



**AMERICAN INSTITUTE OF
BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES**

2024 AIBS ANNUAL REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

It is my distinct pleasure to share with you the 2024 Annual Report of the American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS). The Institute has made significant progress on many impactful initiatives, reflecting our unwavering commitment to advancing the biological sciences for the benefit of science and society.

AIBS remains pivotal in fostering scientific excellence. Our Scientific Peer Advisory & Review Services have provided critical support to funding organizations across a wide range of scientific disciplines, ensuring that research proposals, progress reports, and program analyses are evaluated and provided with the highest standards of integrity and expertise.

Our Publications Department saw *BioScience* increase its financial sustainability, notably by switching to online-only publication and expanding its topics and author pool.

The Information Technology Office supported our mission with robust technical advancements, enhancing digital outreach, and introducing significant improvements to our SCORES peer review software, including advances in accessible design.

Through our Community Programs, we provided professional development training and facilitated vital meetings between scientists and lawmakers, empowering scientists to become stronger advocates for science. Our 2024 Council Meeting fostered important discussions with our member societies and organizations on inclusivity in STEM.

These achievements underscore our ongoing dedication to promoting public understanding of science through innovative communication initiatives, and our robust advocacy efforts continue to engage the biological sciences community, policymakers, and the public in support of scientific research and education.

As we look ahead, AIBS is committed to our vision through the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan. For greater impact and a stronger voice for science, it is crucial that all biological societies speak together. We actively seek to engage more biological societies in our collective efforts and welcome them to join us as members. We are excited about the continued impact we will make together in the year ahead.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Judith E. Skog". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Judith E. Skog, Ph.D.
AIBS President





OUR VISION

To advance the biological sciences to promote increased understanding of all life.

OUR MISSION

To promote the use of science to inform decision-making and advance biology for the benefit of science and society.

ACHIEVING OUR MISSION

AIBS works toward its outcomes through three programmatic areas:



Scientific Peer Advisory and Review Services for research proposals and programs sponsored by funding organizations, including the federal government, state agencies, private research foundations, and other non-governmental organizations. AIBS also educates the community about the science of peer review.



Publications and Communications, including reliable reports, analyses, and the peer reviewed journal *BioScience*, which is a forum for integrating the life sciences and educating scientists, students, and the public about biological sciences.



Community Programs that advance the field and profession of biology while promoting and providing leadership, with particular emphasis on public policy and advocacy, education and professional development, as well as public awareness of science.

LOOKING FORWARD

Through the 2024–2028 Strategic Plan, AIBS is articulating priorities in our programmatic areas to chart the organization's course of action. The plan provides AIBS with the flexibility to use new information and respond rapidly to changing circumstances. Regular review of the plan by the staff and Board of Directors ensures that it is an evolving and responsive strategy.



[View the AIBS
Strategic Plan](#)

SCIENTIFIC PEER ADVISORY & REVIEW SERVICES

Independent, highly credible, subject matter expert peer review is critical for rigorous science. As a center of excellence in this space, we work with a diverse group of funding organizations and in a wide range of scientific disciplines to provide peer review of proposed, ongoing, or past research, as well as advisory and assessment services to facilitate informed decision-making for our clients.

HIGHLIGHTS

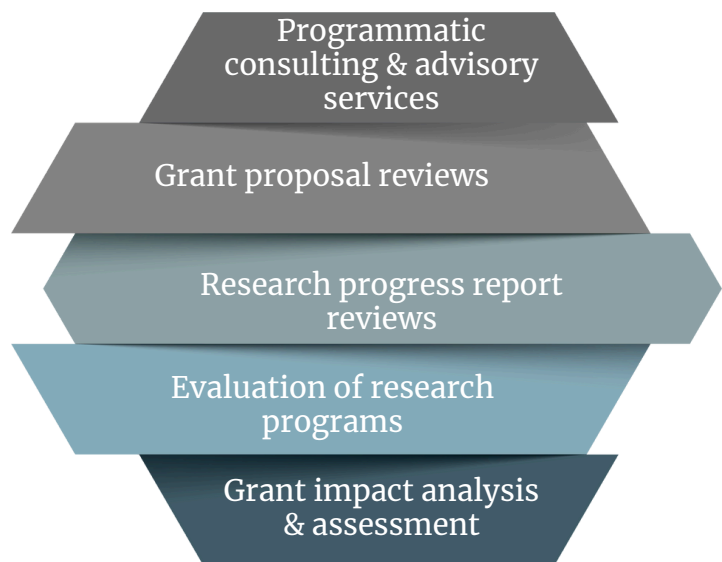
26

Number of different clients supported in 2024; these include foundations, academic institutions, state government agencies/health systems

20

Number of publications we have contributed to the literature on the science of peer review

WHAT WE DO



As a leader in the Science of Peer Review, we analyze and publish research on the peer review process to not only inform our own work but also to optimize peer review practices in the greater scientific community.

