
The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 48, 30 November 2020 (Zoom)

Present members

Carl-Henrik Heldin (UU)(chair), Fredrik Elinder (LiU), Anders Gustafsson (KI), Anders Karlhede (SU), Göran Landberg (GU)(until part of § 6), Lotta Ljungqvist (Cytiva)(until part of § 6), Katrine Riklund (UmU)(until part of § 6), Stellan Sandler (UU), Annika Stensson Trigell (KTH)

Other participants

Olli Kallioniemi (Director), Siv Andersson (Co-Director), Annika Jenmalm Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (chair NSC), Jenny Alfredsson (Acting Head of operations/OO), Susanna Appel (Acting Vice Head of operations/OO), Heidi Törmänen Persson (OO)(§§ 5-6), Anna Höglund Rehn (OO)(secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Carl-Henrik Heldin opened the meeting.

The item 'COVID-19 activities - update' was added to the agenda.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Stellan Sandler to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

2. Scientific Directors appointment

Dnr VC-2020-0039

According to the "Arbetsordning" for SciLifeLab, the SciLifeLab board appoints one Scientific Director from each host university, after suggestion from the vice Chancellor, for a period of three years. Scientific Directors for KTH and Stockholm University were appointed at SciLifeLab board meeting no 47.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Janne Lehtiö, Karolinska Institute, and Staffan Svärd, Uppsala University, as Scientific Directors for the period 2021-01-01–2023-12-31.

3. Arbetsordning för SciLifeLab - revision

Dnr VC-2019-0037, V-2020-0637

A revision of all the SciLifeLab steering documents was initiated last year. The KTH university director has assigned a working group for this task consisting of lawyers from KTH and representatives from SciLifeLab Operations Office.

The proposed revised “Arbetsordning för SciLifeLab” was sent out to the host universities for comments in October 2020. At the previous SciLifeLab board meeting it was decided to postpone the decision until comments from all host universities have been addressed.

Olli Kallioniemi informed that the KTH rector has discussed with the other host university rectors as well as with legal experts and suggest that “arbetsordning” and other legal documents for SciLifeLab (4-party, 3-party and Campus Solna agreements) should be revised at the same time to ensure they will not be conflicting on each other. A new working group will be set up for that, consisting of representatives of all the four host universities and from the SciLifeLab community. The group will report to the SciLifeLab board during the spring of 2021, aiming to get all these documents revised and approved by summer 2021.

4. Call Expensive instruments - funding

Dnr VC-2020-0019

The SciLifeLab Call, Funding of Expensive Instruments 2020, is for instruments or a package of 2-3 Instruments, with an acquisition cost in the order of 3 MSEK and above. When the call closed on September 25, 16 applications were submitted.

The Management group has processed the applications, held interviews with the top applicants, and suggests that a total funding of 23.846 Million SEK will be allocated to these purchases as indicated in the appendix 1. This will be done based on depreciations over 3 years (genomics instruments) or over 5 years (for Cryo-EM, Umeå University will depreciate it over 20 years). Management group members with a conflict of interest abstained from processing such applications.

Annual amount of depreciation of the instruments (3 or 5 years depending on the instruments) will be 5.263 MSEK/year during the first three years. A detailed plan on how to cover the additional annual instrument depreciation (2.263 Million SEK) that is not in the already approved budget, will be presented in the next board meeting as part of the revised budget for 2021. Most likely purchases will take so much time that the full amount of depreciation will not yet be needed for the year 2021.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the funding decision for instruments for the amount of 23.846 Million SEK (appendix 1).

5. Data-driven life science program (DDLs)

Dnr VC-2020-0034

5a. Data-driven life science program (DDLs) – steering group

Dnr VC-2020-0041

SciLifeLab Board decided to give Olli Kallioniemi and Siv Andersson the assignment to seek nominations for members in the DDLs steering group from the rectors of relevant universities, as well as from the life science community at large and then make a list of suggested nominations to the SciLifeLab Board.

An open nomination process was announced on October 29 on the SciLifeLab website where the life science community was invited to nominate candidates before November 17 when the nomination period ended. A total of 54 unique nominations were received from universities, other organizations and individual persons. Nominations were assessed by Olli Kallioniemi and Siv Andersson who also consulted the chair of the Board. The assessment focused on selecting members with a broad expertise in the relevant fields, as well as with a genuine interest to work with and develop the national DDLs program for the benefit of the whole country. Diversity regarding field of expertise, home university, and gender was also considered. It was emphasized that all members serve as representatives of their scientific field and the broad research community and not (only) represent their host university. The candidates were personally approached to ask about their willingness to participate and spend the required time, if nomination were approved. All except one of the nominated persons agreed to these terms.

Olli Kallioniemi informed about the nominations received and suggested members in the DDLs steering group. The board approved these suggestions as well as decided to add one member to replace a last-minute cancellation. In addition, it was discussed that once the steering group has been launched, there will be a need to set up a reference group for DDLs that includes formal representatives of all the participating universities with direct links to the leadership of each university.

