



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 Fellow SSV members.

We hope this message finds you well. Just a few weeks ago, we witnessed the Nobel Prize in Medicine being awarded to a groundbreaking discovery in immunology—truly inspiring news! Understanding how our immune system responds is central not only to deciphering how viral infections take hold and cause disease, but also for developing effective strategies to prevent and combat them.

Last week, I (Ali) had the pleasure of giving a talk at the National Infection Biology Meeting at Aronsborg. Alongside this event, [NDP-VIP](#) organized a course in Vaccinology, covering a wide spectrum of topics—from bacteria and viruses to parasites. Together, we explored why developing a vaccine against HIV remains such a challenge, and why it took decades to achieve an effective vaccine against malaria. We also delved into the regulatory aspects of vaccine development and the complexities of GMP manufacturing, ending on a high note with an inspiring lecture by Amina Manzoor on vaccine hesitancy and public trust.

The course brought together over 20 PhD students, postdocs, and scientists, creating a dynamic environment for learning and discussion. It was deeply rewarding to see such engagement and curiosity—it truly gives confidence that we are building a strong next generation of vaccinologists ready to tackle the challenges ahead. At the end we would like to thank NDP-VIP, and especially Annasara and Louise from Umeå, for organizing this excellent course. I look forward to see the next course.

We are also pleased that we have now opened up for senior virologists to nominate younger virologists for Pandemifonden's Sigvard Olofsson and Eva-Maria Fenyö Awards. This is a great opportunity to motivate and strengthen our talented next generation. The prize is on 100 kSEK each, but the main value is that the prizes provide the awardees visibility and make them even more competitive.

I (Niklas) would also like to thank Pandemifonden's Company Partners for your support to Pandemifonden's efforts to strengthen Swedish virology and share information about the impact of virus-caused diseases on public health, health care, and on society including societal economy. With respect to knowledge sharing, I am pleased to inform that there is an increasing number of visitors to [Viruskollen.se](#) .

The Swedish Research Council organizes a conference about the National Research Program on Virus and Pandemics November 12. Join and share your views; register [here](#) (deadline November 3). The program was created after recommendations from our society four years ago. Many of us participated in the formation of the program. The meeting will focus on preparedness against the next pandemic. I think an important part of this includes strengthened research about viruses that we already know about.

All the best

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
- **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:**

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.**

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) **Meetings:**

- Annual meeting, **“Virusdagen” of the Danish virus society (DVS), November 27, Copenhagen, SSI.** Program see attached. Send **abstract (latest October 31), and register (latest November 25)** by email to sdt@ssi.dk
- **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 see [link](#), **registration open soon** and **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.

4) **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](#)

5) **Upcoming National Calls:**

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

6) 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

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.Arnerberg@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

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.**

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.

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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/bfgz18>



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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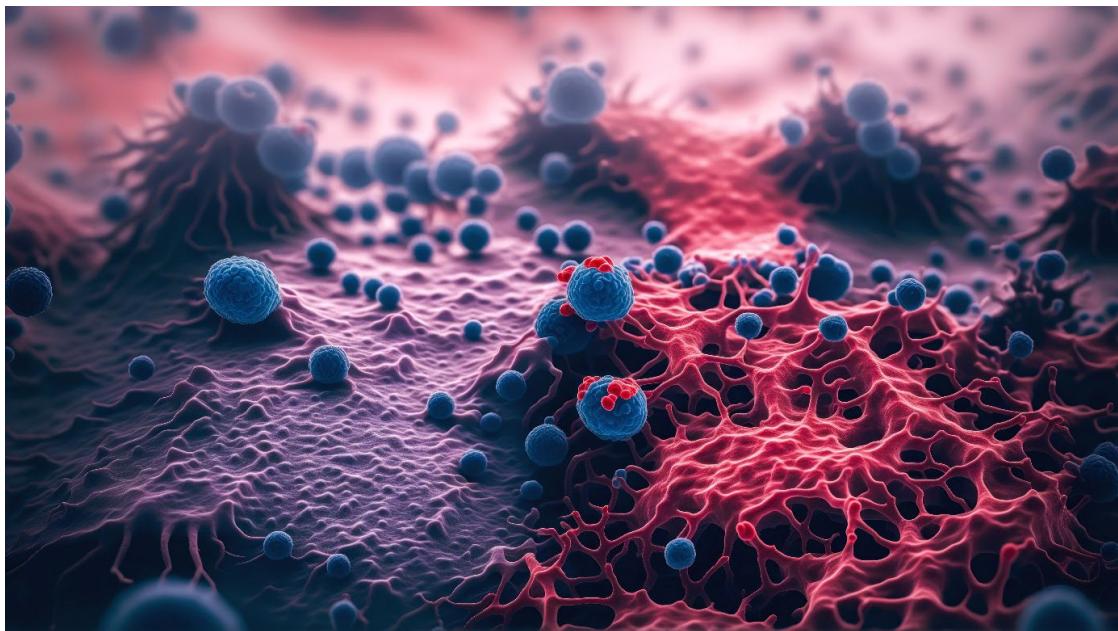


Foto: Getty Images

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 kunskapspridning om virus, immunrespons och antivirala behandlingsstrategier. Tillsammans bygger vi en mer motståndskraftig samtid och framtid mot infektionssjukdomar.

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