PUBLICATIONS

Publications activities in 2024 were marked by efforts to increase the financial sustainability of *BioScience*, with a particular focus on expanding the topics we cover and broadening our pool of prospective authors. Aligning with OUP's carbon neutrality goals, 2024 marked *BioScience*'s switch to online-only publication, eliminating our small but costly print run.

THIS YEAR'S 12 ISSUES OF BIOSCIENCE

61

61 PEER-REVIEWED
ARTICLES

15

15 PODCASTS

12

12 PRESS RELEASES

SPECIAL ISSUES

ONE HEALTH

- 62 submissions
- 29 accepted (review is ongoing).

UPCOMING

- Special Issue: Long-Term Change in Eastern Boundary Current Upwelling Biomes
- Special Collection: 100th Anniversary of the Scopes Monkey Trial

In addition, we conducted a demographic survey of the *BioScience* Editorial Board, using the question set developed by the Joint Commitment for Action on Inclusion and Diversity in Publishing. The survey yielded 54 responses from 82 invitees, representing a 66% response rate.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

The Information Technology Office (ITO) supported AIBS's mission by combining strategic support for organizational initiatives and robust technical advancements.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2024:

SCORES PEER REVIEW SOFTWARE

- Modernized design for accessibility
- Updated features to support online reviewer payments
- Simplified contracting
- Hosted first-ever SCORES Summit

DATA PRIVACY & ACCESSIBILITY

- Removed outdated personal data
- Enhanced screen reader compatibility
- Updated accessibility documentation

DIGITAL OUTREACH

- Reviewed analytics to inform website and partner site management
- Utilized tech tools for newsletters, email, and social media

CYBERSECURITY

- Phishing training
- Cloud-based intrusion detection
- Secure server upgrades

SOME INITIATIVES SUPPORTED

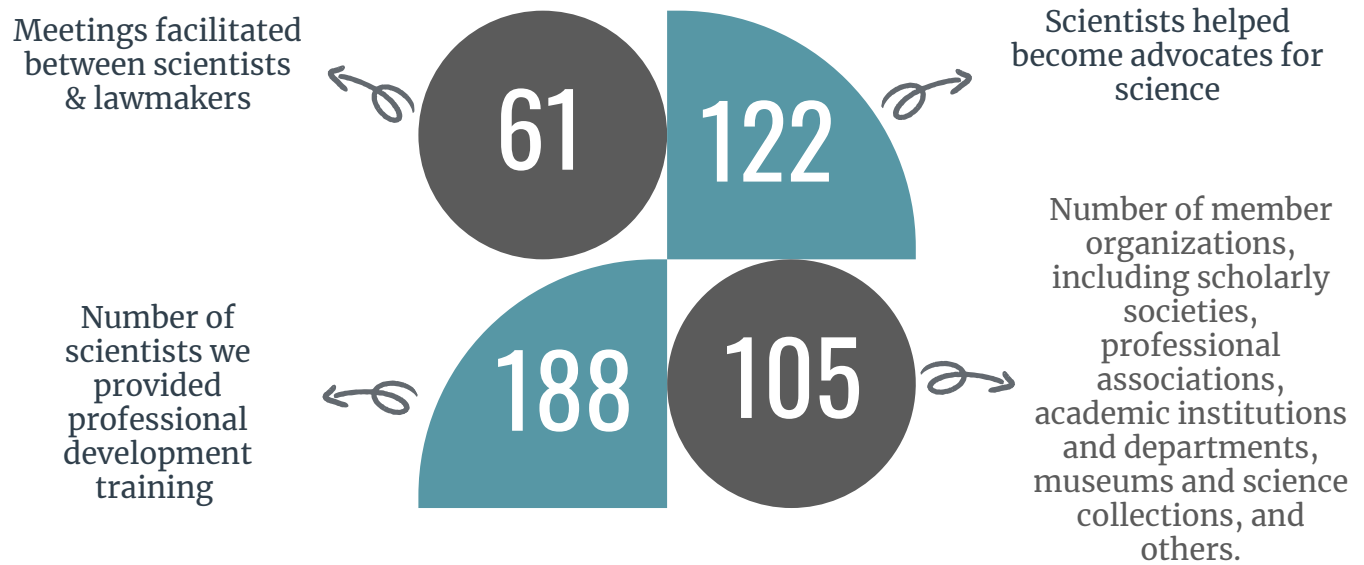
- IDEA²
- SPARS Clients
- Fellowship Program
- AIBS Council Meeting

These efforts reflect the Information Technology Office's commitment to building a stable, secure, and responsive technology environment, while also directly supporting the organization's strategic goals. Our work continues to position AIBS for innovation and impactful engagement across all programs.

