

Spring

NEWSLETTER

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MARK YOUR CALENDARS



OCT 17-20 - oSTEM Conference



OCT 7-10 - Out and Equal Workplace Summit

ABOUT US

Out to Innovate is NOGLSTP doing business as "Out to Innovate." We are a 501(c)(3) educational organization and professional society of gay, lesbian, bi-sexual, transgender, asexual, queer (LGBTQ+) people, and allies employed or interested in science, technology, engineering, or mathematics (STEM) fields. Out to Innovate empowers LGBTQ+ individuals in STEM by providing education, advocacy, professional development, networking, and peer support. Out to Innovate educates all communities regarding scientific, technological, and medical concerns of LGBTQ+ people.



2024 FELLOWSHIP AWARDEES ANNOUNCED



ut to Innovate is proud to announce the winners for the 2024 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellowship.

This merit-based fellowship provides awards, up to \$5,000, to support professional development of trans, intersex, and non-binary graduate students and postdoctoral scholars in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields.

Eleven trans, intersex, and non-binary early career researchers have been awarded amounts ranging from \$2,300 to \$5,000. This year's fellows are in the fields of neuroscience, astrophysics, biomedical engineering, cellular and molecular physiology, geosciences, astronomy, psychology, bioengineering, and physics at universities across the US and Canada. This is a merit-based award, and the funds support the recipient's professional development. These awards are funded by a generous anonymous donor. The majority of the funds are supporting equipment, supplies, training courses, and conference attendance.

The winners of this year's awards are:

Yehya Barakat (they/them) is a neuroscience graduate student at the Jackson Laboratory and Tufts University where they study the genetic etiology and molecular mechanism underlying age-dependent hyperactivity. "I am very excited to be an Out to Innovate fellow. This fellowship will help support my experiments to identify a novel pathway important for age dependent hyperactivity. Additionally this will help sharpen my mentorship and leadership skills, supporting my goal to guide the next generation of Arab & LGBTQIA+ researchers in STEM who often arrive to America with innovative ideas and passion but are often left without advice or guidance.



Yehya, Barakat

When I first came to America in 2017, I struggled with culture shock and a barrier to entry I couldn't break through until I found proper mentorship at Tufts and the Jackson Laboratory. I feel confident in my ability to attain my career goals with the Out to Innovate fellowship and become the scientist I aspired to be ever since I fell in love with science and research."

Zoe Clapacs (she/her) is a biomedical engineering graduate student at Washington University where she designs new methods to target delivery of liposomes to plasmacytoid dendritic cells. "Engineering as a field has historically been an inhospitable environment to women and even more so to trans women. To be recognized for my achievements as a researcher, educator and community builder rather than as a token is a great honor and represents the beginning of a shift in the natural sciences toward recognition of scholars who are not white cis men. The Out to Innovate Career Development Fellowship will allow me to attend and to chair international conferences in the field of Immunoengineering,

(continued on pg. 3)



Zoe Klapacs

where I will present and hone my research in rare-leukocyte vaccine delivery and promote the scholarship of other trans, nonbinary, and intersex trainees conducting exceptional research in my field.”

drive the transition from acute to chronic pain. "It is an amazing honor to be recognized as an Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow. This award will provide invaluable support to advance my research in chronic pain and will give me the incredible opportunity to share my work and connect with fellow researchers and the chronic pain community as a whole. I would also like to highlight that this award means more than just support to scientific progress. Through my research, I hope to help move the dial, even if just a little, toward addressing the disproportionate impact of chronic pain on marginalized communities, including the LGBTQIA+ community, which has been often overlooked by biomedical research. I have seen firsthand how chronic pain can profoundly affect a person's quality of life, and I am committed to contributing to the knowledge that could lead to better lives for my community by understanding the fundamental molecular pathways linked to pain chronification."

Dr. Matthew Ellis (he/him) is a postdoctoral fellow at the University of California, San Diego
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Ana Leticia Simal

Ana Leticia Simal (they/them) is a neuroscience graduate student at the University of Guelph where they seek to discover sex-specific molecular pathways that



Dr. Matthew Ellis

where he characterizes the regulatory mechanisms underlying the progression of arrhythmogenic cardiomyopathy with the ultimate goal of identifying generalizable targets which could be leveraged for the development of targeted therapies. "I am honored and grateful to have been selected for an Out to Innovate Career Development Fellowship. It is empowering to be celebrated for my gender identity alongside my professional success. This funding will provide me invaluable opportunities to engage and share my work broadly through attending internationally renowned scientific conferences and carve out my path to a faculty position where I can continue LGBTQ+ STEM advocacy alongside leading a premier research program."



Cameron Essex

Cameron Essex (they/them) is a geosciences graduate student at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee where they study the Earth's volcanoes and reconstruct climate histories using geochemistry. "The visibility of LGBTQIA2S+ people in STEM, especially the trans, non-binary, and intersex communities, is still as important as ever. With this fellowship, I will be able to access geochemistry- and volcano-specific conferences where I can receive feedback on

my research and expand my scientific network as I transition into a Ph.D. program. Additionally, I envision establishing queer networks and visibility at these conferences where the LGBTQIA2S+ community has been traditionally unacknowledged and undercelebrated. I am grateful to the Out To Innovate community for the conference support, and I look forward to continue widening representation of LGBTQIA2S+ people in STEM."

