



## Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, April 2026

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

Dear SSV members,

We hope you are enjoying the return of longer days and that this is lifting your spirits. One of the clearest signs of the season is that registration for the Smögen meeting is now open. We warmly encourage you to sign up and join us. We are also delighted that, in connection with this year's meeting, a dedicated PhD student course will be organised (see the National Doctoral Programme in Virus Infections and Pandemics, [NDP-VIP](#)), creating an excellent opportunity for early-career researchers to engage and grow within our community.

Within the SSV board, we have initiated several activities to strengthen Swedish virology. A mapping of virology activities and teaching across different university programmes in Sweden is currently underway, led by Clas Ahlm, and will provide valuable insights into our national landscape. In parallel, Joakim Essbjörnsson is leading an effort to identify key initiatives and networks of strategic interest to SSV, helping us further expand collaboration and impact.

We also hope that many of you have taken the opportunity to prepare and submit proposals to the Be Ready platform. This is an important moment for us to collectively showcase the strength, innovation, and excellence of virology research across Europe.

Many of us will represent Virus- och pandemifonden and our society at upcoming events, including Almedalen. We are pleased that our field is gaining increased attention from a range of stakeholders. As we elect a new government this year, we will continue to highlight the importance of our field.

We hope you had a wonderful Easter holiday and look forward to seeing many of you soon in Smögen.

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

- 1) **Pandemifonden and SSV Calls**  
**PhD students and junior postdocs** (less than five year old PhD at the date of application), who are members of SSV, can apply for [travel grants](#) for participation in international meetings, including international meetings given in Sweden. SSV membership is automatically acquired through participation in the annual Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology and is valid for three consecutive years following meeting participation.
- 2) **Positions**  
**PhD student position** in the project [SAFE Pig – Biosecure and profitable pig production in wild boar-dense areas](#) at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden. **Deadline: April 27.**  
**Postdoc position** in [structural virology](#) at Umeå University, Sweden. **Deadline: May 4.**
- 3) **Message from NDP-VIP team: Upcoming courses**  
Are you a **PhD student or postdoc**, don't miss the opportunity to attend one or several of these exciting **PhD courses** organised by the National Doctoral Programme in Virus Infections and Pandemics ([NDP-VIP](#)).

### **Mosquito-Borne Vectors and Their Pathogens**

This course combines lectures, fieldwork, laboratory training and epidemiological case scenarios. Focusing on major mosquito vectors and pathogens including arboviruses (dengue, Zika, chikungunya, yellow fever, West Nile) as well as selected bacteria and parasites, the course covers essential concepts in vector biology, pathogen transmission, surveillance, and integrated control strategies.

-  **Course dates:** June 8-12, 2026
-  **Location:** Umeå University, Umeå, Sweden
-  **Registration deadline:** April 27, 2026
-  [More info and registration](#)

### **Viral Pandemics and Pandemic Preparedness**

This course provides an integrated overview of viral pandemics, from emergence and early detection to preparedness and rapid countermeasures.

-  **Course dates:** August 17-19, 2026
-  **Location:** Smögens Hafvsbad, Smögen, Sweden
-  **Registration deadline:** May 15, 2026
-  [More info and registration](#)

### **Organoid Models in Infection Biology**

This course provides an overview of organoid-based model systems and their application in infection biology to study host–pathogen interactions in different tissues.

-  **Course dates:** November 16-18, 2026
-  **Location:** Stora Brännbo, Sigtuna, Sweden
-  **Registration deadline:** August 28, 2026
-  [More info and registration](#)

- 4) **23rd Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology**  
The [registration](#) for the **23rd Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology** is now open. The meeting takes place August 20-22, 2026 in Smögen, Sweden. Please note the **deadline** for abstracts for oral presentation is May 31.

The scientific program will include Keynote lectures from outstanding national and international experts in various fields of Virology. Another important part of the Symposium is the short oral presentations representing Scandinavian Virology research, ranging from basic to applied Virology to Clinical Virology.

