



# Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) Virtual Office Hour

Today's topic: OPUS

Welcome to the DEB Virtual Office Hour.  
We will begin soon.

Please submit questions via the Q&A button  
available to you on ZOOM. Please set to  
“Send anonymously”

# Division of Environmental Biology (DEB) Virtual Office Hour – Welcome!

## Program Officers in attendance today

- Matt Olson – Evolutionary Processes (matolson@nsf.gov)
- Kendra McLauchlan – Ecosystem Sciences (kmclauch@nsf.gov)
- Ford Ballantyne – Ecosystem Sciences (fballant@nsf.gov)
- Leslie Rissler – Evolutionary Processes (lrissler@nsf.gov)
- Amanda Ingram – Systematics and Biodiversity Science (aingram@nsf.gov)
- Dan Gruner – Population and Community Ecology (dgruner@nsf.gov)

**Facilitators** – Christina Washington, Bill Lawson, and Megan Lewis



# Recent Solicitations and DCLs

Find links to all recent solicitations and Dear Colleague Letters at the bottom of the DEB webpage (WebSearch: NSF DEB) under Funding Opportunities and Popular Links

**Remember** – Core DEB solicitation (20-502) has no deadlines and no submission limits.

- DCL 20-050 - Critical Aspects of Sustainability (CAS): Micro- and Nanoplastics EAGER proposals
- **NSF 20-525** – Faculty Early Career Development Program (CAREER) – **Deadline July 27**
- **NSF 19-584** - Opportunities for Promoting Understanding through Synthesis (OPUS)- **Deadline August 3**
- **NSF 20-542** - Historically Black Colleges and Universities – Excellence in Research – **LOI due July 23**
- DCL 20-038 - Developing New Research Collaborations Between Evolutionary Biologists and LTER Scientists
- DCL 19-059 - Research Opportunities Related to Coastlines and People (CoPe)
- DCL 20-033 - Developing and Supporting the National Ecology Observatory Network (NEON) User Community
- **NSF 20-532** – Enhancing Discovery through GEnomics Tools (EDGE) – **No deadline**





# DEB Virtual Office Hour

- DEB Office Hours: second Monday of each month, 1-2 pm EST

Today: OPUS

Upcoming Topics:

July: Break

August 10: CNH2: Dynamics of Integrated Socio-Environmental Systems

September 14: Macrosystems Biology and NEON-Enabled Science (MSB-NES)

Oct 19: BIO Post Docs



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- For specific questions about your project, please contact a Program Director



# Opportunities for Promoting Understanding through Synthesis (OPUS)

- Solicitation [20-564](#)
- **Deadline August 3, 2020**
  - First Monday in August, Annually Thereafter
- Opportunity for an individual or a group of investigators to synthesize their prior research or data they have previously collected
- Appropriate for scientists at any career stage and for any synthetic activities
- All four clusters within DEB (Ecosystem Science, Evolutionary Processes, Population and Community Ecology, and Systematics and Biodiversity Science) encourage the submission of OPUS proposals



# Opportunities for Promoting Understanding through Synthesis (OPUS)

- The eligibility for groups of collaborating investigators has been broadened.
- New guidelines on the Data Management Plan
- Project Description is 10 pages
  - Three special sections are required
- Anticipated award size is \$175,000-\$350,000
- Project duration is up to 24 months
- Products have been scientific papers, monographs, software, websites, books, films, synthesized datasets, or databases



# Data Management Plan

Synthesis efforts often include data aggregation and harmonization of existing large and heterogeneous datasets accumulated by investigator(s). Data must be:

- well documented, archived, digitized
- disseminated broadly, publicly available, using community-accepted electronic data and metadata

Data and digital products should be identified, and the following described for *each* of them, if applicable:

- Format and standard of primary data;
- Metadata to be collected and disseminated with the primary data;
- Timetable of release of ALL data, consistent with privacy and other concerns regarding sensitive information;
- Public repository to be used;
- License for use, with an emphasis on open source licenses such as MIT and GPL;
- Any constraints on release, which must be clearly justified; and
- Person(s) responsible for the release.

All software and code must be in a versioned code repository (e.g., GitHub, BitBucket).

Additional guidance about the development of Data Management plans, including domain-specific guidance, is provided by BIO: [https://www.nsf.gov/bio/pubs/BIODMP\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.nsf.gov/bio/pubs/BIODMP_Guidance.pdf)





# Mid-career synthesis

- FY19 solicitation described a Mid-Career Synthesis track and several awards were made.
  - This track was an opportunity for a mid-career researcher, defined as a candidate at the associate professor rank (or equivalent) to enhance or develop new research capabilities through collaboration with a mentor
- This was removed from the current OPUS solicitation.
- We anticipate a standalone funding opportunity for Mid-Career stage researchers in FY21.



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