



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, September 2025

Words from the Chair of the SSV Board and the Secretary General of Virus- och pandemifonden

Dear Colleagues,

hope you are all doing well. Can you believe we are already in mid-September? Time truly flies—perhaps even faster as we grow older. For me (Ali), it's a constant reminder that every day is precious. We may not always succeed in enjoying every single moment, but we should take a moment to recognize, appreciate, and even celebrate all that we have accomplished along the way. These small reflections give meaning to the work we do and remind us that our efforts—both big and small—truly matter.

When I (Ali) think back, it has been an incredible joy to take part in these Smögen meetings for more than 20 years. I still remember coming here as a junior postdoc, eager to listen, to learn, and to be part of this community. Over the years, I have seen how this gathering has brought together some of the brightest scientific minds from across Sweden. We have shared not only results and ideas, but also challenges, hopes, and visions for the future. I've had the privilege of following many inspiring colleagues through the years. Some are sadly no longer with us, while many have now retired or reduced their workload. And yet, what I find truly remarkable is that so many of them remain active—still mentoring the next generation, still engaging with students, still bringing forward new and exciting ideas. Their energy and commitment remind us that science does not stop when the contract ends; it is a lifelong passion, a way of thinking, and a way of contributing to society. People who care about science, about each other, and about building something that lasts beyond ourselves. This spirit has been a source of great inspiration to me.

So let us be reminded of the privilege we have: to do science, to share knowledge, and to inspire those who will come after us. Let us continue to nurture this tradition, with the same dedication as those before us, and with the same joy and curiosity that first brought us here.

I (Niklas) am very pleased to open up for nominations to the 2025 Pandemifonden's Eva-Maria Fenyö and Sigvard Olofsson Prizes. Similarly, we now open a call to a 100 KSEK grant for research on postcovid, ME and other postviral diseases. See below for more information. I'm also very pleased to inform about a new donation á 30 000 SEK from Britta Wahren that will enable PhD students, awardees of – “ask the experts” aka “Smögen interaction award” - to participate in three upcoming Smögen meetings. Big thanks to Britta!!! Finally, it is with a warm heart that I encourage you to buy Lady Circles calendar 2025 – end of 2026 calendar (see [link](#) for more information and ordering), where 75 SEK goes to Pandemifonden. Lady Circle has decided to continue with Pandemifonden as a charity project, which is also very much appreciated!

Ali Mirazimi, Chair of the board, and
Niklas Arnberg, Secretary General at Virus- och pandemifonden

1) **Upcoming Pandemifonden - SSV Calls and Prizes:**

- The board welcomes nominations of candidates to the **Pandemifonden Awards, (The Eva Maria Fenyö Prize and the Sigvards Olofsson Prize)**, which will be given by Virus- och pandemifonden – Swedish Society for Virology, to up to two junior, talented virologists working at Swedish universities or hospitals, for the purpose of promoting virus research. For 2025, the award will be 100 000 SEK. See attached pdf for details on the eligibility of candidates and nominations, to be **submitted latest Nov 17, 2025**, to info@pandemifonden.se
- Virus- och pandemifonden” – in collaboration with other actors – have organized a fundraising campaign for research on “Post infectious diseases”. **A one-year Research grant of 100,000 SEK for research on “Post infectious diseases” is now announced.** See attached pdf for details on the grant call and instructions for the application, to be **submitted latest Nov 17, 2025**, to info@pandemifonden.se
- 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 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

2) **Courses:**

Upcoming **NDP-VIP** course for PhD students and postdoc fellows in “**Vaccine Development**”, **22-24 October at Aronsborg, Bålsta**. For information, registration and abstract submission, see [link](#).

Courses organized by the **Global Virus Network (GVN)**. Information on different courses and registration is found on this [link](#). Soon upcoming “**Short course on translational virology**”, **December 3-12, in Tampa, Florida** or online. For program and registration see [link](#). **Deadline September 1**.

3) **Positions:**

Senior Lecturer in Virology, Lund University, to be placed at the newly established Lund University Virus Centre. For application and information see [link](#). **Application deadline Nov 6**.

4) **Meetings:**

23rd Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology, August 20-22, 2026. Add to your calendars !

11th National Infection Biology Meeting, October 20-21, Aronsborg, Bålsta. For information and registration, see [link](#).

