

# National coordination of biobanking related to covid-19

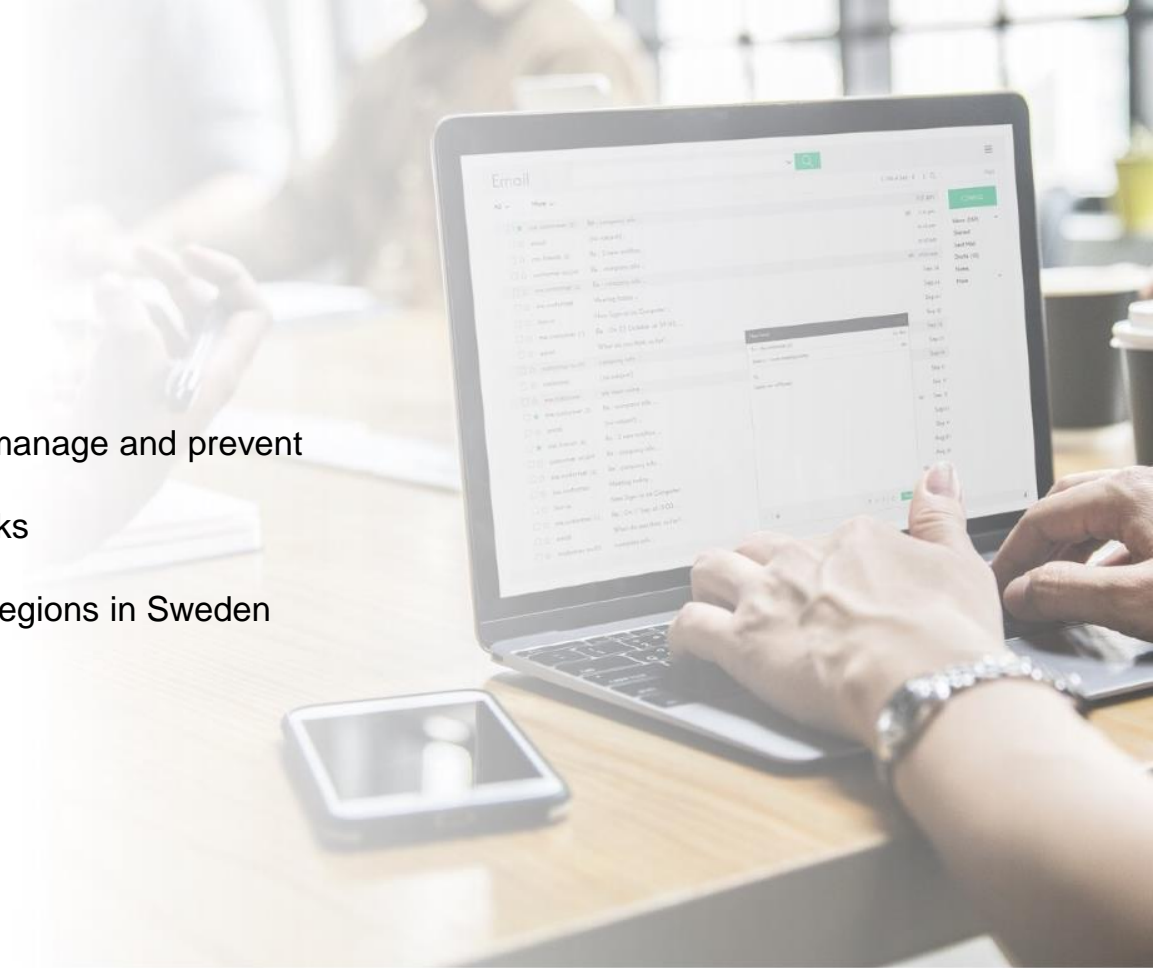
*Elisabeth Norén, PhD*

*National coordinator for biobank strategy*



# Needs

- Covid-19 research to increase how to manage and prevent
- Variation of sample types in the biobanks
- Coordination between the health care regions in Sweden



# Solutions

- Financing from the Swedish Research Council  
SEK 10 million
- Activity driven by Biobank Sweden to coordinate  
the collection and storage of various sample types  
from all of the health care regions in Sweden



# Material and method



- National working group within Biobank Sweden
- Inventory of samples in the biobanks
- Distribution of funds was depending on the sample inventory
- The allocation was divided into two stages to secure different sample types over time

# Identified criteria for distribution of funds

## **Availability.**

Samples and related information had to be available in ethically approved research.

## **Metadata.**

Overall data related to the sample collections had to be available in the covid-19 catalog.

## **Preservation.**

The availability and preservation of the samples had to be at least 5 years (preferably longer).

## **Other financier.**

Already externally funded samples, within a sample collection, were not funded with the VR funds. By external funds, we meant a financier other than the principal himself.

