



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, May 2024

Words from the Chairman of SSV and the Pandemifonden Secretary General

Dear Members of SSV,

I hope you are all doing well and enjoying the lovely early summer weather across our long country. We would like to remind you about our upcoming [Ph.D./Post Doc course](#), which will focus on pathogenesis this time. This year, we are pleased to have several distinguished German scientists joining our own fantastic scientists for the lectures. Thanks to our fruitful partnership with [GfV](#), we can offer you a variety of interesting courses and workshops (please see below for details). We are also excited to announce that we will be submitting a proposal to the Swedish Research Council for the establishment of a "Forskarskolan" focused on viruses and pandemics. We have successfully gathered nearly all Swedish universities with active virus research programs for this initiative. If approved, the program will be coordinated by Umeå. We believe this program will significantly advance the field of virology by educating and fostering new virologists.

Note that the registration for the Smögen meetings is now open, and the deadline for submitting abstracts is approaching (see below). When you register for the Smögen meeting, also note that you have the possibility to donate to Pandemifonden. We hereby "challenge" our members to collectively donate no less than 5000 SEK, and will announce the result at the meeting! Please mark your donations with "Smögen". Pandemifonden is also happy to announce that we have renewed our collaborations with Pfizer and Gilead, which will help Pandemifonden to increase the awareness about virus-caused diseases and their impact on public health, health care, and society. We are also enthusiastic about our participation at the [Almedalen week](#), where we organize three panel discussions on the topics of preparedness, postcovid, and viruses as biological weapons.

Sincerely, Ali Mirazimi and Niklas Arnberg

1) **Meetings:**

- Registration now open for **21st Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology**, held August 22-24, 2024. We are pleased to have excellent keynote speakers again this year, including **Mart Krupovic**, Paris, on the interface of microbiology, virology and evolution including archaeal virus diversity, **Karl Ståhl**, SVA, Uppsala, on epizootic diseases, including African Swine fever virus, **Mattias Forsell**, Umeå, on humoral immunity after vaccination or infections. See preliminary program and information attached and following link for [registration](#). **Deadline for Abstract submission, May 31.**

Note! When registering, don't miss to use the QR code to donate to the Pandemifonden. Let's see if we together can collect at least 5000 SEK until the Smögen meeting.

- Symposium on "**Viral Vectors and Virus-Like Particles: from design to clinical application**" Umeå, **September 12, 2024**. For information and registration see [link](#). **Deadline for Abstract submission, August 15.**
- **11th European Seminar in Virology**, on Viral Vectors – from Basic Research to Clinical Application, at **Bertinoro, Italy, October 21-23, 2024**. For information and registration see [link](#). **Deadline for Abstract submission, September 10.**

- **Virus- och Pandemifonden** will arrange three different panel discussions during the **Almedalen political week (June 25-28)**. One about society's needs for pandemic preparedness going forward, one about post-covid and healthcare resilience, and lastly one discussion about our defense against viruses as biological warfare.

Niklas Arnberg and Ali Mirazimi will attend the discussions and also be present during the week to highlight our common work and research and also meet with stakeholders.

Please read more below and don't forget to add it to your calendar, since discussions will be able attend digitally by the below links.

1. <https://www.almedalsveckan.info/program/70570>
2. <https://www.almedalsveckan.info/program/70585>
3. <https://www.almedalsveckan.info/program/70601>

2) **Courses:**

- National research **course in Molecular Virology and Pathogenesis**, for PhD students and postdocs, in **Smögen August 19-21, 2024**. The course includes lectures by senior Swedish and international researchers on important virus families and the diseases they cause. For information and registration, please use following [link](#), see also preliminary schedule attached. **Deadline for registration, June 4.**
Note! If you are, or become, NDPIA member the participation is free of charge.

- Summer School on "**Innovative approaches for the identification of antiviral agents**", **Pula, Cagliari, Italy, September 23-27, 2024**, for PhD students and Postdocs, with European Society for Virology (ESV) as co-organizer. For information and registration see [link](#). **Deadline for registration, July 15.**

3) **Opportunities with the German Society of Virology (GfV)**

- Workshop on "**Cell biology of viral infections**", with focus on **Membranes, Schöntal Monastery, Germany, November 4-6, 2024**. For information and registration see [link](#). **Deadline for Abstract submission, September 22**

- Opportunity to join and interact with the **Young Investigators of GfV (JGfV)**, including events, virtual seminar series, and much more, see their [webpage](#)
Upcoming virtual seminars include topics on **Nipah viruses May 27, 5pm** with Anne Balkema-Buschmann & Andrea Maisner
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZAlcOGvrDsoH9xAGF78an0DfZ7jxTKamuhJ>

Adoptive T cell therapy June 18, 5 pm with Britta Eiz-Vesper & Britta Maecker-Kolhoff
<https://us06web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvf-utrzuwHtKmvQ5a0NGWWKw1GruoHV37#/registration>

Thus, events organized by JGfV include:

- Virology Lecture Series
- Online Education circle of the working group: clinical virology
- How to... Methods lecture series
- Additional workshops (partly in german)
- Online "discussion Round" format on career related topics.

- 4) **Jobs:**
PhD position in Structural Virology at Umeå University. For more information and application see [link](#). Application Deadline June 3.
- Researcher position in parasitic interaction of aquatic microbes (including viruses), at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU).** For more information and application see [link](#). Application Deadline May 30.
- 5) **Travel Grants:**
- PhD students and postdocs are welcome to apply for **the SSV travel grants**. See how to apply on our [website](#). Applications for travel grants from SSV are now accepted during the spring term, with **deadline March 1**, and during the autumn term, with **deadline October 1**. Decisions on travel grants are then taken by the board. Each award amounts to a maximum of 10.000 SEK. If you have further questions contact ake.lundkvist@imbim.uu.se
- 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) 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/>
- 8) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 9) [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

**Sunny greetings to all members (n=318)
from SSV**



Creating Possible.

Gilead is a research-based biopharmaceutical company that discovers, develops and delivers innovative therapeutics for people with life-threatening diseases.

At Gilead, we set and achieve bold ambitions in our fight against the world's most devastating diseases. We are driven by our purpose of making the world a healthier place for all people. That means delivering innovative therapies that offer new hope for patients. Our ambitions have led us to a cure for hepatitis C and to transforming the treatment and prevention of HIV. Our innovation is helping people with diseases and conditions that include cancer, viral hepatitis, HIV and COVID-19.

By investing in world-class science, driving access to our medicines, addressing societal barriers to care and building a culture where our employees can make a real impact, we will continue to confront the biggest public health challenges of our day for the benefit of generations to come.

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