

**Meeting Report of the
U.S. Advisory Committee for Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC)**

9-13 August 2021

Virtual Meeting

**U.S. Advisory Committee for
Scientific Ocean Drilling (USAC) Meeting
August 9-13, 2021
Virtual Meeting – Roster**

Committee Members

Marta Torres (Chair)	Oregon State University
Stephanie Carr	Hartwick College
Peter Clift	Louisiana State University
Justin Dodd	Northern Illinois University
Michael Gurnis	California Institute of Technology
Don Haas	Paleontological Research Institution
Kathie Marsaglia	California State University Northridge
Cecilia McHugh	Queens College/SUNY
Suzanne O’Connell	Wesleyan University
Rebecca Robinson	University of Rhode Island
*Mitch Schulte	NASA Headquarters
Geoff Wheat	University of Alaska Fairbanks

Liaisons, Observers & Guests

Jamie Allan	NSF
Carl Brenner	USSSP – LDEO
Karl Castillo	NSF
Laurel Childress	JRSO
Gail Christeson	SEP
Sharon Cooper	USSSP – LDEO
Carol Cotterill	USSSP – LDEO
Bob Hautman	NSF
Larry Krissek	JRFB
Mitch Malone	JRSO
Clive Neal	JRFB
Lisa Rom	NSF
Angela Slagle	USSSP – LDEO
James Spencer	USSSP – LDEO

Schlanger Fellows

Sarah McGrath	Brown University
Nicolette Meyer	Stanford University
Nick Sullivan	University of Wisconsin-Madison
Courtney Wagner	University of Utah
Yuxin Zhou	Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory

*Partial regrets

Consensus Statements and Action Items: USAC Summer Meeting 2021 (Virtual)

Consensus Statement 2021.08-1: USAC recognizes and commends the JRSO's extraordinary efforts to maximize the use of the JR towards delivering the highest possible scientific return in spite of the Covid pandemic, including the challenge posed by the high transmissivity of the Delta variant. USAC applauds the members of the JRSO technical staff for their amazing performance at sea. The flexibility, responsiveness, and professionalism of all JRSO and SIEM personnel is highly appreciated.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-2: USAC recognizes the profound contributions of Brad Clement to the success of scientific ocean drilling during his 12 years as JRSO Director and wishes him the best in his retirement. At the same time, USAC welcomes the new leadership team led by the incoming JRSO director Mitch Malone and thanks them for their longstanding dedication and willingness to serve the community.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-3: USAC applauds the research and presentations of the five 2020-21 Schlanger Fellows, Sarah McGrath, Nicolette Meyer, Nick Sullivan, Courtney Wagner, and Yuxin Zhou, all of whom have conducted engaging and exciting science. Their efforts are even more commendable in light of the challenges posed by the Covid pandemic, and exemplify the important role that early career researchers have in ensuring a bright future for scientific ocean drilling.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-4: USAC applauds USSSP's initiative in developing the novel project program and its solicitation, funding, and review protocols. We look forward to reviewing community responses in terms of project scope, participant demographics, and the results of their efforts.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-5: USAC thanks USSSP for incorporating statements on expected behavioral standards (e.g., the IODP Code of Conduct) into all USSSP-funded activities, such as workshops and science communication efforts.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-6: USAC thanks USSSP for its various efforts to enhance Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) in scientific ocean drilling by including language supporting a commitment to DEI in applications to sail and calls for workshop proposals. Particularly valuable are: 1) the modification of the Application to Sail process to disclose the intention to share demographic data with reviewers in order to facilitate shipboard diversity; and 2) the request that workshop proponents detail DEI efforts in workshop proposals.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-7: USAC thanks USSSP for its ongoing efforts to collect data on the demographics of past and future participants in various ongoing science communication activities, such as School of Rock and the JR Academy, and encourages USSSP to continue these

efforts so as to assess and more systematically track future efforts involving the enhancement of diversity through broader participation in scientific ocean drilling.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-8: USAC thanks USSSP for its strategic efforts in enhancing science communication through various mechanisms, presentations, and assessment tools, particularly those reaching underrepresented communities. We appreciate the short video being produced to highlight aspects of living and working within the scientific ocean drilling community, which may serve as both an inspiration and reference by those seeking to apply for jobs and engage in scientific ocean drilling-related activities.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-9: USAC thanks the Facility Business Plan Working Group for its efforts to explore new and innovative financial models for potentially operating a globally ranging U.S. scientific ocean drilling vessel, and looks forward to the WG report at the next USAC meeting. USAC encourages the group to liaise with the newly constituted steering committee working on generating the Science Mission Requirements (SMRs) for a new U.S. drilling vessel, as there are clear linkages regarding the needs and prioritization objectives between these two groups.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-10: USAC thanks the Legacy Data Working Group for its progress towards narrowing the scope of potential strategies to use available data and cores to advance ocean drilling research. USAC also fully supports proposed strategies to coordinate efforts with the JRFB virtual expedition working group, and thanks Larry Krissek for volunteering to serve as liaison between the USAC and JRFB working groups. USAC looks forward to the Legacy Data WG report at the next USAC meeting.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-11: USAC thanks and applauds the Education and Outreach Workshop Steering Committee and Carol Ormand (SERC) for the highly successful implementation of three online IMPACT workshops in the summer of 2021, which targeted Public Engagement, Policy Makers, and the Next Generation, and looks forward to receiving the final workshop report at the next USAC meeting.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-12: USAC thanks the Science Framework Communications Working Group for its progress in generating materials focused on the vision of scientific ocean drilling as described in the 2050 Science Framework. USAC endorses the coordination of effort with participants at the IMPACT Policy Makers workshop in order to identify the best approaches for efficient messaging to this audience. USAC looks forward to the completion of these resources, which will be of value to ongoing efforts by various working groups and the community at large.

Consensus Statement 2021.08-13: USAC and USSSP thank outgoing USAC members Peter Clift, Don Haas, Suzanne O'Connell, and Kathie Marsaglia, and wish Kathie great success in her new role as SEP-co-chair-elect. USAC and USSSP also thank outgoing USAC Chair Marta Torres for her exceptional leadership during her term. The U.S. IODP community has benefited remarkably from her expertise, enthusiasm, and conscientiousness.

Action Item 2021.08-1: USAC endorses the constitution by USSSP of a steering committee to guide the effort towards generating Science Mission Requirements (SMRs) for a new U.S. drilling vessel, to be co-chaired by USAC Chair-elect Becky Robinson and populated in part by 3-4 USAC members. USAC recommends that USSSP, USAC, JRFB and NSF leadership begin discussions in preparation for a steering committee-led SMR workshop, with an eye toward developing a suitable mechanism for input on the needs and priorities of the US community for the new drilling platform.

Action Item 2021.08-2: USAC recommends that USSSP consider modifications to the conceptualization of the Onboard Outreach Program to include the ability of science communications specialists to work from shore in concert with onboard specialists. USAC encourages sailing a science communication specialist on all expeditions, even those staffed at reduced levels, but recognizes that this may not always be possible. When sailing a science communication specialist is not an option, USAC recommends that funds be made available for the specialist to travel to the ship's port call to engage with and offer communications training to other members of the science party.

Action Item 2021.08-3: USAC recognizes the valuable contributions of a professional educator as a full USAC member. We ask USSSP to issue a special call for a professional educator to serve on the Science Communication Subcommittee as an additional full member to the committee. The applicants will be evaluated by USAC members with a decision in time for the new member to join the committee by October 1.