

Policy document for DDLS WABI

Version: 251002 (Approved by the DDLS Steering Group)

This document describes the principles of the “Wallenberg Advanced Bioinformatics Infrastructure including Cryo-EM” (WABI), operated by the National Bioinformatics Infrastructure Sweden (NBIS) and apply to personnel funded by grants from the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation to Gunnar von Heijne (KAW 2017.0003), and to the SciLifeLab & Wallenberg National Program for Data-Driven Life Science (KAW 2020.0239) according to the annual program budget decided by the SciLifeLab board.

The mission of WABI is to enable excellent Data-Driven Life Science research, by ensuring that peer-reviewed research projects have access to advanced bioinformatics and data science competence, and by providing knowledge transfer and broad community training. The training efforts are coordinated with the NBIS Training management, the SciLifeLab Training Hub, and the DDLS research school, and is expected to constitute ~20% of the allocated WABI funding (including university and NBIS co-funding).

The WABI support model

The framework of the support model is described below:

- Any research group at a Swedish university can apply for support. Applications are submitted in open calls, and are selected based on scientific peer review by a national Proposals Evaluation Committee (PEC).
- Granted applications will be offered help with bioinformatics and data science for a maximum of 500 h effective time by WABI staff. Extensions and multiple project applications are possible, but the same research group can only be granted a maximum of 1000 h effective time over a period of two calendar years.
- The support is free of charge.
- The support can include data processing and analysis, as well as development and implementation of methods, programs and pipelines. The WABI staff will work tightly with the applying group, providing both hands-on support and advice as needed.
- The formal decision of granted projects is taken by the WABI director (Gunnar von Heijne, Stockholm University).

Selection criteria

Successful applications should fulfill the following criteria

- **Scientific excellence**
A national Proposals Evaluation Committee (PEC) will score the scientific excellence of the projects.
- **Feasibility**
The NBIS Support management will evaluate if the project is feasible, and if the support team has the technical expertise needed to contribute to the project.
- **Data availability**
Data may be generated specifically for the project, or collected from public repositories or by collaborative consortium efforts or alike. For logistic reasons, priority will be given to projects with at least some of the data already available for analysis.
- **Involvement**
The applying party must assign at least one scientist from their group to take part in the bioinformatics work to ensure efficient knowledge transfer and longevity of the project beyond the time of the granted support.
- **Open Science and FAIR**
The applying party must facilitate and encourage re-use of data and results, and act in accordance with the principles of Open Science and FAIR.

It is expected that projects fall within the scope of the DDLS Research Areas, interpreted in a broad sense. Projects spanning multiple Research Areas are welcome and encouraged. In unclear cases, the DDLS director should be consulted for a final decision.

The proposals evaluation committee (PEC)

- Project proposals are evaluated and ranked based on scientific excellence by a Proposals evaluation committee (PEC).
- Two PEC subgroups take turns evaluating. Each subgroup has 5 members
 - 4 members representing each of the respective DDLS Research Areas
 - 1 member representing Data Science
- PEC members are appointed for a maximum of 6 evaluation rounds (~4 years), with a minimum pause of 3 evaluation rounds (~2 years) before entering a new term.
- PEC members are nominated by the four DDLS Research Area expert groups. Each DDLS Research Area expert group suggests two potential PEC members for each open

position representing their respective Research Area. The DDLS/WASP Working Group suggests two potential PEC members for each open position representing Data Science.

- The DDLS Director appoints the PEC members from the above nominations, striving for a good competence spread, gender balance, and university/partner spread.

Additional projects

Assignments in projects outside of the regular support track can be decided on by the DDLS director at up to a total of 500 h per year, after consultation with the DDLS Steering Group. In line with the regular support track, such projects should be based on open calls within the DDLS program, and be subject to scientific ranking by external peer review.

Project management

The NBIS support managers will follow the progress of the WABI projects, considering adherence to the granted support application and to the selection criteria above. Projects that display problems may be placed on hold or terminated before all granted hours have been used. This could be the case for instance if a project turns out to be infeasible following data quality checks, or if the applying party is not sufficiently involved. A project may also be closed before all granted hours are used if the aims have been reached and the project thus can be regarded as finished.