



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, October 2023

Words from the Chairman of SSV:

Dear members of the society,

I hope this letter finds you in good health. First and foremost, I would like to highlight the event that took place last week - the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Medicine to Drew Weissman and Katalin Kariko for their groundbreaking research on mRNA as a tool to stimulate our immune response. Their pioneering work has led to the development of mRNA vaccines, including those against COVID-19. This work has changed our world by providing us with powerful tools in the fight against infectious diseases and other diseases. Their work has also saved lives and given us hope during the pandemic. Furthermore, it highlights how crucial basic research is. Scientists in this field began their journey by studying the most fundamental processes in cell biology, molecular biology and immunology. This is a reminder that even small steps in scientific research can lead to groundbreaking results.

Right now, we have an exciting autumn to look forward to. Our society continues to be a place for knowledge, exchange, and engagement. To further promote and support scientific research, I would like to encourage you to consider getting involved in the Swedish research council review panels (see information below). This group plays a crucial role in evaluating and prioritizing research projects and initiatives. By participating in the review panels, you will have the opportunity to influence the direction of research in our field and contribute to supporting the most promising projects that could lead to future breakthroughs. In conclusion, it is an exciting time for science and our society's community. Let us continue to promote and support research in science and work together to make positive changes in the world.

Ali Mirazimi, SSV Chairman, on behalf of the board

Words from Pandemifonden Secretary General:

We are happy to share with you that Pandemifonden is now a member of the [Forska!Sverige's](#) member organization [Agenda Hälsa & Välstånd](#). Forska!Sverige is very active in promoting research in the area of medicine and health. Last week, input to the upcoming research bill was handed over to the minister of research Mats Persson. Moreover, Pandemifonden attended a Forska!Sverige lunch-to-lunch workshop last week with a focus on register-based research, which is highly relevant to understand the impact of virus-caused acute and secondary diseases. The Agenda Hälsa & Välstånd's members include regions, companies (some of our partners) and many patient organizations with members that suffer from virus-caused/associated diseases. We are currently planning for activities during the fall, which includes a campaign for research on viruses that cause diseases in children. During the upcoming weeks we also plan for meetings with some of these patient organizations. We continuously seek new company partners and we are optimistic to keep and deepen the collaborations with current partners (AstraZeneca, Sanofi, and Gilead). Some of you are engaged in SciLifeLab's Pandemic Laboratory Preparedness (PLP) network. Happy (!) to see many of you in Umeå recently, where Pandemifonden's work was also presented, discussed and well received. We also work on the finalization of

Viruskollen.se (step one) during the fall. Again, a big THANKS to all of you who contributed with texts and expertise. Much appreciated! With respect to pandemic preparedness, take a minute to read the article in [Forskning.se](#) about what we have learned so far (in Swedish). Research in virology is a key for future pandemic preparedness! Finally, don't forget to nominate talented young virologists to the Pandemifonden Awards (see below)!

Niklas Arnberg, Secretary General, on behalf of Pandemifonden

- 1) **Reminder Pandemifonden Award:** The board welcomes **nominations of candidates to the Pandemifonden Awards**, which will be given by Virus- och pandemifonden – Svenska Sällskapet för Virologi (The Swedish Society for Virology), to two junior, talented virologists active at Swedish universities or hospitals, for the purpose of promoting virus research. This year the award will be 100 000 SEK to each awardee. See attached pdf for details on the eligibility of candidates and nominations, to be **submitted latest Nov 15, 2023**, to info@pandemifonden.se

- 2) **Open positions:**
Data Driven Life Science (DDL) Fellow (Assistant Senior Lecturer / Assistant Professor) positions, including generous start-up packages in **Epidemiology and Biology of Infection** now announced at following Universities. **Deadline October 10.**
 - At Umeå University (two positions), see [link](#)
 - At Karolinska Institutet (one position), see [link](#)
 - At Gothenburg University (one position), see [link](#)
 - At Lund University (one position), see [link](#)

Two Postdoc positions within EC postdoc programme at Umeå University x 2 Umeå
See more information on [positions](#) and [programme](#). **Deadline 29 October!**

- 3) Of note, time to nominate **members to VR (Swedish Research Council) review panels**. Important that we get virologists in as many seats as possible. Please find information at the following [link](#). **Deadline November 30.**

- 4) **Meetings:**
21st Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology, will be held August 22-24 next summer 2024. **Save the dates !**

- 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 Pandemifondens 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) Would you like to engage in Pandemifonden as a volunteer and join **Crew Pandemifonden**, together with us/others who share the vision and ambition of Pandemifonden? Contact niklas.arnberg@umu.se . Together we can make a difference, and, it will be fun!
- 8) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 9) [Information](#) on Virus- och Pandemifonden – **Swedish Society for Virology membership:** Attending the Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology will make you, free of charge, member of SSV for the coming three years. If you want to opt out of the membership, do not want to receive Newsletters or have other suggestions, please contact marianne.jansson@med.lu.se

**Best wishes for a nice autumn to all members (n=318)
from SSV**



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