



## SSV Newsletter, December 2020

Friends and colleagues,

2020 will go to history and will be a year to remember, or forget, depending on how we want to look at things. As we all know, a virus-caused pandemic of some kind was to expect, but I think none of us could foresee the consequences of the covid-19 pandemic, and we have not yet seen the end of it. At this point our area of research, and our knowledge, are more needed than ever. We noted with happiness the [announcement of the new research bill by the minister of research Matilda Ernkrans](#), referring to information provided to minister Ernkrans by the Swedish Society for Virology during the last year. We don't know, but we have reason to believe that our efforts contributed to the new research program on virus and pandemics, to be initiated by the Swedish Research Council (for details see chapter nine in the [research bill](#)), in 2021. It is our impression that our society and the members can make a difference.

November 3, 2020, we arranged an additional annual meeting, with the aim to initiate a new organization that also includes fundraising to further support our research area. It was decided to implement the new statutes (see below), and to change the name of our society to: Virus- och pandemifonden – Svenska Sällskapet för Virologi (Virus- and pandemic fund – Swedish Society for Virology). We are happy to inform that Svensk Insamlingskontroll (The Swedish Fundraising Control), approved our application for a new "90-konto", which means that in principle we have "certification" to raise funds. Building a new organization includes a new web page, new (again) logotype, and an economy system that is more advanced than previously, and includes a certified accounting firm (Deskjockeys) and audit firm (Grant Thornton), as this (and many other things) are requirements from The Swedish Fundraising Control.

Building the new organization also includes collaborations and support from partners. If you as a member have ideas and/or want to contribute, don't hesitate to contact the members of the board.

With these words, we wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

On behalf of the board,

Niklas Arnberg, Chairman

- 
- 1) To allow for the initiation of a Virus and Pandemic Fund, and necessary restructuring of the Society, an extra annual meeting with the members was held Nov 3. At this meeting decisions on new statutes (see attached in Swedish and English) and the new name of the society, Virus and Pandemic Fund – Swedish Society for Virology, was taken. See also attached the protocol (in Swedish) from the meeting.

- 2) This year's Smögen Summer Symposium (17<sup>th</sup>), was organized as an online meeting and took place August 21. It was highly successful and appreciated by almost 200 attendees. Invited keynote speakers, Marion Koopmans, Bart Haagmans and Stefan Pöhlmann, gave eminent lectures on SARS-Cov-2 and COVID-19 research. Many short presentations on a wide range of virus-oriented projects were also very interesting. We now look forward to next year's Smögen Summer Symposium (18<sup>th</sup>), hope on the beautiful Smögen Island between August 26-28, 2021. Save the dates!
- 3) Congratulations to Anna Överby-Wernstedt, Joakim Esbjörnsson and Mattias Forsell who received Consolidator grants, as well as Andrea Ponzetta and Takuya Sekine who received Starting grants, in this year's special virus-focused call announced by the Swedish Research Council ([VR](#)).
- 4) Travel grants: PhD students and postdocs are welcome to apply for the SSV travel grants. See guidelines and how to apply on our website, or if you have questions contact [Mikael.Berg@slu.se](mailto:Mikael.Berg@slu.se)
- 5) Virology research highlights: In this Newsletter we highlight publications from SSV members, including Kristina Nyström and Helene Norder on "*Surveillance of wastewater revealed peaks of SARS-CoV-2 preceding those of hospitalized patients with COVID-19*", Åke Lundkvist and Lennart Svensson on "*Long-distance airborne dispersal of SARS-CoV-2 in COVID-19 wards*", and Gerald McInerney on "*An alpaca nanobody neutralizes SARS-CoV-2 by blocking receptor interaction*" (see below)
- 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](mailto:Tomas.Bergstrom@microbio.gu.se)

**Happy Holidays and Best wishes for 2021  
from SSV**

---

## **Virology Highlights**

### **Surveillance of wastewater revealed peaks of SARS-CoV-2 preceding those of hospitalized patients with COVID-19.**

Saguti F, Magnil E, Enache L, Churqui MP, Johansson A, Lumley D, Davidsson F, Dotevall L, Mattsson A, Trybala E, Lagging M, Lindh M, Gisslén M, Brezicka T, Nyström K, Norder H. *Water Res.* 2020 Nov 10;189:116620. doi: 10.1016/j.watres.2020.116620

### **Long-distance airborne dispersal of SARS-CoV-2 in COVID-19 wards.**

Nissen K, Krambrich J, Akaberi D, Hoffman T, Ling J, Lundkvist Å, Svensson L, Salaneck E. *Sci Rep.* 2020 Nov 11;10(1):19589. doi: 10.1038/s41598-020-76442-2

### **An alpaca nanobody neutralizes SARS-CoV-2 by blocking receptor interaction.**

Hanke L, Vidakovic Perez L, Sheward DJ, Das H, Schulte T, Moliner-Morro A, Corcoran M, Achour A, Karlsson Hedestam GB, Hällberg BM, Murrell B, McInerney GM. *Nat Commun.* 2020 Sep 4;11(1):4420. doi: 10.1038/s41467-020-18174-5.