

# Agenda



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- Introduction and Purpose of Meeting – Sarah Ruth, ANT
- Personnel Changes, Positions in ANT – Sarah Ruth
- ANT Updates – Sarah Ruth
- Antarctic Research Vessel Update – Tim McGovern, AIL
- National Academies Study on Science in Southern Oceans – Dave Porter, ANT
- CHIPS and Science, Budget Outlook – Jim Ulvestad, OPP
- Constraining Factors for Upcoming Antarctic Field Seasons – Jim Ulvestad
- Additional OPP Announcements and Issues – Jim Ulvestad
- SAHPR – Anita Molina, OECR
- Q&A - All

## Antarctic Sciences (ANT) Section – Meet our POs



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- Becky Gast and Will Ambrose – Antarctic Organisms & Ecosystems
- Mike Jackson – Antarctic Earth Sciences
- Vladimir Papitashvili – Antarctic Astrophysics & Geospace Sciences
- Allen Pope – Polar Cyberinfrastructure
- Dave Porter – Antarctic Ocean & Atmospheric Sciences
- Kelly Brunt – Polar Glaciology
- Paul Cutler – Antarctic Glaciology

*Shared Expertise among ANT Program Officers*  
Antarctic Integrated Systems Sciences  
Antarctic Instruments & Facilities

# ANT Science Support



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- **OPP DCL NSF 23-117:** the upcoming 2023-2024 Antarctic season will be significantly curtailed (more on that to follow).
  - ANT POs have been working with affected PIs to mitigate long-term impacts – e.g. revised project plans, support for early-career researchers and students, data analysis and reuse.
  - ANT is continuing to fund new projects as in previous years, including many with fieldwork.
- **ANT solicitations**
  - Office of Polar Programs Postdoctoral Research Fellowships (OPP-PRF), NSF 22-635 - Next deadline: February 5, 2024
  - Solicitation for Antarctic Research Not Requiring U.S. Antarctic Program (USAP) Field Support, NSF 23-508 - No Deadline
  - Antarctic Research requiring fieldwork – expect to revise to align with DCL

# OPP DCL NSF 23-117: 2023 Update on Science Support and Infrastructure in Antarctica



- Due to compounding constraints, the upcoming 2023-2024 Antarctic season will be significantly curtailed.
- For the next three field seasons (August 2023 through March 2026), already-funded science projects will be prioritized to the greatest extent possible.
- While OPP will continue to accept proposals involving fieldwork, USAP will not be able to support science exceeding Logistics Support Level 2.
  - Level 2: fieldwork that can easily be accommodated & do not require heavy airlift on continent or South Pole deployments



# Antarctic Research Vessel (ARV) Update



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- Developing bridge positioning, and possibility of a “conning” tower
- Main deck continues to evolve, focusing on incubation spaces, location of marine tech workshop, crane requirements, etc.
- Model testing: seakeeping
- 5th Interim Design Review (IDR) will be held in August

[www.future.usap.gov/arv](http://www.future.usap.gov/arv)



# NASEM Study Update



## ***“Future Direction for Southern Ocean and Antarctic Nearshore and Coastal Research”***

- Identify the highest-priority science drivers for Southern Ocean and Antarctic nearshore and coastal research, based on prior studies and reports. Consider both near- and long-term science priorities.
- Determine the capabilities that are essential to support these science drivers. In a resource-constrained environment, what are the potential tradeoffs among highly specialized and general capabilities? Or among costly vs less expensive capabilities?
  - Consider other U.S. fleet capabilities and potential partnerships with other countries
  - Assess current and emerging tools, technologies, and approaches (e.g., under ice ROVs and AUVs, drones, ship-capable drilling platforms) that can be used to support the science drivers and/or extend ship capabilities
- Note any gaps between the science drivers and the proposed portfolio of capabilities and discuss how NSF might address them.

# NSF Appropriations – FY 2022/2023



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	FY 2022 Actual	FY 2023 Base	FY 2023 Disaster Relief	FY 2023 Total	FY 2024 Request
NSF Total (disc.)	\$8,676	\$9,877	\$1,038	\$10,109	\$11,355
R&RA	\$6,965	\$7,006	\$821	\$7,827	\$9,018
GEO	\$1,580	\$1,577	\$36	\$1,613	\$1,802
OPP	\$545	\$545	\$0	\$545	\$566
(USALS)	\$85	\$94	\$0	\$94	\$102

- All numbers in millions of dollars (e.g., \$545 is \$545 million)
- (USALS) = US Antarctic Logistical Support = funding for DoD support (aircraft, cargo, fuel tanker)
- FY 2023 “Disaster Relief Supplemental” includes base funding plus targeted funding responding to CHIPS and Science.