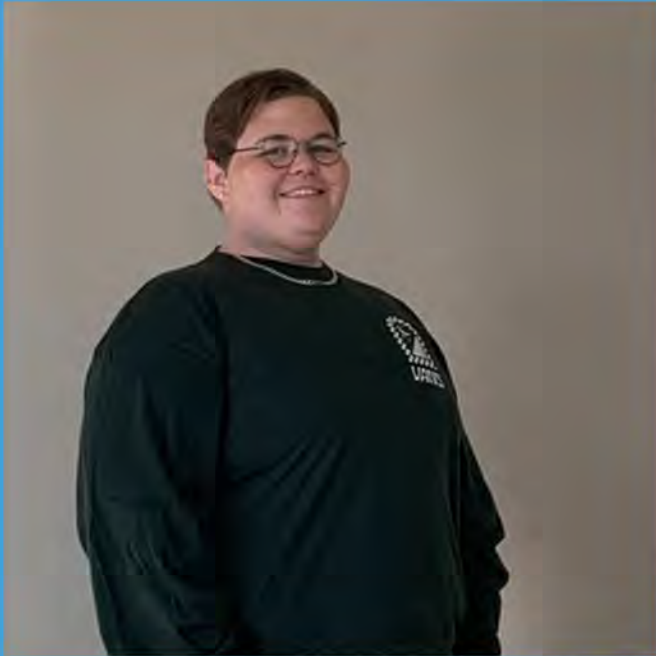


Loki Luteng

Loki Luteng Lin (he/him) is a physics graduate student at the University of Michigan - Ann Arbor where he works to advance the understanding of the landscape of possible quantum gravity theories using the tools of the S-matrix bootstrap, where he translates simple conditions on the high-energy theory, such as conservation of probability, symmetry under exchanging particles, and others, into constraints on the parameters that appear in the low-energy theory. "In receiving this unique fellowship for trans, nonbinary, and intersex researchers in STEM, I feel encouraged to continue being open about my identity as a transgender physicist and hope that my presence will help other Queer and Trans physicists do the same.

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I am excited to use the fellowship funds from Out to Innovate to travel to the Niels Bohr Institute in Denmark this fall, where I will continue my particle theory research while meeting others in my field and learning about research directions adjacent to mine."



Patience Moseley

Patience Moseley (they/them) is a neuroscience graduate student at Florida State University who studies physiological control of eating by investigating how oxytocin affects eating behavior and how dysregulated oxytocin signals may lead to caloric overconsumption and obesity. "I am incredibly honored to have been selected for the Out to Innovate Career Development Fellowship. Societies like Out to Innovate provide an avenue for LGBTQ+ people to embrace their identities and feel pride in themselves. For me, receiving this award is empowering and encourages acceptance and strengthens my sense of self. This fellowship will provide the opportunity for me to present my current research at an annual meeting while representing the LGBTQ+ community in STEM. In addition, this will allow me to network with scientists in my field and further develop skills important for my next step.

I aim to capitalize on these opportunities—made possible by Out to Innovate—to empower fellow scientists within and beyond my field. Receiving this fellowship ultimately allows me to reach personal and professional milestones with a nod to the community that I hold closest to my heart."



Spencer Winter

Spencer Winter (he/him) is a bioengineering graduate student at the California Institute of Technology where he works on developing localized biochemical circuits on DNA tile structures. "I am immensely honored to be a recipient of the OTI Career Development Fellowship. This support means a lot to me both professionally and personally. My field of molecular programming is a relatively new area of research with a lot of mysteries and unknowns, and the support of the fellowship acts as both a vote of confidence in my work and direct support as I continue my research. In addition, as a trans man from a disadvantaged background, the support of the LGBTQ+ community gives me the confidence that there is that there is a place in STEM for me as I move forward in my career."

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Merron Woodbury

Merron Woodbury (they/them) is a psychology graduate student at the University of Toronto where they use functional magnetic resonance imaging to investigate how adolescents engage the brain differently than adults when recalling related memories. "I am so honored to receive the OTI Career Development Fellowship. The award will allow me to attend an international conference to both present my research and host an LGBTQ+ social event for other queer neuroscientists to connect. I am immensely grateful that an award like this exists to support trans and nonbinary folks like me to pursue careers in STEM."

In addition to the winners announced here, we are proud to support two fellows who wish to remain anonymous.

STEMM OPPORTUNITY ALLIANCE SYMPOSIUM

On May 1, 2024, Out to Innovate Board members Amlan Mukherjee and Dane Samilo attended the STEMM Opportunity Alliance White House Summit on STEMM Equity and Excellence, which rolled out

its strategic plan: "STEMM Equity and Excellence 2050: A National Strategy for Progress and Prosperity" and brought together hundreds of STEMM educators and policymakers to discuss the plan and considerations for implementation for future STEMM students and workers.

