

Science Funding and Pandemic Relief

- Helped prevent large cuts to the budgets for the National Science Foundation (NSF) and Smithsonian Institution in fiscal year 2021.
- Provided congressional testimony in support of increased fiscal year 2022 federal funding for NSF, programs that curate natural history collections within the Department of the Interior, and the Smithsonian Institution.
- Joined the broader scientific community, through membership in the Coalition for National Science Funding, in urging appropriators to provide robust support for NSF in fiscal year 2022.
- Endorsed bipartisan legislation, NSF for the Future Act, led by the House Science Committee to double NSF's budget over five years and create a new Directorate for Science and Engineering Solutions.
- Partnered with more than 200 scientific and academic stakeholder groups in garnering support for the RISE Act, which would provide \$25 billion in economic relief to federal science agencies to address COVID-19 related disruptions to research.

Collections Policy and Advocacy

- Secured incorporation of biological collections more explicitly in the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee's Arctic Research Plan (2022-2026).
- Provided joint comments with AIBS and Society for the Preservation of Natural History Collections (SPNHC) to the White House on the scientific framework and research priorities for the new Advanced Research Project Agency – Health (ARPA-H) highlighting the role of collections in understanding the link between biodiversity and human health.
- Sponsored the 2021 Biological Sciences Congressional District Visits, an annual event organized by AIBS that enables scientists, curators, museum professionals, and graduate students to meet with their federal or state elected officials in their home state to help inform science policy.
- NSC Alliance President John Bates met with Representative Mike Quigley's (D-IL) office to discuss the Congressman's biodiversity-related initiatives, the Extended Specimen Network, as well as the needs of the collections community.

- Through the USA Nagoya Protocol Action Group, provided input to the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity forum on policy options for access and benefit sharing of digital sequence information.
- Joined forces with AIBS and SPNHC in highlighting to lawmakers the value of mobilizing biodiversity specimens and data in spurring new scientific discoveries and urging critical investments in biodiversity collections and the research and education they enable.

Outreach

- NSC Alliance President John Bates, Treasurer Jen Zaspel, Board Member Barbara Thiers, Executive Director Jyotsna Pandey, and colleagues co-authored a BioScience Viewpoint article stemming from a joint discussion co-organized by NSC Alliance, AIBS, and SPNHC between the Biodiversity Collections Network (BCoN) and the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine on the future of biological collections.
- Partnered with AIBS and other sibling societies to organize an NSF-funded international workshop series to raise awareness about international policy discussions on access and benefit sharing of digital sequence information; co-hosted a workshop on emerging pathogen research across the Americas that included participation of former NSC Alliance President Joe Cook and colleagues.
- In partnership with AIBS, SPNHC, BCoN, and the US Culture Collections Network, organized a well-attended virtual information session with NSF officials about collections-related funding opportunities at the agency.
- Joined GBIF, BCoN, DiSCCo, iDigBio, Atlas of Living Australia, and other international partners in coordinating a global consultation on converging the Digital and Extended Specimen concepts.
- Promoted National Fossil Day on October 13, which is organized by the National Park Service.
- Provided regular policy and news updates via the NSC Alliance Washington Report. The newsletter is freely available. Subscribe at www.nscalliance.org.

The NSC Alliance is a nonprofit association that supports natural science collections, their human resources, the institutions that house them, and their research activities for the benefit of science and society. Our institutional members are part of an international community of institutions that house natural science collections and utilize them in research, exhibitions, academic and informal science education, and outreach activities.

Visit our website to learn more:
www.nscalliance.org

