



## Swedish Society for Virology (SSV) Newsletter, March 2025

### Words from the Chairman of SSV

Dear Colleagues,

I hope and trust that you are all doing well. These are truly extraordinary times, and it sometimes feels like we are living in a chaotic world! But I firmly believe our greatest strength lies in collaboration, friendship, and the joint efforts of good-willed people. Recently, a group of us—around 10 Swedish virologists and members of the SSV—had the pleasure of attending the annual meeting of the German-Speaking Virology Society. This is a major event in the virology community, attracting around 900 participants and covering a wide array of topics, including molecular and clinical virology, veterinary virology, and other emerging areas of research. The meeting was not only excellently organized, but we (SSV members) also felt genuinely welcomed and appreciated. So, we highly recommend keeping an eye out for their next meeting, which will be held in Heidelberg! We also had the opportunity to present our society, and Åke Lundkvist gave a well-received plenary talk about zoonoses. Additionally, I (Ali) and Marianne Jonsson, and several others were invited to speak at various workshop sessions.

Meanwhile, Annasara Lenman, Director of the new Research School for viruses and pandemics, is in the midst of organizing the 2025 courses. One will take place just before the Smögen meeting, and the other toward the end of October. The program looks incredibly exciting, so make sure to stay tuned!

As always, there's been a tremendous amount of activity within Pandemifonden, thanks to the tireless work of our dedicated team, especially Niklas Arnberg, Johan Nordgren, and everyone else involved. You are all truly amazing! Looking forward to continuing our great work together.

All the best from Ali Mirazimi, on behalf of the board

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### Words from the Pandemifonden Secretary General

Dear Members,

March 11 it was five years since WHO declared that COVID-19 was a pandemic. Virus- och pandemifonden highlighted this by co-organizing a meeting in the Parliament building, together with members of the parliament. Tomas Bergström and I described the challenges with virus-caused diseases, the importance of having access to countermeasures, and proposed five concrete measures that will improve capacities, preparedness and resilience against virus-caused diseases and pandemics. We are also happy that viruskollen.se have been launched and received very well. Thanks again to everyone who contributed! New initiatives have been taken to develop this fantastic knowledge portal further. Virus- och pandemifonden was also present at Fokus Patients Future Days, where our knowledge about virus-caused diseases and future pandemics was asked for, and as we understand also highly appreciated. We also initiate meetings with potential philanthropists. This is new to us, and we have a lot to learn but we are optimistic that we will identify others who share our vision and want to support.

All the best from Niklas Arnberg and Virus- och pandemifonden

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1) **Open positions:**

**DDLS fellow - Associate Senior Lecturer within Data-driven Epidemiology and Biology of Infection, at Lund University**, including generous start-up package that will allow you to start your independent research career. **Application deadline May 4**, for more information and application see [link](#).

**DDLS fellow - Group Leader within Data-driven Epidemiology and Biology of Infection, at Umeå University**, including generous start-up package that will allow you to start your independent research career. **Application deadline May 11**, for more information and application see [link](#).

2) **Courses:**

**Save the date!** The National Doctoral Programme in Virus Infections and Pandemics (NDP-VIP) is organizing a course with the theme "Antiviral research" for PhD students and Postdocs, close to Smögen, **August 18-20**. **More information coming soon**.

3) **Opportunities together with Young GfV for early career researchers:**

Young GfV regularly organizes workshops focused on specific scientific topics. These workshops are intentionally kept small (around 20-40 participants) to provide a unique opportunity for students and early-career researchers. Further information about the workshops and preliminary programs can be found on Young GfV homepage, see [link](#)

4) **Meetings:**

**9<sup>th</sup> European Congress of Virology 2025**, Dubrovnik, Croatia, **April 27-30, 2025**. For information on the program and registration see [link](#).

**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](#).

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

**XIXth Negative Strand RNA Virology meeting, June 22-27, 2025**, Montpellier, France. Abstract submission deadline April 11. See [link](#) for more information and registration.

**Save the date! Smögen Summer Symposium on Virology on August 21-23, 2025**. More information coming soon 😊

**11<sup>th</sup> European Meeting on Viral Zoonoses, September 20-23**, Saint-Raphael, France. Abstract submission deadline May 12. See [link](#) for more information and registration.

