



Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, August 2024

Words from the Chairman of SSV and the Pandemifonden's Secretary General

Dear Members of SSV,

It was that time of the year again—the annual Smögen meeting, the heart of SSV.

This year, we also organized a course for PhD students and postdocs, focusing on viral pathogenesis. We were fortunate to have 19 students from various parts of Sweden and even some from Germany. Since this past spring, we have initiated a partnership with the German-speaking Society for Virology, which paves the way for more intensive and close collaboration between our organizations. As many of you may have noticed from our newsletters, invitations have been circulating to participate in various webinars and activities organized by our German counterparts, specifically aimed at our PhD students and postdocs. We were also privileged to host two German senior virologists as guest lecturers during the course. Our students have been invited to attend the German annual meeting in March in Hamburg at the same rate as German students. We strongly encourage everyone to seize this opportunity! I would also like to extend a big thank you to all the lecturers and course organizers, Johan Nordgren and Linn Persson Berg, for their outstanding and exemplary work.

As always, the Smögen meeting ran smoothly, mainly thanks to the fantastic work of Kristina Nyström, featuring two excellent keynote speakers (unfortunately, the third was unable to attend due to illness). It is always incredibly gratifying to witness the breadth and depth of research being conducted across the country, from north to south. Once again, we were thoroughly impressed—and reminded—of how talented our young scientists, PhD students and postdocs, are, particularly in presenting their data concisely and effectively in just seven minutes. The two 2023 Pandemifonden Awardees, Max Renner, Umeå, and Jiaxin Ling, Uppsala, also gave excellent presentations on their research. These Pandemifonden prizes have been awarded thanks to a very generous donation by professor emerita Eva-Maria Fenyö. A warm thanks to her and everyone who donates! A new call for nominations for the Pandemifonden prizes will be announced during the fall. Also have a look in the attached file in this newsletter, a one-pager to learn more about all the Pandemifonden activities. Feel free to print/use/advertise this as you feel suitable.

Of course, we also made time to socialize outside the Smögen conference room during coffee breaks, lunches, and dinners. We hope these moments fostered new connections and friendships, which is one of the key purposes of the Smögen meeting—to create opportunities for new collaborations and partnerships that can lead to future successes for both you and SSV. Despite some rain and wind this year, nothing could dampen our spirits or halt our outdoor activities, as usual.

We also held our annual SSV member meeting, where we addressed all matters concerning the Society. We elected two new board members, who will start on January 1, 2025: Annika Karlsson and Clas Ahlm. A warm welcome to both of you! We look forward to working closely with you and learning from your expertise. We would also like to take this opportunity to express our thanks to Emmi Andersson, who is stepping down from the board, for her active participation and invaluable contributions during her time with us.

Warm regards,

Ali Mirazimi and Niklas Arnberg,
on behalf of the Board

1) **Meetings:**

We thank everyone involved in making this year's **Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology** such a success, once again. We are already looking forward to next **year's meeting, August 21-23, 2025. Save the date!** Thus, now it is also time to suggest next year's keynote speakers. Email your suggestions to Ali.Mirazimi@ki.se and Kristina.Nystrom@microbio.gu.se latest by September 30.

Symposium on "**Viral Vectors and Virus-Like Particles: from design to clinical application**" Umeå, **September 12, 2024**. For information and registration see [link](#).

Nordic HIV and Virology meeting, Stockholm September 28-30, 2024. For information and registration, see [link](#). **Extended Abstract deadline until Sept 1.**

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.**

34th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Virology, Hamburg March 4-7, 2025. For more information, registration and abstract deadline see [link](#).

2) **Grant Calls and Prizes:**

- **Still open! HERA (Health Emergency Preparedness and Response)**, within European Commission, calls for proposals on
 - [vaccine development](#),
 - [development of novel antivirals](#),
 - [next-generation respiratory protection](#),
 - [innovative manufacturing technologies](#)**Deadlines September 5.**
- Academy Science Funds of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (**KNAW**) calls for nominations to the **M.W. Beijerinck Virology Prize**, see information in the [link](#). **Contact** wetenschapsfondsen@knaw.nl, latest by October 31st, 2024.

3) **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

4) **Positions:**

Clinical Research Fellowships and start-up package, MIMS (The Laboratory for Molecular Infection Medicine Sweden), Umeå University. More information and application details, see [link](#). **Application deadline September 23.**

5) **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 seminar include topics on

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.

6) **Virology publications:**

- **Historical background on viral vaccines in humans**, authored by Britta Wahren. See wikiki at the following [link](#).
- 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) **Pandemifonden activities:**

Virus- och Pandemifonden arranged three different panel discussions during the **Almedalen political week (June 25-28)**. Below, find links to the three interesting discussions on **i)** society's needs for pandemic preparedness going forward, **ii)** post-covid and healthcare resilience, and **iii)** defense against viruses as biological warfare (in Swedish).

1. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LasqS-O768Q>
2. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5691zdydRMs>
3. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ib9D7pizdRY>

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 activities and how to donate money, including QR code.

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 **suggestions for the Newsletter or the webpage**, please contact marianne.jansson@med.lu.se

**Sunny greetings to all members (n=311)
from SSV**



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