# Press invitation: ATMP Sweden 2021 – COVID vaccines drive progress for patients in gene therapy

**The topic of this years** [**“ATMP Sweden 2021”**](https://atmpsweden.se/events/atmp-sweden-virtual-2021/) **conference is *‘what have we learned from the development of COVID19 vaccines that is relevant to gene therapies?’* Meet the experts that will take these experiences into the next generation of innovative medicines.**

The Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna **mRNA vaccines** or the AstraZeneca and Janssen **adenovirus vaccines** are built on gene delivery technologies, that bring with them opportunity to ‘plug and play’ a viral gene. It is the body and not a lab that makes the viral protein to which an immune response is generated. However, if you ‘plug’ in a human gene to these technologies you no longer have a vaccine but a gene therapy, an Advanced Therapy Medicinal Product (ATMP). ATMP Sweden 2021 explores advances from raw materials to global roll that have enabled enormous strides forward in ‘gene delivery’ technologies and how this is contributing to new solutions for patients in gene therapy.

*"The COVID-19 pandemic has sprinted new technologies to the benefit of mankind like we have never seen before. Gene delivery technologies, previously established in the ATMP/gene therapy field, have now become the flavour of the day for medicines that we take for granted, such as vaccines. This is truly a fantastic achievement by the scientific community and the pharmaceutical industry"*, **says Matti Sällberg from Karolinska Institutet.** Join Matti November 16th 12:00 for the opening session of ATMP Sweden 2021 online.

Hosted by Sweden’s cell and gene therapy product network “[ATMP Sweden](https://atmpsweden.se/)”, join us online the **16th till 18th of November, 2021.**  See the [full program](https://atmpsweden.se/program/) below to find the sessions most relevant to you, from public vaccine acceptance to health data handling, industrial manufacture and quality, clinical implementation and future pandemic preparedness initiatives. Among others, we host the ‘big 4’ vaccine biotechs, **Folkhälsomyndigheten**, E-hälsomyndigheten and leaders of the Swedish Innovation hub for future needs in vaccine and ATMP manufacture, **NorthX Biologics**, Vinnova and the Swedish Life Sciences Office.

*”Collaboration and building capacity to scale in both vaccines and ATMP will better prepare Sweden for future pandemics, while at the same time benefit patients with, for example, new gene therapy options. The innovation hub will do just this for the Nordics and will drive Sweden to be world leaders in life sciences",* ***says* Jenni Nordborg, National Life Sciences Coordinator, Government Offices of Sweden.** Join Jenni November 18th 14:00 for the closing session of ATMP Sweden 2021 online.

Register here:

[ATMP - ATMP Sweden 2021](https://atmpsweden.se/events/atmp-sweden-virtual-2021/)

More information about ATMP Sweden:

<https://atmpsweden.se/>

This event is supported by the Vinnova funded [ATMP Innovation Milieu](https://atmpsweden.se/atmp-innovation-environment/about-vision-driven-innovation-milleu/), which aims to make Sweden ‘world leaders in ATMP by 2030’ through vision driven system innovation.

**Contact Information;**

**Key person to contact in regard to press release;**

Annakarin Svenningsson, Communication manager, Lif – The research-based pharmaceutical industry, + 46(0)72-5274055, [annakarin.svenningsson@lif.se](mailto:annakarin.svenningsson@lif.se)

**Key person to contact in regard to ATMP Sweden;**

Heather Main, Ph.D. – Communicator, +46(0)724682088 [heather.main@regionstockholm.se](mailto:heather.main@regionstockholm.se)

