

Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, December 2024

Words from the Chairman of SSV and the Pandemifonden Secretary General

Dear SSV members!

We hope this message finds you well. As we approach the festive season with Christmas and the New Year just around the corner, it's a natural time to pause and reflect on the events and challenges that have shaped the year 2024. This year has certainly been marked by significant moments in the world of science and public health. We've seen the emergence of outbreaks that prompted urgent responses from the World Health Organization, such as the Marburg and Mpox viruses. The COVID-19 virus continues to evolve with new variants, and we have witnessed outbreaks of Influenza in domestic animals in the United States. These are just a few reminders that, as scientists and virologists, we cannot afford to relax, as our work remains crucial in the fight against infectious diseases.

Not long ago, VR announced the results of the 2024 VR research grants, and we would like to take this opportunity to extend my warmest congratulations to those of you who were successful in securing funding. For those who were not awarded grants this year, please don't be disheartened. Continue to believe in your work and don't give up. Remember the inspiring journey of Katalin Kariko, who received the Nobel Prize last year after tirelessly fighting to gain support for her groundbreaking ideas. Her perseverance is a testament to the power of resilience and dedication.

We would also like to acknowledge Marta Bally and Annasara Lenman, and co-applicants representing Swedish virology research, for receiving grants from VR to create a research school program focused on viruses and pandemics. This is a remarkable achievement for virologists, and their success in securing such significant support is a testament to the importance and impact of their work.

Moreover, we are very happy to announce that Dr Benedikt Strunz, and Dr Daniel Sheward, both at Karolinska Institute, are awarded the 2024 Sigvard Olofsson Prize and Pandemifonden Fenjö Prize, respectively, for their impressive research in viral immunology. We are also happy to announce that Dr Verena Sengpiel, Gothenburg, is awarded Pandemifonden research grant about viruses affecting children, for her studies on the effects of prenatal exposure to SARS-Cov-2.

As many of you know, we have established a strong partnership with German speaking Society for Virology, which has led to numerous valuable interactions within our society. Additionally, we have been invited to participate in their annual meeting in Hamburg from March 4th to 7th. We are particularly excited that Åke Lundkvist from our society will be giving a keynote address at this event, and I am personally looking forward to hearing his insights.

We would also like to take the opportunity to welcome two new SSV board members, Annika Karlsson, Karolinska Institutet and Clas Ahlm, Umeå University, beginning of 2025, and convey our warmest thanks to Emmi Andersson for her important work within the board during the past years.

We continue to seek support for Pandemifonden efforts to strengthen Swedish virology,

and we are grateful to all our company partners for their support. For 2025 we welcome BioMerieux and Cepheid as new company partners, but we are also in the process of finalizing additional support. Moreover, we thank all of you who contributed to Viruskollen.se, which is about to be finalized any day.

Once again, congratulations to all of you for your remarkable achievements this year, whether they are in the form of publications, new grants, exciting collaborations, access to new facilities, or new professional opportunities. Your hard work and dedication continue to inspire us all.

As we move into the holiday season, we would like to extend our warmest wishes to each of you. We wish you enjoy a restful holiday and time spent with loved ones.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all!
Ali Mirazimi and Niklas Arnberg

1) **Open positions:**

Three positions as WCMM fellow (assistant senior lecturer with tenure track) in Molecular Medicine, Umeå University. Including six-year position and a 15 million SEK package. For more information see [link](#). **Application deadline January 20.**

Three positions as Clinical WCMM fellow (assistant senior lecturer with tenure track) in Molecular Medicine, Umeå University. Including six-year position and a 17-23 million SEK package. For more information see [link](#). **Application deadline January 20.**

Group Leader for innovative research in **molecular infection medicine**, including research on viruses, at **MIMS**, Umeå University. Five-year funding with the opportunity to extend up to nine years. For more information see [link](#). **Application deadline February 28.**

2) **Meetings:**

Workshop of the new **ESV Junior Group** will take place on **February 13-14**, Madrid, Spain. The focus will be on "**Imaging Viruses**". See [link](#) for more details.

34th Annual Meeting of the German-speaking Society for Virology (GfV), Hamburg **March 4-7, 2025**, including plenary sessions on: Innate Immunity, Structural Virology, Virus-Host Interactions, Viral Data Science and Emerging Viruses/ Zoonoses, and many parallel workshops. For more information, and registration see [link](#). **Note!** When you login for registration you should tick, under "Membership", that you are member of SSV. This since the registration fee, both for students and more senior virologists, will be reduced to the same level as for **GfV** members, as part of the aim to strengthen the cooperation between SSV and GfV.

9th European Congress of Virology 2025, Dubrovnik, Croatia, **April 27-30, 2025**. For information on the program and registration see [link](#). **Abstract deadline January 5.**

World Society for Virology Conference WSV2025 in Kuala Lumpur **May 6-8, 2025**. See [link](#).

EMBO/FEBS lecture course on Physical Virology, June 1-6, 2025; Sant Feliu de Guixols, Spain. See [link](#). **Abstract deadline February 15, 2025.**

Save the date! 8th Nordic Conference of Antiviral Treatment Strategies and Drug Resistance in Uppsala **June 11, 2025** See [link](#)

Save the date! Next year's **Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology** will be held **August 21-23, 2025.**

- 3) **Upcoming Calls:** (spring 2025) at Swedish Research Council (VR), see [link](#)
 - **International post doc** within medicine and health (spring call).
 - **Distinguished professor** grant within medicine and health
 - Grant for **research time in a clinical** environment
 - **Consolidator grant** within medicine and health
 - **Starting grant** within medicine and health
 - Research **Project grant** within medicine and health
 - Research project grant for development of methods to replace, reduce and refine animal experiments **(3R)**
 - Project grant for **research into** knowledge gaps in **viruses and pandemics**
 - **Consolidator grant within viruses** and pandemics
 - **Starting grant within viruses** and pandemics
 - Project grant for **cross-sectoral collaboration** within medicine and health
 - Grant for planning of **clinical study in therapy** research
- 4) 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
- 5) 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/>
- 6) 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!
- 7) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 8) [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

Happy Holidays to all members (n=311)
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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