

Reimagining STEMM Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Career Development: A Summit

Committee

Julie Posselt

Co-Chair

Dr. Julie Posselt (she/her) is Associate Dean of the Graduate School and Professor of Education at the University of Southern California. Posselt is an expert on organizational behavior affecting access to and equity in higher education, especially in graduate education and STEM disciplines. She is PI and Director of the Equity in Graduate Education Consortium, a research-practice partnership composed of 24 universities, as well as Director of the Research Hub for the NSF-INCLUDES Alliance: Inclusive Graduate Education Network (IGEN). Her most recent book is *Equity in Science: Representation, Culture, and the Dynamics of Change in Graduate Education*. She has served on three NASEM consensus studies, is a regular mentor for National Academy of Education dissertation fellows and postdoctoral fellows, and held a postdoctoral fellowship with the National Academy of Education. She received her PhD from the University of Michigan.

Joerg C. Schlatterer

Co-Chair

Dr. Joerg Schlatterer is the Director of the Office of Research Grants at the ACS where he oversees the distribution of approximately \$20 million in grants annually. As a key thought leader for the ACS Scientific Advancement Division, he works to ensure that the ACS strategically utilizes its grantmaking capacity to best support today's scientific research community. In previous roles at ACS, Dr. Schlatterer led the office Student & Postdoctoral Scholars Development to support the career and professional development of students and postdoctoral investigators. He is the co-PI on the NSF INCLUDES Alliance grant for the Inclusive Graduate Education Network, and he led the development of the ACS Bridge Project which aims to create ecosystems in higher education where everyone can develop a feeling of belonging.

Prior to joining the ACS in 2017, Dr. Schlatterer served as Program Director in the Division of Graduate Education at the US National Science Foundation. He began his professional career as a faculty member in biochemistry at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine in New York City; and later served as Assistant Dean of Faculty Professional Development at Columbia University Medical Center. Dr. Schlatterer received his bachelor's and master's degrees in chemistry from the Free University of Berlin, and his Ph.D. in chemistry from the University of Heidelberg.

David B. Allison

Member

David B. Allison, Ph.D. is Dean, Distinguished Professor, and Provost Professor at the Indiana University Bloomington School of Public Health-Bloomington. His research interests include obesity and nutrition, quantitative genetics, clinical trials, statistical and research methodology, and research rigor and integrity. Co-Chair of the National Academy of Sciences' Strategic Council for Research Excellence, Integrity, and Trust, he is known as an indefatigable champion for increased rigor in all of science and the unvarnished truthful communication of research.

Stefano Cataldi

Member

Stefano Cataldi is an Associate Research Scientist at Columbia University and co-founder of Science Careers & Opportunity in Policy & Education (SCOPE). With over a decade of research experience, he began his career at the University of Ferrara, Italy, and later pursued graduate studies in Neuroscience at the University of British Columbia, Canada.

Stefano's primary expertise lies in cognitive neuroscience, with a focus on complex cognitive abilities. He is also an experienced union organizer and policy advocate, having served as Head Steward and Bargaining Committee member for the Postdocs and Associate Research Scientists Union at Columbia University. Their work includes contributions to initiatives such as the Committee on Anti-Bullying and Power-Based Harassment and IDEAL: Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, Accessibility, and Leadership, aimed at fostering equitable and inclusive environments in academia.

Stefano has been awarded multiple fellowships, including from the Parkinson's Society of Canada and the Italian Academy of Advanced Studies at Columbia University. They are an active member of the UAW Higher Ed Council, the National Postdoc Association (NPA), the New York Academy of Sciences (NYAS), and the National Academy of Sciences (NAS).

Lee Ellen Drechsler

Member

Lee Ellen Drechsler is a Senior Vice President of Corporate R&D at Procter & Gamble (P&G), responsible for building transformational technology platforms that serve the entire company. She has grown Connect & Develop, P&G's renowned open innovation platform, into an indispensable global network of public-private partnerships contributing to the virtually all new product launches. Over her 31-year career at P&G, Lee Ellen has constantly redefined the boundaries breakthrough consumer product innovation leveraging multi-disciplinary research across materials science, chemistry, biology, and process engineering. She is a proven change agent creating new paths to launch products and industrializing game-changing technologies, including VC-funded new companies and licensing deals across the sustainable materials supply chain. Lee Ellen fuels her commitment to developing STEM talent across academia and industry with advisory positions on the University of Cincinnati Colleges of Engineering and Cooperative Education, the University-Industry Partnership Organization (UIDP) and the Singapore National Science Prize selection committee. She received her Bachelor of Science degree in Metallurgical Engineering from Purdue University and PhD in Materials Engineering from the University of Cincinnati.

