

UNITED  
STATES  
CULTURE  
COLLECTION  
NETWORK



# THE U.S. CULTURE COLLECTION NETWORK – AN OVERVIEW –

**Kyria Boundy-Mills**  
Steering Committee member

November 3, 2023



# USCCN – A NSF-funded Research Coordination Network



**Bringing together scientists  
working with living microbe  
collections**

Currently in 2<sup>nd</sup> phase

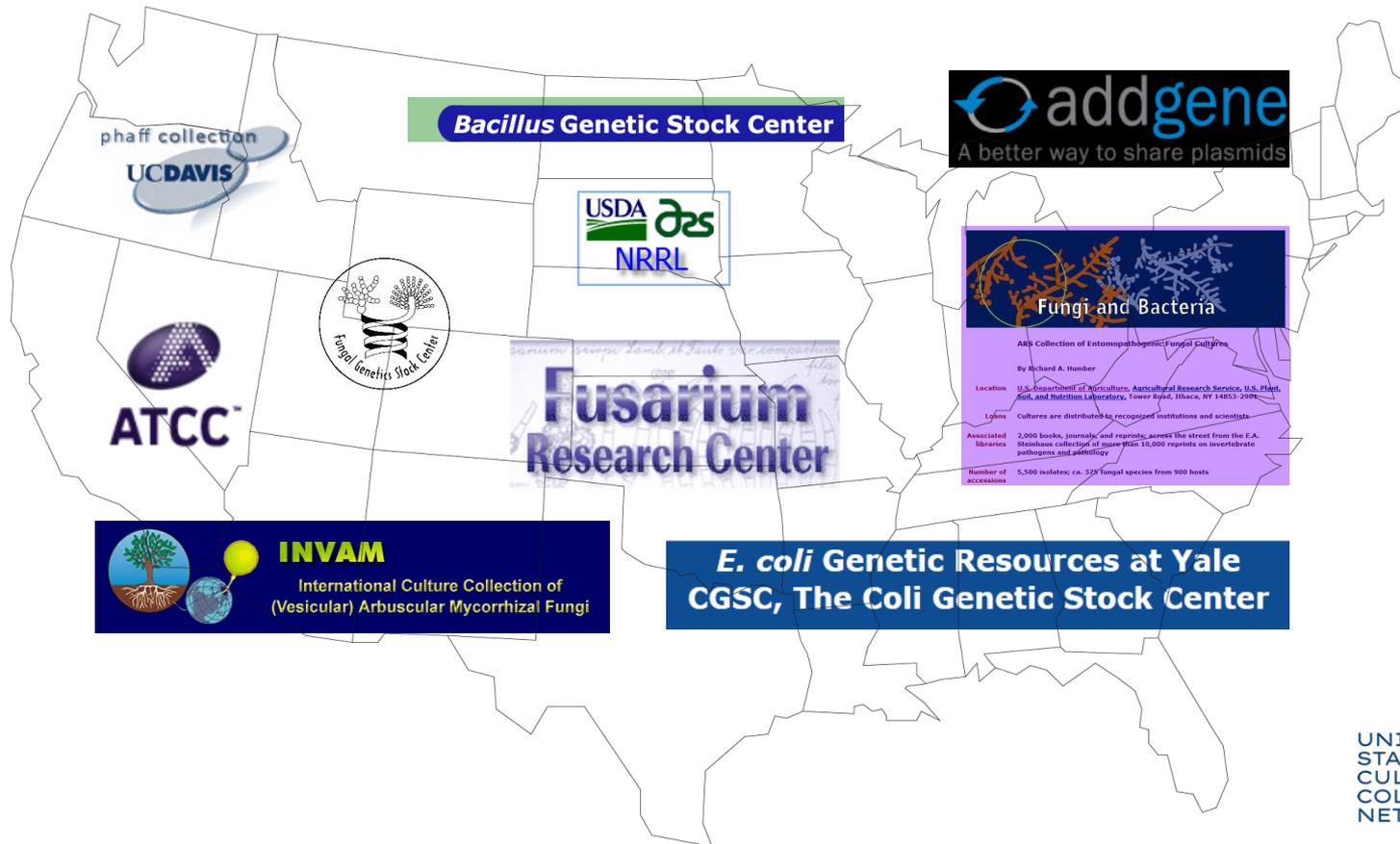
- USCCN 1.0 (2012-2020)
- USCCN 2.0 (2022-2026)



# Culture Collections in the U.S.



While the US has numerous collections, there is no uniform system for supporting microbial germplasm repositories



# Pre-USCCN

- **2007** – Initial workshop to develop an action plan, supported by USDA.
- **2009** – Draft of initial proposal based on workshop outcomes to develop a National Plant Microbial Germplasm System.
- **2010** – USDA-ARS provides financial input and physical infrastructure for microbial national system
- **2011** – APS annual meeting workshop on collections management and best practices



## 2012

**NSF announces support for a Community of ex- situ microbial germplasm repository (USCCN)**



# Mission

Facilitate the safe and responsible utilization of microbial resources for research, education, industry, medicine, and agriculture for the betterment of humankind by providing opportunities for U.S. culture collection workers to engage with each other and with the broader culture collection community.