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

The AIBS Community Programs Division plays an integral role in all our core activities of assessment, advocacy, communication, and training. It brings together membership services, science policy and advocacy, the AIBS Council Meeting, as well as professional development, education, and scientific programs, to advance our goal of promoting informed decision-making that advances biology.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:



AIBS partnered with Southeastern Universities Research Association to offer a paid Public Policy Fellowship for current and recent graduate students in the life sciences. This unique training opportunity provides early-career scientists with hands-on experience in science policy, including activities such as planning a Capitol Hill briefing, drafting policy documents, researching science policy issues, and attending federal meetings.

2024 AIBS COUNCIL MEETING

The 2024 AIBS Council meeting focused on the Minority Serving Society (MSS) environment, with the theme “The MSS IDEA: The Power of Community in Science.” AIBS staff attended the SACNAS NDiSTEM conference in Phoenix, AZ to better understand this inclusive STEM ecosystem and shared key insights with our member organizations.



[View the 2024 Public
Policy Annual Report](#)



Financial Summary

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$568,218	\$375,668
Investments	1,575,648	1,473,328
Accounts receivable, net	377,925	412,255
Prepaid expenses	25,211	24,884
Total Current Assets	\$2,547,002	\$2,286,135
Property and Equipment, net Other Assets	12,399	18,809
Total Assets	\$2,559,401	\$2,304,944
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Loan Payable	\$3,495	\$3,418
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	289,241	250,738
Deferred Revenue	409,347	63,844
Total Current Liabilities	\$702,083	\$318,000
Long-Term Liabilities		
Loan payable, net of current portion	139,779	143,256
Deferred Revenue	196,428	235,714
Total Liabilities	\$1,038,290	\$696,970
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$1,010,551	\$1,087,639
Board designated	510,560	520,335
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$1,521,111	\$1,607,974
Restricted	0	0
Total Net Assets	\$1,521,111	\$1,607,974
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,559,401	\$2,304,944



Financial Summary

	December 31,	
	2024	2023
Support and Revenue		
Non-federal contracts	\$1,686,406	\$2,243,926
Publications	413,648	426,125
Investment income (loss)	120,090	150,483
Membership	98,625	83,300
Grants & contributions	576,249	22,721
Federal contracts	38,977	5,840
Other	5,000	--
Total Support and Revenue	\$2,938,995	\$2,932,395
Expenses		
Direct		
SPARS Non-Federal S	806,875	\$888,667
Membership benefits	373,842	388,878
Federal community programs	26,380	2,984
	\$1,207,097	\$1,280,529
Indirect	\$1,818,761	\$1,850,714
Total Expenses	\$3,025,858	\$3,131,243
Change in Net Assets	(\$86,863)	(\$198,848)
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,607,974	\$1,806,822
Net Assets at End of Year	\$1,521,111	\$1,607,974

Board of Directors

Executive Board Members

President

Judy Skog, George Mason University

Secretary

Pamela Soltis, American Society of
Plant Taxonomists

Vice President

Eric S. Nagy, University of Virginia

Treasurer

Betsy Myers, Doris Duke Charitable
Foundation (Retired)

Board Members Elected by the Board

- **Gabriela Chavarria**, Burke Museum of Natural History & Culture at the University of Washington, Seattle
- **Todd Crowl**, Florida International University
- **Richard Nakamura**, National Institutes of Health & National Institute of Mental Health (Retired)
- **Clifton Poodry**, University of Oregon
- **Muriel Poston**, Pitzer College
- **Veronica Segarra**, Goucher College
- **Lydia Villa-Komaroff**, Intersections Science, Business, Diversity Consulting

Board Members Elected by the AIBS Council of Member Societies & Organizations

- **John Bates**, American Society of Mammalogy
- **Raymond Mejia**, Society for Mathematical Biology
- **Susan Perkins**, American Society of Plant Taxonomists
- **Krissa Skogen**, Botanical Society of America
- **Michael Willig**, University of Connecticut



[View a list of our current Board of Directors.](#)

Member Societies & Organizations

Through AIBS membership, biological societies and related organizations are connected to matters that are of collective concern, including trends in research and biology funding, public policy, education, and public understanding of science.



[View a list of our current members.](#)

Our Gratitude

Thank you to all AIBS staff, consultants, biologists, and members who help AIBS in its vision to inform and lead research, education, and policymaking at the frontiers of the life sciences.

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[View current
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