We have succeeded in engaging three excellent **keynote lecturers**:

**Dr. Raymond Schinazi**, Professor at Emory University. His research focuses on antiviral treatment of virus infections such as HIV, HBV, HCV and emerging viruses.

**Dr. Josef Penninger**, Professor and Scientific Director at Helmholtz Center for Infection Research. He works with understanding the underlying mechanisms of infectious diseases. He works with developing a broad range of *in vitro* and *in vivo* tools to reveal the mechanisms of viral infections and diseases.

**Dr. Anna Smed Sörensen**, Professor at Karolinska Institutet. Her research focuses on interactions between viral infections and the immune system, with particular emphasis on immune responses in respiratory tract infections and inflammation in humans.

5) **Meetings**

**12th European Seminar in Virology (EuSeV) entitled “Navigating through DNA viruses – novel disease associations and common host manipulations”**, May 29-31, 2026, University of Bologna, Bertinoro, Italy. For more information: <https://www.ceub.it/events/event/12th-european-seminar-in-virology-eusev-navigating-through-dna-viruses/>. **Abstract deadline April 15, 2026.**

**10th European Rotavirus Biology Meeting**, June 15-17, 2026, Linköping. For more information: <https://liu.se/en/research/erbm2026>. **Abstract deadline April 19, 2026.**

**Bunyavirus 2026 Conference**, July 8-10, 2026, Bilbao, Spain. For more information: <https://bunyavirus-meeting.bnitm.de/>. **Abstract deadline May 15, 2026.**

**The 32nd International Symposium on Hepatitis C virus, Flavivirus, and Related Viruses (HCV-Flavi 2026)** September 14-17, 2026 Copenhagen. For more information: [www.hcv-flavi2026.org](http://www.hcv-flavi2026.org). **Abstract deadline May 12, 2026.**

**The 28th Annual Conference of the European Society for Clinical Virology**, September 16-19, 2026, Porto, Portugal. For more information: <https://www.escv2026.org/>. **Abstract deadline May 11, 2026.**

- 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](mailto:Tomas.Bergstrom@microbio.gu.se)
- 7) Please listen to and share **Viruspodden**, a podcast (in Swedish) where Lennart Svensson and Åke Lundkvist invites guests and discusses various virus related topics. Recent episodes discuss e.g., TBEV, VZV, HPV and HCV. You find the podcast on various platforms such as Spotify and Podcaster as well as here: <https://viruspodden.podbean.com/>
- 8) **Opportunities together with Young GfV for early career researchers**  
**Young GfV regularly organizes workshops** focusing 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](#).
- 9) **International Networks**  
**The Global Virus Network (GVN)** engages in Pandemic Preparedness to Advance

Global Surveillance and Early Detection of Viral Threats. See [GVN homepage](#) for more information about the network and upcoming events.

10) **Upcoming National Calls**

At Swedish Research Council (**VR**), see <https://www.vr.se/english/applying-for-funding/calls-and-decisions.html> . In particular, don't miss the **Project grant for international collaboration within pandemic preparedness** ([BE READY](#))

11) If you like to post news on our website, [www.swedishvirology.se](http://www.swedishvirology.se) please email [Annika.Karlsson@ki.se](mailto:Annika.Karlsson@ki.se), or if you like to add news to the next Newsletter email [anne-lie.blomstrom@slu.se](mailto:anne-lie.blomstrom@slu.se)

12) 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/>

13) 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](mailto:Niklas.Arnberg@pandemifonden.se)  
Together we can make a difference, and, it will be fun!

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

15) [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 [anne-lie.blomstrom@slu.se](mailto:anne-lie.blomstrom@slu.se)

**Best wishes 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  
NP-SE-NA-JRNA-250001, 20250901



## A pioneer in antiviral development.

As a pioneer and leader in antiviral development Gilead has a track record of transformative medicines, cures and access strategies that meet global public health challenges.

