



SSV Newsletter, February 2021

Friends and colleagues,

The covid-19 pandemic continues to keep the world in an iron grip. Vaccines are distributed and give us some hope, but new variants emerge and pose new threats. In order to manage virus-caused infections and future pandemics better, **the Society now launches Pandemifonden** (Tuesday Feb 23)! The board has been working on this since last summer. We obtained 90-konto from Svensk Insamlingskontroll in late November, and we have also updated our statutes in order to harmonize with the requests. We have a new accounting firm (Deskjockeys), and a new auditor (Grant Thornton). **A new webpage has been launched: Pandemifonden.se.** Have a look and let us (the board) now what you think. Our, vision, mission, and ambition are all high. We need more knowledge and tools to handle virus-caused infections, illnesses, outbreaks, and pandemics. Pandemifonden will support research that generate more knowledge about viruses and virus-caused infections, which will lead to new and better diagnostics, treatments, and preventions.

Now, we need your help! When Pandemifonden is launched on Tuesday Feb 23, please help us to spread the word among friends and relatives. We don't (yet) have resources to pay for advertisements, but **social media is a powerful tool to spread the word.** The reason why we have reached this far, with limited resources, is because we work together. If members of the Society join forces, Pandemifonden will be well recognized and also supported by the public, by companies and by organizations.

On behalf of the board,

Niklas Arnberg, Chairman

-
- 1) We welcome Johan Nordgren, Linköping University, as a new member of the SSV board. Johan is doing research on gastrointestinal viruses, as well as other viruses. Johan will take on the role as the cashier. Happy to have you on board Johan!
 - 2) A new logotype and website ([see link](#)) has now been launched for Pandemifonden (Virus- and pandemic fund), which will reach out to the Swedish general public, for the purpose of fundraising and dissemination of information about virus, diseases caused by viruses and pandemics. We will still maintain our SSV website for information to our members. From the SSV website there is a link to the Pandemifonden website. Depending on how Pandemifonden and fundraising develops, the ambition is to announce project, career, environment/synergy, and/or other types of research grants in the area of virology. More information will come about this.

- 3) This year's Smögen Summer Symposium (18th), will be organized August 26-28, and the plan is that it will be back on location at, Smögens Havsbad. Prominent keynote lecturers are currently invited. More information on this and registration will be distributed during the spring. Save the dates!
- 4) We would like to highlight that this year the Swedish Research Council (VR) has announced a [special Call](#), "Project grants for research on viruses and virus-caused disease conditions", with deadline March 17. During the autumn VR also decided on career grants in the area of virology and virus-caused infections. Two starting grants and five consolidator grants were awarded. Congratulations to the awardees: Andrea Ponzetta, Takuya Sekine, Joakim Esbjörnsson, Mattias Forsell, Anna Överby, Sara Gredmark Russ, and Marta Bally!
- 5) Travel grants: PhD students and postdocs are welcome to apply for the SSV travel grants. See guidelines and how to apply on our [website](#), or if you have questions contact Mikael.Berg@slu.se
- 6) Virology research highlights: In this Newsletter we highlight publications from SSV members, including Ali Mirazimi and Matti Sällberg on "**A DNA-based vaccine protects against Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus disease in a Cynomolgus macaque model**", and Johan Nordgren och Lennart Svensson, on "**Association of Genetic Polymorphisms in DC-SIGN, Toll-Like Receptor 3, and Tumor Necrosis Factor a Genes and the Lewis-Negative Phenotype With Chikungunya Infection and Disease in Nicaragua**" (see below)
- 7) 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

All the best from SSV

Virology News

A DNA-based vaccine protects against Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever virus disease in a Cynomolgus macaque model. Hawman DW, Ahlén G, Appelberg KS, Meade-White K, Hanley PW, Scott D, Monteil V, Devignot S, Okumura A, Weber F, Feldmann H, Sällberg M, Mirazimi A. Nat Microbiol. 2021 Feb;6(2):187-195. doi: 10.1038/s41564-020-00815-6.

Association of Genetic Polymorphisms in DC-SIGN, Toll-Like Receptor 3, and Tumor Necrosis Factor a Genes and the Lewis-Negative Phenotype With Chikungunya Infection and Disease in Nicaragua. Bucardo F, Reyes Y, Morales M, Briceño R, González F, Lundkvist Å, Svensson L, Nordgren J. J Infect Dis. 2021 Feb 3;223(2):278-286. doi: 10.1093/infdis/jiaa364