



CHARTER  
of the  
INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON SCIENTIFIC COLLECTIONS  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON LIFE SCIENCES  
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE  
NATIONAL SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

**A. Official Designation**

The Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections (IWGSC) is hereby reestablished by action of the National Science and Technology Council (NSTC) Committee on Science (CoS), Subcommittee on Life Sciences (LSSC).

**B. Purpose and Scope**

The purpose of the IWGSC is to address the scientific, environmental, societal, and national security needs for Federal scientific collections<sup>1</sup> by providing a forum for coordination and collaboration among Federal departments and agencies on policies and practices for managing scientific collections, in particular, policies and practices being developed and implemented in response to the March 20, 2014 memorandum from the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) to the heads of executive departments and agencies on Improving the Management of and Access to Scientific Collections.<sup>2</sup> In addition, the IWGSC will coordinate the implementation of recommendations for scientific collections that were included in the October 6, 2010 memorandum from the Director of OSTP to the heads of executive departments

---

<sup>1</sup> For the purposes of the IWGSC, the term “scientific collection” means a set of physical specimens, living or inanimate, created for the purpose of supporting science and serving as a long-term research asset, rather than for their market value as collectibles or their historical, artistic, or cultural significance, and, as appropriate and feasible, the associated specimen data and materials.

<sup>2</sup> Available online at:

[https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp\\_memo\\_scientific\\_collections\\_march\\_2014.pdf](https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp_memo_scientific_collections_march_2014.pdf).

and agencies on Policy on Scientific Collections<sup>3</sup> and fulfill the requirements of Section 104 of the America COMPETES Reauthorization Act of 2010 [Public Law 111-358] on Federal Scientific Collections.<sup>4</sup>

### **C. Functions**

The functions of the IWGSC are to:

1. Assist relevant Federal agencies in interpreting existing policy guidance for scientific collections and developing and implementing individual agency policy and budget processes for managing scientific collections, including scientific collections used in intelligence, defense, law enforcement, and forensics.
2. Coordinate the efforts of relevant Federal agencies to maintain and expand the existing publicly accessible, online clearinghouse of information on Federal scientific collections and develop strategies to assist such Federal agencies in curating, entering, and maintaining data about their scientific collections. Coordinate, as appropriate, with other online registries of non-Federal and non-U.S. scientific collections.
3. In consultation with relevant Federal agencies, recommend to the OSTP Director guidelines for Federal agencies to use in improving the management of scientific collections, such as for determining which materials from project collections to accession into institutional collections for long-term preservation; managing “orphaned” collections; and managing scientific collections that are owned jointly by Federal and non-Federal entities.
4. Develop and implement an outreach strategy for disseminating working group products and activities among Federal, State, local, and private institutions that manage scientific collection.
5. Coordinate Federal agency engagement and liaison with non-Federal and international initiatives related to scientific collections to improve communication and coordination of relevant efforts.

---

<sup>3</sup> Available online at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/default/files/microsites/ostp/ostp-2010-scientific-collections.pdf>.

<sup>4</sup> Available online at: <https://www.congress.gov/111/plaws/publ358/PLAW-111publ358.pdf>.

## **D. Membership**

The following NSTC departments and agencies are represented on the IWGSC:

Department of Agriculture (Co-chair);  
Department of Commerce;  
Department of Defense;  
Department of Energy;  
Department of Health and Human Services;  
Department of Homeland Security;  
Department of the Interior;  
Department of State;  
Department of Transportation;  
Department of Veterans Affairs;  
Environmental Protection Agency;  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration;  
National Science Foundation; and  
Smithsonian Institution (Co-chair).

The following components in the Executive Office of the President shall also be represented on the IWGSC:

Office of Management and Budget, and  
Office of Science and Technology Policy (Co-chair).

Cooperating departments and agencies shall include other such Executive organizations, departments, and agencies as the Co-chairs may, from time to time, designate.

## **E. Private-Sector Interface**

The IWGSC may seek advice from members of the President's Council of Advisors on Science and Technology and will recommend to the Assistant to the President for Science and Technology the nature of additional private-sector<sup>5</sup> advice needed to accomplish its mission. The IWGSC may also interact with and receive *ad hoc* advice from various private-sector groups as consistent with the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

---

<sup>5</sup> The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App., as amended does not explicitly define “private sector,” but the phrase is generally understood to include individuals or entities outside the Federal government such as, but not limited to the following: non-Federal sources, academia, State, local or Tribal governments, individual citizens, the public, non-governmental organizations, industry associations, and international bodies.

**F. Termination Date**

This charter shall terminate no later than May 31, 2017, unless renewed by the Co-chairs of the LSSC.

**G. Determination**

I hereby determine that the reestablishment of the Interagency Working Group on Scientific Collections is in the public interest in connection with the performance of duties imposed on the Executive Branch by law, and that such duties can best be performed through the advice and counsel of such a group.

Approved:



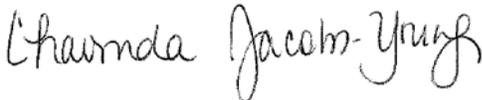
---

Carrie Wolinetz  
Co-chair of Subcommittee on Life Sciences, and  
Associate Director for Science Policy  
National Institutes of Health  
Department of Health and Human Services

---

5-13-2016

Date



---

Chavonda Jacobs-Young  
Co-chair of Subcommittee on Life Sciences, and  
Administrator, Agricultural Research Service  
Department of Agriculture

---

5-13-2016

Date



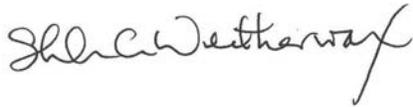
---

James L. Olds  
Co-chair of Subcommittee on Life Sciences, and  
Assistant Director for Biological Sciences  
National Science Foundation

---

5-13-2016

Date



---

Sharlene Weatherwax  
Co-chair of Subcommittee on Life Sciences, and  
Associate Director of Science for Biological and Environmental Research  
Office of Science  
Department of Energy

---

5-13-2016

Date