Rigoberto Hernandez

Member

Dr. Rigoberto Hernandez is the Gompf Family Professor in the Department of Chemistry at the Johns Hopkins University since 2016, and the Director of the Open Chemistry Collaborative in Diversity Equity (OXIDE). He is also a Professor in the Departments of Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering, and Materials Science and Engineering at Johns Hopkins University. He is the 2025 President-Elect of the American Chemical Society. He has published over 180 articles in theoretical and computational chemistry and discipline-based diversity research in chemistry. Dr. Hernandez is the recipient of a National Science Foundation (NSF) CAREER Award (1997), Research Corporation's Cottrell Scholar (1999), STAR (2016), and IMPACT Awards (2023); the Alfred P. Sloan Fellow Award (2000); the ACS Award for Encouraging Disadvantaged Students into Careers in the Chemical Sciences (2014); and the Herty Medal (2017). He is a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS, 2004), the American Chemical Society (ACS, 2010), the American Physical Society (APS, 2011), and the Royal Society of Chemistry (FRSC, 2020). He holds a B.S.E. in Chemical Engineering and Mathematics from Princeton University (1989), and a Ph.D. in Chemistry from the University of California, Berkeley (1993).

Breanne M. Jaqua

Member

Dr. Jaqua is an emergency medicine physician and an Associate Professor in the Department of Clinical Science Education at A.T. Still University School of Osteopathic Medicine in Arizona (ATSU-SOMA). She also serves as the Director of Professional Development at ATSU-SOMA.

Dr. Jaqua's research and scholarly activity focus on innovative medical education practices and trainee wellness. As an educator, she serves as a didactic course director and teaches advanced clinical and procedural skills. She also facilitates case-based, small-group discussions and participates in case writing and curriculum development. She has presented and published on a variety of topics, such as the continuum of medical education, medical school curricular interventions, and trainee well-being.

Dr. Jaqua is the 2024-2026 NAM Fellow of Osteopathic Medicine. She served as a former member of the Accreditation Council for Graduate Medical Education's Board of Directors and recently completed her service as Chair of the Council of Review Committee Residents. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees with the Arizona Osteopathic Medical Association.

Dr. Jaqua received her BA from the University of Michigan, her DO from ATSU-SOMA, and her MPH from A.T. Still University's College of Graduate Health Studies. She completed her emergency medicine training at Mercy Health—St. Vincent Medical Center. She is certified by the American Board of Emergency Medicine.

Hironao Okahana

Member

Hironao Okahana first joined the American Council on Education (ACE) in 2021 as the head of research and currently serves as vice president and executive director of Education Futures Lab. In this capacity, he is at the forefront of advancing ACE's thought leadership areas—systems dynamics, learner success, and leadership—and leads a portfolio of high-impact and evidence-inspired programs. Okahana is a nationally and internationally recognized leader at the nexus of postsecondary education research, practice, and policy. In addition to his work at ACE, he also serves in several other roles, including but not limited to as a member of the Board on Higher Education and Workforce at NASEM; and an international affiliated fellow at the National Institute of Science and Technology Policy in Japan. Prior to joining ACE, he worked at the Council of Graduate Schools for over eight years, culminating his time there as the vice president for research and knowledge development, leading/co-leading number of key projects, including the PhD Career Pathways project and Supporting Mental Health and Wellness of Graduate Students project. Okahana earned his PhD in education and master's degree in public policy from UCLA and his undergraduate degrees from CSULB.

Zakiya Wilson-Kennedy

Member

Zakiya S. Wilson-Kennedy, Ph.D., is the Ron and Dr. Mary Neal Distinguished Associate Professor of Chemistry Education and the Associate Dean for Diversity and Inclusion within the College of Science at Louisiana State University (LSU). Formerly she has held faculty, administrative, and professional positions at the University of Delaware, Louisiana State University, and North Carolina A&T State University. Her research investigates the persistence of individuals from all backgrounds in STEM higher education and careers. Through these efforts, she employs mentoring models that integrate the theories of science identity, empowerment, social cognitive career theory, and community cultural wealth to create and test development structures that cultivate self-efficacy and agency, to support STEM workforce development. She was elected as a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) in 2021, Fellow of the National Organization for the Professional Development of Black Chemists and Chemical Engineers (NOBCChE) in 2023, and Fellow of the American Chemical Society (ACS) in 2024. She served as the PI of the 2014 Presidential Award for Excellence in Science, Mathematics, and Engineering Mentoring (PAESMEM) organizational recognition for the LSU Office of Strategic Initiatives. Additional honors include the NOBCChE Winifred Burks-Houck Award (2019) and Henry C McBay Outstanding Educator Award (2014), the ACS Stanley C. Israel Regional Award for Advancing Diversity in the Chemical Sciences (2011), Woman of Color STEM Achievement Award for Promotion of Education at the Collegiate Level (2011), and the National Administrator Role Model Award from Minority Access, Inc. (2009). She received her bachelor's degree in chemistry from Jackson State University and her doctorate in inorganic chemistry from Louisiana State University.

Sarah Rovito

Staff Officer