

Roundtable on Public Interfaces of the Life Sciences



NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

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Sustainable Infrastructures for Life Science Communication

Part I

December 9, 2013

8:30am-5:00pm

National Academy of Sciences, Room 125

2101 Constitution Avenue, NW

Washington, D.C.

DAY 1: 8:30-5:00pm	
SESSION 1 BACKGROUND AND VISION	
8:30-8:40	Welcome and Opening Remarks – Kenneth Ramos*, University of Louisville
8:40-9:00	What do we mean by sustainable life science communication infrastructure? - Brooke Smith*, COMPASS
9:00-9:30	Why is a science communication infrastructure important – a scientist perspective May Berenbaum*, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
SESSION 2 LIFE SCIENTISTS ENGAGED	
Life scientists share their motivations for engaging with the public, what and how they communicate, and how they've overcome infrastructure-related obstacles.	
Moderator: David Ewing Duncan*, Freelance Journalist	
9:30-10:45	Panel Discussion: On the Ground, Paving the Way Daniel Colon-Ramos, Yale University (cellular neuroscience) Craig McClain, National Evolutionary Synthesis Center (marine biology) Nalini Nadkarni, University of Utah (tropical forest ecology)
10:45-11:00	Coffee Break
SESSION 3 FRICTIONS AND MOMENTUM	
What do we know about the infrastructure-related incentives and disincentives in government, academia, and industry? What do scientists themselves perceive as the frictions slowing and the areas of momentum enabling scientists to engage with the public? This session explores the available evidence, gaps in knowledge, and lessons learned.	
Moderator: Bruce Lewenstein*, Cornell University	

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11:00-11:15	Moderator overview
11:15-11:35	Agricultural Extension Programs: A Model for Life Sciences Communication? – Sonny Ramaswamy, US Department of Agriculture
11:35-11:55	Public affairs offices and transparency in federal agencies- Kathryn Foxhall, Freelance health and medical reporter
11:55 – 1:00	Break for Lunch Session 3 will continue after lunch
1:00-1:20	Experiences with science communication in academia, industry, and science centers– Phillip Needleman, Washington University
1:20-1:40	Science Communication in Academic Institutions – Diane Harley, University of California, Berkeley
1:40-2:00	Scientist Perceptions of Infrastructure-Related Barriers – Dominique Brossard, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2:00- 3:00	Panel Discussion: Who is going to champion institutional change? Session 3 Speakers
3:00-3:15	Coffee Break
SESSION 4 HOW DO WE CONNECT LIFE SCIENTISTS TO PUBLIC INTERFACES? What are institutional infrastructures to build and maintain bridges between scientists and diverse publics? Moderator: Matthew Nisbet*, American University	
3:15 – 3:35	Infrastructure to connect scientists to public interfaces: overview of knowns and unknowns - Matt Nisbet, American University
3:35-4:45	Panel Discussion: Sustainable Connections Academic Institutions & Broader Impacts – Jack Schultz, University of Missouri Academic Research Centers – Donald Boesch, University of Maryland Boundary Organizations –Chad English, COMPASS Federal Science Communication Programs – Rick Borchelt*, US Department of Energy Scientific Societies – Erika Shugart, American Society of Microbiology
4:45 – 5:00	Response – Daniel Sarewitz, Arizona State University

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