5) **Opportunities together with Young GfV for early career researchers:**

Young GfV regularly organizes workshops focused on specific scientific topics. These workshops are intentionally kept small (around 20-40 participants) to provide a unique opportunity for students and early-career researchers. Further information about the workshops and preliminary programs can be found on Young GfV homepage, see [link](#)

6) **Upcoming National Calls:**

at Swedish Research Council (VR), see [link](#)

- 7) If you like to post news on our website, www.swedishvirology.se please email Annika.Karlsson@ki.se, or if you like to add news to the next Newsletter email Marianne.Jansson@med.lu.se
- 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 greetings to all members (n=304)
from the SSV Board**



På GSK förenar vi vetenskap, teknik och kompetens för att både förebygga och behandla sjukdomar.

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Infektionssjukdomar drabbar alla, överallt, och sätter press på samhället samt hälso- och sjukvårdssystemet. Vår kombinerade expertis inom vacciner och läkemedel innebär att vi kan fokusera på både förebyggande och behandling av infektionssjukdomar.

GlaxoSmithKline AB, 08-638 93 00
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SE-UNB-0347 April 2025



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danaher.

RSV burden *is broader* than hospitalizations

Current management of *RSV infections* in young children requires *substantial healthcare resource utilization* in both inpatient & outpatient settings.^{1,2,3}



To read the latest RSV report, scan the QR-code or click the link:
<https://qrco.de/bfqz18>



sanofi

1. Hall CB. The burgeoning burden of respiratory syncytial virus among children. *Infect Disord Drug Targets*. 2012;12(2):92-97.
2. Cromer D, van Hoek AJ, Newall AT, Pollard AJ, Jit M. Burden of pediatric respiratory syncytial virus disease and potential effect of different immunization strategies: a modelling and cost-effectiveness analysis for England. *The Lancet Public health*. 2017;2(8):e367-e374.
3. Santé Publique France. Bronchiolite: Bilan de la surveillance 2018-19. (2019)

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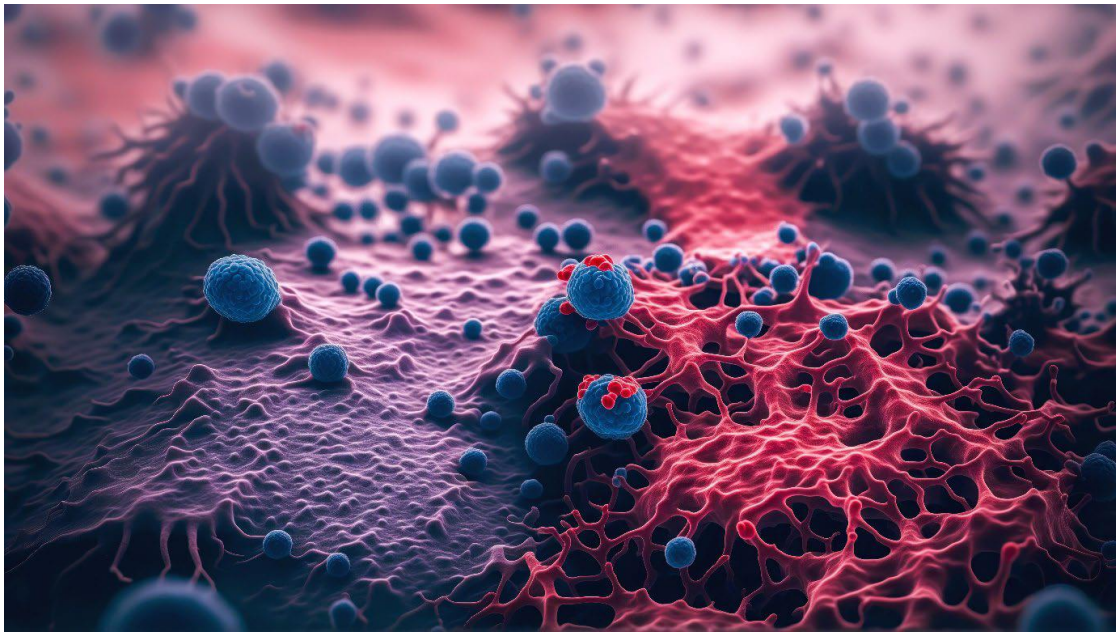


Foto: Getty Images

Vi är övertygade om att banbrytande forskning och multidisciplinärt samarbete mellan akademi, industri och hälsosektorn är avgörande för att utveckla nästa generations behandlingar och vacciner mot virussjukdomar. Genom att kombinera avancerad virologisk forskning, innovativa bioteknologiska lösningar och datadriven läkemedelsutveckling kan vi möta nuvarande och framtida pandemiska hot.

Regeringen vill stödja svensk virusforskning, stärka den vetenskapliga infrastrukturen och att bidra till kunskapsspridning om virus, immunrespons och antivirala behandlingsstrategier. Tillsammans bygger vi en mer motståndskraftig samtid och framtid mot infektionssjukdomar.

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