
The national board of Science for Life Laboratory

Minutes from board meeting no 74, 7 November, 2024

Present members

Ylva Engström (SU, chair), Martin Bergö (KI, §§ 1- 9c), Henrik Cederquist (SU), Mats Larhed (UU), Jonas Larsson (LU), Mikael Lindström (KTH), Carina Mallard (GU), Katrine Riklund (UmU, §§ 1- 12), Christoph Varenhorst (AstraZeneca), Gunilla Westergren-Thorsson (LU), Andreas Muranyi Scheutz (Region Uppsala, §§1 – 10)

Other participants

Jan Ellenberg (Director), Mia Phillipson (Co-Director, §§3-14), Annika J Jensen (Infrastructure Director), Jenny Alfredsson (Head of Operations/OO), Sandra Falck (Vice Head of Operations/OO), Olli Kallioniemi (§§ 11-12), Anna Frejd (OO, § 8), Disa Hammarlöf (OO, §§ 6-10), Lars Johansson (OO, §§ 1-14), Anna Lidin (OO, §§ 1-10), Titti Ekegren (OO, secretary), Anna Andreasson (OO, secretary)

1. Meeting formalities

Ylva Engström welcomed all members and opened the meeting.

Decisions:

The SciLifeLab board appointed Mikael Lindström to approve the minutes of the meeting in addition to the chair.

Appendix to §§9 have been updated with a table presenting the PULSE assignments. The SciLifeLab board approved the minutes from meeting no. 73, 17 September, 2024.

Appendix for §§8 has been updated and §§9b. has changed from information to decision. Item no. 14a 'Update on Campus Solna Beta -building project' was included under other issues. The SciLifeLab board approved the agenda.

2. Information from Director

Jan Ellenbergs onboarding as new SciLifeLab director is near completion and the “Eriksgata” has so far included SciLifeLab site Linköping and the SciLifeLab site Uppsala. Remaining sites will be visited during November.

The Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation allocates an additional SEK 600 million to data-driven life science at SciLifeLab in an initiative to strengthen AI and life science for increased national competence. The investment will cover two parts; an additional investment into the DDLS Program (200 MSEK), and an investment into a pilot program for a large AI driven project, Alpha Cell (400 MSEK).

3. Financial update

Jenny Alfredsson presented the funding streams to SciLifeLab, end of year forecasts and accumulated surplus for 2024.

The project to purchase and implement the previously presented Grant management system is slightly delayed but a technical project leader is currently being recruited and implementation is planned during 2025.

3a. Reallocation of DDLS phase I surplus

Diariennr. VC-2024-0063

Jenny Alfredsson presented the process for reallocations of surplus from DDLS phase I funding, and a list of suggested usage of Phase I surplus. After SciLifeLab board approval the list will be sent to KAW for final approval.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab Board approved the allocation of DDLS Phase 1 surplus to be used in Phase 2 according to appendix B, and to send it to KAW for final approval.

4. Infrastructure strategy update

Jan Ellenberg gave an update on the discussions he has had, together with the Co-Director, the Infrastructure Director and Coordinator, with the platforms and capabilities of the SciLifeLab infrastructure to follow up on the recommendations of the IEC 2024. Ellenberg presented a new infrastructure strategy including Integrated Data Services into every technology driven, data producing platform to create a stronger link to data service and data management. The vision is that data should freely float between platforms, and personnel should not be moved but rather given a mandate to collaborate with integrated data support. Clear governance of the integrated data services is key to avoid divergent visions regarding data services.

5. Preliminary infrastructure budget 2025

Annika J Jensen presented a preliminary budget envisioning two scenarios; firstly, same allocation of funding increased by index, and secondly a budget combining reallocated and additional funding to enable establishment of a substantial, integrated Data Services (IDS) Operation.

6. Preliminary SciLifeLab budget 2025

Jenny Alfredsson gave a presentation followed by discussion about the preliminary budget of the three integrated parts of the SciLifeLab budget where the National Operating Costs part was presented in more detail. All figures are based on two funding scenarios pending the new "Forsknings- och innovationspropositionen 2024" that will be presented later this year, and which will clarify SciLifeLab's funding.

