LEVEL UP LEADERSHIP

Discover the skills you need to be a leader.

22 - 26 March 2023
Optica Global Headquarters
Washington, DC, USA

optica.org/LevelUp
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Welcome to Level Up Leadership

Discover your personal and professional leadership skills.

Are you leading a team for the first time? Are you feeling like an imposter in your current role? Do you know how to handle conflicts between colleagues? Explore these questions and more to gain the communication and leadership skills necessary to advance your career to the next level. Sessions will cover an extensive array of topics which impact, influence and shape what it means to be a leader. Topics we will cover include:

- Personal Branding
- Conflict Resolution
- Mentorship
- Career Planning
- Imposter Syndrome
- Volunteering
- Networking

Explore other resources and engagement opportunities with the Optica Foundation.

Funding Opportunities & Meeting Grants
The Optica Foundation provides a variety of scholarships and grants to students and early career professionals in addition to several with the aim of improving equity and inclusion including family care grants to assist members attending Optica meetings.

Innovation School
Learn how to take a great idea and turn it into product... and how to take an idea that isn't working and pivot to something else. Here, early-career professionals and students explore the lean-canvas model and customer problem fit on a team racing towards a pitch at the end of the four-day program.
Anti-Harassment Policy and Code of Conduct

Optica is committed to providing an environment that is conducive to the free and robust exchange of scientific ideas. This environment requires that all participants be treated with equal consideration and respect. While Optica encourages vigorous debate of ideas, personal attacks create an environment in which people feel threatened or intimidated. This is not productive and does not advance the cause of science. All participants in Optica and Optica-managed events and activities are therefore expected to conduct themselves professionally and respectfully.

It is the policy of Optica that all forms of bullying, discrimination and harassment, sexual or otherwise, are prohibited in any Optica or Optica-managed events or activities. This policy applies to every individual at the event, whether attendee, speaker, exhibitor, award recipient, staff, contractor or other. It is also a violation of this policy to retaliate against an individual for reporting bullying, discrimination or harassment or to intentionally file a false report of bullying, discrimination or harassment.

Bullying, discrimination and harassment of any sort by someone in a position of power, prestige or authority is particularly harmful since those of lower status or rank may be hesitant to express their objections or discomfort out of fear of retaliation.

Optica may take any disciplinary action it deems appropriate if, after thorough investigation, it finds a violation occurred.

For complete policy information visit optica.org/CodeOfConduct.

If you wish to report bullying, discrimination, or harassment you have witnessed or experienced, you may do so through the following methods:

- Use the online portal optica.org/IncidentReport
- Email CodeOfConduct@optica.org.
Agenda

Wednesday, 22 March 2023

07:00 - 16:30  Check-in at Generator Hotel Washington DC
16:30 - 19:00  Happy Hour and Dinner at Optica

Thursday, 23 March 2023

08:00 – 09:00  Breakfast, Optica
09:00 – 09:30  Welcome Remarks

• Chad Stark, Optica Foundation Executive Director, USA
• Jennifer Mehltretter, Optica Senior Manager, Outreach Programs, USA

09:30 – 10:30  Defining Leadership

Session Description: A leader draws people towards a vision but it does not mean that a leader is always in front. Discover the difference between a manager and a leader and your own authentic leadership qualities.

• Recognize and define the personal qualities that are important for your leadership to be authentic.
• Begin to articulate your greater vision and how you can be of greatest service in the world.

10:30 – 11:00  Break
11:00 – 12:30  **Intentional Careers**

**Session Description:** Working longer and harder than everyone else is not the route to fulfillment and can backfire as a strategy to kickstart your career. It’s time to make the shift from careers that unconsciously unfold in front of you to a conscious career with intentional strategy.

- Be guided through the 6-step Career Pivots Compass! methodology to find balance, confidence and fulfillment. Each step of the compass will elevate your career to give you clarity on ‘what’s next?’ and make it happen.
- Uncover which stage of the Intentional Career Journey you are at and what needs to shift to move you up through to fulfilled and valued.

