



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, December 2025

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

Dear Colleagues,

Here we are again—approaching the final stretch of the year, just weeks before Christmas and the New Year holidays. As we look forward to some well-deserved rest, we want to take a moment to highlight a few important points and to express our sincere appreciation to all of you.

First, a heartfelt thank you to our expert reviewers across the various VR and other review committees. We know how demanding, time-consuming, and mentally exhausting this work can be. Yet you continue to deliver with remarkable professionalism, dedication, and integrity. Your efforts are essential for maintaining the high scientific standard in Sweden, and we are deeply grateful. We truly hope you will continue contributing to this crucial task—your expertise makes all the difference.

We would also like to extend our warmest congratulations to everyone who received VR and other funding this year. This is an outstanding achievement, and you should be incredibly proud. Your hard work, creativity, and persistence have paid off, and we all look forward to seeing the exciting research that will grow from your projects.

Many of you participated at the recent VR-meeting about Virus and pandemics, funded by the Virus- and pandemic program. This program is in place thanks to our/your previous efforts by our Society. Many of you also received funding from this program, which we are very happy about.

For those who did not receive funding this round, please do not lose heart. We have all been there. The path to success in science is rarely straightforward—yet it belongs to those who persist. Keep working hard, believe in your ideas, stay open and humble to feedback from colleagues, and come back stronger next round. Every application you write strengthens your project, sharpens your thinking, and brings you one step closer to success. You are not alone on this journey, and your contributions are equally important to our community.

We are happy to announce that the Pandemifonden grant for research on postinfectious diseases has been awarded to Jinlin Li, Uppsala University for his research about SARS-CoV-2 persistence and post-acute sequelae. We are also happy to inform that this year's Pandemifonden Prize, in honor of Sigvard Olofsson and with generous support from Eva-Maria Fenyö, has been awarded to Martina Wahllöf, University of Gothenburg, for her research about transmission and respiratory viruses and nosocomial outbreaks.

As we move toward the end of the year, let's continue to support each other, celebrate our collective achievements, and look forward to a new year filled with collaboration, curiosity, and discovery.

Warm wishes to all of you

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

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

- **Time to nominate Virology hero (Virushjälte) of 2025:** Pandemifonden highlights a person that have made unique contributions to **counteract virus-caused diseases during 2025**. It can be a nurse working on voluntary basis to vaccinate against virus-caused diseases, a journalist that have described the pandemic in a very professional way, or any other effort. Feel free to be creative! This also helps Pandemifonden to get much needed visibility. Please send nominations to info@pandemifonden.se. **Deadline: December 15**

2) **Positions:**

Postdoc position with focus on influenza interspecies transmission, at Uppsala University. For more information and application see [link](#). **Deadline January 2, 2026.**

MIMS Clinical Research Fellowship (CRF) program 2026. The fellowship provides early career clinicians with an opportunity to develop a research project in the broad area of infection medicine in collaboration with a basic researcher
-Salary contribution for 50% research time (up to 1.2 mSEK), -Salary for a postdoc + associated costs (up to 2 mSEK), -Access to MIMS and Nordic EMBL partnership network and activities. Application deadline **January 16, 2026**, see [link](#).

3) **Message from NDP-VIP team: Travel grants to workshop and meeting in Heidelberg**

Are you **PhD student, postdoc or early career MD** and are planning your next career step in virology? Don't miss this opportunity to attend the **ACHIEVE Workshop 2026: Navigating your Career in Virology**, held in connection with the 35th Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology in Heidelberg, 16-17 March 2026. See attached and [link](#) for more information. Registration **deadline Dec 17**.

4) **Meetings:**

- **34th Annual Meeting of the German-speaking Society for Virology (GfV), Heidelberg March 17-20, 2026**, including plenary sessions on: Innate Immunity, Structural Virology, Virus-Host Interactions, Viral Data Science and Emerging Viruses/ Zoonoses, and many parallel workshops. For more information and registration see [link](#). **Abstract deadline January 4.**
- **Save the date ! 23rd Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology, August 20-22, 2026.**
- **Save the date !** The 32nd International Symposium on Hepatitis C virus, Flavivirus, and Related Viruses (**HCV-Flavi 2026**) September 14-17, 2026 Copenhagen. Check www.hcv-flavi2026.org to know more about the program, venue, organizers, speakers, and abstract submission.

