



POLYMER WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & RESEARCH

May 21 – 22, 2026 ●●●● The University of Toronto ●●●● polymerwomenempowermentresearch.com

Made possible thanks to:



TOSOH BIOSCIENCE

CRAIG HAWKER

| Thursday, May 21 st , 2026 | | |
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| 8 AM – 1 PM | Recommended Arrival | Toronto Pearson airport |
| 1 – 1:30 PM | Badge Pickup -- Poster Dropoff | |
| 1:30 – 5:30 PM | Opening Session | |
| 1:30 – 1:45 PM | Kickoff | The PoWER Organizing Team |
| 1:45 – 2:30 PM | Talk 1 | Malika Jeffries-EL (BU) |
| 2:30 – 3:15 PM | Talk 2 | Stefania Musolino (Xlynx) |
| <i>3:15 – 3:45 PM</i> | <i>Coffee break</i> | |
| 3:45 – 4:30 PM | Talk 3 | Lilo Pozzo (Washington) |
| 4:30 – 5:30 PM | Lightning Talks | Priya Ganesh (Stanford), Izzy McClements (Cornell), Lucy Miller (Washington), Isabella Vettese (Chicago), Mary Yenca (Texas A&M), Yimin Zeng (UBC) and more! |
| 5:30 – 7 PM | Poster Session | |

| Friday, May 22 nd , 2026 | | |
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| 8:30 – 9:15 AM | Breakfast -- Badge Pickup Option 2 | |
| 9:15 – 11 AM | Morning Session | |
| 9:15 – 9:30 AM | Welcome | The PoWER Organizing Team |
| 9:30 – 10:15 AM | Talk 4 | Eugenia Kumacheva (Toronto) |
| 10:15 – 11 AM | Talk 5 | Danniebelle Haase (Dow Chemical) |
| <i>11:00 – 11:30 AM</i> | <i>Coffee break</i> | |
| 11:30 – 12:30 PM | Workshops | |

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| | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Industry Career Panel</u>: Sarah Parke (Qnity), Jerika Chiong (Google), and Victoria Barber. Moderated by Margaret Zhang (Deceim). 2. <u>Alternative Careers Panel</u>: Emily McClure, Sloane Evariste (UT research admin), Jocelyn Sinclair (CSC), and Loryn Arnett (Acceleration Consortium). Moderated by Sara Orski (NIST). 3. <u>Introduction to the Academic Job Process</u>: Julia Kalow (Northwestern) 4. <u>Independent Career Study Lounge</u> |
| 12:30 – 2 PM | Lunch |
| 2 – 5 PM | Afternoon Session |
| 2 – 2:45 PM | Talk 6 Kat Knauer (NREL) |
| 2:45 – 3:30 PM | Talk 7 Christina Cooley (Trinity) |
| <i>3:30 – 3:45 PM</i> | <i>Coffee break</i> |
| 3:45 – 4:30 PM | Talk 8 Beth Gillies (U of Western Ontario) |
| 4:30 – 5 PM | Wrap-Up The PoWER Organizing Team |
| 5 – 7 PM | Reception & Networking <i>Networking Sessions during evening and next day</i> <u>Undergrad attendees & aspirational teaching-stream or PUI faculty</u> <i>Organizers: Mia Borden (Trinity), Annie McCue (U of St. Thomas), and Abigail Clapperton (Toronto).</i> <u>Fun with Graduate Students</u> <i>Organizers: Sofia Michailovich (UofT), Olivia Mann-Delaney (UofT), Sonia Mulgund (UofT), and Madison Bardot (Northwestern).</i> <u>Postdoc Networking</u> <i>Organizers: Rachel Bianculli (Florida), Ailsa Edwards (Toronto), and Ishrath Mohamed (Toronto).</i> <u>Academia – but not Faculty</u> <i>Organizers: Loryn Arnett (Business Development & Partnerships Analyst, Acceleration Consortium), Rachel Kenun (Lab manager, Acceleration Consortium), and Chanelle Brown (staff scientist, Acceleration Consortium).</i> <u>Blessings in Disguise – Faculty</u> <i>Organizers: Megan Roberts (faculty, Western), Caitlin Maikawa (faculty, UofT), and Jill Alty (Stony Brook).</i> <i>When & Where: Friday, 5-7 PM, Blessings in Disguise</i> <u>Industr-SHE</u> <i>Organizers: Jerika Chiong (Google), Margaret Zhang (Deceim), and Victoria Barber.</i> |
| 9 PM – next day | Recommended Departure Toronto Pearson airport |

Questions or comments: polymer.empowerment@gmail.com