



POLYMER WOMEN EMPOWERMENT & RESEARCH

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

Made possible thanks to:



Lawson
Climate Institute



TOSOH BIOSCIENCE

CRAIG HAWKER

Thursday, May 21st, 2026

8 AM – 1 PM	Recommended Arrival <i>Airport:</i> Toronto Pearson <i>Lodging:</i> Victoria College & Chelsea Hotel <i>Conference Venue:</i> Myhal Building at the University of Toronto	
1 – 1:30 PM	Badge Pickup & Poster Dropoff – Myhal 1st Floor Atrium	
1:30 – 5:30 PM	Opening Session -- Myhal 150	
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 in Myhal 1st floor atrium</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	<i>Lightning Talks:</i> 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 – Myhal 5th Floor Atrium	

Friday, May 22nd, 2026

8:30 – 9:15 AM	Breakfast & Badge Pickup Option 2 – Myhal 1st floor atrium	
9:15 – 11 AM	Morning Session -- Myhal 150	
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 in Myhal 1st floor atrium</i>	

11:30 – 12:30 PM	Workshops – Myhal 330, 360, 380 <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Industry Career Panel</u> in Myhal 330: Sarah Parke (Qnity), Jerika Chiong (Google), and Victoria Barber. Moderated by Margaret Zhang (Deceim). 2. <u>Alternative Careers Panel</u> in Myhal 360: Emily McClure, Sloane Evariste (UT research admin), Jocelyn Sinclair (Canadian Science Publishing), and Loryn Arnett (Acceleration Consortium). Moderated by Sara Orski (NIST). 3. <u>Introduction to the Academic Job Process</u> in Myhal 380: Julia Kalow (Northwestern) 4. <u>Independent Career Study Lounge</u> in Myhal 8th floor <p>You can submit early questions to this google form for career panels: https://forms.gle/J1MStztqVF3Ewdf99.</p>	
12:30 – 2 PM	Lunch – Myhal 1st floor atrium	
2 – 5 PM	Afternoon Session -- Myhal 150	
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)
3:30 – 3:45 PM	<i>Coffee break in Myhal 1st floor atrium</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 at Bellevue Square Park <u>Fun with Graduate Students</u> <i>Organizers:</i> Sofia Michailovich (UofT), Christine Hood (UofT), Sonia Mulgund (UofT), and Madison Bardot (Northwestern). <i>What:</i> Food 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> Small group chats and pool table at Madison Pub <u>Blessings in Disguise – Faculty</u>	

Organizers: Megan Roberts (faculty, Western), Caitlin Maikawa (faculty, UofT), and Jill Alty (faculty, Stony Brook).

What: Blessings in Disguise drinks and discussion

Industr-SHE: Food Trucks and Picnic

Organizers: Jerika Chiong (Google), Margaret Zhang (Deceim), and Victoria Barber.

What: Food trucks and picnic at Queen's Park

Please register using this link so that we know to expect you at the networking event: <https://forms.gle/oskoCGZkmouNBaTt6>

9 PM – next day

Recommended Departure

Airport: Toronto Pearson

Lodging: Victoria College & Chelsea Hotel

Questions or comments: polymer.empowerment@gmail.com