



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, April 2024

Words from the Chairman of SSV and the Pandemifonden Secretary General

Dear Members of SSV,

We hope you're doing well, and your research, teaching, and administrative responsibilities are progressing smoothly. A couple of weeks ago, I (Ali) was invited as President of SSV to the annual meeting of the [German-Speaking Society for Virology \(GFV\)](#) in Vienna, which I thoroughly enjoyed. It was a large event with multiple parallel sessions showcasing high-quality research. As mentioned earlier, GFV has entered into a partnership with SSV, allowing us to participate in each other's meetings, courses, and workshops. We will be welcoming two senior scientists to our upcoming virology course, along with several PhD students from Germany. We hope this partnership will strengthen our virology research and collaboration.

Just a few days ago, the Swedish Research Council (VR) announced [a call](#) for proposals for a research school grant (Forskarskolan) focusing on virus pandemics and antimicrobial resistance. The SSV board is actively exploring the best approach for this opportunity.

We also want to highlight that this May will be the month of Linköping University; Linköping University will take part in hosting the annual [Infection week](#) (co-organized by the Swedish Association of Infectious Diseases, the Swedish Association of Infectious Nurses, and the three microbiological associations). Several SSV members are expected to present their research programs and other activities at this event. Additionally, the virology unit (which consist of several great scientists and programs) of Linköping University is celebrating its 20th anniversary at the end of May, and we'll be sending our best wishes to congratulate them on this significant milestone.

Pandemifonden is in the very last preparations to release [viruskollen.se](#). We will ask all authors to have a final look at the final product. Our ambition is that this knowledge portal will increase the knowledge about viruses and virus-caused diseases, but also increase traffic to our [Pandemifonden](#) homepage. We are also preparing for Pandemirapporten 2.0 (first report available [here](#)), which will be discussed in Almedalen on June 28 (read more [here](#)). Program will be updated as speakers are confirmed for the three calls, on preparedness, postcovid-our new public health disease, and viruses as biological weapons in an unsecure world. Here we thank AstraZeneca for generous financial support that help us to enable this. Moreover, we seek continuous, financial support for research and for specific projects such as society costs of virus-caused diseases. Thanks to all members who contribute with time and efforts!

Finally, we hope you're enjoying the arrival of spring—it seems to be truly here—and we are looking forward to seeing you soon.

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.**

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](#). **Deadline for registration, June 4.**

3) **Upcoming Calls:**

We want to encourage you to read the Research Strategic Agenda on the "[National research programme in viruses and pandemics](#)"

Upcoming Calls linking to the Infection field at Swedish Research Council 2024, for info see [link](#)

- Project grant for research into **antimicrobial resistance** – from biological mechanisms to societal aspects.
- Doctoral programme grant within the **infection** area.
- Proof of concept within the **infection** area.
- International **Postdoc** within Medicine and Health

4) **New Webpage Design:**

The new design of our webpage www.swedishvirology.se is now launched. Please visit it, and if you have anything you would like to post, such as information on Jobs, Meetings or Calls, linked to virology, please email Marianne.Jansson@med.lu.se

5) **Jobs:**

PhD position in Structural Virology at Umeå University. For more information and application see [link](#). Application Deadline June 3.

Research Assistant position in Biophysics focusing on virus structures and functions at Uppsala University. For more information and application see [link](#). Application Deadline May 8.

Postdoc position on autophagy in plant-virus interactions, at Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (SLU). For more information and application see [link](#). Application Deadline May 10.

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.

6) **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

- 7) **Opportunity: “Smögen Meeting App” development**
We are seeking someone that could develop a “**Smögen meeting App**”, including possibilities to *read and comment on meeting program and abstracts, and to *communicate directly with meeting delegates. If you are interested, or you know someone that is, please contact Marianne.Jansson@med.lu.se
- 8) 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
- 9) 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/>
- 10) 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!
- 11) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 12) **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 wishes to all members (n=318)
from SSV**



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