12:30 – 13:30  **Lunch, Optica**

13:30 – 15:30  **The Psychology of Selves: Beyond Imposter Syndrome**

**Session Description:** Many people are torn – afraid to speak up, be seen, or minimize their achievements and at the same time, are frustrated that they are getting in their own way. Feeling like you will be exposed to not knowing enough and being your own worst critic is a toxic combination. It can result in procrastination, individualism and ruminating thoughts.

- Learn the three layers of imposter syndrome, where these thoughts and beliefs originate from and three tools to overcome your imposter and fulfill your true potential.
- Discover your unique stress team of ‘selves’ and how to move beyond imposter syndrome by separating from their agendas and regaining real choice in your behaviors and actions.
- Leave with three gold standard tools to break the cycle of pre-empting, overthinking and ruminating and unlock your true potential.

15:30 - 16:00  **Break**

16:00 - 17:30  **Leader as a Weaver: Networking Primer Exercise**

17:30 - 19:00  **Dinner, Optica**
Friday, 24 March 2023

08:00 - 09:00  Breakfast, Optica

09:00 – 10:30  Difficult Conversations

Session Description: Labelling types of conversation or relationship dynamics as difficult can lead to procrastination, avoidance or inauthenticity in our approaches.

- Understand how our ‘primary selves’ create bonding patterns and the dynamics that cause communication breakdowns.
- Learn how to take responsibility for your actions and how to find a new approach so that these situations do not replay.

10:30 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:30  Communication as a Leader

Session Description: There are a series of repeatable conversations that every leader must master; saying no gracefully, effective delegation and boundary setting.

- Discover systems for conflict resolution, with non-confrontational conversation templates to overcome obstacles to communication.
- Learn how to ask for what you need, uncover your current boundary lines and how to make changes by setting new boundaries.

12:30 – 13:30  Lunch, Optica
13:30 – 15:30  The Art of Failing Gracefully

**Session Description:** The physics of vulnerability. It’s pretty simple: If we are brave enough often enough, we will fall. Daring is not saying, “I’m willing to risk failure.” Daring is saying, “I know I will eventually fail, and I’m still all in.” Brené Brown.

Take 3-steps towards failing gracefully and increase your resilience exponentially: the reckoning, the rumble and the revolution.

- Discover the pivotal successes and failures throughout your life and what you can learn from the nature of your failures over time.
- Use an alternative CV of failures to become more resilient in your approach, separating success and failure from your self-worth.
- Leave with the leadership tools to address failure positively, give and receive candid feedback without taking it personally and use failure to drive innovation. You will become a beacon for authentic leadership and an inspiration to others.

15:30 – 16:00  Break

16:00 – 17:30  Moon Landing Exercise & The Chair Game

17:30 – 18:00  Grab and Go Dinner, Optica
Saturday, 25 March 2023

08:00 – 09:00  Breakfast, Optica

09:00 – 10:30  Leadership Pathways

Session Description: Ever wondered why certain tasks and roles drain you of energy, while others excite and energize you? Discover your natural talents and strengths and how to develop these into a leadership pathway.

- Uncover the nature and role of flow and where you can add the most value by staying in the flow.
- Explore your talents further by distilling them into 3 ‘superpowers’. Learn how to articulate your superpowers and know when you can add the most value.
- Learn the language of your leadership profile to distinguish roles that align with your natural talents and provide a good fit.

10:30 – 11:00  Break

11:00 – 12:30  Optica Panel - Learning from Leadership Failures

- Abbie Watnik, US Naval Research Laboratory, USA
- Amol Choudhary, Indian Institute of Technology Delhi, India
- Jens Biegert, ICFO – Institut de Ciencies Fotoniques, Spain
- Takashige Omastsu, Chiba University, Japan
- Thomas Searles, University of Illinois Chicago, USA

Moderated by: Elizabeth Nolan, Optica Deputy Executive Director & Chief Publishing Officer, USA

Session Description: It is easy to believe those in leadership positions have only ever experienced a career showreel of highlights. Their bios do not represent the vast majority of efforts, missteps, or outright mistakes. Hear from senior leaders within Optica about career failures, how they overcame them and what they learned from them as they moved on.
12:30 – 13:30  Lunch, Optica

13:30 – 15:30  Time Domination Experience

**Session Description:** Do you tell yourself, “When I finish this project/move roles, then I will reclaim balance in my life?”