# Vision

**USCCN seeks to optimize the quality and availability of microbial resources and become a central resource for U.S. microbe culture collections and their users**

# First USCCN meetings



*Fungal Genetics Stock Center  
University of Missouri, Kansas City, MO  
September 6-7, 2012*



*National Center for Agricultural Utilization  
Research, Peoria, IL  
May 30, 2013*

# USCCN 1.0 (2012-2020)

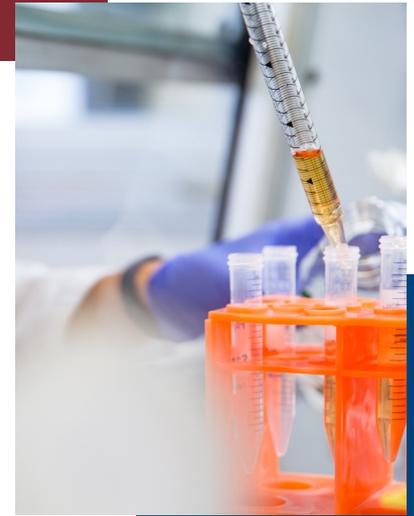
Funded by a NSF Research Coordination Network (RCN) grant

## Accomplishments

- Launched initial engagement with global culture collection community.
- Held meetings, workshops, webinars to promote best practices and to engage the living collection community more broadly nationally and internationally.
- Participated in global meetings (WFCC, MIRRI, International Culture Collection Conference, World Data Centre for Microorganisms)
- Visited U.S. collection centers

## Best Practices

- Use of collection specimens in genome sequencing projects
- Outreach programs, data standards, off-site cryopreserved backup services
- How to preserve endangered collections



# USCCN 2.0 (2022-2026)

## Objectives

- Create and maintain a registry of U.S. microbe collections
- Develop best practices guidelines, protocols, standard operating procedures, and other resources
- Develop processes and methods for preserving orphaned or endangered collections
- Promote Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion practices in the living collection community
- Strengthen and expand contacts among U.S. and international collections and users
- Explore sustainable mechanisms for long-term structure and support for the USCCN



# Structure

## Steering Committee

Identifies priorities for achieving vision and mission of the network and oversees the day-to-day activities.

## Operating Committees

Lead and coordinate specific activities.

## Steering Committee

Collections Registry

Standards & Procedures

Communications, Outreach & Education

Networking

Strategic & Long-term Planning

Membership

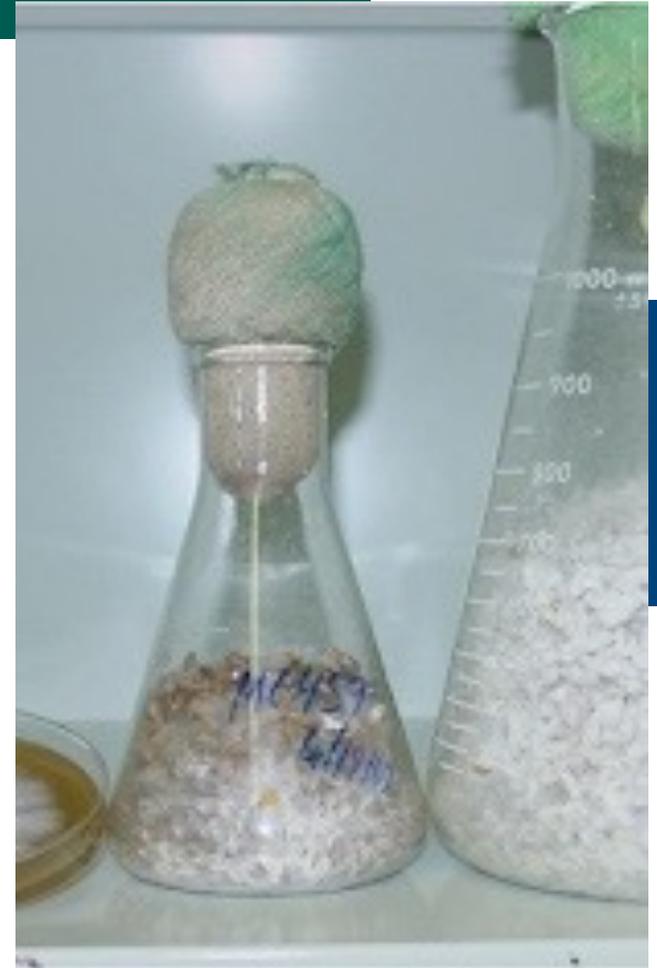
# Activities

## Events

- Workshop at ICPP 2023, Lyon, France
- Webinar on the Need for a Specimen Management Plan Requirement – Organized in collaboration with BCoN
- Webinar: Economic Analyses of Costs & Benefits of Scientific Collections
- Webinar: NSF Funding Opportunities for Scientific Collections – Organized in collaboration with BCoN

## Links with International Networks

- MoU with EU-funded MIRRI network (Nov 2022)
- Discussions with WDCM



**Register to the mailing list at [usccn.org](https://usccn.org) to be informed of upcoming activities.**

# Participate in USCCN

Help advance the quality and availability of microbial resources



**Collections managers: Make your collection visible to the community**

**[usccn.org/culture-collections](https://usccn.org/culture-collections)**

**Collections users: Connect with a community of your peers**

**[usccn.org/user-register](https://usccn.org/user-register)**

# Collections Registry

A searchable database of plant associated, microbial culture collections from universities and government agencies



**Submit your collection**

[usccn.org/culture-collections](https://usccn.org/culture-collections)



# Thank You



[usccn.org](https://usccn.org)



[us-culture-collection-network](https://www.linkedin.com/company/us-culture-collection-network)



[@USCCN3](https://twitter.com/USCCN3)

