalainen (KTH, Royal Institute of technology)
Janne Lehtiö (Karolinska Institutet)
Sara Hallin (SLU, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences)
Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (Lund University/WCMM, §5 - §10)
Carolina Wählby (Uppsala University)

Members not attending:

Matts Karlsson (Linköping University)
Erik Lindahl (Stockholm University)

Other participants:

Jan Ellenberg (Director of the DDLS research program), Chair of the meeting
Siv Andersson (KAW representative, §3 - §10)
Margit Mahlapuu (chair, DDLS research area expert group in Cell and molecular biology)
Olof Emanuelsson (DDLS Research school director)
Peetra Magnusson (DDLS Research School director)
Lukas Käll (DDLS Research School director)
Maria Thuveson (Vice Head of Operations Office SciLifeLab)
Johan Rung (Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)
Wojtek Potrzebowski (Data Science Coordinator, SciLifeLab Data Centre)
Björn Nystedt (Manager Bioinformatics Support Peer Review track (WABI))
Hanna Kultima (Vice Head of SciLifeLab Data Centre)
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)

Agenda 2026-08-26

All documents including presentations from the meeting can be found on NextCloud: https://nextcloud.dc.scilifelab.se/s/XGqXcQF3HMCdejt

1	**Meeting formalities** Oliver Billker was chosen to attend the minutes. The DDLS Steering group **approved of** the previous minutes**.**	*Presenter:* *Jan Ellenberg* ***Appendix:*** ***1.*** *Previous minutes, 26-05-06*
2	**Update from Director** Presentation of the DDLS Strategy and achievements so far, as well as the main objectives for the third phase. Preparations are ongoing for the upcoming IAB visit, March 9-12, 2027 at Campus Solna. The IAB report is currently in progress with a deadline in December 2026. The DDLS Annual conference, November 9 – 10 in Aula Magna Frescati campus Stockholm is now open for registration: DDLS Annual Conference 2026 - SciLifeLab DDLS relevant events: • SciLifeLab & DDLS fellows retreat Aug 25-26 • AAAS/Science Publishing Workshop Umeå, Sept. 8 • PLP Retreat, Nova Park Sept 8-9. • Faculty retreat, (invited only), AI Frontiers in Life Sciences + AI Frontiers in Life Sciences: From Models to Meaning, Uppsala. Oct. 2. • WASP-HS DDLS workshop, Sigtuna, Oct 12-14. • SciLifeLab Science Summit, Oct 14.	*Presenter:* *Jan Ellenberg*
3	**Update from Research School-PhD Program** *(See presentation "Aug 26_DDLS SG", page 27 - 44 for details)* <u>Model for PhD student affiliation</u> Presentation of organization and financing of the DDLS RS PhD affiliate program. The outline of the decision process, call text, eligibility criteria, and timeline for the call were discussed. The DDLS Steering Group suggested a checkpoint after the first year of the program to evaluate whether it is functioning well or if it risks diluting the quality of the Research School. If there is strong competition for the affiliation slots, the DDLS program will need to be selective to ensure quality.	*Presenters:* Research School directors, Mojgan Seraji Appendices: ***3A. Affiliation_DDLS-RS. program-structure*** ***3B. Affiliation_DDLS-***

