



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, September 2026

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

Dear SSV members

Summer is now behind us and many of us are back at work. We hope that you have effectively recharged your batteries during summer and are now back in labs and offices.

This year's Smögen week was filled with virology, kickstarting Monday August 17 with two courses, in clinical virology for residents and about pandemics and pandemic preparedness for PhD students and postdocs. Many of you participated as delegates or gave lectures, together increasing our overall knowledge about virus-caused infections, diseases, outbreaks, and/or pandemics. As we understand, both courses were much appreciated, and we thank the organizers with team Johan Westin and Annasara Lenman for the efforts put into this. Much appreciated! We learned that next time similar courses are organized simultaneously, we will try to have some lectures together to better integrate e.g. preclinical with clinical virology.

The main event took off on Thursday after lunch with an excellent keynote talk by Dr Raymond Shinazi who talked about his fantastic work on antiviral drug development, followed by a nice blending of talks from youngsters and seniors in different areas of virology and infectious-caused infections, and two other excellent keynote talks from Anna Smed Sörensen on viral immunology and Joseph Penninger on emerging viruses. Many of us/you also presented posters and we were happy that the poster discussions kept on very long in the afternoon. As usual it was fantastic to meet colleagues and friends at the beautiful west coast archipelago. Huge thanks to Nina Nyström with team for keeping everything together!

As these words are written, we are heading towards a new election to the Swedish Parliament. Health care is top ranked among the voters and we, our society and the Virus- and pandemic foundation, are working on debate articles and seminars in the parliament to highlight the contribution of virus-caused infections on public health, health care, and society at large. This would not be possible without the support from our company partners, big thanks to all of you!

Important, remember to nominate young, talented virologists for Virus- and pandemifondens Sigvard Olofsson and Eva-Maria Fenjö Awards!

On behalf of the board, we would like to wish you all a colourful fall with your colleagues and your closest. Thank you for everything you do.

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

1) **Pandemifonden and SSV Calls**

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 2026, the award will be 100 000 SEK. See attached pdf for details on the eligibility of candidates and nominations, to be submitted to info@pandemifonden.se **Deadline November 18, 2026**

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. For more information: <https://www.swedishvirology.se/member-info/> **Deadline October 1, 2026**

2) **Upcoming National and International Calls**

International post doc within medicine and health. The purpose of this grant from the **Swedish Research Council (VR)** is to give newly qualified researchers with a doctoral degree from a Swedish university the opportunity to expand their networks and their competences by working abroad under secure employment conditions. The grant is also intended to promote the quality and renewal of Swedish research. For more information: <https://www.vr.se/english/applying-for-funding/calls/2025-11-11-international-post-doc-within-medicine-and-health-autumn-call.html>. **Deadline September 15, 2026**

Nominate members of review panels in medicine and health 2027. The Swedish Research Council's (VR) Scientific Council for Medicine and Health (MH) is now welcoming proposals for members of the review panels for 2027. For more information: <https://www.vr.se/english/just-now/news/news-archive/2026-08-17-nominate-members-of-review-panels-in-medicine-and-health-2027.html>. **Deadline November 20, 2026**

3) **Message from NDP-VIP team: Open upcoming courses**

Are you a **PhD student or postdoc**, don't forget to become a member of the National Doctoral Programme in Virus Infections and Pandemics (**NDP-VIP**). NDP-VIP yearly arranges several advanced courses with theoretical and technical relevance to virology and pandemic preparedness and will provide you with a national and international network of scientists at all levels that work within virology and pandemic preparedness.

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



[More info and registration](#)

NDP-VIP Travel Support – Autumn 2026

Grants are awarded for participation in an international conference, course, workshop, or a similar activity.

- **Application deadline:** October 1
- **Travel support guidelines and application form:** [Co-funding for individual activities | NDP-VIP](#)

4) **Open positions in Virology**

Group leader in [Molecular Infection Medicine](#) at Umeå University, Sweden. The Laboratory for Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden MIMS is looking for an excellent young researcher to become Group Leader for innovative research in molecular infection medicine. The topic includes but is not limited to research on the biology of bacteria, viruses, parasites and the microbiome and how these interact with the immune system of the host. **Deadline: Sept 15, 2026**

If you have an open position that you want to be included in the SSV Newsletter please send an email to anne-lie.blomstrom@slu.se

