



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, January 2023

Dear Members of the Swedish Society of Virology,

I (Niklas) feel honoured to have served as the chairman of the board for the society during the past six years. I think – and I hope you agree – that we have developed as an organisation by e.g. launching and developing Virus- och pandemifonden, with the aim to strengthen Swedish virology, and to share knowledge about virus-caused diseases. I look forward to continue to serve the society as a board member, and if the society agrees, with a more focused task relating to the further development of Virus- och pandemifonden. Related to this, we will soon call for an extra annual/member meeting, so please mark March 20, 16-17.30 in your calendars. Our board had its first meeting of the year – IRL in Gothenburg – with Ali as the new chairman. With Ali as the new chairman, I feel very comfortable that the society is in very good hands. I am very optimistic that our society will continue to develop and to contribute even more with knowledge and tools to mitigate the burden of virus-caused diseases.

I (Ali) am honoured to have been elected as the new chairman of our society and I look forward to work with each, and everyone, of you. First of all, I will take this opportunity and thanks our former chairman, Niklas Arnberg, for his incredible contribution for our society and also his never ending enthusiasm to establish "Pandemifonden". I am convinced, that we all together, can continue to advance the field of virology in Sweden, and make valuable contributions to the global scientific community. The past three years have been challenging times for everyone, however, it has also shed light on the importance of the field of virology. With COVID-19 still affecting communities around the world, it is essential that we continue to do our best to facilitate research on different aspects of the world of viruses; from virus evolution, epidemiology, virus-host interaction to developing diagnostics, antivirals and vaccines. Our society plays a crucial role in this process by providing a platform for researchers and scientists to share their findings, facilitate new collaborations, contribute by fostering new virologists etc. In the coming months and year, we would like to focus on increasing the visibility of our society and Pandemifonden and its work. This includes building stronger relationships with other organizations and institutions, as well as promoting the work of our members through publications and conferences. I would also like to encourage all members to participate in our Pandemifonden activities and events. Regardless of whether you are senior, junior researcher or student, there are many opportunities for you to get involved and make a difference. I look forward to working with all of you to build an even stronger and more impactful society.

Niklas Arnberg, former chairman, and Ali Mirazimi, current chairman,
on behalf of the board

1) Meetings:

- **Save the Date: Extra annual SSV member meeting**, March 20, 16:00 – 17:30. Digital meeting, where specific invitation with Agenda and Zoom link will be distributed to members one month ahead.
- **Save the Date: 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 attachment for more information.
- **2nd ScanVir meeting**, Tromsø, Norway, March 22-24, 2023, for more information see [link](#).
- **8th European Congress of Virology**, Gdansk, Poland, May 4-7, 2023. See [link](#) for registration and abstract submission (deadline Feb 6).
- **World Society of Virology conference (WSV 2023)**, Riga, Latvia, June 15-17, 2023. See [link](#) for more information. Abstract Deadline March 15.
Obs ! New SSV representative in WSV is Emmi Andersson. If you want to engage in WSV, contact Emmi at emmi.andersson@folkhalsomyndigheten.se

2) Open positions

- **Postdoc position** in vector-borne viruses, at SLU, Uppsala. See [link](#) for more information (application deadline Feb 9).

3) 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 Ali.Mirazimi@ki.se. Obs ! the **travel grant size** has been raised and is now up to **10000 SEK**.

4) Pandemidagen, a day when Swedish virus research is highlighted

Last year Virus-och pandemifonden – Svenska Sällskapet för Virologi launched "Pandemidagen" on January 31, exactly two years after the first Swedish case of Covid-19. This to highlight Swedish virus research. Also this year Pandemidagen and Swedish virus research will be highlighted in media. See also Pandemifonden [website](#) for more activities.

- 5) **Stay updated** with the **virus podcast** by Lennart Svensson and guests (in Swedish). See [link](#).
- 6) 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
- 7) 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>

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

Best wishes for 2023 from SSV