

NIH Science of Science Management October Meeting Overview

Overview of October Meeting:

To support building capacity and infrastructure in the Science of Science Management, NIH is bringing together a multi-disciplinary group of experts in October to create an arena for topics relevant to the systematic research of science management with a focus on providing evidence-based information for decision makers. As no one discipline or tool is likely to appropriately and comprehensively assess science independently, the NIH is promoting capacity building by creating a venue for cross-talk between experts in the fields of evaluation, social and behavioral sciences, economics, organization/systems theory, information technologies, and science policy, as well as with NIH science staff. Invited experts will present the state of the field and highlight relevant assessment challenges. Then participants will break into four discussion groups – each deliberating on a separate priority question in order to create a feasible cross-disciplinary assessment model. The discussions will be lead by NIH Institute Directors with the participation of invited experts and a cross-section of key NIH staff. The goal of this collaborative effort is to produce an assessment model that can be researched and tested.

The objectives of the meeting are below and are followed by a conceptual model which will be used to structure the breakout discussion groups.

October Meeting Objectives:

- Objective 1: Initiate cross-talk among invited experts to identify current discipline-specific methods used for assessing science and to locate gaps where strategies are needed.
- Objective 2: Initiate multidisciplinary cross-talk between invited experts and NIH staff to develop concepts and priorities for NIH to more appropriately assess research and development (R&D) activities.
- Objective 3: Develop Science of Science Management concept priorities in four core thematic areas that can be rigorously examined in order to provide evidence-based information for decision-makers to enhance scientific planning and management.

October Meeting – Conceptual Model

The developed conceptual model, pictured below, focuses on the NIH's role in supporting and conducting biomedical research to benefit public health. In order to fulfill this role, NIH assesses the current state of the field, conducts research, disseminates findings, and fosters utilization of results. The generated biomedical knowledge then can impact public health. A feedback loop is created as researchers assess public health needs to determine future research objectives. Some factors that impact the transitions between core elements are also shown, as these factors can be critical areas for productive science and of interest for science management researchers as opportunities to study the decision making process.

