

# Global Women of Light Symposium at the 2016 Frontiers in Optics Conference

Monday, 17 October, 11:00 - 17:00

Hyatt Regency Rochester, Grand Ballroom F-G

To celebrate the OSA's 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary, [WiSTEE Connect](#) (Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Entrepreneurship) is collaborating with the OSA Foundation to organize an international symposium “**Global Women of Light**” at the 2016 [Frontiers in Optics meeting](#) on October 17<sup>th</sup> 2016 in Rochester .

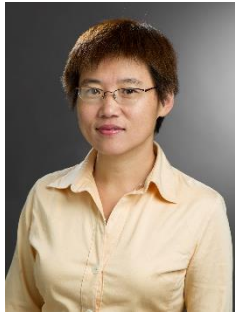
You are invited to attend this symposium. **To register for this event please sign up by [clicking here](#).** (You do not have to register for the conference and the registration for the symposium is free).

The goal of this symposium is to build a sustainable community of women in academia, industry and government from which career growth, mobility, and leadership opportunities may be sought out, recruiting women across career ranks and disciplines, and shining light upon women's careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship. Panel and round-table open discussions will be hosted at this symposium. Women leaders from both STEM and entrepreneurial backgrounds will provide their perspective on becoming successful women in these fields. A diversity and inclusion networking session will be held at the end of the event.

## Program schedule

10:20 – 11:00	Pre-Meeting and Networking for the Icebreakers
11:00 – 11:30	Welcome Remarks and General Introduction about WiSTEE Connect (by Chad Stark, Executive Director of OSA Foundation and Jie Qiao, Chair of WiSTEE Connect)
11:30 – 12:00	Panel Discussion: Intersecting Science and Entrepreneurship
12:00 – 12:30	Round-Table Discussion 1: What are Two Key Elements to be Successful in Your Sector as Female Scientists?
12:30 – 13:30	Lunch and Key Remarks by OSA CEO Elizabeth Rogan, NSF Program Directors Carmina Londoño and Dominique Dagenais
13:30 – 14:00	Round-Table Discussion 2: What are Two Things to Watch Out for and Suggestions for Overcoming Them?
14:00 – 14:30	Round-Table Discussion 3: What can Funding Agencies/Professional Societies/Academic Institutions/Corporations do to Provide More Concrete Support for Female Scientists?
14:30 – 16:30	AAUW Salary Negotiation Workshop
16:30 – 17:00	Closing
17:00 – 18:00	Diversity and Inclusion Reception

## Symposium Chair and Moderator



### **Jie Qiao**

Dr. Qiao is an Associate Professor of Optics at the Carlson Center for Imaging Science at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Her research focuses on ultrafast-laser-based photonics and optics fabrications and optical metrology. She previously worked for 8 years at the DOE-funded Laboratory for Laser Energetics on high-energy ultrafast laser systems, imaging, metrology and adaptive optics and 5 years in companies on technology innovations of photonics devices and optical systems. She was PI for the first 1.5-meter tiled-grating pulse compressor, achieving kilojoule, picosecond laser pulses. Dr.

Qiao founded WiSTEE Connect in 2013, for which she is serving as the Chair.

## Panelists for Intersecting Science and Entrepreneurship



### **Amy Eskilson**

Ms Eskilson leads the Inrad Optics organization as President and CEO. She joined the Company in February 2011. Prior to joining the Inrad Optics team Amy spent 18 years with Thorlabs, the photonic tools catalogue company. Currently Amy is a Director at Large member of the OSA Board, and is a longtime public advocate for optics and photonics.



### **Susana Marcos**

Dr. Marcos is Professor of Research and Director of the Visual Optics and Biophotonics Labs at the Institute of Optics at CSIC, Spain, where she works in the development of imaging-based technologies for applications in ophthalmology. She is a fellow of OSA, EOS and ARVO. She is a dedicated academic mentor, a translational researcher and a co-founder of Plenoptika Inc. and 2EyesVision Inc..



### **Christine Whitman**

Ms Whitman is Chairman and CEO of Compler Partners Inc., a growing logistics provider of fulfillment and software for e-Commerce. She also serves as the Chairman of the Board of Trustees of Rochester Institute of Technology. She previously was Chairman, CEO and President of CVC, Inc., a worldwide supplier of thin film process equipment for the semiconductor and data storage industries. During her tenure, she grew the business 10X in revenue, led a successful IPO and completed the sale of the company.



### **Jannick Rolland**

Dr Rolland is the Brian J. Thompson Professor of Optical Engineering at the Institute of Optics at the University of Rochester and the Director of the NSF Center for Freeform Optics (CeFO). She is a fellow of OSA and SPIE. She co-founded LighTopTech Corp. in 2013, a startup in biotechnology, for which she serves as CTO.

## **Ice-breaking Speakers for Round Table Discussions**



### **Dominique Dagenais**

Dominique Dagenais is a Program Director at the National Science Foundation, in the Electrical, Communications and Cyber Systems Division of the Engineering Directorate. Previously, she has worked for the Naval Research Laboratory Optical Sciences Division where she helped design and deploy the first three-axis fiber magnetic sensor, demonstrating record sensitivity. She supported the development of novel optoelectronic active and passive devices for WDM fiber telecommunication at Alcatel. Her other research experiences include high-power Nd:YAG laser propagation, beam shaping optics, and uniform pellet illumination for Laser fusion.