Olli Kallioniemi showed a draft of responsibilities and mandate of steering group members and gave an update regarding the time schedule for the start of the program.

Decisions

The SciLifeLab board appointed the following members in the DDLS steering group for the period 2021-01-01 until 2023-12-31:

<i>Oliver Billker</i>	<i>Umeå University, Professor, MIMS director</i>
<i>Niklas Blomberg</i>	<i>ELIXIR, Director</i>
<i>Matts Karlsson</i>	<i>Linköping University, Professor, Director NSC super-computer and HPC resource</i>
<i>Erik Kristiansson</i>	<i>Chalmers/Göteborg University, Professor</i>
<i>Janne Lehtiö</i>	<i>Karolinska Institutet, Professor</i>
<i>Erik Lindahl</i>	<i>Stockholm University, Professor</i>
<i>Emma Lundberg</i>	<i>KTH, Professor</i>
<i>Fredrik Ronquist</i>	<i>NRM (Museum of Natural History), Professor</i>
<i>Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson</i>	<i>Lund University/WCMM, Professor, National SciLifeLab Committee, Chair</i>
<i>Carolina Wählby</i>	<i>Uppsala University, Professor</i>

Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson was not present during the decision.

5b. Coordination and administration of the DDLS program by the SciLifeLab Operations Office

For the DDLS program to be run in a well-coordinated manner by SciLifeLab there is a need for also establishing a strong support function that assists in the overall coordination, and also supports and administrates the program together with the DDLS steering group and the Director.

Olli Kallioniemi and Jenny Alfredsson informed about the plans on how to coordinate and administrate the DDLS program.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board decided to place DDLS as an area within the SciLifeLab Operations Office with the responsibility for its coordination operations.

The board approved that until dedicated KAW funds can be made available in 2021, the national funding for SciLifeLab Operations Office can be used to help coordinate DDLS.

The board approved the principle that national funds can be used to cover the co-funding for KAW financed positions at OO. Similar principle may be applied in the case of KAW-funded positions placed in the SciLifeLab data center.

6. Other issues

6a. COVID-19 activities - update

Olli Kallioniemi informed about ongoing actions and the next phase of SciLifeLab COVID-19 activities. Five different COVID-19 calls are planned for to be announced with the following topics:

- Continuation of the existing KAW-funded Covid-19 research program, with new constellations and collaborations
- New single PI grants to add new elements to the existing SciLifeLab-KAW program
- A new vaccine program to be funded also by the KAW foundation
- Ideas (letter of intent) on pandemic preparedness (covid-19 related), to be considered for national funding
- Ideas (letter of intent) on data-driven research (covid-19 related), to be considered for DDLS/KAW funding

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved to open an announcement of the calls and gave the Director and the Management group the mandate to arrange a detailed call for proposals and to review the proposals. A tentative deadline for the calls is Jan 15, 2021.

Funding decisions will be brought for decision by the board on its meeting on February 3 or (more likely given the tight time-scale) at an extra board meeting to be called thereafter.

Upcoming meetings

- Wednesday February 3, 10.00-15.00
 - Wednesday May 19, 11.00-17.00 in Uppsala (dinner afterwards)
 - Wednesday September 22, 10.00-15.00 in Solna
 - Thursday November 11 (preliminary)
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Anna Höglund Rehn, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Carl-Henrik Heldin

Stellan Sandler

Appendix 1
Expensive instruments call 2020 – funding

Instrument	Facility	Platform	Acquisition Cost	Applied Funding	Decided Funding
AIRYscan2	Advanced Light Microscopy	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	4 996	2 196	2 196
2 instruments for automated mIF and ISS and upgrade of a current microscope in the proposed Targeted Spatial Omics platform	Cell Profiling	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	11 180	11 180	3 000
Bio-solids Cryo MAS NMR Probe	Swedish NMR Centre	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	3 700	3 200	1 600
Glacios 200 kV cryo-TEM	Cryo-EM Umeå	Cellular and Molecular Imaging	25 000	10 000	5 000
Automated and modifiable screening hub for drug discovery at SciLifeLab	Chemical Biology Consortium Sweden Stockholm	Chemical Biology and Genome Engineering	3 000	2 650	2 000
QX One Droplet Digital PCR System	Clinical Genomics Uppsala	Diagnostics Development	2 815	2 515	1 500
PacBio Sequel II package	National Genomics Infrastructure (NGI)	Genomics	7 023	5 023	2 700
Olink Explore Package	National Genomics Infrastructure (NGI)	Genomics	4 200	1 980	1 000
timsTOF Pro with Evosep One (Bruker Daltonics)	Chemical Proteomics and Proteogenomics (OnkPat)	Proteomics and Metabolomics	7 500	3 500	3 350
CYTEK AURORA 5-laser spectral flow analyser	Mass Cytometry Stockholm	Proteomics and Metabolomics	4 330	2 248	1 500
Total kSEK			96 483	61 403	23 846