



POLYMER WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & RESEARCH

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

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CRAIG HAWKER

Thursday, May 21 st , 2026		
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	Design and synthesis of organic electronic materials	Malika Jeffries-EL (BU)
2:30 – 3:15 PM	Diazirine-Based Crosslinking: A Non-Destructive Pathway for Advanced Electronics	Stefania Musolino (Xlynx)
<i>3:15 – 3:45 PM</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
3:45 – 4:30 PM	'Digital Twins' for Nanoparticle Assembly from High-Throughput Experiments and Simulations	Lilo Pozzo (Washington)
4:30 – 5:30 PM	Lightning Talks	Vittoria DiPalo (Ottawa), Priya Ganesh (Stanford), Lucia Huang (Toronto), Izzy McClements (Cornell), Lucy Miller (Washington), Sherry Shen (Western), Isabella Vettese (Chicago), Mary Yenca (Texas A&M), and Yimin Zeng (UBC).
5:30 – 7 PM	Poster Session	

Friday, May 22 nd , 2026		
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	Stimulus-Responsive Transport Properties of Polymer Hydrogels	Eugenia Kumacheva (Toronto)
10:15 – 11 AM	Fast Curing, Silane Crosslinkable Solutions for Power Cables	Danniebelle Haase (Dow Chemical)
<i>11:00 – 11:30 AM</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>	
11:30 – 12:30 PM	Workshops	
	1. <u>Industry Career Panel</u> : Sarah Parke (Qnity), Jerika Chiong (Google), and Victoria Barber. Moderated by Margaret Zhang (Deceim).	

	<p>2. <u>Alternative Careers Panel</u>: Emily McClure, Sloane Evariste (UT research admin), Jocelyn Sinclair (Canadian Science Publishing), and Loryn Arnett (Acceleration Consortium). Moderated by Sara Orski.</p> <p>3. <u>Introduction to the Academic Job Process</u>: Julia Kalow (Northwestern)</p> <p>4. <u>Independent Career Study Lounge</u></p>
12:30 – 2 PM	Lunch
2 – 5 PM	Afternoon Session
2 – 2:45 PM	Self-immolative polymers: Designing, synthesizing, and applying polymers that fall apart Elizabeth Gillies (U of Western Ontario)
2:45 – 3:30 PM	Real-Time Synthesis and Applications of Fluorescent Polymers by Fluorogenic Radical Polymerization Christina Cooley (Trinity)
<i>3:30 – 3:45 PM</i>	<i>Coffee break</i>
3:45 – 4:30 PM	A random walk career in sustainable plastics Kat Knauer (National Laboratory of the Rockies (NLR))
4:30 – 5 PM	Wrap-Up The PoWER Organizing Team
5 – 7 PM	Reception & Networking <u>Undergrad attendees & aspirational teaching-stream or PUI faculty</u> <i>Organizers</i> : Mia Borden (Trinity), Annie McCue (U of St. Thomas), and Abigail Clapperton (Toronto). <i>What</i> : Takeout & Bellevue Square Park <u>Fun with Graduate Students</u> <i>Organizers</i> : Sofia Michailovich (UofT), Olivia Mann-Delaney (UofT), Sonia Mulgund (UofT), and Madison Bardot (Northwestern). <i>What</i> : Food trucks and frisbee at Trinity Bellwoods Park <u>Postdoc Networking</u> <i>Organizers</i> : Rachel Bianculli (Florida), Ailsa Edwards (Toronto), and Ishrath Mohamed (Toronto). <i>What</i> : Discussion in MY330 & out to restaurant <u>Academia – but not Faculty</u> <i>Organizers</i> : Loryn Arnett (Business Development & Partnerships Analyst, Acceleration Consortium), Rachel Kenun (Lab manager, Acceleration Consortium), and Chanelle Brown (staff scientist, Acceleration Consortium). <i>What</i> : TBD <u>Blessings in Disguise – Faculty</u> <i>Organizers</i> : Megan Roberts (faculty, Western), Caitlin Maikawa (faculty, UofT), and Jill Alty (faculty, Stony Brook). <i>What</i> : Blessings in Disguise drinks and discussion <u>Industr-SHE: Food Trucks and Picnic</u> <i>Organizers</i> : Jerika Chiong (Google), Margaret Zhang (Deceim), and Victoria Barber. <i>What</i> : Food trucks and picnic at Queen’s Park
9 PM – next day	Recommended Departure Toronto Pearson airport

Questions or comments: polymer.empowerment@gmail.com