### **Carmiña Londoño**

Dr. Londoño is a Program Director for the NSF Engineering Research Centers Program. She is a Fellow of SPIE. In 2010, she received the NSF Director's Award for the Partnership for International Research and Education Program. Previously, she worked for 13 years at NIST on standards and metrology issues, 10 years at Polaroid on the design and testing of optical systems for medical and large-scale consumer products and 3 years at AVCO on the design and testing of excimer lasers. She served in the U.S. House Committee on Science, Space and Technology as an AIP Congressional Science Fellow in 1994.



### **Elizabeth Rogan**

Ms Rogan is the Chief Executive Officer of OSA, The Optical Society. She is responsible for the oversight, strategic direction and fiscal soundness of programs and activities of this \$40M, 150+ staff society. In addition, Liz is the society's spokesperson and advocate to a wide range of OSA constituencies, including its members, volunteers, co-sponsors and customers, throughout the global optics community.



### **Janet S. Fender**

Dr. Fender currently serves as Chief Scientist and Scientific Advisor to the Commander, Air Combat Command USAF. This year, she was awarded the Presidential Distinguished Rank Award, a lifetime achievement award bestowed upon only the top 1% of federal gov't senior executives. She worked at the Air Force Research Laboratory (1981-2004) as a Research Physicist in lasers, imaging, and space technologies. Dr Fender served as president of OSA, the Optical Society in 1996.



### **Lynda Busse**

Dr. Busse has been a Research Physicist at the Naval Research Laboratory since 1986. She has led programs utilizing specialty IR-transmitting glass fibers and other devices, including the advancement of antireflective surface microstructures on optics. She is Chair of the Novel Optical Materials and Applications Conference, which is part of the OSA Advanced Photonics Congress.



### **Shouleh Nikzad**

Dr. Nikzad is a Senior Research Scientist, Principal Engineer, Lead for Adv. Detectors, Imaging System, & Nanoscience Group, co Lead & Technical Director for the virtual center on Med. Eng at JPL, & visiting faculty at Caltech. Among her honors are fellow of the American Physical Society & NASA Group Achievement Award.



### **Clara Asmail**

Ms Asmail, Senior Technical Advisor, NIST MEP develops programs, pilots and partnerships to provide small R&D and manufacturing businesses with the services and access to technology-based resources to help them grow and improve their productivity. Previously, she was Project Leader for Optical Scatterometry at NIST. Her patented technology is the subject of the longest-lived and highest revenue license in the history of NIST.



### **Jessica DeGroot Nelson**

Dr. Nelson is the Director of Engineering at Optimax Systems Inc., where she oversees both the Research and Development and Prototype Optics Business Units. She is an active member with the OSA and SPIE and the local section of the OSA – Rochester Section. She is also an adjunct faculty member at The Institute of Optics teaching Optical Fabrication and Testing.



### **Arti Agrawal**

Dr. Agrawal is a senior lecturer at City University London. She is an expert in numerical simulations for Photonics and has written a book on the Finite Element method. She is also passionate about diversity and is actively involved in OSA and IEEE Photonics Society.



### **Stefi Baum**

Dr. Baum is the Dean of the Faculty of Science and Professor of Physics and Astronomy at the University of Manitoba (Canada). She is active in the development of new astronomy mission concepts, and has published more than 200 papers in refereed journals. She is also active in education and public outreach and K-12 STEM Education and is committed to the engagement of youth and the public in science and mathematics.



### **Gisele Benett**

Dr. Bennett is a Regents' Researcher, an Associate Vice President for Research, Faculty Interaction, and a Professor in the School of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Georgia Tech. She previously was the director of the Electro-Optical Systems Laboratory at GTRI with over 130 researchers. Her technical interest include atmospheric propagation and super resolution systems. Dr. Bennett is a member of the Army Science Board and a Fellow of OSA and SPIE.



### **Ursula Gibson**

Dr. Gibson received a PhD in Physics before joining the University of Arizona Optical Sciences Center in 1982. She then moved to Dartmouth College in 2000, where she was on the faculty of the Thayer School of Engineering for 20 years, and in 2010, she moved to the Norwegian University of Science and Technology. Her research areas include novel optical materials, spanning biomaterials, thin films and most recently, semiconductor-core optical fibers.



### **Michal Lipson**

Dr. Lipson is a Professor at the Electrical Engineering at Columbia University. She was one of the main pioneers in the field of silicon photonics and is the inventor of several of the critical building blocks in the field including the GHz silicon modulator. She holds over 20 patents and is the author of over 200 technical papers. She is a fellow of OSA and IEEE. In 2014, and in 2015 she was named by Thomson Reuters as a top 1% highly cited researcher in the field of Physics.



### **Nozomi Nishimura**

Dr. Nishimura is an Assistant Professor at the Meinig School of Biomedical Engineering at Cornell University. Her research is on developing optical tools for in vivo physiology. She started out in physics and transitioned to studying physiology during her PhD in which she studied blood flow in the brain. Current applications include neurodegenerative disease, cardiac disease and stem cell biology.



### **Carle Pieters**

Dr. Pieters is a Professor at Brown University. She is a geoscientist who has worked with optical spectrometers on telescopes and spacecraft to explore the composition and evolution of rocky planetary bodies. She was PI for a modern near-infrared imaging spectrometer flown to the Moon and is part of the team currently exploring the volatile-rich dwarf planet Ceres.



### **Kathleen Richardson**

Dr. Richardson is currently Professor of Optics and Materials Science and Engineering at CREOL/College of Optics and Photonics at the University of Central FL, where she runs the Glass Processing and Characterization Laboratory. In addition to authoring more than 210 peer-reviewed publications, she currently serves as Past-President of the American Ceramic Society, and holds the rank of Fellow in OSA, SPIE, ACerS and the Society of Glass Technology.