



## Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, June 2023

Dear esteemed members,

I hope this letter finds you in good health and high spirits. As the Chairman of our society, I wanted to take a moment to highlight the paramount importance of advancing research in all aspects of virology. Our collective efforts in this field are vital, especially given the recent COVID-pandemic, when the world has witnessed first-hand the profound effects that viral outbreaks can have on public health, economies, and societal well-being. **The need for comprehensive virology research has never been more evident, and it is our collective responsibility to drive advancements in this field.** By studying the intricate mechanisms of viral replication, transmission, virus-host interactions and clinical outcome, we can contribute to the development of innovative diagnostics, therapeutics, and preventive strategies.

In recent years, the significance of Swedish virology has been steadily increasing, thanks to the remarkable dedication and expertise of our members. The impact of our research has not gone unnoticed, and it is imperative that we seize this momentum to further influence policy makers and mobilize greater research grants. By actively engaging with politicians and decision-makers, we can advocate for increased support for virology research, enabling us to make even greater strides in understanding, preventing, and treating viral diseases. **Along this line Pandemifonden launches a report next week about our learnings from the pandemic, and what needs to be done to mitigate future virus-caused pandemics. The report is presented at Almedalen next week, read more at: <https://almedalsveckan.info/> (and seek for Pandemifonden).**

I am also pleased to provide you with an update on recent board activities. Firstly, I would like to highlight the upcoming Smögen meeting and assure you that we have put together an exceptional program. It promises to be an exciting and enriching event. It will undoubtedly be a memorable gathering (as usual).

Additionally, I am delighted to inform you that we recently concluded our call for applications on the topic of "Post-Covid". A call which was launched after joint efforts by Pandemifonden and Svenska Covidföreningen. We received a total of six outstanding submissions, showcasing the depth of talent and expertise within our community. The board carefully evaluated each proposal, considering their scientific merit, relevance, and potential impact. After thorough deliberation, we have reached a conclusion that I am eager to share with you all. **The first research grant on Post-Covid is awarded to Marcus Ståhlberg, Karolinska University Hospital, for the project entitled "Do long-term cardiovascular complications in post-acute COVID-19 syndrome have an autoimmune disease mechanism? – A comprehensive translational study"**. Svenska Covidföreningen was also informed about the process but not involved in scientific assessment or decision making. However, they were also pleased with the decision.

As we approach the midsummer season, the Board would like to take this opportunity to send our warmest wishes to each and every one of you. May this festive occasion bring joy, togetherness, and rejuvenation to your lives. It is also our hope that you all have a fulfilling and relaxing summer vacation, allowing you to recharge your batteries and return with renewed enthusiasm for our shared mission. Let us continue to collaborate, share knowledge, and push the boundaries of virology research. Together, we have the power to make a tangible difference in the fight against viral diseases and ensure a healthier future for all.

Wishing you all a great midsummer and a wonderful summer vacation and see you at the Smögen meeting.

Ali Mirazimi, SSV Chairman, on behalf of the board

### 1) **Meetings:**

- **Smögen meeting almost full, but still some openings at Makrillviken. 20<sup>th</sup> Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology**, August 24-26, 2023. As previous years, 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 [link](#) for registration.
- **10th European meeting on viral zoonoses**, September 23-26, Saint-Raphael, France. See [link](#) for more information and registration.
- **Nordic HIV & Virology Conference**, September 28-29 in Stockholm. See [link](#) for more information and registration.

### 2) **Open positions**

- **Group Leader/Researcher in Molecular Infection Medicine**, MIMS, Umeå University, with generous funding up to 9 years. Application deadline July 31. See [link](#) for more information and application, or contact [Niklas.Arnberg@umu.se](mailto:Niklas.Arnberg@umu.se)
- **Senior lecturer in Clinical Virology, with focus on virus-host interaction**, Karolinska Institutet. Application deadline August 15. See [link](#) for more information.
- **Researcher in Bacteria-Viral interactions**, Uppsala University. Application deadline July 10. See [link](#) for more information and application.
- **Postdoc in infection immunology and viral CNS infections**, Göteborg University. Application deadline June 27. See [link](#) for more information and application.

### 3) **Grants:**

- **The Gilead Sciences Nordic Fellowship Programme**, with special focus on HCV, HDV and HIV research. Application deadline June 30. For more information on the programme and how to apply, please see attached pdf.
- 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](mailto:Ali.Mirazimi@ki.se). Obs ! the **travel grant size** has been raised and is now up to **10000 SEK**

4) 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](mailto:Tomas.Bergstrom@microbio.gu.se)

5) 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>

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

**Best summer 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.**

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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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