



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, March 2024

Words from the Chairman of SSV and the Pandemifonden Secretary General

Dear Members of SSV,

We hope this letter finds you in good health. In the southern regions, we are beginning to feel the approaching arrival of spring. Meanwhile, I imagine that in the northern areas, you are likely still experiencing winter, with still abundant snowfall. Nevertheless, it is apparent that we are getting closer and closer to the Smögen meeting!

The SSV board is thrilled to share some exciting news with you. This year, we are organizing a course for PhD students and PostDocs, in connection to Smögen meeting, centering on Viral Pathogenesis. We anticipate the participation of a new generation of virologists and look forward to seeing you among them. Furthermore, we are delighted to inform you of our recent partnership with the German-speaking Society for Virology. This collaboration will lead to joint activities, including courses, webinars, and the opportunity to participate in each other's meetings. We anticipate a highly productive partnership. In our board discussions, we have explored the idea of establishing a consortium dedicated to creating a research school focused on virology. Our aim is to respond to an upcoming call from the Swedish Research Council. We believe this venture will contribute significantly to the field.

Within the Pandemifonden, there has been considerable activity. We recently published an article in DN Debatt, emphasizing the necessity for increased research grants in Virology. Secretary General (Niklas Arnberg) and Chairman of the Society Advisory Board (Michaela Valtersson) of Pandemifonden, have also engaged in meeting with the Minister of Social Welfare, Jakob Forssmed, and the State Secretary, Maria H Nilsson, to underscore the importance of virology research in enhancing preparedness for future pandemics, and to counteract the negative impact of common viruses on public health, health care and socioeconomy.

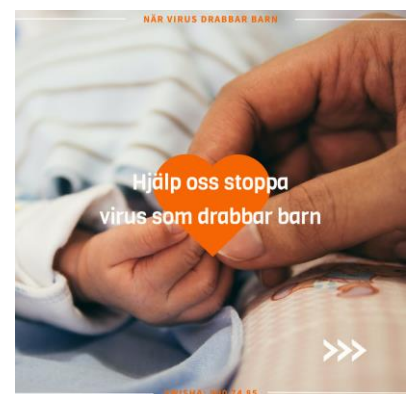
We look forward to your continued support and collaboration in these endeavors. Please stay tuned for more updates on these exciting initiatives.

Ali Mirazimi and Niklas Arnberg

1) **Campaign "Virus-Caused Diseases in Children"**

We, Pandemifonden, are right now running a campaign aimed to deepen the understanding virus-caused diseases affecting children. By sharing stories from families fighting virus diseases, together with knowledge from experts, we hope to highlight the fact that we need virus research to secure a virus-free future for our children.

Please help us share the stories on social media, spread the message, and raise money for virus research. Read the stories about [Ture](#), [Saga](#) and [Alice](#) on the Pandemifonden website.



Send a **digital hug** by opening this [link](#) on your phone, or **Swish a donation: 900 74 85**

2) **Upcoming Calls:**

We 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](#)

- 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.

3) **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

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) **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!**

7) **Courses:**

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

- 8) 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
- 9) 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/>
- 10) 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!
- 11) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 12) [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 to all members (n=318)
from SSV**



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