Managing all of the different competing areas of our lives is a huge challenge, one that comes with the weight of expectations and guilt. We need a breakthrough in effectiveness to be able to make our biggest contribution to the world without our health and relationships suffering as a consequence.

- Uncover the biggest mistake that most of us make in the interest of time management and how to avoid it.
- Master the ability to prioritize and focus your workload utilizing high-performance habits so that you can achieve more in less time.
- Discover your keel zone and harness when you are at your most productive and gain control over your workload through consistency of action.

15:30 – 16:00  Break

16:00 – 17:30  Stress Release Workshop

**Session Description:** We build up stress and emotional tension every single day. Learn how to find freedom from these stressors using music, movement and embodiment. You will need to wear something you can move freely in, bring layers of clothing in case you get hot or cold and a bottle of water.

17:30 – 19:00  Dinner, Optica

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**Sunday, 26 March 2023**

09:00 – 10:00  Breakfast, Optica
10:00 – 11:30  Career Action Planning

Session Description: Bring all of the learning together in a powerful vision planning exercise and map back your vision into a solid 5-, 3- and 1-year plan with fine-level detail for Q2 of 2023. Leave with three clear action steps and the accountability in place to kickstart your journey to an Intentional Career.

11:30 – 13:00  Lunch, Optica

13:00 – 15:00  Level Up in Optica

- **Christoph K Hitzenberger**, Medizinische Universität Wien, Austria - 2023-2024 Chair of Board of Editors, 2016-2021 Editor-in-Chief of Biomedical Optics Express
- **Linhui (Lynn) Yu**, Apple, USA - 2022-2023 Optica Representative AIP DEIBA, 2021 Optica Ambassador

Moderated by: **Stephen D. Fantone**, Optikos Corporation, 2020 Optica President, USA

Session Description: Hear from current Optica leaders about how they use leadership skills, like the ones you’ve learned about this week, in various ways to serve the Society and the larger optics community. Hear about leadership and volunteer opportunities across Optica, how to prepare for these roles and responsibilities, and get your questions answered on making the most of your Optica journey. In addition to a variety of other activities including serving as a traveling lecturer, organizing special outreach events, reviewing papers for journals or applications for the foundation and more, each of these volunteers has held other leadership roles within the organization.
15:00 – 16:00  A Conversation with the Optica President
  • Liz Rogan, CEO Optica, USA
  • Michal Lipson, Columbia University, 2023 Optica President, USA

16:00 – 16:30  Closing Remarks

16:30 – 18:00  Networking

18:00 – 20:00  Leadership Reception, The Darcy Hotel
  Address: 1515 Rhode Island Ave NW
Facilitator

Hannah Roberts
Hannah Roberts Coaching, UK

As the founder of Intentional Careers and host of the top 10 UK podcast Women in STEM Career & Confidence> 35K+ downloads, Dr. Hannah Roberts is an award-winning coach on a mission to eradicate inequality in the workplace by guiding women to design careers for fulfillment with a mindset for leadership to build progressive workplace cultures where every individual feels valued.

Hannah is uniquely positioned as a scientist, mum of three with a background in corporate and academia. She was managing director of a spin-out company before pivoting into coaching, speaking and training in 2019. She has clients spanning 6 continents and is a certified One of Many Women's Leadership Coach and Trainer with the Professional Certified Coach credential from the International Coaching Federation and member of the 2023 Forbes Coaches Council.