Our innovative medicines have transformed the lives of those living with viral hepatitis and helped to transform HIV from a fatal disease to a chronic, treatable condition. And when the world needed it most, we applied our virology expertise to bring forward an antiviral treatment for COVID-19.

Today, we continue to invest in research that will prepare us for emerging pandemic threats, enable elimination of hepatitis and we work tirelessly toward our vision to end the HIV epidemic for everyone, everywhere.

Gilead Sciences Sweden AB  
Hemvärmgatan 9, 171 54 Solna  
08-505 718 00  
SE-UNB-0347 April 2025



## GAME CHANGERS FOR 60 YEARS

### Advancing **Global Health** through **Diagnostic Excellence**



bioMérieux leads the fight against infectious diseases through pioneering diagnostic solutions. With over six decades of expertise, we provide healthcare professionals worldwide with fast, accurate pathogen identification tools for informed treatment decisions.

Our commitment was powerfully demonstrated during the COVID-19 pandemic, when we swiftly mobilized to develop and deploy critical testing solutions while maintaining support for routine diagnostic needs. Through continuous innovation and our global presence, we ensure healthcare providers have access to cutting-edge diagnostic technology – both for everyday patient care and during public health emergencies. Together, we're working to create a healthier world through better disease detection and management.

#### **Did you know?**

bioMérieux take innovation seriously by dedicating around 13% of its sales to Research and Development annually, while the average of the medical technology market is around 8%.



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complexity

**MORE**  
insight



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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.<sup>1,2,3</sup>



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)

MAT-SE-2500033-1.0-02/2025

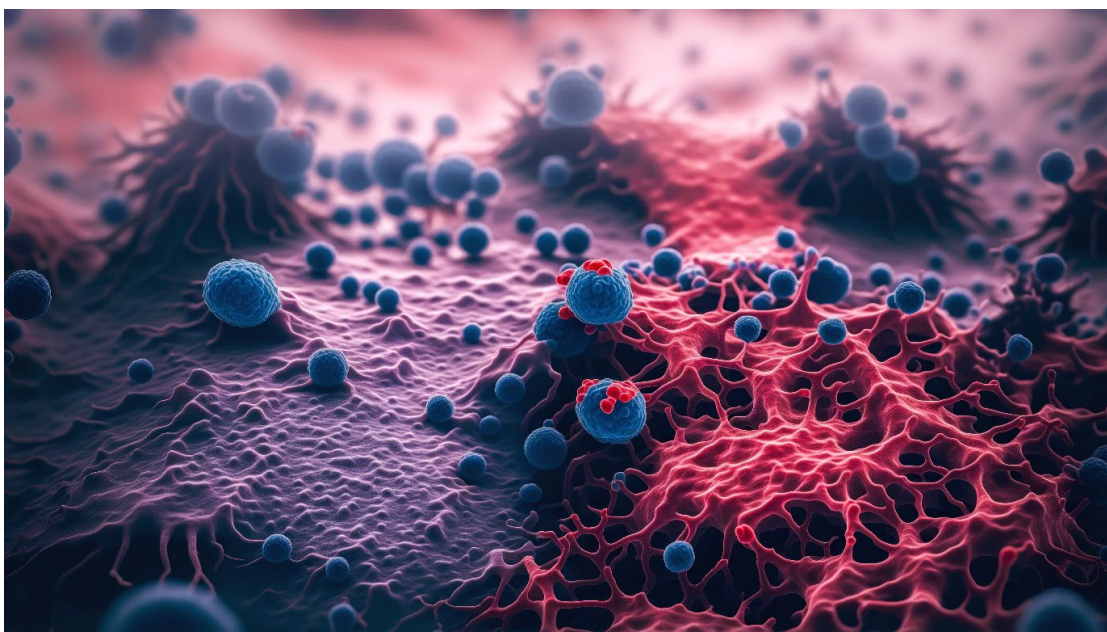


Foto: Getty Images

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.

Pfizer AB  
Solnavägen 3H  
113 63 Stockholm  
Tel. 08-550 520 00





# Purpose. Progress. Impact.

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