



Science Policy Committee (SPC) American Society of Plant Biologists

Committee Meetings, September 26th and September 29th, 2023 from 11:00am - 12:00pm EST
Zoom Meeting

September 26th, 2023

Participants:

SPC Chair: Tessa Burch-Smith

SPC Members: Robert Stanley, Charlie Anderson, Jasmine Yu

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC: Bridget Krieger, Eve Granatosky, Joanna Ratigan, Courtney Parker

Agenda: Upon the notice of Dr. Misra's cancellation of this meeting and request to move the meeting to September 29th, the meeting on September 26th was brief. Some planning for the annual meeting was discussed. After this discussion, the meeting was adjourned.

Zoom Meeting

September 29th, 2023

Participants:

SPC Chair: Tessa Burch-Smith

SPC Members: Jasmine Yu, Pradeep Kachroo, Charlie Anderson

ASPB Staff: Crispin Taylor

Lewis-Burke Associates LLC: Elizabeth Stulberg, Eve Granatosky, Joanna Ratigan, Courtney Parker

USDA Staff: Joshua Stull, Asna Ashfaq, Dr. Manjit K. Misra.

Agenda

1. Welcome/ Introduction of NIFA Director from Tessa Burch-Smith
2. Dr. Misra joined and discussed his opinions/ideas of where he wants to take NIFA in the future. Some of the discussion points included:
 - A focus on innovation and tech transfer/small business development
 - More collaborations with NSF and NIH, including around grant submission/processing tools
 - Connecting food to health, including an increased focus on nutrition
 - Dr. Misra's priorities, branded as the 4 C's:
 - **Capacity** – Building out the capacity to do the research and apply for grants “so that innovation can grow”
 - **Collaboration** – With other federal agencies and with stakeholders
 - **Cultivation** – Developing the workforce, including through the “From Learning to Leading (NextGen)” program, which will train 20,000 individuals and focuses on diversity and equity
 - **Communication** – Bringing awareness to the importance of agriculture as the foundation of civilization.
3. Next SPC meeting: October 24th, 2023 at 11:00am EST
4. Adjournment