



2025 AIBS ANNUAL REPORT



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A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

As American Institute of Biological Sciences (AIBS) president, I am very pleased to share the Institute's 2025 Annual Report, which outlines our recent successes and planned efforts.

Through a year marked by challenges for those working in the life sciences, AIBS maintained its staunch commitment to advancing the biological sciences for the benefit of science and society. The AIBS Community Programs Division led 58 scientific organizations in urging the US Congress to protect scientific independence and research funding, while opposing budget cuts, grant terminations, federal layoffs, and threats to career civil service researchers. In addition, our Community Programs facilitated over 90 meetings between scientists and lawmakers.

We maintained our dedication to the highest quality, expertly vetted science. The Scientific Peer Advisory and Review Services Department supported 24 clients in 2025. These clients represent a diverse group of funding organizations across numerous scientific disciplines, including foundations, academic institutions, state agencies, and health systems.

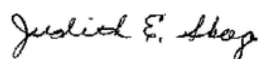
In Publications, BioScience continued to grow its submission volume, notably through special issues and the launch of several new article categories, including Communicating Science, Notes from the Field, and Sustaining Science. Following a generous bequest from former AIBS President Diana Wall, AIBS has recently launched the Diana Wall Graduate Student Publication Excellence Award (<https://io.aibs.org/wall-award>) to support the work of early-career researchers.

The Information Technology Office's (ITO) ongoing efforts maintained AIBS's unmatched technological leadership and provided sound support for the achievement of organizational and our clients' goals. During the year, ITO provided training on the safe and effective use of newly integrated AI tools to reduce staff effort when ensuring conflict-of-interest-free reviews.

In 2025, the AIBS Council of Member Societies and Organizations meeting explored the theme of "Navigating the Evolving Science Policy Landscape with Resilience." Participants discussed strategies to ensure a thriving scientific community, with an eye to alternative funding sources and policy advocacy in a rapidly changing political climate.

In the coming year, our combined efforts will continue to be guided by the vision set forth in the 2024-2028 Strategic Plan, which undergirds our effort to unite scientists, stakeholders, and biological societies, so the community may speak with a common voice. As always, we welcome likeminded partners and collaborators as we eagerly take on the challenges of the day for the betterment of our collective future.

Sincerely,



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

24

Number of different clients supported in 2025; these include foundations, academic institutions, and state government agencies/health systems

20

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

WHAT WE DO



REVIEW

Grant proposal reviews
Research progress report reviews



ASSESS

Evaluation of research programs
Grant impact analysis & assessment



ADVISE

Programmatic consulting & advisory services

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

Much of our 2025 year was dedicated to the review and preparation of our One Health Special Issue, which will include over 55 accepted articles from more than 370 authors. An accompanying Key Challenges piece features over 140 authors from among the issue's contributors.

In addition, *BioScience* has expanded its Editorial Board, with a particular focus on those representing the Global South. Partly as a result of this expansion, both the geographic breadth and number of submissions to the journal grew significantly through the year. In 2025, *BioScience* received 456 submissions through its online platform, with an even greater number expected in 2026.



71

PEER REVIEWED
ARTICLES



13

PRESS
RELEASES



12

PODCASTS



9.7

2025 IMPACT
FACTOR

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES



Publication of One Health, Long-Term Change in Eastern Boundary Current Upwelling Biomes, and Scopes 100th Anniversary special collections.



Growth of our new article types: Key Challenges, Perspective and Insight, Communicating Science, Notes from the Field, and Sustaining Science.



INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY OFFICE

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



COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY & STAFF EFFICIENCY

- Improved the donor experience at www.aibs.org with new fundraising sections, the ability to donate from any page, and images of biologists at work sourced from AIBS's photo contest.
- Helped transition social media publishing to Bluesky.
- Trained staff on existing tools and, after vetting them for safe use with organization and client data, on effective use of new AI tools.



PEER REVIEW SOFTWARE

- Integrated new AI capabilities into SCORES to reduce staff effort when assessing conflict-of-interest for proposal review.
- Updated server hardware and underlying core software components.
- Added improved data-handling capabilities, including quickly generating client-branded proposal documents from client-provided data and an initial client data import tool.



CYBERSECURITY ENHANCEMENTS

- Configured the cloud vendor to opt out of AI training on AIBS and client data.
- Evaluated and onboarded a new disaster recovery vendor and enforced data removal with the prior vendor.
- Continued active staff training on anti-phishing techniques.



