

## STRATEGIC ALLIANCES PROFILE

### National Association of Science Writers (NASW)

**NORDP Liaison:** Joanna Downer, <mailto:Joanna.downer@duke.edu>

**Organization Name, Location, and Website:** National Association of Science Writers; officially located in Berkeley, CA; <https://www.nasw.org>

**Organization Contact Name, Title, and Email Address:** <https://www.nasw.org/nasw-officers-executive-board-and-key-people>

**Organization Overview:** In 1934, a dozen pioneering science reporters established the National Association of Science Writers at a meeting in New York. They wanted a forum in which to join forces to improve their craft and encourage conditions that promote good science writing. The association was formally incorporated in 1955 with a charter to "foster the dissemination of accurate information regarding science through all media normally devoted to informing the public." Above all, NASW fights for the free flow of science news. Over the years, its officers have included both freelancers and employees of most of the major newspapers, wire services, magazines, and broadcast outlets in the country. Membership is also open to science writers at educational institutions and other types of employers. Today, NASW has 2,377 members and 400 student members.

**Common Interest Areas between NORDP and the Liaison Organization:** The skills of science writing – translating technical information for a general audience – are highly relevant to the writing and editing aspects of research development, and thus NASW members wanting a change of landscape (i.e., from communicating to the public to communicating to a scientific audience) and form (news/features vs. scientific documents) could be a good pipeline to RD.

**Annual Conference and Other Events of Interest; Connection Suggestions:** The NASW meeting is held annually in October.