



# 2021 SCIENCE DIVISION PRIORITIES:

Advancing Science at the Denver Museum of Nature & Science



## ANTHROPOLOGY

- Publish analysis of Torriette Lakes Great Kiva excavation.
- Publish books, articles, and DMNS annals on the Mummies analysis, Southwest Symposium edited volume, analysis of Indian Peace Medals, and other contributions.
- Acquire funding from the National Endowment for the Humanities for the WS Ranch Collection and Save America's Treasures for the Jones-Miller Paleoindian collection.
- Provide scientific and cultural support for Stonehenge and Egypt temporary exhibitions.



## SPACE SCIENCES

- Continue the study of young stellar distributions in the Aquila Rift and other dark clouds at near-infrared wavelengths.
- Build realistic synthetic star clusters to compare with observations.
- Look for signs of star formation in the Aquila Rift with new telescope observations at visible wavelengths.



## EARTH SCIENCES

- Investigate the Late Cretaceous vertebrate fauna of Madagascar as a window into the biogeographic and plate tectonic history of the southern supercontinent Gondwana.
- Study the evolution of the West's most diverse dinosaur ecosystems from the lost landmass of Laramidia including several new, recently discovered dinosaurs.
- Understand the plant and animal recovery dynamics following the Cretaceous–Paleogene mass extinction.
- Learn how the Rocky Mountain region was impacted by the biggest mass extinction (ca. 250 million years ago).
- Study ecosystems before and after the Cretaceous–Paleogene mass extinction to better understand how the modern world came to be.



## INTEGRATIVE COLLECTIONS

- Continue to digitally document, as completely as possible, all collections items to enhance their research and education potential.
- Increase visibility and research access of the collections through enhanced on-line access, including an update to the on-line collections portal available through EMu.
- Implement numerous federal and private grant-funded collections projects, including hiring and supervising additional term staff and interns.
- Provide enriched access—including virtual access—to collections in the Avenir Collections Center for researchers and the public.
- Continue to document and archive the Museum's scientific, cultural, and administrative history.



## ZOOLOGY

- Study evolutionary relationships of camel spiders and determine the function of their physical structures.
- Publish a comprehensive monograph on the scarab and stag beetles of Colorado.
- Study the natural history and evolution of small mammals in the West through fieldwork, collections, and genomics.
- Examine species formation in North American birds through the study of hybrid zones and genomics.