DATA PRIVACY & INCLUSIVE TECHNOLOGY

- Added a SCORES feature that surfaces and removes personally identifiable information (PII) when it no longer needs to be held.
- Updated SCORES Terms of Use and Privacy Policy documents to clarify data usage and the legal bases for retaining data.
- Updated the website to reflect inclusive-environment goals and better support users who benefit from additional accommodations.

AIBS's ITO remains committed to high availability of core services, security of AIBS and client data, and solutions that foster productivity and efficiency for audiences and staff.

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.



NOTABLE HIGHLIGHTS FROM 2025:

- **Led 58 scientific organizations** in urging Congress to protect scientific independence and research funding.
- **Opposed key budget cuts**, successfully defending the USGS Ecosystems Mission Area from termination.
- **Defended scientific integrity** against grant terminations, federal layoffs, and threats to career civil service researchers.
- **Facilitated interdisciplinary discussions** towards a strategic roadmap for integrated biological and environmental data.

SOME KEY ACHIEVEMENTS:

90

Meetings facilitated between scientists & lawmakers

148

Scientists empowered to become advocates for science

184

Number of scientists we provided professional development training

91

Number of member organizations



[View the 2025 Public Policy Annual Report](#)



AIBS & SURA PUBLIC POLICY FELLOWSHIP

AIBS continued its partnership with the Southeastern Universities Research Association (SURA) to offer the AIBS & SURA Public Policy Fellowship for a second year. This unique training opportunity provides early career scientists in the life sciences with hands-on experience in the federal policy arena.



2025 AIBS COUNCIL MEETING

The 2025 meeting of the AIBS Council of Member Societies and Organizations focused on the theme “Navigating the Evolving Science Policy Landscape with Resilience.” The meeting explored strategies for building thriving scientific communities, identifying alternative funding sources, and effective advocacy in a shifting policy climate. The program also provided a comprehensive analysis of the federal budget, giving attendees actionable insights for engaging effectively with Congress.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Assets		
Current Assets		
Cash & cash equivalents	\$251,076	\$568,218
Investments	1,793,068	1,575,648
Accounts receivable, net	722,242	377,925
Prepaid expenses	24,560	25,211
Total Current Assets	\$2,790,946	\$2,547,002
Property and Equipment, net Other Assets	6,455	12,399
Total Assets	\$2,797,401	\$2,559,401
Liabilities & Net Assets		
Current Liabilities		
Loan Payable	\$3,591	\$3,495
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses	301,909	289,241
Deferred Revenue	96,163	409,347
Total Current Liabilities	\$401,663	\$702,083
Long-Term Liabilities		
Loan payable, net of current portion	136,188	139,779
Deferred Revenue	157,143	196,428
Total Liabilities	\$694,994	\$1,038,290
Net Assets		
Unrestricted		
Undesignated	\$1,611,457	\$1,010,551
Board designated	490,950	510,560
Total Unrestricted Net Assets	\$2,102,407	\$1,521,111
Restricted	0	0
Total Net Assets	\$2,102,407	\$1,521,111
Total Liabilities & Net Assets	\$2,797,401	\$2,559,401



FINANCIAL SUMMARY

	December 31,	
	2025	2024
Support and Revenue		
Non-federal contracts	\$2,158,797	\$1,686,406
Publications	595,549	413,648
Investment income (loss)	163,840	120,090
Membership	98,916	98,625
Grants & contributions	680,793	576,249
Federal contracts	52,307	38,977
Other	10,000	5,000
Total Support and Revenue	\$3,760,202	\$2,938,995
Expenses		
Direct		
SPARS Non-Federal S	1,077,224	806,875
Membership benefits	346,564	373,842
Federal community programs	33,870	26,380
	\$1,457,658	\$1,207,097
Indirect	\$1,721,248	\$1,818,761
Total Expenses	\$3,178,906	\$3,025,858
Change in Net Assets	581,296	(\$86,863)
Net assets at beginning of year	\$1,521,111	\$1,607,974
Net Assets at End of Year	\$2,102,407	\$1,521,111

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

- **Prosanta Chakrabarty**, Louisiana State University
- **Todd Crowl**, Florida International University
- **Christine Cutucache**, Cutucache Consolidated, Inc.
- **Nyeema Harris**, Yale University
- **Richard Nakamura**, National Institutes of Health & National Institute of Mental Health (Retired)
- **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
- **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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