Read her full story at here:

https://hannahnikeroberts.com/
Speakers

Michelle Bailey
National Inst of Standards & Technology USA - 2022-2024
Public Affairs Council, 2021-2022 CLEO subcommittee chair

Dr. Michelle Bailey is a Research Chemist at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. Her research focuses on the development and implementation of optical diagnostic techniques for atmospheric trace gas analysis. Dr. Bailey's current work explores the use of mid-infrared quantum cascade lasers and optical frequency combs for precision spectroscopy in static and dynamic chemical environments. Prior to joining NIST, Dr. Bailey championed three field campaigns in Fairbanks, Alaska to investigate carbon feedbacks above thawing permafrost using open-path spectroscopy and worked with local government and education officials to deploy low-cost carbon dioxide sensors within Washington, D.C. She currently serves as a Community Science Fellow in the American Geophysical Union's Thriving Earth Exchange program supporting community leaders and researchers as they come together and use science to advance local priorities.
Felipe Beltrán-Mejía
Senior Optical Systems Developer at Padtec, Optica
Ambassador 2017, Brazil

Senior optical developer at Padtec, Brazil. Felipe is also a member of the Editorial Advisory Committee of the Optics and Photonics News Magazine and an Ambassador of Optica Society. BSc in Physics from the Universidad del Valle (Colombia, 2005) and a Ph.D. in Photonics from the Universitat de Valencia (Spain, 2011). Postdoc at the State University of Campinas (Unicamp, Brazil). Felipe taught for six years at the National Institute of Telecommunications (INATEL, Brazil) and has been an invited researcher at the University of Marburg (Germany) four times. Actually, he has experience in electromagnetism, terahertz radiation, waveguide analysis, computational electromagnetism and optics.
Jens Biegert
ICFO- The Institute of Photonic Sciences, Spain

Jens’ interest in astronomy and the possibility of an exchange program with the United States led him to enroll at the University of Würzburg. From 1995-1996 he participated in the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Foreign Exchange Fellowship with the University of New Mexico. It was here that he was exposed to optics. He discovered that optics shared some of the fundamental questions of astronomy. After his fellowship, he returned to Germany and received a Ph.D. from the Technical University Munich in 2001.

In his Ph.D., he studied the coherent excitation of sodium which has applications in the study of laser guide stars. Again, this demonstrated the link between physics, optics, and astronomy. Jens says that his thesis advisor, Jean-Claude Diels, was someone he looked up to as a well-rounded researcher in science, engineering, and programming. Diels’ scientific intuition was inspiring. Jens took advantage of this opportunity and absorbed everything he possibly could while working with Diels. He adds that scientific mentoring is important for young scientists. It provides a basis for how to conduct research in terms of obtaining funding, publishing papers, and other aspects apart from the actual research. Ultimately, Jens says it is important to find a mentor “with similar attributes” that can help you throughout your career and still considers Diels a mentor.

Today, Jens is Head of Research in Attoscience and Ultrafast Optics at ICFO-The Institute of Photonic Sciences in Barcelona, Spain. His current research consists of using mid-infrared light to “steal” electrons and know where all the atoms are in a molecule. This produces what Jens calls the “molecular selfie” which demonstrates the ultimate control between light and matter. These discoveries have impacts for fundamental optics as well as biomedical research, materials science, and chemistry.
Amol Choudhary
Faculty Member, Electrical Engineering Indian Institute of Technology, India

Amol is an Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering at the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi and his research area is optical physics, mainly in understanding light-matter interactions including laser physics and nonlinear optics and their applications in high-speed communication networks. He has built his career working at 8 institutions in 6 countries. He has made several important breakthroughs in the field of integrated optics and microwave photonics, that have been published in more than 100 journal and conference papers and have also been covered by the media. He has received several awards including the DECRA Fellowship from the Australian Government, the Doctoral Prize Fellowship from the UK government, the Erasmus Mundus Scholarship from the European Parliament, and the Ivan P. Kaminow Outstanding Early Career Professional Prize from the Optical Society. He regularly gives seminars and professional development talks at universities around the world. He enjoys playing cricket and traveling.
Adam Fleisher
NIST, Optica Ambassador 2019, USA

Adam J. Fleisher is a Research Chemist at the National Institute of Standards & Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, MD, USA. His research is in precision molecular spectroscopy, currently applied to measurements of the isotopic composition of greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and nitrous oxide. With colleagues, he also reports accurate measurements of absorption cross-sections for the benchmarking of advanced quantum chemistry calculations. In the laboratory, this work requires the development of advanced optical sensing techniques using optical frequency combs, quantum-cascade lasers, stabilized near-infrared lasers, and high-finesse optical resonators.

