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VETENSKAPS-
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THE ROYAL SWEDISH ACADEMY OF SCIENCES



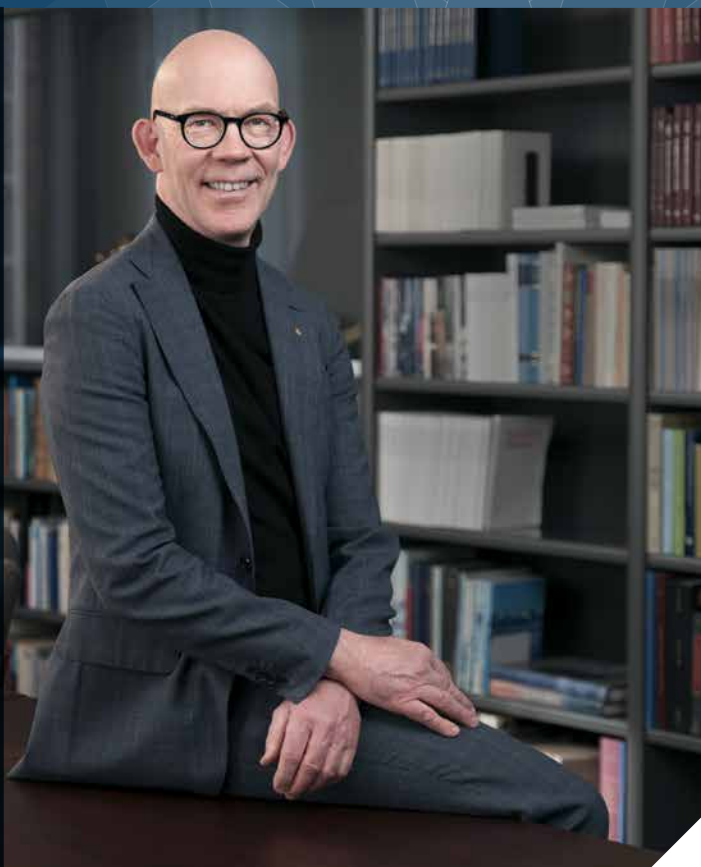
Årsberättelse 2025

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences' annual report, including a presentation in English of the Academy's activities in 2025 by Hans Ellegren, Secretary General 2022–2025.



THE YEAR IN REVIEW 2025

Our status as an independent organisation, free from national government, public authorities, corporations and other organisations, is a vital component in the Academy's work. We have a centuries-old heritage to care for and protect, and we do so with the utmost care. At the same time, we need to be a modern organisation that can operate in a contemporary context and in line with the prevailing circumstances.



Hans Ellegren, Secretary General, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences 2022–2025.

PHOTO: MARKUS MARCETIC

The overall objective of the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences is to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society. As Sweden's leading panel of experts in a wide range of disciplines, and as an independent representative of the sciences, the Academy enjoys a high level of credibility and a good reputation. We provide evidence for use in public debates and decision-making, we review and make proposals for research policy, and we reward important research efforts and offer meeting places for researchers. In addition, we work to secure new generations of researchers, encourage interest in science in schools and are active in higher education. We participate in the international cooperation between academies of science and other research academies, and maintain our scientific heritage.

A look back at our operations over 2025 reveals a wide range of activities and events. Our series, *Vetenskapen säger* (Science Says) has become something of a flagship for the Academy's efforts to disseminate knowledge to the wider community, here with upper-secondary school pupils as the primary audience. Two issues were published in 2025: *Vetenskapen säger om vetenskap*

(*Science Says about Science*) and *Vetenskapen säger om Antropocen* (*Science Says about the Anthropocene*). The impressive work of many Academy members has provided the foundation of these knowledge summaries.

As part of the Academy's efforts to be offer a vibrant meeting place, we have significantly expanded our programme of events. In the period prior to the pandemic and the refurbishment of the Beijer Hall, around twenty events were held each year. In 2023 there were thirty, in 2024 forty-four, and most recently, in 2025, fifty-four. This is a promising development. The increase is primarily due to longer events, such as workshops and conferences. The Academy allocates funds to allow members to organise conferences on our premises. Our permanent committees are also busily organising activities in their areas of responsibility. These committees, the Research Policy Committee, Health Committee, International Committee, Environment and Energy Committee, and the Education Committee, along with the classes, are vital structures in our operations. Our collaboration with the Ragnar Söderberg Foundation means that from 2025 onwards, young researchers who are funded by



During the year, Ellen Moons was elected as the new Secretary General and Sven Lidin as the new President of the Academy. Emily Boyd was appointed as the new Director of the Beijer Institute of Ecological Economics.

PHOTO MOONS AND LIDIN: PATRIK LUNDIN,
PHOTO BOYD: AGNETA SUNDIN



the foundation will be able to organise international conferences on the Academy's premises.

Both the Health Committee and the Research Policy Committee held seminars at the Almedalen Political Week in 2025, marking the Academy's return to this important public forum after several years of absence. The subjects under discussion were *Öppenhet med förhinder – forskningen och det globala säkerhetsläget* (Openness with obstacles – research and the global security situation) and *Forskning + vård = sant?* (Research + healthcare = true love?)

