

Partnering with the UCS Science Network

HIGHLIGHTS

The scientific enterprise faces unprecedented challenges. The UCS Science Network aims to mobilize the science community to defend against attacks on science and to advance science as a tool for improving public health, safety, and justice. We offer resources and tools to help individuals and organizations become more effective science advocates, and provide opportunities to engage with policymakers and community members and share their expertise. Working together and with communities across the country, we can have the collective power needed to promote science-based solutions to our nation's pressing problems. Together, we can become active partners for progress.

These are unprecedented times in terms of rollbacks of science-based policies and protections. But there is also enormous energy and potential for the scientific community to advance its impact and engagement with the public and decision-makers on policy issues that affect us all. By working in collaboration with our partners, the UCS Science Network wants to build power and broader cultural support for scientist engagement across the scientific community.

Joining Forces for Science Advocacy

Achieving systemic and policy changes takes time and people power. Here's what we can accomplish together:

- Mobilize experts to make our voices heard, build collective power, and secure successes on issues we care about
- Offer trainings and tools to support science advocates' engagement
- Host advocacy actions and events
- Connect scientists with environmental justice and frontline communities in equitable partnerships

What the Science Network can offer you:

- Amplification and expanded reach of your group and its work
- Collaboration on conference workshops, or other trainings, both in-person and virtual
- Shared branding on materials and recognition in communication efforts
- Access to other partners' resources and opportunities to take action
- Connections to other science advocacy and policy groups across the country
- Opportunities for your group's members to build their science advocacy skills



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The scientific community plays a critical role in shaping decisions that affect our health, safety, and environment. The UCS Science Network helps bring together and mobilize experts to make our voices heard and build momentum for positive change.

Working together, we can have the collective power needed to advance science as a tool for improving public health, safety, and justice.

Partnership Success Stories

- In collaboration with partners, we are making sure that scientists who attend scientific conferences hear about the tools, resources, and opportunities to advocate for science-based policy. At the 2019 AAAS Annual Meeting, we hosted a workshop, “From a Moment to a Movement: Building Infrastructure to Sustain Scientist Advocacy,” which featured a panel discussion from four partners: Ciencia Puerto Rico, 500 Women Scientists, Yale Science Diplomats, and the National Science Policy Network. Through this panel we presented strategies for developing advocacy skills as individuals and as a science community. We were also able to recruit new members to each of our organizations.
- In April 2019 UCS partnered with 500 Women Scientists DC, the DMV Association for Women Geoscientists, and ComSciCon for a trivia night celebrating Women in STEM. Not only did we raise awareness about our respective organizations, we educated attendees about the importance of the Scientific Integrity Act moving through Congress. This event also allowed us to make connections that added at least one cosponsor to the bill.
- Through Science Rising, we are amplifying the narrative about how science, equity, and justice are intertwined, and can make for a stronger democracy. We partnered with Sister, an independent online media platform amplifying women and non-binary voices in STEM, for a fall 2019 series asking writers to share how their STEM identity

connects with their political identity. We published eight articles from a diverse group of women scientists, including “Female Scientists in the Diaspora,” “Finding Myself in STEM and Public Service as an African, Black American,” and “How Ice Carved My Scientific and Political Identity.”

- In a blog series from the Journal for Science Policy and Governance, we’ve shared how early career scientists can find professional development opportunities outside of the lab, and how students and recent graduates can publish in the journal as a way to explore both domestic and international science policy issues.
- We helped organize a Twitter chat with Engineers and Scientists Acting Locally in May 2019 on local civic engagement opportunities for scientists, featuring a range of ways scientists can get involved in local policy.

Together, we not only strengthen the movement for science advocacy, we can also build broader cultural support for scientist engagement and break down institutional barriers that prevent action.

*Interested in exploring a partnership with the Science Network? Reach out to **Melissa Varga**, Science Network community manager and partnerships coordinator, at mvarga@ucsusa.org*

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The Union of Concerned Scientists puts rigorous, independent science to work to solve our planet’s most pressing problems. Joining with people across the country, we combine technical analysis and effective advocacy to create innovative, practical solutions for a healthy, safe, and sustainable future.

NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

Two Brattle Square
Cambridge, MA 02138-3780
Phone: (617) 547-5552
Fax: (617) 864-9405

WASHINGTON, DC, OFFICE

1825 K St. NW, Suite 800
Washington, DC 20006-1232
Phone: (202) 223-6133
Fax: (202) 223-6162

WEST COAST OFFICE

500 12th St., Suite 340
Oakland, CA 94607-4087
Phone: (510) 843-1872
Fax: (510) 451-3785

MIDWEST OFFICE

One N. LaSalle St., Suite 1904
Chicago, IL 60602-4064
Phone: (312) 578-1750
Fax: (312) 578-1751