Prior to joining NIST in Gaithersburg, AJ Fleisher was a National Research Council (NRC) postdoc at JILA (University of Colorado Boulder and NIST) under the supervision of Jun Ye. He earned his Ph.D. from the University of Pittsburgh in 2011 and completed his undergraduate studies at Elizabethtown College in 2007.

AJ is an Optica (formerly OSA) Ambassador, recognized as an emerging leader in the optics and photonics community in 2019. He routinely serves on the organizing committees for several optical sensing and spectroscopy meetings and was the lead guest editor on two Joint Feature Issues of Optics Express and Applied Optics. In 2019, he participated on the Consultative Committee for Amount of Substance: Metrology in Chemistry and Biology (CCQM) Working Group on Isotope Ratios (IRWG) at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM) in Sèvres, France.
Christoph K Hitzenberger  
Medizinische Universität Wien, Austria

Christoph Hitzenberger is vice chair of the Center for Medical Physics and Biomedical Engineering at the Medical University of Vienna. He joined the Institute of Medical Physics at the University of Vienna in 1987 as an assistant professor and, with the new head of the department, Adolf F. Fercher, founded the biomedical optics research group. During their pioneering work on low-coherence intraocular ranging, Dr. Hitzenberger developed the first heterodyne low-coherence interferometry (LCI) system for measuring intraocular distances (axial eye length, retinal thickness), presented in 1990. This work led to the development of the first commercial LCI ocular biometry system that is now standard technology in eye clinics worldwide and has been successfully used for intraocular lens adaptation in millions of cataract patients. The technology was expanded to record optical coherence tomography (OCT) images, yielding one of the first in vivo retinal OCT images of the human eye.

In 1995 Dr. Hitzenberger demonstrated, in cooperation with Dr. Fercher, the first application of spectral domain (SD) LCI to intraocular ranging. The huge sensitivity advantage of SD LCI/OCT over the earlier time domain technology led to a paradigm shift in OCT technology and enabled rapid 3D imaging. SD OCT has revolutionized retinal diagnostics and is now the industry standard for retinal OCT, with tens of thousands of SD OCT retinal scanners in use worldwide.

Dr. Hitzenberger received the award of the Hoechst Foundation for Advancement of Medical Research in Austria and is a fellow of the International Society for Optics and Photonics (SPIE) and the Optical Society (OSA). In addition to serving as editor-in-chief of the OSA journal Biomedical Optics Express, he is the author or coauthor of some 150 scientific publications in peer-reviewed journals, with a total of nearly 20,000 citations (Google Scholar). He studied physics and mathematics at the University of Vienna and received his Ph.D. in 1983. He earned his habilitation in medical physics in 1993.
Michal Lipson
Columbia University, 2023 Optica President, USA

2023 Optica President Michal Lipson is the Eugene Higgins Professor at Columbia University, U.S. She completed her B.S., MS and Ph.D. degrees in Physics at The Technion – Israel Institute of Technology in 1998. Following a Postdoctoral position at MIT, U.S., in the Material Science department from 1998 to 2001, she joined the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Cornell University, U.S., and was named the Given Foundation Professor of Engineering at the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering in 2012. In 2015 she joined the electrical engineering department at Columbia University. Lipson is one of the pioneers of the field of silicon photonics.