	Action: The DDLS Steering Group agreed to forward the proposed program outline and call text for the DDLS Research School PhD Affiliate Program to the SciLifeLab Board. Any minor revisions may be made by the DDLS Research School directors. <u>Upcoming call</u> Timeline - Discussion with RSMG about possible changes in the call text *Sep 3* - Information about possible updates SG meeting *Sep 30* (No decision board needed) - Call open Oct to 16 Nov - International evaluation - Decision on funding in SciLifeLab Board *Feb 12, 2027* <u>Strategies to mitigate unconscious bias in PhD (& Postdoc) recruitment</u> Presentation of strategies to mitigate unconscious gender bias in recruitment processes. This is a highly important topic that needs more in-depth discussion at a future meeting, following the collection of additional statistics and information in this area.	***RS. Call-text.***
4	**Discussion on challenges with access to (and processing of) large-scale clinical data** To address concerns raised by fellows (and others) regarding the difficulty of accessing clinical/patient data from Sweden, a workshop was proposed to showcase good examples and potential solutions. The DDLS Steering Group supported the idea and suggested that the workshop be organized soon. The following examples were proposed: • https://genomicmedicine.se/barncancer/brainchild/ • SCAPIS and SPRINTR • https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_GSmJE-p0NI • Fors-Connolly is indeed a good example both for the attempt to create a broad database that is available for many research questions and the length to which the PI is ready to go to extract data from each region. https://www.umu.se/en/research/projects/critical-microbes---comprehensive-research-on-infections-complications-across-the-lifespan-microbiology-epidemiology-in-sweden/ • This commentary paper that just came out of a Nordic effort is a bit outside the current discussion, but relevant for the DDLS community: https://www.nature.com/articles/s41591-026-04575-4 • Vidareanvändning av hälsodata, Precision Medicine Portal	*Presenter:* *Carolina Wählby, Erik Kristiansson*

5	**Research School-Postdoc Program:** *(See presentation "Aug 26_DDLS SG", page 51 - 63 for details)* An update was provided on the DDLS Research School Postdoc Program, including statistics from the recently completed postdoctoral call. Notably, in the academic track, 8 of 11 female interviewees were appointed (73%), compared with 6 of 17 male interviewees (35%), despite female applicants being slightly less likely to reach the interview stage (31% vs. 40%). The possibility of introducing a third-year extension track for academic postdocs was presented and discussed. <u>Reflections from the DDLS Steering Group:</u> • The selection criteria for a third year need to be discussed. • Should current postdocs be eligible to apply for a third year? • The call for a third year should be postponed allowing current postdocs more time to generate results and develop concrete ideas for a potential extension application • Funding a third year may have implications for postdoc recruitment during Phase 4 of the DDLS funding budget. A sustainable approach to postdoc recruitment should therefore be considered.	*Presenter:* *Lukas Käll*
6	**Phase 2 surplus allocation overview** *(See presentation "Aug 26_DDLS SG", page 64 - 71 for details)* The surplus allocation process and financial position were presented. The Phase 2 surplus breakdown across all operational areas was also highlighted.	*Presenter:* *Elvan Helander*
7	**Data Services Strategy** *(See presentation "Aug 26_DDLS SG", page 72 - 82 for details)* Sverker Holmgren, who leads the Data Strategy working group, provided an update on the ongoing work to develop a SciLifeLab Data Services Strategy. The broad scope of the strategy will include: • Services (tools) for life science researchers and SciLifeLab platforms (RIs) • Expert support • Software • AI models • Pipeline catalogues • Internal services/C&S platforms • Access to e-infrastructure, including HPC • Access to "Enterprise IT" services • Services for SciLifeLab operations and management	*Presenter:* *Sverker Holmgren*

	The goal is to have a complete draft strategy finalized before the end of 2026. Representatives from the DDLS research areas may be included in the Data Services Reference Group.	
8	**Update from Research Areas** (See presentation "Aug 26_DDLS SG", page 83 - 109 for details) <u>Data-Driven Precision Medicine & diagnostics RA</u> Presentation of the Precision Medicine Portal, quality registries, related portals, and ongoing efforts to harmonize the collection of clinical data. Statistics on DDLS Fellows within the PMD research area were presented, highlighting grants, publications, and collaborations. The PMD research area is also active in policy-related initiatives, including the SweTrial network and participation in Almedalen. Xenia Villalobos Alberu recently started as PMD Coordinator.	*Presenter:* *Janne Lehtiö*
9	**Emerging items** This item was postponed to a later meeting.	*Presenter:* *Jan Ellenberg*
9	**Other issues** No further issues. The chairman thanked all participants for a nice meeting.	*Presenter:* *Jan Ellenberg*

Oliver Billker

Jan Ellenberg, chair of the meeting

Oliver Billker, Attending minutes

Next meeting: September 30, November 10, 2026

Signature page

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