5) **Meetings**

The 24th workshop - Cell Biology of Viral Infections on Cellular Routes and Roadblocks in Viral Genome Trafficking, October 28-30, 2026, Kloster Schöntal, Germany. For more information: <https://cellviro.g-f-v.org/>. **Registration is open**

36th Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology (GfV 2027), March 1-3, 2027, Frankfurt, Germany. For more information: <https://virology-meeting.de/> **Registration will open soon**

10th European Congress of Virology, June 7-11 June, 2027, Cagliari, Italy. For more information: <https://eusv-congress.eu/> **Registration will open soon**

12th European Meeting on Viral Zoonoses, September 18 – 21, 2027, Saint-Raphaël, France. For more information: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/12th-european-meeting-viral-zoonoses> **Registration will open soon**

6) **Virology News**

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/>

The **Virus Report 2025/2026** presents the year's most significant developments in virology, bringing together key research findings, notable outbreaks, and important scientific advances. By highlighting the viruses and events that shaped the year, the report provides a comprehensive overview of the virological landscape in 2025/2026. The report (in Swedish) can be downloaded here:

<https://www.pandemifonden.se/virusrapporten20252026>

Anyone that has suggestions on **virology publications** that are of interest for Swedish virologist and should be **highlighted** under **Virology News**, please email:

Tomas.Bergstrom@microbio.gu.se

7) **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](#).

The 24th workshop of the study group „Cell Biology of Viral Infections“ on “[Cellular Routes and Roadblocks in Viral Genome Trafficking](#)” will be taking place at the Schöntal Monastery on October 28-30, 2026. **Registration closes September 30, 2026**

36th Annual Meeting of the Society for Virology (GfV 2027), March 1-3, 2027, Frankfurt, Germany. For more information: <https://virology-meeting.de/> **Registration will open soon**

- 8) **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.
- 9) 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 anne-lie.blomstrom@slu.se
- 10) 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/>
- 11) 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!
- 12) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighbourhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 13) [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

**Best wishes to all members (n=295)
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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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/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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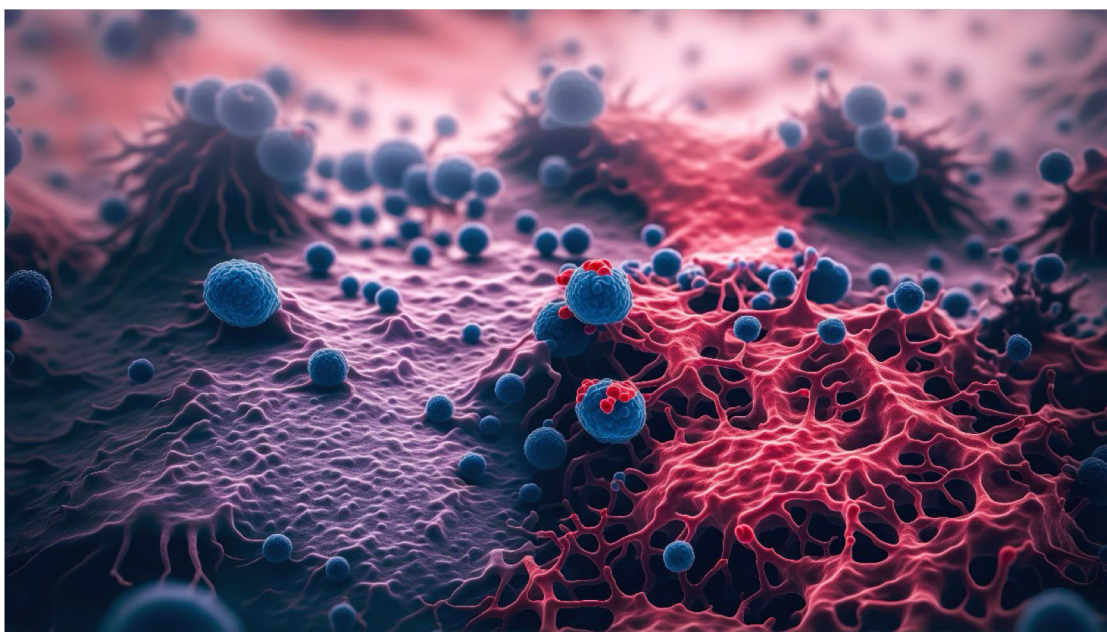


Foto: Getty Images

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

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