

MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING (MOU)

between

The National Association of Academies of Science (NAAS)

and

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, Incorporated (Sigma Xi)

I. Purpose & Scope

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is to establish a long-term coalition for partnership between NAAS and Sigma Xi, two large and broad science organizations that promote scientific research and STEM education. We mutually resolve to form this relationship to promote, protect, and improve all aspects of science, assuring the highest standards of ethical behavior and research quality.

II. Background

Over the past year, the leadership of Sigma Xi and NAAS has held several conversations leading up to the implementation of this more formal relationship. This MOU is intended to seek the means and then actions within the guidelines of our separate corporate constructs to jointly enrich our memberships and the public at-large a full array of partnership opportunities in Membership, Programs, Publications and Communications, and Science Policy.

III. The Organizations

NAAS

The purposes of the National Association of Academies of Science (NAAS) are to (1) provide an organization for the promotion through mutual cooperation of the common aims and purposes of the several state and municipal academies and other organizations with similar goals and objectives; (2) provide appropriate means for consultation on topics and issues of interest or concern to academies with a view to aiding all in their common purposes and their

accomplishments, and (3) sponsor the American Junior Academy of Science (AJAS). NAAS' mission is to empower, enhance, serve, and support state and regional academies of science, including the activities of the American Junior Academy of Science, and NAAS' vision is to foster science and technology leadership, learning, and literacy in state and regional communities.

Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society

The international honor society of science and engineering, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society has over 277,000 members who were elected to membership based on their research potential or achievements. More than 500 Sigma Xi chapters in North America and around the world provide a supportive environment for interdisciplinary research at colleges and universities, industry research centers and government laboratories. More than 200 members have won the Nobel Prize. Founded in 1886, Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, Incorporated is a not-for-profit 501(c) (3) organization and its primary website is www.sigmaxi.org

Sigma Xi's mission is to enhance the health of the research enterprise, foster integrity in science and engineering, and promote the public's understanding of science for the purpose of improving the human condition. Sigma Xi publishes the award-winning bimonthly magazine, *American Scientist*, which traces its origins back to 1913. The Sigma Xi Grants-in-Aid of Research program has invested in the future of science since 1922 by awarding small research grants to over 30,000 graduate and undergraduate students.

IV. Joint Actions and Responsibilities

Proposed Actions

Membership

1. Promote and execute a joint membership option to provide mutual membership enrichment including access to Sigma Xi Chapters and participation in state academy activities. Emphasis would be placed upon professional development and recognition for young researchers and early career professionals.
2. Explore the possibilities of NAAS providing recommendations for Sigma Xi induction and for Sigma Xi to provide the names of outstanding individuals for consideration in the state academies.

Programs

1. Enable joint efforts on education outreach and promote high school scientific research opportunities to teachers and students, such as the NAAS's efforts through the AJAS

and the Sigma Xi's *Explorers* and *High School Clubs* and its *American Scientist for High Schools* program.

2. Establish joint programming with chapters and NAAS/ state academy affiliates.
3. Involve the *Sigma Xi Experts* program in the NAAS state-level policy initiatives.
4. Integrate NAAS affiliated academies into Sigma Xi's state-level science policy platform, activities, and its science policy bootcamp.
5. Coordinate an effort for Sigma Xi members and chapters to work with the NAAS academies of science to organize research symposia.
6. Explore options and methods for cross promotion of events possibly including such interactions as:
 - a joint Sigma Xi/NAAS session on a topic of choice at each organization's annual events
 - Sigma Xi sponsored speech on ethics and integrity at NAAS annual events
 - promotion of Sigma Xi's distinguished lecturers to the state academies' annual events and discussion of subsidization when Sigma Xi chapters are involved
 - Provide an AJAS delegation to IFoRE
7. Invite other organizations into partnership (e.g., CUR, NSPN, STPF)
8. Secure funding to build network of NAAS/Sigma XI chapters
9. Identify Sigma Xi members as keynote speakers for the NAAS Annual Meeting

Other Responsibilities

Dispute Resolution

In the event of a disagreement under this MOU, the Participants intend to negotiate to resolve the disagreement in good faith.

Publicity

The Participants intend to work together and coordinate appropriate publicity in support of the collaborative and its activities. They propose, among other things, that a press release be created for publication announcing the signing of this MOU and subsequent projects. Both Participants must approve any communications and/or press releases referencing NAAS and Sigma Xi in writing.

Effective Date, Duration, and Termination

This MOU is effective from the date of execution by both Participants for a period of one year. The duration may be extended beyond the agreed upon time frame if both Participants agree in writing. In addition, this MOU may be amended if both Participants agree in writing. Either Participant may terminate this MOU at any time upon advance written notice to the other, with such termination becoming effective upon the date set forth in such written notice.

Funding & Legal Effect

Nothing in this MOU shall be construed as superseding or interfering in any way with other agreements or contracts entered into either prior to or subsequent to the signing of this MOU. The Participants further specifically acknowledge that this MOU is not an obligation

of funds, nor does it constitute a legally binding commitment by either Participant or create any rights in any third party.

This Memorandum of Understanding will remain in effect until either party terminates the agreement. Both parties agree to pursue their responsibilities as outlined in this agreement to the best of their abilities. Termination can occur for any reason by either party without advanced notice.

For the National Association of Academies of Science

Ilyse Shapiro

Title: Executive Director


Date 6/1/23

For Sigma Xi, The Scientific Research Honor Society, Incorporated:

Jamie L. Vernon, Ph.D.

Title: Executive Director/CEO


Date: 05/31/2023