

About the 12th annual INSciTS conference

The International Network for the Science of Team Science (<https://www.inscits.org/about-us>) (INSciTS) held its 12th annual conference virtually in June of 2021. The Science of Team Science (SciTS) is a rapidly growing cross-disciplinary field of study that examines collaborative research on complex scientific problems. INSciTS serves as a conduit to ensure empirical findings about team science are accessible and useful for effective collaborative practice and policy. Hosted by Virginia Tech (<https://vt.edu>), the conference had nearly 500 registrants who experienced a blend of invited talks, panels, roundtables, and highly interactive workshops. Aligned with many of the goals of td-net, the theme for the conference was "Science of Team Science and the Human Condition". The planning team assembled a diverse group of stakeholders – ranging from global thought leaders in research of international importance, institutional leaders who promote collaborative research, to scientists engaged in team-based research. The opening keynote was provided by Dr. Lori Peek, director of the Natural Hazards Center at the University of Colorado Boulder. Dr. Peek described how she and colleagues engage in team science in pursuit of ethical, rigorous, and coordinated quick response for disaster research. Fitting with the kind of challenging transdisciplinary research of interest to td-net, Dr. Shalini Misra, of Virginia Tech, moderated a panel on "Addressing the Challenges of Megaregions through Team Science". Noting that, in the coming decades, 70% of the world's population will live in urban megaregions, the panel discussed their experience in conducting research to produce systemic and interconnected solutions through team science. Closing keynote was provided by Dr. Sabine Hoffman, Group Leader Transdisciplinary Research, Eawag, Swiss Federal Institute of Aquatic Science and Technology. She discussed the need for team science research that crosses disciplines and boundaries to ensure scientific outcomes able to produce 'socially robust' responses to meet societal challenges. Many other sessions of interest to td-net enthusiasts can be found at the 2021 conference page (<https://www.inscits.org/2021-scits-conference>). INSciTS wants to connect with other organizations that have similar interests in expanding the capacity for science of significant societal impact.