The first scenario of funding is based on the same funding level as 2024 only increased by index, thus a tight budget. It will still reflect the strategic changes that will be implemented to advance the infrastructure and its operations even further. The second scenario of funding is based on an assumed increase of the base funding (2024 level), which was requested by SciLifeLab from the government in SciLifeLab's input to the "Forsknings- och innovationspropositionen 2024".

7. Implementation of SciLifeLab Group Leader process

Diariennr. VC-2024-0077

Disa Hammarlöf informed about the call for SciLifeLab Group Leader nominations launched at the beginning of October. At the nomination deadline, 6 Nov. 258 nominations were registered, whereof about 50% from new individuals not previously registered as SciLifeLab Group Leaders. Nominated categories for SciLifeLab Group Leaders by default are; Platform Directors, Platform Co-Directors, Heads of Unit, SciLifeLab and DDLS Fellows (not alumni), in total 141 persons.

The timeline ahead in 2025 will be:

- **10 Jan:** Deadline for evaluation of SciLifeLab Group Leader nominations by SciLifeLab Management Group & Site Directors
- **17 Jan:** Evaluation meeting, Management Group & Site Directors recommend decision on nominations
- **Feb:** Board meeting, decision of nominations (*"fast decision" with regards to PULSE call*)
- **Feb-Mar:** Communication to applicants & community
- **September:** Call for new SciLifeLab Group Leader nominations
- **18-19 September:** SciLifeLab Group Leader retreat/kick-off

8. Update SciLifeLab annual report

Anna Frejd informed about the on-going work with the SciLifeLab annual report. A question was raised if this report should be prepared and used as a stand-alone

product, in addition to the SciLifeLab brochure, to inform external stakeholders and interested public. The board supported this suggestion, assuming the stand-alone product will be condensed and rather short, and not require substantial extra workload for the Operations Office.

9. Updates rules of procedures SciLifeLab

9a. DDLS

Diariennr. VC-2024-0033, VC-2024-0078

Jenny Alfredsson informed that the sections 4.3.2 and 5 in the DDLS rules of procedure (arbetsordning), which was approved at the SciLifeLab Board meeting no 72 (28 May 28, 2024), contain minor unclarity. It was proposed to resolve these, as outlined in Appendix 9a, so that there is a better match between the detailed descriptions of the particular assignments and the rules of procedure.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board decides to approve the amendments to the DDLS rules of procedures according to the proposed suggestions in Appendix 9a.

9b. Infrastructure

Diariennr. VC-2024-0059, VC-2024-0060

Annika J Jensen presented the SciLifeLab Infrastructure – General Terms and Conditions for Funding - that outlines the criteria for service provision, funding, governance, organizational structure, and other operational principles and policies of Platforms and Units within the SciLifeLab Infrastructure. It has been proposed that this document should be supplemented by a Rules of Procedure (arbetsordning). For the upcoming funding period, the General Terms and Conditions should be revised to reflect the strategic directions being pursued and supplemented by the Rules of Procedure for SciLifeLab Infrastructure .

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board decided to approve the documents “SciLifeLab Infrastructure - General Terms and Conditions for Funding” and “Rules of Procedure for Infrastructure”.

Any revisions of the documents, reflecting for example new strategic decisions related to the infrastructure, will be approved in forthcoming meetings.

9c. Mandate for director to oversee governance & operations

Diariennr. VC-2024-0079

In August 2023, the University Director (UD) at KTH assigned Ann Fust to conduct a review of the operational support organization for SciLifeLab within KTH's central University Administration. The project's goal was to develop a proposal for how the operational support (a department within KTH University Administration) should be organized to best support SciLifeLab operations at the national level.

It was suggested in Fust's report that roles of directors and operational management should be clarified, and that descriptions and mandates should be developed within the central functions of SciLifeLab.

The report was briefly discussed at the board meeting no 72 (28 May, 2024) and a few of the suggestions have been taken care of by KTH central administration.

As a next step, Jenny Alfredsson suggested to the Board that the SciLifeLab Director should get a mandate to propose a revised organizational and management structure to clarify the distinction between operational management and governance of scientific initiatives of the whole organization including DDLS. This proposal will be presented to the board for discussion and approval, followed by delegations developed by KTH's University Director (UD) if and where needed.

