



The Science of Science Communication III (SSCIII)

The National Academy of Sciences; Washington, DC

November 16-17, 2017

Building Capacity for Science Communication

Partnership Awards

Call for Proposals

Purpose and Overview

In December 2016, the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine published a new consensus study report, [*Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda*](#). To help bring its vision for robust science communication research closer to fruition, special attention is being devoted to this report at the upcoming National Academy of Sciences Arthur M. Sackler Colloquium on the Science of Science Communication III to be held November 16-17, 2017.

With support from the Rita Allen Foundation, the National Academy of Sciences is offering two awards of \$37,500 each to support the formation and development of collaborative science communication researcher–practitioner partnerships. These awards are intended to facilitate the efforts of science communication researchers and practitioners to collaboratively plan projects that pursue shared research interests aligned with the new report. Special sessions of the Colloquium will feature the two chosen collaborations and the work of their teams. Additional support for the colloquium is provided by the Annenberg Public Policy Center of the University of Pennsylvania, Science Sandbox – a Simons Foundation initiative, the Burroughs Wellcome Fund, the Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation, and the William + Flora Hewlett Foundation.

To apply for these awards, partners will submit a single short proposal that describes the rationale for their partnership, a plan for working collaboratively at all phases of the research, and an outline of how the work will address priorities in the report. The award could either be for an entire project or for preliminary work needed to secure funding for a larger project. Additional details about the requirements for the short proposal appear below.

The Sackler Colloquium organizers and a group of funders of science communication research will select the teams to receive awards, with an announcement in July 2017. Awarded

teams will receive funds to begin implementing their plans for collaboration and to prepare for their session at the Colloquium. At the Sackler Colloquium in November, each team will present its plan and progress to date, and then participate in a panel discussion along with funders and practitioners. Each team will receive paid travel to the event for up to three presenters as per the National Academies' travel policies. Members of all teams will be encouraged to attend the Colloquium, both to contribute to its discussion and network with the funders and other participants there.

Background

Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda identifies cross-cutting themes for researchers and science communicators to consider in their work, as well as major challenges that should be addressed to advance the field and fill critical gaps in knowledge about effective practices. All applicants should refer to the report for more complete discussion of the themes, challenges, and research needs it outlines, particularly Chapter 5, which describes the research agenda for science communication. The report and additional materials can be found at <https://www.nap.edu/catalog/23674>.

The Arthur M. Sackler Colloquia on the Science of Science Communication began in 2012 with an effort to survey the state of the art of empirical social science research in science communication and focused on research in psychology, decision science, mass communication, risk communication, health communication, political science, sociology, and related fields on the communication dynamics surrounding issues in science, engineering, technology, and medicine. The second colloquium highlighted the particular challenges with communicating about science involved with controversy, and was an important impetus for the study that produced *Communicating Science Effectively: A Research Agenda*. This third colloquium will focus on building capacity for and fostering the use of evidence-based strategies for engaging the public with science and ensuring its appropriate use. More information about the Arthur M. Sackler Colloquium on the Science of Science Communication III, and the two previous colloquia in this series can be found here:

- [Science of Science Communication III, November 16-17, 2017](#)
- [Science of Science Communication II, September 23-25, 2013](#)
- [Science of Science Communication I, May 21-22, 2012](#)

Required Elements for Submissions

Each proposal should be no more than 2,000 words. Applicants **do not** need to submit a detailed budget with their proposal but should generally describe how the award will be used.

The proposal should describe a partnership between one or more researcher(s) who study processes related to science communication and one or more practitioner(s) who communicate science. For example, a practitioner focused on preventing the spread of influenza might partner

with a researcher focused on the ways that values and ideas are communicated through informal social networks. A partnership could also include scientists expert in the subject matter (e.g., an epidemiologist or a microbiologist). The relationships may currently exist or be in the process of being formed, but should not be hypothetical (i.e., describe a role but not a person ready and able to fill it).

Partnerships should be collaborative in **all phases** of the research, including design, execution, evaluation, and dissemination. The partnership must extend beyond the types of relationships where researchers conduct evaluations and report results back to practitioners or engage practitioners in a limited aspect of the research, such as collecting data.

The short proposal should present a coherent and concrete plan that includes:

1. The partners' names, affiliations (if any), expertise, and relevant experience;
2. The topic of the collaboration;
3. The proposed approach for the overall project;
4. The partners' roles in the project;
5. Mechanisms for sustaining the partnership over the life of the project;
6. Progress to date;
7. Expected impacts of the project on the scientific community, the practitioner community, and the target audience.

Planned research should address the priorities described in the report; however, a focus on science that has become the subject of public controversy is not required.

Submission Instructions

Teams should submit their proposal in PDF format by 5:00 p.m. EDT on June 1, 2017, to SSC3Awards@nas.edu. **Late submissions will not be accepted.** In addition to the short proposal, please include contact information, biographical sketches (350 words or less), and short CVs for each of the proposed partners. Awards will be made in July 2017.

Colloquium Registration

If you are applying to the call for proposals and would like to attend the Colloquium whether or not you win, we encourage you to register early since previous Colloquia have sold out. If you win, we will reimburse your registration fee.

For Assistance

Please submit questions to SSC3Awards@nas.edu for additional assistance.