The Academy now organises an annual themed symposium in conjunction with the annual meeting. In 2025, the topic was the bureaucratisation of higher education institutions, which has also been the topic of debate articles from the Academy. Higher education institutions' forms of association is another key issue in which the Academy has been actively involved. How Sweden's higher education institutions are governed is linked to academic freedom, which has become a highly topical issue – for all the wrong reasons, unfortunately – as threats to that freedom

are on the rise. The Human Rights Committee of Sweden's Scientific and Literary Academies has produced a valuable document that defines academic freedom. In debate articles and at meetings, many members of the Academy have actively championed this essential component of research and education – indeed, of a functioning democracy. When I spoke at the opening of the Riksdag, my remarks focused specifically on how political interference can pose a threat to academic freedom. The Research Policy Committee had important input in the Academy's submission to the government ahead of the bill, with several aspects of its proposals for investment in excellence and the competitive allocation of research funding being taken on board.

Our vital work with the Nobel Prizes does not belong in the category of change, or that of news, and for good reason: the Nobel committees' stringent management of the submitted nominations and the secretariat's well-oiled machinery for announcements and press conferences work excellently just as they are. Work relating to the Crafoord Prize has been consolidated through a revision of the rules governing



the Anna-Greta and Holger Crafoord Fund. The prize for polyarthritis has been made permanent and will be awarded every four years. The terms of office for members of the prize committees have been regulated; members are now appointed by the Academy Board on the recommendation of the relevant classes. The role of the Crafoord Committee has been updated and it is now primarily a forum for dialogue between the management of the Academy and the Crafoord Foundation in their collaboration on the Crafoord Prize. In 2024, the Academy concluded a new agreement with the Stockholm Water Foundation on procedures for selecting recipients of the Stockholm Water Prize. These were implemented for the first time in 2025 and entail that the Academy has taken over work on the prize, including its preparatory processes, evaluation and decision-making.

Few things are as inspiring for the members involved in the Academy's activities as the work around the Ingvar Lindqvist Prize, the "teacher prize". These awards go to schoolteachers in Sweden who work with the subjects of mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology, or science studies. The overarching prize citation is that the teachers are rewarded for their enthusiasm and for contributing, through their commitment and development work, to increasing their students' interest and knowledge in mathematics and the natural sciences. The Academy has started a teacher network for the laureates, which has been a success. The teacher award

and network are funded by the Marcus and Amalia Wallenberg Foundation.

Through our long-standing collaboration with the Knut and Alice Wallenberg Foundation, the Academy helps evaluate applicants to Wallenberg Academy Fellows and other Wallenberg programmes. The Wallenberg Fellows programme is one of the most important research initiatives in Sweden in recent decades, and we continue to greatly prioritise our contributions to the programme. The Academy is responsible for an ambitious mentoring programme for the Fellows.

The Bergius Botanic Garden has seen numerous changes at in recent years. In early 2025, the Academy signed an agreement with the university regarding the transfer of operations, under which the horticultural staff that the Academy employed at Edvard Anderson's greenhouse were employed by the university. This allowed the staff groups at the garden, who previously worked for two different employers, to be brought together under one umbrella.

Over the past few years, the Academy Board has spent time on the in-depth examination of budget matters and financial management. Along with our investment committee, it has developed models for withdrawals from returns on our own funds that are sustainable in the long term, but which do not jeopardise future increases in value. The target is real returns of 3%,



The renovation of Vinkelvillan was completed in 2025. The building now offers both meeting rooms and office workspaces.

PHOTO: EVA NEVELIUS

measured as a five-year average. With the positive trend on the stock market lasting a number of years, this objective has been more than met, so the portfolio has seen a significant increase in value over a longer period. The average return over a 10-year period has been around 10%, putting the Academy at the top among comparable actors.

The Academy Board has begun making routine visits to our institutions and programmes, with the aim of staying informed and updated on scientific activities; the Board now also decides on and follows up institutional budgets. Drawing inspiration from the collegial culture that many of its members come from, and are passionate about, the general aim has been to build consensus and take more decisions through the Board.

Perhaps the most important task of recent years for the Academy Board began in 2023, with a review of the associated foundations. Thanks to excellent returns over a number of years, significant funds have accumulated in these foundations, so that dividends can – and need to – increase. The Academy Board has decided on a package of measures to make this possible. From 2025, all scholarships and research grants will be widely advertised through mailings to research universities, and the amounts that can be distributed have been significantly increased. People other than members can now nominate candidates for the national awards. New prizes have been established, such as the Nagel Prize, with one

million kronor awarded to each of two young researchers in chemistry or physics, and the Academy's Nature Conservation Prize, for which a considerable prize sum has been made possible by utilising the returns from several similar foundations. Around 50 million kronor was awarded in grant funding in 2025, almost double the amount from the previous year.

The extensive renovation of the corner house – Vinkelvilla – on the Academy's property in Frescati was completed on time and within budget. It has undergone both a much-needed modernisation and a tasteful renovation. This creates opportunities for expanding new Academy activities, and the new premises will also be an excellent complement to the Beijer Hall and other meeting rooms in the main building. There are also office spaces for staff.

Geopolitical trends will unavoidably lead to responses from the Academy. As a follow-up to our previous support to enable Ukrainian researchers to come to Sweden, we organised the *Sweden-Ukraine Conference: Theoretical and Computational Physics* in 2025. During the year, the Academy also decided to become a co-funder for the work of *Scholars at Risk – Sweden*, with a particular focus on vulnerable researchers in Gaza.

Hans Ellegren,
Secretary General, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences
2022–2025

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Kungl. Vetenskapsakademien, stiftad år 1739, är en oberoende organisation som har till uppgift att främja vetenskaperna och stärka deras inflytande i samhället. Akademien tar särskilt ansvar för naturvetenskap och matematik, men strävar efter att öka utbytet mellan olika discipliner.

The Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, founded in 1739, is an independent organisation whose overall objective is to promote the sciences and strengthen their influence in society. The Academy takes special responsibility for the natural sciences and mathematics, but endeavours to promote the exchange of ideas between various disciplines.