

April 26, 2022

Dear Colleagues,

I write to you with an invitation and a call to action: join your colleagues from 65 institutions, representing 1.8 million faculty, staff, and students, by becoming a member of [HELIOS: Higher Education Leadership Initiative for Open Scholarship](#). Now is the time for colleges and universities to support open scholarship, sharing research results of all kinds openly as early as practical. Together, we have a tremendous opportunity to operationalize and harmonize open scholarship practices and incentives.

HELIOS members are committed to collective action to advance open scholarship within and across their campuses. Emerging from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine's [Roundtable on Aligning Incentives for Open Science](#), HELIOS is a unique community of practice focused on promoting a more transparent, inclusive, and trustworthy research ecosystem. I am serving as the Strategic Lead for HELIOS, and the project is co-chaired by Roslyn Artis, Michael Crow, and Ron Daniels, the Presidents of Benedict College, Arizona State University, and Johns Hopkins University.

Now is the perfect time to join. HELIOS members convened on March 31st to kick off work and discuss pragmatic ways to promote open scholarship efficiently and at scale. During that meeting, participants expressed interest in collaborating on the following key areas:

- Drafting guidance for students and faculty to clearly and succinctly articulate good practices for sharing specific forms of open scholarship (e.g., papers, data).
- Engaging with other key stakeholders (e.g., government agencies, philanthropies, professional societies, publishers) to align open scholarship policies and incentives.
- Collaborating with other institutions on shared resourcing and infrastructure.
- Identifying policy language that can be adapted and adopted by institutions as a whole or by individual schools/departments, centers, and institutes on our campuses.

HELIOS member institutions ([see list here](#)) are currently self-selecting working groups and will convene over the coming months to begin scoping priorities and developing testable recommendations. These efforts will inform the next HELIOS member meeting, which will be held later this fall. Where possible, HELIOS activities will build upon the wealth of tools, case studies, and other resources that have been developed across member institutions and the broader research ecosystem, developing complementary outputs as appropriate.

I am pleased to invite your institution to join HELIOS. Membership commitment is straightforward. We simply request that you designate a senior representative who has an interest in open scholarship. This point of contact will represent your school at HELIOS meetings, and connect regularly with both you and others on campus engaged in this issue. **Please respond to this email by May 15th with your nomination of a senior university representative.** We also warmly encourage you to share this letter with colleagues at other institutions.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Geeta Swamy, M.D.

Associate Vice President for Research and Vice Dean for Scientific Integrity and HELIOS Strategic Lead