Follow ATMP Sweden: <https://www.linkedin.com/company/atmpsweden>

## Program:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | **Tuesday November 16th** |
| **11:55** | **Welcome - Heather Main, ATMP Sweden** |
| **12:00** | ***“Acceptance and understanding of the public to vaccination against COVID19”***  **Host:** Cissi Billgren Askwall - Secretary General, Vetenskap & Allmänhet   * PRESENTERS:   + Cissi Billgren Askwall - Secretary General, Vetenskap & Allmänhet   + Sarah Earnshaw Blomquist - Investigator, Folkhälsomyndighet * EXTRA PANELISTS:   + Matti Sällberg - Professor, Karolinska Institutet   + Andreas Heddini - AstraZeneca, LIF medical council |
| **13:00** | ***“Patient and next of kin perspectives on the development of gene medicine“***  **Host:** Kristina Kannisto - ATMP Sweden Innovation Milieu   * Oskar Ahlberg - Member of the Board of Directors for Rare Diseases, Sweden and President, Swedish MPS Association * Bettina Ryll - Founder, Melanoma Patient Network * Sara Riggare - Founder, Forum Spetspatient and patient researcher at Uppsala University * Kerstin Sollerbrant - Senior Expert, Swedish Childhood Cancer Fund |
| **14:00** | ***“Regulatory lessons from the approval of COVID19 vaccines relevant to gene therapy products”***  **Host:** Margaret Jorvid - Regulatory Affairs, Methra Uppsala AB   * PRESENTER: Axel Ståhlbom - Biologics Regulatory Advice AB/former MPA * EXTRA PANELIST: Margarida Menezes Ferreira - former EMA/CAT |
| **15:00** | ***“Patients direct access to their own data - the missing link?”***  **Host:** Sara Riggare - Forum Spetspatient   * Amin Forootan - MultiD Analyses AB * Lena Jönsson – Regionjurist, Region Dalarna * Michel Silvestri - E-hälsomyndigheten |
| **16:00** | ***”Precision Pharmacokinetics och Pharmacodynamics for Gene Therapy and RNA Therapeutics”***  **Host:** Pontus Blomberg - Director Karolinska Cell Therapy Center   * Mikael Kubista - CEO TATAA Biocenter |
| **17:00** | **Close for the day** |
|  | **Wednesday November 17th**  ***Developments in mRNA medicines*** |
| **12:25** | **Welcome - Eva-Karin Gidlund, NorthX Biologics** |
| **12:30** | ***“Introduction to RNA delivery technologies”***  **Host:** Samir el Andaloussi - Associate Professor, Karolinska Institutet   * Tony de Fougerolles - CEO Evox Therapeutics Ltd |
| **13:00** | ***“mRNA quality, manufacture and regulatory aspects in approving an mRNA vaccine”***  **Host:** Silke Klick - Director Regulatory CMC, AstraZeneca   * Andreas Kuhn - SVP RNA Biochemistry & Manufacturing, BioNTech |
| **14:00** | ***“Industrial scale manufacture of gene delivery medicines”***  **Host:** Ted Fjällman - NorthX Biologics   * Tony Hitchcock - Technical Director, Cobra Biologics * Olof Nord - EVP Business Development, Biotage * Paul Cashen - Pall Corporation * Lotta Ljungqvist - Cytiva |
| **15:00** | **KEYNOTE LECTURE**  ***“The founding of*** [***Moderna***](https://www.linkedin.com/company/modernatx/) ***and development of the world's first approved mRNA vaccine.”***  **Host:** Ken Chien, Director, Karolinska Institutet   * Robert Langer - Professor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology |
| **16:00** | ***“Clinical performance of VEGF mRNA therapeutic for heart failure”***  **Host:** Ken Chien, Director, Karolinska Institutet   * Anna Collén - AstraZeneca |
| **16:30** | ***“Evolution of RNA/DNA vaccines and the future”***  **Host:** Matti Sällberg - Professor, Karolinska Institutet   * Margaret Liu - UCSF/Karolinska Institutet |
| **17:00** | **Close for the day - Ken Chien, Karolinska Institutet** |
|  | **Thursday November 18th** |
| **10:55** | **Welcome - Kristina Kannisto - Karolinksa Cell Therapy Centre (KCC)/ATMP centres** |
| **11:00** | ***“Implementation of new therapeutic modalities in a clinical setting” (på Svenska)***  **Host:**  Michael Uhlin - Adjunct Professor, Karolinska Institutet   * Erik Fredholm - Clinical Pharmacist, Vaccine Coordinator Region Örebro * Lisbet Norlander - Sjukhusapoteksfunktion Region Skåne |
| **12:00** | ***“Viral vectors as gene therapies and vaccines - manufacture implications”***  **Host:**  Johan Rockberg - AdBIOPRO, Professor, KTH   * Seppo Yla Herttuala - Professor, University of Eastern Finland |
| **13:00** | ***“Quality, manufacture and regulatory aspects in approving an adenovirus vaccine”***  **Host:**  Janet Hoogstraate - Valneva Sweden AB   * PRESENTER: Jerome Custers - Sr Scientific Director, Head of Vaccine Generation - Janssen * EXTRA PANELISTS   + Diane Wilkinson - Senior Director - AstraZeneca   + Seppo Yla Herttuala - Professor, University of Eastern Finland |
| **14**:**00** | ***“Initiatives for future manufacture capabilities in Sweden”***  **Host:** Anna Ridderstad Wollberg, Manager New Therapies, Research Institutes of Sweden (RISE)   * Anna Ridderstad Wollberg - RISE - overview and national vaccine manufacturing report * Ted Fjällman - NorthX Biologics * Jim Lund - ATMP Sweden, RISE - CCRM Nordic Hub * Michael May - CCRM Global * Lars Hammarström - Director, Health and Life Science at Vinnova * Jenni Nordborg - National Life Sciences Coordinator, Government Offices of Sweden * Janet Hoogstraate - VP R&D Valneva Sweden AB |
| **15:00** | **Closing remarks - Jim Lund, ATMP Sweden/RISE - CCRM Nordic Hub** |