



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, April 2023

Dear fellow SSV members,

As all of you know, during the early phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, SSV launched the Virus- och pandemifonden ("Pandemifonden") with the goal of strengthening Swedish virus research and preventing future virus-induced pandemics. This initiative has received generous donations from individuals, private sectors, including funding from Knut Alice Wallenberg Foundation (KAW), resulting in significant progress over the past few years.

To further develop and professionalize the "Pandemifonden," the SSV board, in consultation with the election committee of SSV, GivaSverige, and the accountant Henrik Lundkvist, has proposed the hiring of a Secretary-General and Treasurer who can focus on this initiative and drive it forward.

I, on behalf of the SSV board, would like to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who could participate in our extra annual meeting on March 20th, 2023. During the meeting, the proposal to apply for employer permit and F-skatt, in order to establish part-time positions for Secretary-General and Treasurer for the "Pandemifonden", was discussed and voted in favour.

At the SSV board meeting held on March 27th, 2023, Niklas Arnberg was unanimously appointed as the Secretary-General, and Johan Nordgren was appointed as the Treasurer for the "Pandemifonden". As a result, Niklas will step down from his position on the SSV board to prevent any potential conflict of interest. However, SSV will invite Niklas to attend our meetings to provide updates on the progress of the "Pandemifonden". We have complete confidence in their ability to advance significantly the progress of the fund and achieve our goals. As a part of this development, this newsletter includes a first advert from Gilead, one of "Pandemifonden's" new company partners. We are grateful for the corresponding support, which will help us to further develop e.g. Viruskollen.se (more info to come), and we look forward to future joint efforts with our partners, with the ambition to discover, treat, cure, and prevent virus-caused diseases.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to SSV's mission of strengthening Swedish virus research and preventing future pandemics. An extra thanks to all of you that contributed with texts to Viruskollen.se. This is/will be a great example of what we can achieve when we join our forces.

Ali Mirazimi, on behalf of the board

1) **Grants:**

- **Pandemifonden Post-COVID grant:** "Virus- och pandemifonden" now announces a one-year research grant of **200,000 SEK for post-COVID** research. The call is broad and aims to increase knowledge about:
 - The molecular and/or cellular mechanisms that cause post-COVID and/or delay recovery.
 - Biomarkers that can aid in diagnosis and characterize post-COVID.
 - Risk factors for developing post-COVID. Deadline May 20. See attached call.

- PhD students and postdocs are welcome to apply for **the SSV travel grants**. See how to apply on our [website](#) or if you have questions contact Ali.Mirazimi@ki.se. Obs ! the **travel grant size** has been raised and is now up to **10000 SEK**.

2) Meetings:

- **Registration now open: 20th Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology**, August 24-26, 2023. We are happy to also this year have excellent keynote speakers, including **Emma Thomson**, Glasgow, on hepatitis with unknown aetiology in children, **Hugo Zeberg**, Karolinska institutet, on gene flow from Neandertals impacting viral diseases, **Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam**, Karolinska Institutet, on antiviral responses and the impact of immunoglobulin germline variation, and **Ralf Bartenschlager**, Heidelberg, on molecular virology of HCV, as well as HBV, Flaviviruses and Coronaviruses. See our [website](#) for more information and [registration](#).
- **8th European Congress of Virology**, Gdansk, Poland, May 4-7, 2023. See [link](#) for information.
- **7th Nordic Conference of Antiviral Treatment Strategies and Drug Resistance**, 15th June 2023, Uppsala. See information and registration at the [link](#).
- **World Society of Virology conference (WSV 2023)**, Riga, Latvia, June 15-17, 2023. See [link](#) for more information.
Obs ! New SSV representative in WSV is Emmi Andersson. If you want to engage in WSV, contact Emmi at emmi.andersson@folkhalsomyndigheten.se

3) Open positions

- **Senior lecturer / Associate Professor in Veterinary Virology**, at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). For information and application (deadline April 24) see [link](#).

4) Stay updated with the virus podcast by Lennart Svensson and guests (in Swedish). See [link](#).

5) Anyone that has suggestions on **virology publications** that should be **highlighted**, and are of interest for Swedish virologist, please send this information to Tomas.Bergstrom@microbio.gu.se

6) For those of you that are active at **social media**, it would also be a great help to increase awareness – and donations – if you follow/share Pandemifonden's messages. If you feel comfortable, recommend your network to follow Pandemifonden:

- Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/pandemifonden/>
- Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Pandemifonden>
- LinkedIn: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/pandemifonden>

7) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.

Best wishes from SSV



Creating Possible.

Gilead is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and delivers innovative therapeutics for people with life-threatening diseases.

At Gilead, we set and achieve bold ambitions in our fight against the world's most devastating diseases. We are driven by our purpose of making the world a healthier place for all people. That means delivering innovative therapies that offer new hope for patients. Our ambitions have led us to a cure for hepatitis C and to transforming the treatment and prevention of HIV. Our innovation is helping people with diseases and conditions that include cancer, viral hepatitis, HIV and COVID-19.

By investing in world-class science, driving access to our medicines, addressing societal barriers to care and building a culture where our employees can make a real impact, we will continue to confront the biggest public health challenges of our day for the benefit of generations to come.

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