



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, December 2023

Words from the Chairman of SSV and the Pandemifonden Secretary General

We trust this letter finds you in good health, as we approach the festive season. The Nobel Week has just concluded, and it was with great pleasure that we followed the awarding of the Nobel Prize in Medicine to Dr. Drew Weissman and Dr. Katalin Karikó for their groundbreaking research and findings in the realm of mRNA. Their pioneering work has paved the way for the development of vaccines and therapeutics, revolutionizing our approach to combating infectious diseases.

Dr. Karikó's journey, from a young molecular biologist to a Nobel laureate, is remarkable. Her story serves as a testament to the resilience and perseverance required in the pursuit of scientific excellence. The challenges she faced underscore the importance of tenacity and dedication in a field where success is seldom straightforward. Her achievements should stand as hope for all our young and talented virologists, reminding them that even the most formidable obstacles can be overcome with passion and determination.

In celebrating Dr. Karikó's and Dr. Weismann's success, we also acknowledge the collective efforts of the scientific community, as these breakthroughs are the result of collaboration, curiosity, and the pursuit of knowledge. Let us draw inspiration from their story and continue to foster an environment where innovation thrives, and the boundaries of our understanding are constantly pushed.

We are also very happy to share with you that Dr Max Renner, Umeå University is awarded the 2023 Pandemifonden's Prize for his studies of high-resolution structures of flavivirus and pneumovirus replication, and that Dr Jiaxin Ling, Uppsala University is awarded the 2023 Pandemifonden's Sigvard Olofsson Award for her studies of evolution, virulence, and transmission of zoonotic RNA virus.

We are also in the process of finalizing Viruskollen.se, which feels very timely given the high burden of virus-caused diseases and substantial interest. This will contribute to increase the knowledge about viruses and virus-caused diseases, and hopefully increase the visibility of Pandemifonden as well as donations and support to our work.

We also want to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to Jan Albert for his outstanding contributions during his time as a member of the board. Additionally, we extend a warm welcome to Åke Lundkvist and Magnus Evander, who have joined as new members of the board. We are confident that their expertise and commitment will further enhance the success of our endeavors.

As we bid farewell to this eventful year, we extend warm wishes to each and every member of the Swedish Society of Virology. May the holiday season bring joy, peace, and moments of well-deserved rest. May the coming year be filled with new discoveries, fruitful collaborations, and continued advancements in the field of virology.

Thank you for your dedication to the pursuit of knowledge and the betterment of humanity through your contributions to virology. Here's to a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Ali Mirazimi and Niklas Arnberg

1) **Open positions:**

Postdoc position in virus-host interactions, University of Copenhagen. Deadline on Jan 14, 2024. For more information see [link](#).

PhD student position in Physical Mechanisms of Virus Infection, Uppsala University. Deadline Jan 31. For more information see [link](#).

2) **Opportunity at WSV:**

If you are interested to engage in **World Society for Virology**, this [organization](#), which SSV is affiliated to, is now seeking members to their Executive Committee. For more information, please contact maria.soderlund-venermo@helsinki.fi or nominate yourself at the following [link](#). Of note, the 3rd WSV Virology conference will be held in Kuala Lumpur, May 6-8, 2025.

3) **Meetings:**

4th Nord Tick conference, in Nyborg Strand, Denmark, April 16-18, 2024. Abstract deadline January 12. See [link](#) for information and registration.

21st Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology, will be held August 22-24 next summer 2024. **Save the date!**

4) **Upcoming Calls:** (spring 2024) at Swedish Research Council (VR), see [link](#)

- International post doc within **medicine** and health (spring call).
- Project grant for research into **viral zoonoses**.
- Research Project grant, Consolidator grant and Starting grant within **medicine** and health.
- Project grant for international research collaboration within **antimicrobial resistance** (JPIAMR).
- Grant for research time in a **clinical environment**.
- Research project grant for development of methods to replace, reduce and refine animal experiments (**3R**).
- Project grant for research into **antimicrobial resistance** – from biological mechanisms to societal aspects.
- Doctoral programme grant within the **infection** area.
- Proof of concept within the **infection** area.

5) **Courses:**

Virology course, for PhD students and postdocs, August 19-21, 2024, next summer in Smögen. **Save the date!**

6) **Virology News:**

Alsved M, Nyström K, Thuresson S, Nygren D, Patzi-Churqui M, Hussein T, Fraenkel CJ, Medstrand P, Löndahl J. **Infectivity of exhaled SARS-CoV-2 aerosols is sufficient to transmit covid-19 within minutes**. Sci Rep. 2023 Dec 1;13(1):21245.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-023-47829-8>

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

- 8) 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/>
- 9) 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@pandemifonden.se
Together we can make a difference, and, it will be fun!
- 10) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 11) [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

**Happy Holidays to all members (n=318)
from SSV**



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