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board decided to assign the SciLifeLab Director to review governance and operations of SciLifeLab, and to develop a proposal for a revised management structure and organizational support organization, foreseen to be presented to the board at its meeting in May 2025. The Director can assign a working group with relevant members to support this work.

10. Delegation to PULSE National Steering Group

Diariennr. VC-2024-0062

At the meeting no 73 (17 September, 2024) the Board decided to support the processes for, and organization of, the postdoc program SciLifeLab PULSE, funded by Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions COFUND (part of EU's Horizon Europe), including selection and recruitment, and nominations for assignments for PULSE Management Group Directors, National Steering Committee, and External Advisory Board.

Mia Phillipson proposed to the Board to delegate the decisions on postdoc selection to the PULSE National Steering Committee.

Decision:

The Board delegated to the PULSE National Steering Committee to make decisions regarding postdoc application evaluator panels, postdoc selection, budget (within budget approved by the SciLifeLab Board) and to act on issues occurring when running the program.

11. DDLS update

Diariennr. VC-2024-0034

Olli Kallioniemi gave an update about DDLS fellow recruitments, DDLS Research School, Research Areas and Data Science Nodes. The joint WASP-DDLS NEST call closed on 30 October, and 24 applications were received. The national pre-screening process will start soon and be followed by an international evaluation.

The call for collaboration projects between DDLS and WASP-HS that closed on November 4th, received 26 applications.

12. Appointment of members in the DDLS Advisory Committee, DAC

Diariennr. VC-2024-0080

The SciLifeLab board decided on its meeting no 72 on 28 May 2024 to appoint 12 external experts to a DDLS Advisory Committee (DAC), to evaluate the DDLS program, in preparation for the Phase 2 application, for the following actions:

- Act as an advisory committee to the DDLS program director and to the DDLS Steering Group.
- Evaluate calls for research projects and for supervisors of PhD students and postdocs for DDLS as well as other DDLS grant calls.

Olli Kallioniemi informed that the initial one year assignment given by the board to this advisory group, starting January 2024 can be extended for up to three years, contingent on KAW continuing to fund the DDLS program. The members of the DAC 2024 have been asked whether they would be available to continue as DDLS advisors for a new one-year assignment.

Following members have accepted the nomination:

- Toni Gabaldon, Institute for Research in Biomedicine, ES
- Alexander Schönhuth, Universität Bielefeld, DE
- Jaume Bacardit, Newcastle University, UK

- Alexandros Stamatakis, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, DE
- Tero Aittokallio, Oslo University Hospital, NO
- Sofia Kirke Forslund, Max Delbrück Center, DE
- Anthony Mathelier, University of Oslo, NO
- Matti Nykter, Tampere University, FI
- María Rodríguez Martínez, Yale School of Medicine, USA

Decision:

The SciLifeLab board approved the appointment of the suggested members of the DDLS Advisory Committee. If needed, the board may be asked to add additional members, upon suggestion by the DDLS Research school directors or the DDLS program director.

13. Emerging items

The SciLifeLab Director Jan Ellenberg proposed to the board the possibility to work more proactively with topics not yet ready for board decisions.

One of the major strategic advices given by the Infrastructure Evaluation Committee was to act for better translation from research to healthcare. Translation to healthcare needs to be taken to a strategic level in the SciLifeLab organization and the Precision medicine capability could play a key role here.

Ellenberg suggested that SciLifeLab needs a high-level group to create a good strategy for translation towards healthcare.

14. Other issues

14a. Update on Campus Solna Beta-building project

The Project is ongoing and the next steps, in summary are:

- Implementation of Project Directive II + lease negotiations with Akademiska Hus: development of documentation, negotiated rent and terms, and cost-sharing models, taking into account the different desires and interests of all parties, for the final decision YES/NO on renting the Beta-building.
- Discussion in the Rectors' council, followed by a decision in the steering committee, approval by SciLifeLab's board, then lastly a joint decision by the Rectors.
- Finally, formal decision and signing the negotiated lease agreement by KTH rector as legal host of SciLifeLab.
- Execute the integration

Closure of the meeting

Ylva Engström thanked the participants and closed the meeting.

Upcoming meetings

- 19 December 08.00-10.00, Zoom

Anna Andreasson, secretary

Minutes approved by:

Ylva Engström

Mikael Lindström

Signature page

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