



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, May 2023

Dear fellow SSV members,

I hope that all of you have enjoyed the late spring weather (at least those of you in south of Sweden) and had the opportunity to recharge your energy. Since the last communication from the Chairman, we have had a few SSV board meetings. Our newsletter serves not only to highlight events but also to keep you informed about the decisions and discussions within the SSV board. Thus, during the most recent SSV board meeting, we discussed our association with the "Viruses" journal and reached a collective decision. We have decided to terminate our affiliation with this journal for several reasons. Firstly, we have not derived any benefits from this affiliation. Additionally, most universities now may have their own independent arrangements with the journal, enabling them to receive publication discounts directly. Furthermore, it is important to highlight that the "Viruses" journal has recently been flagged as a predatory journal according to a report (<https://predatoryreports.org/>). However, it should be noted that the journal has responded to this list (<https://www.mdpi.com/about/announcements/5482>). Regardless, we are not in the position to judge but we strongly believe that as an independent association, we should uphold our autonomy and avoid direct affiliation with this journal.

As for Pandemifonden news, we are happy to inform you that we received several applications to our first project grant call, on Postcovid. As a reminder we collected almost 100 KSEK during a campaign in the fall, together with the Swedish COVID patient organization ([Svenska Covidföreningen](#)), and we topped this up to 200 KSEK in total. We are also happy to inform that more and more companies want to join as company partners. Thus, we become more and more recognized as an important organization with substantial competence that relates to virus-caused infections, acute diseases, secondary diseases, outbreaks and pandemics. We look forward to present and discuss the hybrid report at Almedalen, Visby in late June, and to provide feedback from this event at our annual meeting in Smögen. During summer and fall we also plan to finalize our work with "virkollen.se", the knowledge portal about viruses and virus-caused diseases.

Thank you all for your continued support and commitment to SSV's mission of strengthening Swedish virus research and preventing future pandemics.

Ali Mirazimi, SSV chairman and Niklas Arnberg, Pandemifonden General Secretary

1) **Meetings:**

- **Registration still open, but hurry up, meeting soon full! 20th Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology**, August 24-26, 2023. As previous years, excellent keynote speakers, including **Emma Thomson**, Glasgow, on hepatitis with unknown aetiology in children, **Hugo Zeberg**, Karolinska institutet, on gene flow from Neandertals impacting viral diseases, **Gunilla Karlsson Hedestam**, Karolinska Institutet, on antiviral responses and the impact of immunoglobulin germline variation, and **Ralf Bartenschlager**, Heidelberg, on molecular virology of HCV, as well as HBV, Flaviviruses and Coronaviruses. See [link](#) for registration.
- **7th Nordic Conference of Antiviral Treatment Strategies and Drug Resistance**, 15th June 2023, Uppsala. See information and registration at the [link](#).

- **World Society of Virology conference (WSV 2023)**, Riga, Latvia, June 15-17, 2023. See [link](#) for more information.
Obs ! New SSV representative in WSV is Emmi Andersson. If you want to engage in WSV, contact Emmi at emmi.andersson@folkhalsomyndigheten.se
- **10th European meeting on viral zoonoses**, September 23-26, Saint-Raphael, France. See [link](#) for more information and registration.

2) **Open positions**

- **Group Leader/Researcher in Molecular Infection Medicine**, MIMS, Umeå University, with funding up to 9 years. Application deadline July 31. See [link](#) for more information and application.
- **Researcher in Bacteria-Viral interactions**, Uppsala University. Application deadline July 10. See [link](#) for more information and application.
- **Postdoc in infection immunology and viral CNS infections**, Göteborg University. Application deadline June 27. See [link](#) for more information and application.

3) **Grants:**

- PhD students and postdocs are welcome to apply for **the SSV travel grants**. See how to apply on our [website](#), or if you have questions contact Ali.Mirazimi@ki.se. Obs ! the **travel grant size** has been raised and is now up to **10000 SEK**

4) **Virology Highlights:**

Adeno-associated virus 2 infection in children with non-A-E hepatitis.

Ho A, et al. Nature. 2023 May;617(7961):555-563. [Link](#)

Genomic investigations of unexplained acute hepatitis in children.

Morfopoulou S, et al. Nature. 2023 May;617(7961):564-573. [Link](#)

Two recent publications, authored by Emma Thomson (keynote speaker at this summer's Smögen meeting) and her colleagues, reporting on the association between acute paediatric hepatitis and AAV2 infection, as well as host genetics and coinfections that may have contributed to disease susceptibility.

also

Excision of Integrated Human Herpesvirus 6A Genomes Using CRISPR/Cas9 Technology. Aimola et al. Microbiol Spectr. 2023 Mar 16;11(2):e0076423. [Link](#)

Of human herpesviruses, the beta-herpesviruses HHV-6A and HHV-6B may establish latency through integration into human chromosomes through telomeres. Sometimes, such HHV-6 integrations can be present in germ cells and thus inherited to be present in most, if not all, progeny cells. In a recent paper, Aimola et al. (see link above) have utilized the CRISPR/Cas9 technique to excise HHV-6A DNA from infected cell lines, and also from patient-derived cells. Although far from clinical applications, these experiments show, for the first time, that integrated viral genomes can be removed from latency within a human genome.

- 5) 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
- 6) 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 Pandemifonden's

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>

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

Best wishes from SSV



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