Lipson pioneered critical building blocks in the field of Silicon Photonics, which today is recognized as one of the most promising directions for solving the major bottlenecks in microelectronics. In 2004 she showed the ability to tailor the electro-optic properties of silicon (Almeida, et al., Nature 2004 with more than 1300 citations and Xu et al Nature 2005 with more than 2000 citations) which represent critical advances that led to the explosion of silicon photonics research and development. The number of publications related to silicon photonic devices and systems is now more than 50,000 a year. A large fraction of these publications are based on Lipson’s original papers published since 2001. Today more than one thousand papers published yearly involve devices and circuits based on Lipson’s original modulators, as well as on other silicon photonics devices demonstrated by her group including slot waveguides (Almeida et al, Optics Letters 2004 with more than 1500 citations) and inverse tapers (Almeida et al, Optics Letters, 2003 with more than 80 citations). The growth of the field of silicon photonics has also been evident in industry with an increasing number of companies developing silicon photonics products (IBM and Intel, HP Aurrion, Melannox, Apic, Luxtera, etc).
Lipson’s work has been cited in top high-impact journals such as Nature, Nature Photonics, Nature Physics, IEEE Photonics Technology Letters, Nanoletters, Lab on a Chip, Physical Review Letters and IEEE Journal of Lightwave Technologies. Her papers (over 200 refereed journal publications) have been cited more than 32,000 times. Her h-index (an index that measures both the productivity and impact of the published work) of 90 is also indicative of the impact that her work has had on the scientific community.

Lipson has delivered hundreds of invited, keynote and plenary lectures in all the major conferences in optics and related fields. She has over 30 patents that have been issued and approximately half of them have been licensed to industry. In 2010 in recognition of her work in silicon photonics, she was awarded the MacArthur Fellow. She was also awarded the Blavatnik award in 2010.

She received the R. W. Wood prize in 2016 and has been named by Thomson Reuters as a top 1% highly cited researcher in the field of Physics since 2014.

Takashige Omatsu
Professor, Chiba University, Japan

I was born in Osaka, and was awarded Ph.D. degree of Applied Physics from the University of Tokyo. I love to take photos, read books and play the guitar. Lovely 10 cats are living with my family and they always relax us very well. In my school days, I found myself that ultrafast lasers have the potential to explore novel innovative technologies, and decided to contribute to a research field of photonics and optical sciences. To date, photonics and optical sciences have been intensely investigated in a variety of fields, such as physics, chemistry, biology, and medical technology. We have no doubt that they have provided us various research opportunities of next-generation material sciences. I hope that many young researchers join us to pioneer innovative material sciences based on 'chiral photonics'.
Thomas Searles
University Illinois Chicago, Associate Professor, USA

Thomas A. Searles, Associate Professor of Physics at Howard University, is currently a Martin Luther King Visiting Professor at MIT and serves as the Director of the IBM-HBCU Quantum Center. Thomas received his Ph.D. in Applied Physics in the Electrical & Computer Engineering Department at Rice University in 2011. His thesis work primarily focused on the magneto-optical properties of carbon nanotubes. Upon his appointment at Howard in the Fall of 2015, Thomas has established a new research program in applied and materials physics. In recognition for his research in light-matter interactions and his capability to train and mentor Black students in Physics and Engineering, Thomas was recently awarded the inaugural AIP-NSBP Joseph A. Johnson Award for Excellence and an NSF CAREER Award. Thomas graduated from Morehouse College with a BS in Mathematics and Physics. He is a native of Albany, Georgia.

Abbie Watnik
Branch Head, U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, USA

Abbie T. Watnik—the head of the Optical Techniques Section at the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory, USA. Watnik leads programs in electro-optics, laser propagation, orbital angular momentum, lidar, speckle imaging, imaging through scattering and adaptive optics. She received her B.S. in Electrical Engineering from Colorado State University, USA, and her M.S. and Ph.D. in Optics from the University of Rochester, USA.
Linhui (Lynn) Yu
Apple, Optica Ambassador 2021, USA

