



NMDC Newsletter

The Microbiome Standard

-Spring 2024-

Update from the Leadership Team

Following Earth Day, we are excited to share several updates about how the NMDC is advancing environmental microbiome research. We are delighted to welcome 24 early career researchers to our 2024 [Ambassador](#) cohort. We are also excited to share a first [preview](#) of [NMDC Field Notes](#), a mobile application to collect real-time measurements in the field or in the laboratory, and are actively recruiting [beta-testers](#)! We have added new data into the NMDC [Data Portal](#), made improvements to [NMDC EDGE](#) and the [Submission Portal](#), and are pleased to share our [second quarterly report](#) for [DOE's Performance Metrics](#). We invite you to read on to learn more about our activities this past quarter, and our plans as we kick-off a busy Summer.

Announcements

2024 Ambassador Cohort

We are excited to welcome our 2024 cohort of Ambassadors! Their work spans diverse disciplines including marine nematode and coral microbiomes, honeybee microbiomes, soil microbiomes, and gut microbiomes of migratory birds. Learn more about these amazing early career microbiome researchers by visiting the Ambassador [webpage](#) and following us on [LinkedIn](#), [X](#), and [Instagram](#)!



IDEA Working Group Launch

We launched our Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Accountability (IDEA) working group to discuss making microbiome research more equitable, and to gather feedback on our [IDEA Action Plan](#). Check out our latest [blog post](#) discussing our panel at the National Diversity in STEM conference last October. If you are interested in contributing to these efforts, please [join us](#)!

New staff members join the NMDC

We welcome Kaelan Prime, Kaylee Kudish, Sanjay Janarthanan, and Valerie Li to the [NMDC team](#)!

New Publications from our Collaborators

Check out this [publication](#) on the sea cucumber microbiome from the University of Puerto Rico that was facilitated by NMDC EDGE and 2023 NMDC Ambassador Josué Rodríguez-Ramos.

Researchers at Oak Ridge National Laboratory recently [published](#) their 25+ TB dataset about *Populus* tree genotypes and their associated microbiomes. Explore this [study](#) and associated data on the NMDC Data Portal!

Releases

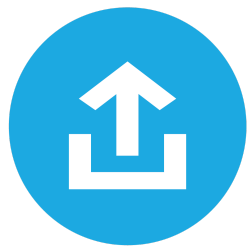
Software updates

In May, we will update legacy identifiers to NMDC minted identifiers for eight studies. For more information on NMDC identifiers and converting between legacy and current identifiers please refer to [this documentation](#).



Introducing the NMDC Field Notes mobile app

- Have you struggled with collecting measurements in the field or lab? Are you wishing for a streamlined way to capture standardized metadata? Now, you can [sample different](#). Earlier this month, we previewed the new NMDC Field Notes mobile app during our [Town Hall](#) at the 2024 [Biological Systems Science Division's Annual PI meeting](#). We are actively recruiting [beta-testers](#) and welcome you to join us in our development process, and plan for a public release in Fall 2024.



Updates to the NMDC Submission Portal

- The Submission Portal [home page](#) got a face lift! Now, you will find a quick start guide, how-to's for submitting, video tutorials, and reference material to help you better navigate submitting study and biosample information.



Workflow updates in NMDC EDGE

- The read-based taxonomy workflow in [NMDC EDGE](#) now includes a fungal GOTCHA2 database. We are also currently working through action items for further improvements outlined by the latest round of beta-testing!



New data in the NMDC Data Portal

- We added 372 samples to the Data Portal, including [NEON aquatic samples](#) and [soil samples](#) from Alaskan permafrost. We also processed 624 natural organic matter datasets for EMSL's [1000 Soils research campaign](#) and for the Alaska permafrost study. Our latest user research and usability testing resulted in 136 insights & 42 action items.

For usability feedback, errors, or questions on all NMDC products and software, please contact us through support@microbiomedata.org.

We hosted a [workshop](#) called *Tools and techniques for promoting open science and biological data reusability* at this year's AAAS meeting in February.



We hosted a [workshop](#) at the Fungal Genetics 2024 conference in Pacific Grove, CA about how the NMDC products can be used in mycology research.

We are actively engaged with the ORCID Community. Our technical lead, Shreyas Cholia, presented an overview of the NMDC at the [OSTI US Government ORCID Consortium](#) Community Call in March. During the session, we discussed our current ORCID integration for federated authentication and plans for the future.

Community Manager Francie Rodriguez attended the [US Indigenous Data Sovereignty Governance Summit](#) in April. She used the opportunity to learn how Indigenous Data governance and Traditional Ecological Knowledge work together to support Indigenous restoration science.

We also attended a [Microbiome workshop](#) at the Lorentz Center at Leiden University in the Netherlands to develop collaborations that will advance the adoption of metaproteomics standards!

Upcoming Events

- We are presenting at the NASA GeneLab Analysis Working Group [Symposium](#) on May 1st about the collaborative partnership we established between the NMDC and NASA GeneLab
- We are hosting a workshop and presenting at this year's [SFAF meeting](#) from May 21-23 in Santa Fe, NM
- We are extremely excited for [ASM Microbe](#) in Atlanta, GA from June 13-17! We are hosting a [mini-conference](#) entitled *Microbial Data and Tools without Borders*:

Advancing an Open Science Ecosystem and Program Lead Emiley Eloë-

Fadrosh is an invited speaker for the [President's Forum](#)

- We will be hosting a workshop at [ASPB's Plant Biology 2024](#) on June 23 in Honolulu, HI
- Registration for the Genomic Standards Consortium Annual Meeting (August 5-9 in Tucson, AZ, [GSC-24](#)) is now open! The theme for the meeting is reproducibility challenges in genomics and includes an additional session on omics data reuse challenges hosted by [IMMSA](#)

Opportunities

Nominations for the [ASM Microbiome Data Prize](#) open May 1st and close June 24th. Nominate a colleague or yourself for this prestigious award recognizing outstanding contributions in open data science and data management for microbiological research.

The International Microbiome and Multi-Omics Standards Alliance ([IMMSA](#)) will host a series of discussions on data reuse throughout 2024. To learn more and join the conversation, sign up [here](#)!

Are you passionate about FAIR microbiome data and are interested in being more engaged with the NMDC? [Apply](#) to join our [Champions program](#)!

Register for the 2024 Microbes and Social Equity [Speaker Series](#) that includes presentations the last Friday of every month!

Lawrence Livermore National Lab will host the [2024 International Soil Virus Conference](#) on June 24-28, 2024. The conference will explore meta-omics characterization of soil viruses and their connections with biogeochemistry, food web dynamics, and soil health.

Would you like to help us create intuitive, user-friendly, and community-driven products? Explore our current call and sign up for user research on our [website](#).

Connect with us on [Instagram](#), [X](#), and [LinkedIn](#)!



[Check out our 2023 Annual Report!](#)

