

**National Living Laboratory 2015 Academic Cohort Meeting**  
**March 18, 2015, 2:00pm-5:00pm**  
**Pennsylvania Convention Center**

The goal of the meeting was to bring together scientists actively engaged in Living Laboratory partnerships with museums to learn about their collaborations and to discuss next steps in ensuring strong and sustainable collaborations. Scientists from 21 laboratories, representing 14 academic organizations in ten states, participated by presenting their work with museums and engaging in conversation, while many others joined us via webinar.

It was a pleasure to be joined by two National Science Foundation (NSF) program officers, Laura Namy, Ph.D., (Directorate for Social, Behavioral and Economic Sciences - SBE) and Julie Johnson, Ph.D. (Directorate for Education and Human Resources - EHR). Laura and Julie heard directly from collaborators across the country, and presented an overview of SBE and EHR, including how Living Laboratory collaborations are positioned within and across the two directorates and particular NSF funding opportunities available to adopters of the model. Living Laboratory impacts a wide range of public (visitors) and professional audiences (including museum educators and undergraduate and graduate students), making collaborators in our network eligible for many different solicitations through NSF.

Laura and Julie also shared thoughts from the cognizant program officer for the Living Laboratory project at NSF, Al DeSena, Ph.D. (Directorate for Education and Human Resources – EHR), who was unable to attend the meeting. Al shared his own perspective on Living Laboratory via written comments, which included the following: “It has been such a pleasure to have been the cognizant program officer for both awards to the Museum of Science and their colleagues around the country for the Living Lab project. Watching the progress, the growth and accomplishments unfold over the years has been extremely gratifying...and not only for me, but for NSF in general since the project has received considerable attention and acclaim at NSF.”