Linhui (Lynn) Yu is a Health Sensing Hardware Engineer at Apple. Linhui’s first exposure to optics and photonics was during a visit to the Micro/Nano Manufacturing Technology Laboratory of Tianjin University, China. Intrigued by the freeform optics and nano-fabrication, she joined the lab as a research assistant to work on the design and fabrication of freeform multi-aperture optics, such as the artificial compound eye. Linhui obtained her M.Sc. and Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering at the University of Calgary, Canada. In the Integrated Circuits and Optical Imaging Lab, her graduate research focused on developing spectroscopic systems to measure blood-related changes in a small target volume in the brain. These systems may enable neuroscientists to study how the brain works and explore treatments for brain diseases in animal models. At the Wellman Center for Photomedicine, Linhui’s work focuses on developing and translating a high-resolution, cross-sectional imaging technology, micro-optical coherence tomography (μOCT). Linhui has been an active member and passionate volunteer for the optics and photonics society, both locally and internationally. Linhui was the president of the University of Calgary Optica and SPIE student chapter. She has served as an Education and Outreach Committee member, Career Lab Editorial Board member and Student Leadership Workshop facilitator for SPIE. Linhui is a STEM education enthusiast hoping to inspire and encourage youth to become the next generation of engineers and scientists. As a 2021 Optica Ambassador, Linhui is committed to providing career advice, technical knowledge and mentorship to support students and early career professionals. She would be happy to share her stories and lessons learned from her multidisciplinary and multicultural research, education and volunteering experiences.
Attendees

Dan Ahimbisibwe
Uganda
Communications Commission, Uganda

Abhishek Anchal
Ribbon
Communications, Israel

George Appiah
Tullow Ghana Limited, Ghana

Benjamin Asubam Weyori
UENR, Ghana

Ezabo Baron
IEEE Uganda Section, Uganda

Rebecca Bellworthy
McGill, Canada

Shilanjoy Bhattacharjee
Wipro Limited, India

Selasie Aformaley Brown
University of Professional Studies, Ghana
Joshua Burrow  
Brown University, USA

Brandon Buscaino  
Ciena Corporation, USA

Anderson Caires  
Universidade Federal de Minas Gerais, Brazil

Alessandra Carmichael Martins  
Indiana University Bloomington, USA

Saheer Cheemadan  
Sulamussalam Oriental Higher Sec Sch, India

Viviana Clavería  
University of Chile, France

Mitch Cox  
University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Benjamin Cromey  
Ball Aerospace, USA
Femi Kolade  
Deltaflare Limited, United Kingdom

Katarzyna Komolibus  
Tyndall National Institute, Ireland

Esben Larsen  
Interuniversity Microelectronics Centre, Belgium

Mattia Longobucco  
University of Warsaw, Singapore

Shadrack Marfo  
University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana

Kate Mawdsley  
Point74, United Kingdom

Kseniia Minakova  
NTU "KhPI", Ukraine

Kenneth Muhereza  
LightComp Tech Ltd, Uganda
Majid Naji
OZ Optics Ltd, Canada

Sourav Nandy
West Bengal University of Technology, India

An Nguyen
Google, USA

Victor Ochoa-Gutierrez
University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

Christopher Payne-Dwyer
University of Glasgow, United Kingdom

Matthew Posner
Optonique, Canada

Nirmal Punjabi
Sensing and Monitoring Foundation, India

Andrew Quansah
University of Energy and Natural Resources, Ghana
Ana Reyes  
Universidad Tecnológica de Tulancingo, Mexico

Fabian Ruf  
Aarhus University, Denmark

Sai Guru Srinivasan S  
National Institute of Technology, India

Nishant Sachdeva  
Northcap University, India

Ankur Saharia  
Manipal University Jaipur, India

Guillermo Sánchez  
Facultad de Ciencias Físico Matemáticas, Mexico

Madison Rilling  
OPTONIQUE, Canada

Falko Schmidt  
ETH Zurich, Switzerland
Perla Viera Gonzalez
Universidad Autónoma de Nuevo León, Mexico

Luat Vuong
University of California at Riverside, USA

Michael Whiting
Trumpf Lasers, United Kingdom

Richard Zeltner
Menlo Systems GmbH, Germany

Mathias Zurbriggen
Trumpf Ltd, United Kingdom
We are the next generation.

The Optica Foundation recognizes and fosters excellence in students and early-career professionals who will be the change-makers in optics and photonics.

We offer opportunities to be recognized for excellence and support building a career in the field.

g/Opportunities

We provide schools and training programs focused on professional and scientific skills.

g/Schools

You can give back and support our community's potential to make an impact on science, industry and society worldwide.

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