

American Institute for Biological Sciences
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AIBS Discontinued its Annual Meetings

At its Spring 2009 meeting, the AIBS Board of Directors passed the following resolution:

"In view of the changing times, the Board directs that the Annual Meeting be discontinued in its current format and transformed to meet the needs of the membership and utilize evolving communication technologies."

So the meeting format of two-days in the Spring in Washington DC that [they] followed for the last ten years, which was itself a change from the previous format of larger multi-society meetings that we'd followed for almost 50 years has been revised beginning in 2010. [They] have started planning to put on, instead, a small handful of strategically timed, topic-specific, half-day events over the course of a typical year — usually with three or four speakers — in person in DC and online via webinars. Future meetings, conferences, and webinars are announced on the AIBS website's home page and meetings section. AIBS Annual Meetings historically provided focused discussion of timely subjects at the science-policy interface for an audience of professionals, educators, students, NGO staff, government scientists, members of Congress, and the media. Attendees heard from distinguished plenary speakers and panelists presenting synthesizing lectures from the forefront of their fields, then joined those speakers and other equally notable scholars in panel sessions and informal discussion groups. The meetings also include a contributed poster session and student competition, presentation of AIBS awards, and workshops. Nearly all of these activities are now facilitated in online formats.

Major Actions of AIBS:

- 47,017 Individual expert peer reviews performed since 2007
- 7,511 Individual peer reviewers who participated in an evaluation since 2007
- 5.378 Current journal impact factor for AIBS's *BioScience*
- 26,105 Downloads from the *BioScience* Talks podcast series
- 1,575,183 Downloads of *BioScience* articles in 2016
- 811 Meetings with federal and state lawmakers arranged by AIBS since 2008
- 1,618 Biologists who have participated in an AIBS communications or advocacy training program
- 131 Scientific societies and organizations advancing biology through membership in AIBS

AIBS 2017 Position Statements (linked Ctrl+click)

- December 2017 - [Letter to OMB on Restriction of Science Terms](#)
- November 2017 - [Letter on Waters on the U.S. Rulemaking](#) (to EPA)
- November 2017 - [AIBS Letter to Congress on Tax Reform](#)

- November 2017 - Letter to EPA on Science Advisory Boards
- September 2017 - Joint Society Letter on Waters of the U.S. Rule (to EPA)
- August 2017 - AIBS Expresses Concerns about New EPA Grant Solicitation Review Process (to EPA)
- July 2017 - Letter to EPA Administrator Pruitt on Red Team/Blue Team Climate Exercise
- July 2017 - Coalition of Coalitions Letter Calls for New Budget Deal (to Congress)
- June 2017 - Joint Society Statement on Scientific Advisors (to Office of the President)
- May 2017 - Multi-Society Letter about Presidential Science Adviser
- May 2017 - AIBS Testimony on USGS, FS, EPA, FWS, and Smithsonian
- May 2017 - Letter to Congress about 2018 Science Funding
- April 2017 - AIBS Testimony for NSF 2018 Funding
- April 2017 - Multi-Society Letter on FY 2017 Research Funding
- April 2017 - CNSF Letter on FY 2018 Funding for NSF c
- March 2017 - Letter on HONEST Act (to Congress)
- March 2017 - Letter to Oklahoma Senators on SB 393 (to Congress)
- March 2017 - 2,000 Organizations Urge Congress to Address Sequestration (to Congress)
- March 2017 - Endorsement of Amici Curiae Brief of Wetland and Water Scientists in Support of the Clean Water Rule (to Congress)
- February 2017 - Letter to Oklahoma Senate Education Committee on SB 393
- January 2017 - Multi-Society Letter on Immigration (to the President)
- January 2017 - AIBS Comments on Paleontological Resources Rule (to DOI)
- January 2017 - Letter in Opposition to South Dakota Science Education Bill
- January 2017 - AIBS Comments on Soil Science Plan (to NSTC)

The AIBS Public Policy Office released its annual report for 2017 highlighting its major achievements:

- Held 14 professional development workshops training 144 scientists and graduate students on becoming effective communicators on their research with intent to better represent their work to decision makers and reporters and to improve writing skills, and working on interdisciplinary teams,
- Facilitated 133 meetings with Federal and state lawmakers,
- Commented on a host of policy issues (see policy statements above),
- Issued a statement opposing the potential censorship of scientific words and phrases at the CDC, and
- Rallied the scientific community to successfully oppose negative impacts of the tax reform bill on graduate student tuition waivers (provision was defeated in Congress).

AIBS Publications

BIOSCIENCE®

BioScience provides peer-reviewed synthetic overviews of current biological research, together with departments about biology education, history, and the profession generally. It is strong in environmental science and integrative biology. *BioScience*

- Publishes occasional special sections that provide an in-depth look at an important biological topic
- Includes illustrated feature articles written by professional science writers
- Features regular columns on public policy and education
- Carries Viewpoint articles by opinion leaders in every issue
- Is listed with a 2014 impact factor of 5.524 by Thomson Reuters Journal Citation Reports, ranked number 7 out of 85 journals in the Biology category.
- Is available in print and online as XML or PDF files
- Is included with individual membership of AIBS

NEW! *BioScience Topical Collections* bound reprints of *BioScience* Articles

ACTIONBIOSCIENCE.ORG

ActionBioscience.org, a free-access bilingual (English and Spanish) education resource of The American Institute of Biological Sciences, is recognized for the high quality of its content and ease of use. Its accessibility appeals to a mixed readership: educators, general public, professional scientists, and students. Features of the site include:

- A growing collection of topical, peer-reviewed articles by distinguished scientists, educators, and other writers.
- Articles organized into major themes that are of pressing scientific and societal impact.
- Emphases on biodiversity, the environment, evolution, biotechnology, genomics, "new frontiers" (science's growing points), and education.
- Many articles accompanied by lesson plans.
- Vetted links to resources and public policy initiatives published online elsewhere.
- A Spanish mirror site.
- A blog and a feedback form for visitor comments.
- Recognition from peers, such as the Sci/Tech Web Award in Biology from the editors of Scientific American magazine and Web Site of the Week recognition from the School Library Journal and *USA Today*.

English version: <http://www.actionbioscience.org/>

Spanish version: <http://www.actionbioscience.org/esp/>