5) **Upcoming Calls:**

at Swedish Research Council (VR), see [link](#)

- Project grant for **research into** knowledge gaps in **viruses and pandemics**
- **Consolidator grant within viruses** and pandemics
- **Starting grant within viruses** and pandemics

- **Network grant** for collaboration in the area of **viruses** and pandemics
- Project grant for **cross-sectoral collaboration** within medicine and health
- Grant for **research time in a clinical environment** within **viruses** and pandemics

6) **Campaigns:**

**SSV – Pandemifonden** has together with patient associations, "Covidföreningen", "Riksförbundet för ME-sjuka", and "Föreningen för svårdiagnosticerade infektionssjukdomar", **launched a campaign** running until April 30. The purpose is to fundraise support **for research on post-infectious diseases** such as post-covid and ME/CFS. For more information and donations see [link](#) (in Swedish)

- 7) 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](mailto:Tomas.Bergstrom@microbio.gu.se)
- 8) 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/>
- 9) 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](mailto:Niklas.Arnberg@pandemifonden.se)  
Together we can make a difference, and, it will be fun!
- 10) **Reminder!** We kindly ask you to post, in your neighborhood, the attached Pandemifonden poster, with information on how to donate money.
- 11) [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](mailto:marianne.jansson@med.lu.se)

**Best wishes to all members (n=311)  
from SSV**

# RSV burden *is broader* than hospitalizations

Current management of *RSV* infections in young children requires *substantial healthcare resource utilization* in both inpatient & outpatient settings.<sup>1,2,3</sup>



To read the latest RSV report, scan the QR-code or click the link:  
<https://qrco.de/bfgz18>



**sanofi**

1. Hall CB. The burgeoning burden of respiratory syncytial virus among children. *Infect Disord Drug Targets*. 2012;12(2):92-97.
2. Cromer D, van Hoek AJ, Newall AT, Pollard AJ, Jit M. Burden of pediatric respiratory syncytial virus disease and potential effect of different immunization strategies: a modelling and cost-effectiveness analysis for England. *The Lancet Public health*. 2017;2(8):e367-e374.
3. Santé Publique France. Bronchiolite: Bilan de la surveillance 2018-19. (2019)

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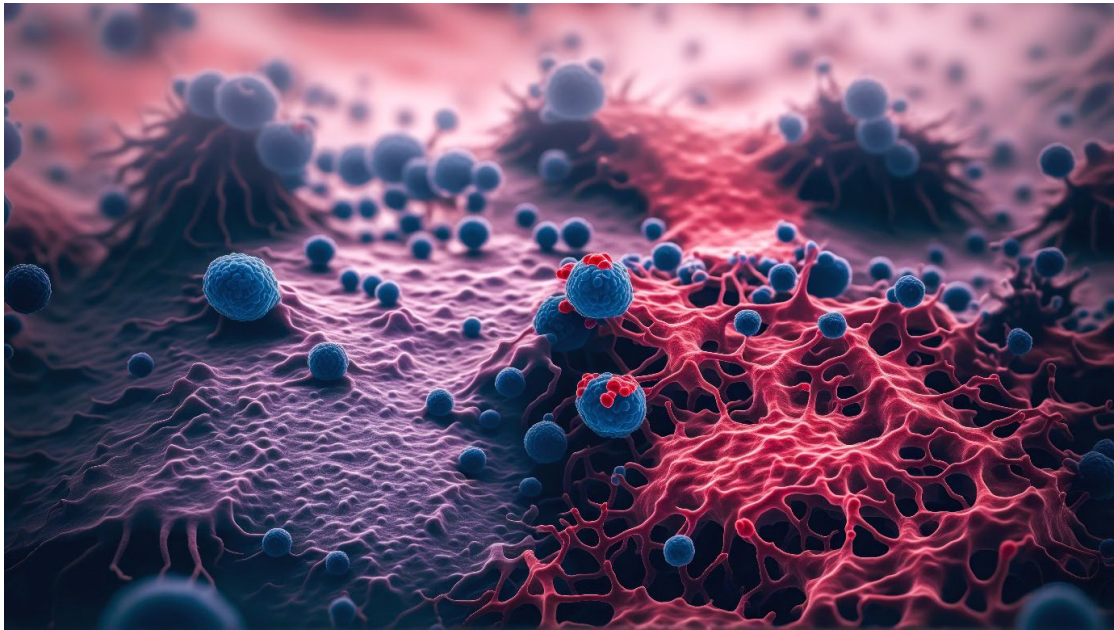


Foto: Getty Images

Vi är övertygade om att banbrytande forskning och multidisciplinärt samarbete mellan akademi, industri och hälsosektorn är avgörande för att utveckla nästa generations behandlingar och vacciner mot virusjukdomar. Genom att kombinera avancerad virologisk forskning, innovativa bioteknologiska lösningar och datadriven läkemedelsutveckling kan vi möta nuvarande och framtida pandemiska hot.

Pfizer i Sverige samarbetar med Pandemifonden för att stödja svensk virusforskning, stärka den vetenskapliga infrastrukturen och att bidra till kunskapsspridning om virus, immunrespons och antivirala behandlingsstrategier. Tillsammans bygger vi en mer motståndskraftig samtid och framtid mot infektionssjukdomar.

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