



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, January 2024

Words from the Chairman of SSV and the Pandemifonden Secretary General

Dear Colleagues and Members,

We hope you had a joyful holiday season. The Board of PF-SSV recently convened for a face-to-face meeting in Stockholm, and we are excited to bring you some updates for the upcoming year.

We are delighted to announce a new partnership with the [German-speaking Society for Virology](#). This collaboration opens avenues for members of both societies to actively participate in each other's events, including face-to-face courses, webinars, annual meetings, and more. This partnership aims to facilitate a robust exchange of knowledge and expertise.

Additionally, we are pleased to inform you about an upcoming course on Virus Pathogenesis tailored for Ph.D. students and postdocs. This course will coincide with our Smögen meeting, providing an enriching learning environment with distinguished keynote speakers.

Furthermore, in our commitment to support research and education, we have initiated discussions on a joint application for research school funds to be announced later this spring from the Swedish Research Council. This collaborative effort is geared towards amplifying our collective impact and advancing the field of virology.

It is with deep sadness that we share the news of the passing of Erik Lycke, a true pioneer in Swedish virology. Erik's contributions have left an imprint on our field, and his legacy will be with us for years to come. We invite you to read the memorial for him written by Tomas Bergström and Sigvard Olofsson.

As we navigate through these mixed news and emotions, we look forward to the continued success of PF-SSV.

Ali Mirazimi and Niklas Arnberg

1) **In Memory of Erik Lycke (1926-2024):**

Sadly, we have to announce that a prominent pioneer of Swedish Virology, Professor Erik Lycke, has recently left us at the age of 98. One of Erik's early achievements in the 1950ies was developing the Swedish polio vaccine together with the Father of Swedish Virology, Sven Gard. In fact, the outcome of Erik's work on inactivation kinetics saved the future for the inactivated polio vaccines that later proved so successful for the eradication of poliomyelitis. Around 1960, Erik became the head of the Virology department in Gothenburg. He immediately implemented his maxim that establishment of adequate clinical and diagnostic virology is not possible without good basic science, an endeavor that resulted in a now more than sixty years long era of internationally recognized clinical and experimental virology in Gothenburg. He also was an excellent writer, emphasizing us junior scientists to focus on the clarity of our manuscripts. He had a passion for books in many aspects and authored several historical biographies on Roman noblemen. As an example of his international scientific network, one important contribution from Erik to the members of this Society, was when he, at the age of 93, succeeded in persuasion of his close friend, the nobel laureate Stanley Prusiner, to give a lecture at the 2018 Smögen Symposium. Erik's mind was perfectly clear and his last contributions to Virology were two articles in *Läkartidningen* together with Erling Norrby on the history of Swedish Virology, published as late as in the fall of 2023. We

recommend all members of the SSV to read these two papers ([#1](#) and [#2](#)), knowing that this would have pleased Erik immensely.

Tomas Bergström and Sigvard Olofsson

2) **Travel Grants:**

- PhD students and postdocs are welcome to apply for **the SSV travel grants**. See how to apply on our [website](#). Applications for travel grants from SSV are now accepted during the spring term, with **deadline March 1**, and during the autumn term, with **deadline October 1**. Decisions on travel grants are then taken by the board. Each award amounts to a maximum of 10.000 SEK. If you have further questions contact ake.lundkvist@imbim.uu.se

3) **Open positions:**

Postdoc position in virus and vaccine immunology at Karolinska Institutet, Huddinge Campus. Deadline Jan 21, 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](#).

4) **Opportunity: “Smögen Meeting App” development**

We are seeking someone that could develop a **“Smögen meeting App”**, including possibilities to *read and comment on meeting program and abstracts, and to *communicate directly with meeting delegates. If you are interested, or you know someone that is, please contact Marianne.Jansson@med.lu.se

5) **Opportunity: Project assessment for CGCPT (Cumming Global Centre for Pandemic Therapeutics)**

[CGCPT](#) are seeking assessors to their [Grant programme](#) during March-April 2024. Are you as senior scientist interested and available to assess project CGCPT applications, please contact marian.boreland@unimelb.edu.au

6) **Upcoming Calls:**

As already pointed out in previous Newsletter, there are several VR calls within the Infection field coming up (see below), with the addition of [Grants for interdisciplinary research environments](#), with the option to add/develop studies linking to virus. Note the shorter deadline, February 24, 2024.

We also want to encourage you to read the Research Strategic Agenda on the [“National research programme in viruses and pandemics”](#)

Upcoming Calls linking to the Infection field at Swedish Research Council spring 2024, for info see [link](#)

- International post doc within **medicine** and health (spring call).
- Project grant for research into **viral zoonoses**.
- Grant for interdisciplinary research environments, including at least one grant to be allocated for research about virus and pandemics.
- 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.

7) **Meetings:**

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

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

8) **Courses:**

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

9) 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

10) 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/>

11) 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!

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

13) [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 2024 to all members (n=318)
from SSV**



Creating Possible.

Gilead is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and delivers innovative therapeutics for people with life-threatening diseases.

At Gilead, we set and achieve bold ambitions in our fight against the world's most devastating diseases. We are driven by our purpose of making the world a healthier place for all people. That means delivering innovative therapies that offer new hope for patients. Our ambitions have led us to a cure for hepatitis C and to transforming the treatment and prevention of HIV. Our innovation is helping people with diseases and conditions that include cancer, viral hepatitis, HIV and COVID-19.

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.

Gilead Sciences Sweden AB
Hemvärmingsgatan 9, 171 54 Solna
08-505 718 00
SE-UNB-0186