# Congressional Marks, FY 2024



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	FY 2023 Total	FY 2024 Request	FY 2024 House Mark	FY 2024 Senate Mark
NSF Total (disc.)	\$9,877	\$11,355	\$9,631	\$9,500
R&RA	\$7,827	\$9,018	\$7,867	\$7,608
GEO	\$1,613	\$1,802	---	---
OPP	\$545	\$566	---	---
(USALS)	\$94	\$102	---	---

- All numbers in millions of dollars (e.g., \$545 is \$545 million)
- Committee markups do not break down funding for individual directorates and programs.



# Upcoming Antarctic Field Season



- COVID flare-up in 2022/23 field season caused more projects to be deferred, leading to a higher-than-expected backlog.
- NSF published a Dear Colleague Letter in June outlining types of projects that can be supported in upcoming years.
  - Update to similar letter published in April 2022.
- COVID protocols for upcoming Antarctic season.
  - Following CDC guidelines with minor variations.
    - "Everyone aged 6 years and older should get **1 updated Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna COVID-19 vaccine** to be up to date." (CDC, June 5, 2023)
  - Convened a subcommittee of OPP Advisory Committee to advise on draft protocols.
  - Consistent with ongoing Arctic protocols, accounting for different circumstances.
  - Also published in June.

# Constraining Factors - 1



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- Budget
  - Limited flight hours, reduced helicopter support, increasing personnel and fuel costs
- Bed space in McMurdo (and South Pole)
  - McMurdo pressure may be relieved somewhat in 2025/2026 season

# AIMS Lodging Construction



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# Constraining Factors - 2



- Stressed and aging infrastructure
  - Significant backlog due to COVID
  - Example: South Pole utility tunnel
  - Increased downtime of LC-130H fleet
- Congress has appropriated \$60 million for Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization program in FY 2023
  - Lead time for beginning improvements on the ice is a minimum of 2 years at McMurdo, 3-4 years at South Pole.

# Antarctic Infrastructure Recapitalization (AIR)



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- Early AIR projects:

South Pole Blue Building Raise



South Pole Critical Infrastructure Remediation



Traverse Fleet Refresh



# Additional Issues



- PQ—new website, piloting electronic submission
- South Pole master planning process
- SAHPR Updates



# NSF's Sexual Assault and Harassment Prevention and Response (SAHPR) Office



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- The SAHPR Office was established in September 2022.
  - NSF publicly released the USAP SAHPR Needs Assessment Report in August 2022.
  - In September 2022, the NSF Director, Dr. Panchanathan, established the agency's SAHPR Program Office within NSF's Office of Equity and Civil Rights (OECR).
- NSF's SAHPR Office is the single communication point for sexual assault and harassment matters.
  - The office is committed to promoting safe and inclusive research environments by eliminating sexual assault and sexual harassment.
  - Please email [saferscience@nsf.gov](mailto:saferscience@nsf.gov) to file a report, submit a complaint, ask questions, or make suggestions.
- The SAHPR Office's focus areas include:
  - Prevention education
  - Victim-centered support
  - Retaliation-free reporting
  - Organizational accountability

# Completed SAHPR Actions



## 1. Improved Training

- a. New training module for USAP participants, with a focus on bystander intervention.
- b. Customized supplemental training for supervisors and other key stakeholders.

## 2. Antarctic Site Presence (2022-2023 Austral Summer Season)

- a. Conducted in-person and virtual listening sessions for community input on SAHPR (sessions for current and past USAP community members).
- b. Held Town Halls with NSF and NSB Leadership at McMurdo and South Pole.

## 3. SAHPR Support Resources for Victims

- a. Established 24/7 on-ice victim's advocate to support the community.
- b. Launched NSF Antarctic Helpline - immediate crisis intervention and emotional support (24/7 call, text, online chat support).

# Ongoing and Upcoming SAHPR Actions



## **1. USAP Climate Survey (Launching in the coming months)**

## **2. Increased Vetting**

- a. Established enhanced screening procedures for contractors (Similar to those for federal employees)
- b. Increased number of USAP contractors subject to enhanced background investigations

## **3. Expanding Training and Toolkits**

## **4. Benchmarking and Identifying SAHPR Best Practices**

## **5. Establishing SAHPR Office Strategies**

- a. Working to stand up sexual assault and sexual harassment prevention and response strategies across USAP and the NSF enterprise



# Ongoing and Upcoming SAHPR Actions



## **6. Expanding Support Resources**

- a. Explore expanding support resources for victims of sexual assault/harassment and culture change

## **7. Developing Comprehensive SAHPR Communications**

## **8. Improving Case Management Tracking System**

## **9. Exploring Contract Support for SAHPR Priorities**

## **10. Planning Future SAHPR Presence in Antarctica**

# Key Takeaways – NSF SAHPR Office



- Committed to combatting sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Work to prevent sexual violence or sexual misconduct.
- Handle allegations of sexual assault and sexual harassment.
- Provide support and resources for victims.
- Prioritize confidentiality.

**If you have any feedback or questions for the SAHPR Office, please send an email to [saferscience@nsf.gov](mailto:saferscience@nsf.gov).**

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