5) **Virology News:**

In a recent article in Nature Medicine (Polisky, V., Littmann, M., Triastcyn, A. et al. Varicella-zoster virus reactivation and the risk of dementia. Nat Med 2025, <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41591-025-03972-5>), the relation between VZV reactivation and risk for dementia is investigated by two means: negative effects of multiple episodes of zoster and protective effects of zoster vaccines. This retrospective study, which was performed by the GSK company in collaboration with universities in Stanford, Oxford and others, utilized a database of de-identified longitudinal health records from over 100 million individuals seen between 2007 and 2023 in the United States. The results suggested that multiple episodes of zoster increased the risk of a diagnosis of dementia with 7-9%, while both the live and recombinant zoster vaccines showed protection after three years as compared to

controls vaccinated against pneumococci (33% and 27%, respectively). Long-term prospective studies seem justified.

- 6) 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
- 7) **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](#)
- 8) **International Networks**
The Global Virus Network (GVN) engages in Pandemic Preparedness to Advance Global Surveillance and Early Detection of Viral Threats. See [link](#) for more information about the network and the recent awardees.
- 9) **Upcoming National Calls:**
at Swedish Research Council (VR), see [link](#)
- 10) 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
- 11) 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/>
- 12) 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!
- 13) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 14) [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 Holiday greetings to all members (n=304) 🌲
from the SSV Pandemifonden Board



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

Vi forskar fram, utvecklar och tillverkar innovativa vacciner och läkemedel. Vårt arbete bedrivs främst inom fyra stora forskningsområden: HIV, andningsvägar, immunologi och onkologi.

GSK tillhandahåller vacciner mot infektionssjukdomar i livets alla skeden.

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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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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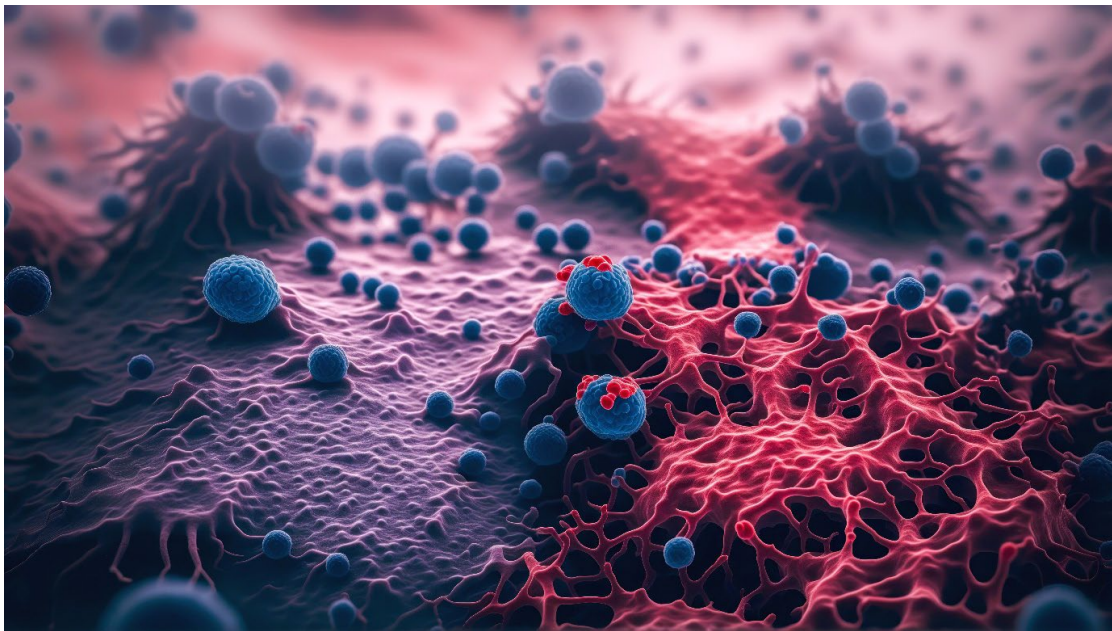


Foto: Getty Images

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.

Pfizer i Sverige samarbetar med Pandemifonden för att 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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