## **Geographical spread.**

Participation of all healthcare regions in Sweden were sought.

## **Samples of different types.**

Collection and storage of various sample types were sought.

Expanded biobanking in the **health care** had to be decided by the medical profession in accordance with Swedish laws and regulations.

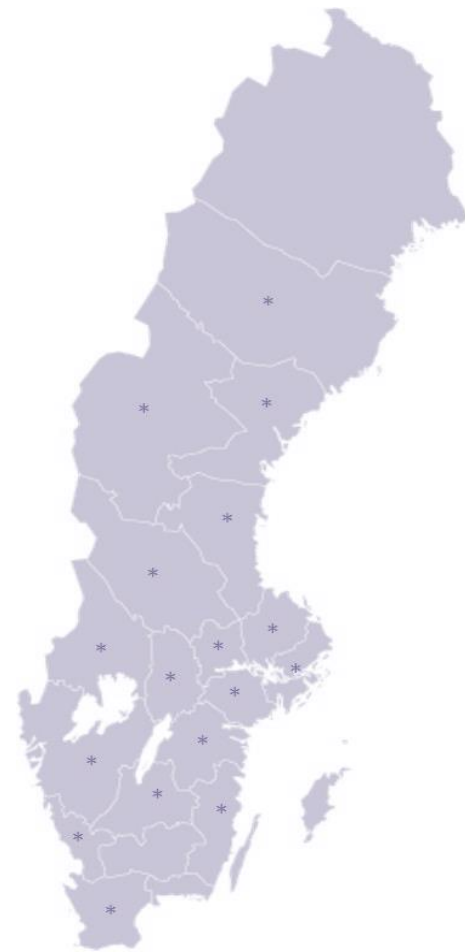
Samples **collected for the purpose of research** ethic application, with a focus on covid-19, had to be approved by the Ethics Review Authority.

# Results

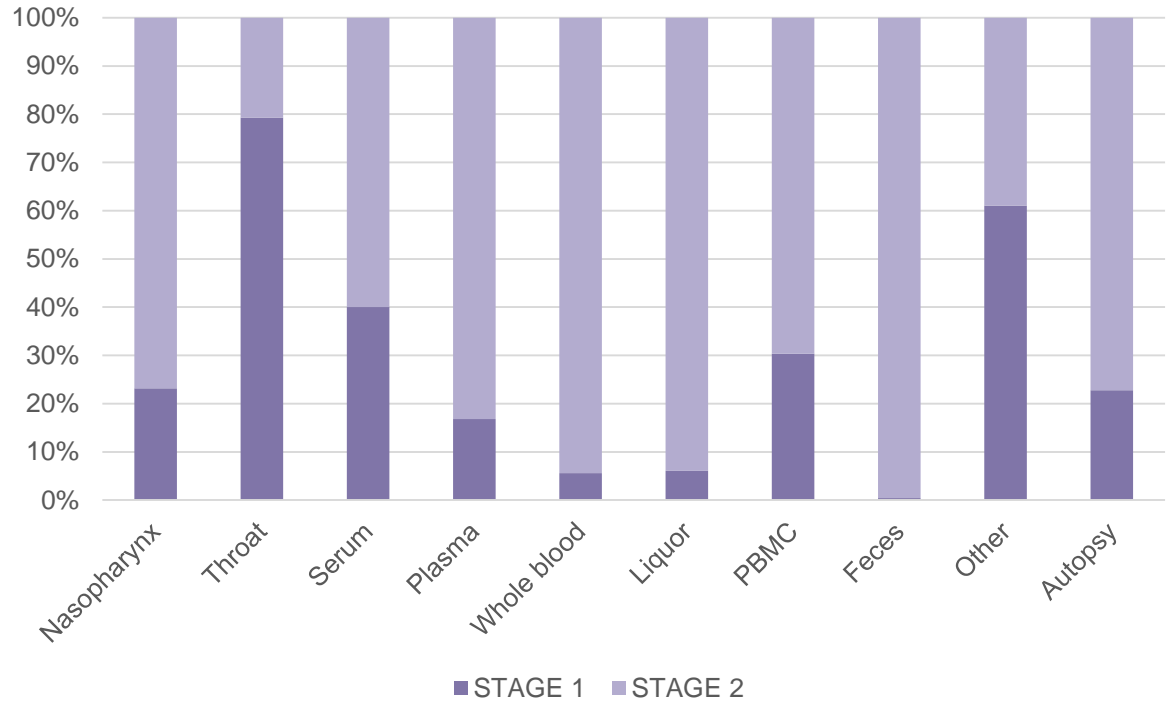
*Funding stage 1 Q4 2020; SEK 4.7 million*

*Funding stage 2 Q4 2021; SEK 5.3 million*

- 17 of the 21 health care regions participated in both stages.
- The commitment and participation of the biobanks
- Written report with lessons learned for next pandemic
- Covid-19 sample collections accessible for research can be found via the COVID-19 Data Portal. <https://biobanks.covid19dataportal.se/>



- *Stage 1, 80 000 samples were reported.*
- *Stage 2, 160 000 samples were reported*



"Other" - for example saliva, lower respiratory tract, and buffy coat.