See the strategic plan here: <https://stemmopportunity.org/national-strategy-2050>

Watch the summit recording here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WgBlcKNw0Mo&t=1s>

JANE RIGBY RECEIVES THE PRESIDENTIAL MEDAL OF FREEDOM

On May 3, 2024, Dr. Jane Rigby, Out to Innovate's 2022 Scientist of the Year, received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, along with eighteen other recipients. Dr. Rigby is an astrophysicist at the NASA Goddard Space Flight Center and the chief scientist for NASA's James Webb Space Telescope. In addition to her contributions to research, she is also a founding member of the American Astronomical Society's Committee for Sexual-Orientation and Gender Minorities in Astronomy (SGMA)--one of our longstanding affiliate organizations. The Presidential Medal of Freedom is the nation's highest civilian honor and is presented to individuals who have made exemplary contributions to the prosperity, values, or security of the United States. Congratulations to Dr. Rigby on her stellar achievements!

Watch Dr. Rigby's interview here: <https://www.youtube.com/shorts/9InzeNF8GZw>

ACS RECOGNIZES FORMER BOARD MEMBER CHRIS BANNOCHIE WITH HENRY HILL AWARD

The American Chemical Society Division of Professional Relations has honored Chris Bannochie with the 2024 Henry Hill Award for his work in fostering inclusion at ACS for LGBTQ+ members and for forming subdivisions within the Division of Professional Relations. Bannochie served as an OTI board member, co-chaired the 2014 OTI Summit in Atlanta, GA and supported the OTI rebranding and reorganization in 2020. The summit featured vignettes from outstanding STEM professionals whose stories demonstrated the challenges and systemic barriers they faced as women, people of color, and neurodivergent individuals. And in the afternoon, several workshops were held to discuss the strategic plan and gather input from attendees.

Link:

https://www.linkedin.com/posts/acsp-prof_acsfall2024-acsp-prof-chemistry-activity-7166827874367234048-CbLY

A RETROSPECTIVE ON A JOINT AGU AND AMERICAN METEOROLOGICAL ASSOCIATION PANEL

Eos published an article in its May issue that summarized and reflected on a joint panel titled "Uplifting Transgender & Gender Non-conforming Geoscientists Through Allyship & Empowerment" organized by AGU and Coriolis. The article discusses the resultant call to action to individuals, academic institutions, and professional associations, to create a culture of inclusion built by all its

members rather than just those within the trans and non-gender conforming communities.

Read the full article here: <https://eos.org/opinions/empowering-genderqueer-geoscientists-being-and-building-the-change>

NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY PUBLISHES REPORT ON INCLUSION AND ADVANCEMENT

Northwestern University's Institute for Sexual and Gender Minority Health and Wellbeing has published a report on "Inclusion and Advancement of LGBTQ+ in STEM Fields". The report aggregates studies on the experience of LGBTQ+ people in STEM. It provides recommendations for government, education, and professional society actions to support inclusion. OTI was happy to support this report through the participation of board member Amlan Mukherjee in the May 2023 symposium and think tank on the topic.

Read the report here:

<https://isgmh.northwestern.edu/our-research/white-papers/lgbtq-in-stem.html>

PENN HUTCHINSON'S TERM AS BOARD MEMBER ENDS

Out to Innovate thanks Dr. Penn Hutchinson for their service as a Board Member since 2021. Hutchinson was instrumental in launching the mentorship program, developing and implementing the member and former member survey, and managing the OTI scholarships and fellowships.

MEMBER SERVICES

The Out to Innovate member services site allows for self-serve member update and automated renewal notices. Visit our website at:

<https://www.outtoinnovate.org/membership> and log in to explore or update your profile, or to renew your annual dues. Of course, you're welcome to renew or join the old-fashioned way with pen, paper, and check by filling out a download-able form from our website. We're happy to have your support any way you want to give it!

AFFILIATES

- 500 Queer Scientists
- American Astronomical Society (AAS) Committee for Sexual Orientation and Gender Minorities in Astronomy (SGMA)
- American Institute of Chemical Engineers (AIChE)
- CSUN QueerSTEM
- gAyGU (American Geophysical Union)
- L'GASP: Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual Audiologists and Speech-Language Pathologists
- LAGLS: Los Angeles Gay and Lesbian Scientists
- LGBTQ Chemists and Allies (ACS PROF Gay and Transgender Chemists and Allies)
- NOGLSTP at Oklahoma State University
- NOGLSTP at Purdue
- NOGLSTP at University of Nebraska - Lincoln
- Diversity and Inclusion in American Nuclear Society Committee (formerly NuclearPride)
- LBGTQ STEM at Oklahoma State University
- PrideSTEM at Texas Tech
- QSTEM of Lake Nona High School
- Queer Science (University of Minnesota)
- Queer Science Society
- Spectra: The Association for LGBT Mathematicians

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SUBMISSIONS

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