

# LETTER OF INTENT TO ESTABLISH THE METASCIENCE ALLIANCE

This nonbinding Letter of Intent serves to confirm the interest of [Insert Name of Organisation] to join the founding group of organisations supporting the establishment of the *Metascience Alliance*.

## Background

### **Why is a *Metascience Alliance* needed?**

Slowly, then all at once, metascience is exploding into the mainstream! After developing a foundational base of steadily rising interest over the past 10 years, groups and organizations from many sectors are realising the potential of metascience - using the tools of research to understand and improve the norms, cultures, and practices of research itself - and committing to a metascientific future.

To truly realise this potential, lightweight cross-sector collaboration and coordination is needed.

Representatives from 14 metascience organisations met in November 2024 for an initial visioning meeting to explore how founding a *Metascience Alliance* could achieve this. Following this event, the *Metascience Alliance* has developed from a concept into a clear opportunity.

### **What is the *Metascience Alliance*?**

*A global community of diverse stakeholders collaborating to improve research for everyone.*

The *Metascience Alliance* is a new global, cross-sector, and interdisciplinary network for organisations and individuals to understand, improve, and reimagine research to maximize its impact.

The mission is to build community, develop workforce, and enable metascience research and innovation across sectors and disciplines worldwide. This will be achieved by the delivery of a program of innovative activities that bring cross-sector groups together and enable collaboration.

The *Metascience Alliance* is being catalysed by the Center for Open Science, which has provided funding for program management support for a two-year pilot period ending December 31, 2026. While this provides a foundation to build on, further support is required to achieve the Alliance's full potential. The goal is for the network to demonstrate its value during the project period and transition to a self-sustaining model following this period.

During a two-year pilot phase, we are establishing the following organizational structure:

- A **founding group of supporting organisations** representing a broad range of stakeholder groups will commit to contributing to the establishment of the *Metascience Alliance*.
- An **Interim Steering Committee** formed from the founding group of organisations is charged with developing and implementing the governance and sustainability models for the *Metascience Alliance*. The founding group of organisations will be consulted on the development of these models. These models will ensure continuation of Alliance activities beyond the pilot period. The transition from this interim committee to the post-pilot model will occur over 2026.
- An **Activities Subcommittee** formed from the founding group of organisations is charged with leading the selection, development, and delivery of activities. The founding group of organisations will be consulted on the development of these activities and invited to co-develop and co-deliver activities as appropriate. This committee is also interim, with the transition to the new model for sustainable activity delivery to occur over 2026.

### **How can your organisation get involved with the *Metascience Alliance*?**

There are currently multiple ways to sign up, show support, and get involved - and more options will be announced in the lead up to the launch.

For example:

- Join the launch event (at Metascience 2025 Conference) or introductory webinars
- Join the founding group of supporting organisations by signing this Letter of Intent
- Join the mailing list to stay updated

### **When is the *Metascience Alliance* launching?**

The Metascience Alliance goes live on July 2nd, launching at the Metascience 2025 Conference, the biggest, most diverse metascience summit in history.

Through coordination with the conference organisers, the Metascience Alliance will be heavily represented in programming across the conference's final day, providing the *Alliance* with a global launchpad. We aim to build momentum immediately following the conference's close.

### **Founding Principles**

It is currently anticipated that the *Metascience Alliance* will operate in line with the foundational principles set out below. We expect that these principles will be further developed during the pilot period in consultation with the founding group of supporting organisations.

Subject to availability of resources and consistent with their own policies, we anticipate that the founding group of supporting organisations will work together to ensure that the *Metascience Alliance*:

- Serves the **public good**.

- Is **independent** from any single funder, founding organisation, or category of stakeholder.
- Is **open and inclusive** towards individuals and organisations from underrepresented countries, communities, disciplines, and sectors.
- Promotes **openness, transparency and collaboration** in research practice, research structures, and research information.
- **Connects and supports existing communities** globally in order to maximise opportunity and minimise duplication of effort.
- Focuses on **connections across stakeholder groups** and activities that individual groups would struggle to do alone or are outside the direct remit of these groups.
- Follows a **metascientific approach** - iterating on processes and sharing learnings to enable evidence-informed decision making.
- Is **sustainable** and positioned for **ongoing success** beyond the pilot period.

### Value and Contributions

The founding group of supporting organisations agrees to contribute to establishing and developing the *Metascience Alliance*. These contributions will vary based on organisational competencies, interests, and capacity. Examples include:

- Contributing to the development and/or implementation of the *Metascience Alliance* governance and sustainability models.
- Financially supporting *Metascience Alliance* development.
- Contributing to the development and/or delivery of *Metascience Alliance* activities.
- Enabling staff to participate in *Metascience Alliance* activities.
- Sharing and engaging with *Metascience Alliance* communications/announcements.

**By signing this Letter of Intent, the below-referenced organisation acknowledges:**

- **its intent to join the founding group of organisations supporting the *Metascience Alliance*.**
- **its intent to work collaboratively with the other founding organisations to establish and develop the *Metascience Alliance*.**
- **that their organisation's name and logo can be used for *Metascience Alliance* communications announcing the formation of this group and can be displayed on the *Metascience Alliance* website.**

This Letter of Intent is not intended to and does not create any legally binding financial or other obligation on the part of the signatory organisation or between the signatory organisation and the *Metascience Alliance* or any of the founding organisations and does not establish a joint venture, partnership, association or other entity. The exact terms of membership—including conditions, fees, and other details—will be agreed upon in plenary with the founding group of supporting organisations in the period following the launch. No financial contribution is expected at this stage.

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Title:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Organisation:** \_\_\_\_\_