# Strengths

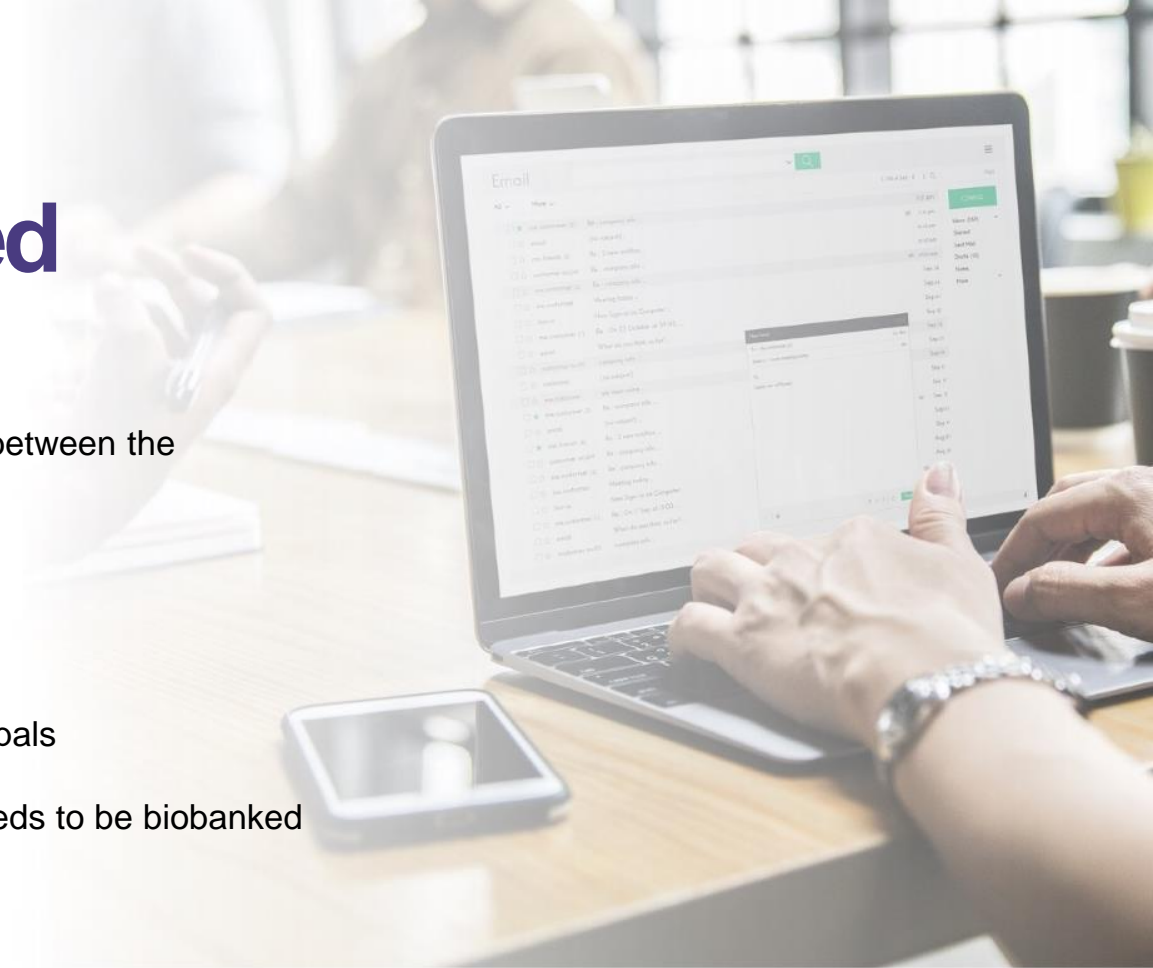
- Biobank Sweden as an well established infrastructure
- Implemented health care integrated biobanking
- Collaboration





# Lessons learned and challenges

- The importance of close collaboration between the researchers and the biobank
- High workload
- Consent management
- Health care regions as individual principals
- The need of a national plan of what needs to be biobanked in a pandemic



# Thank you

[elisabeth.noren@rjl.se](mailto:elisabeth.noren@rjl.se)

Biobanksverige.se

Biobank Sweden is a national infrastructure for biobanking where healthcare, academia, industry and patient organisations collaborate to attain good healthcare and research.

