



**Global Women of Light Symposium at the
2016 Frontiers in Optics Conference,
OSA's 100th Annual Meeting**

Dear colleague,

To celebrate the OSA's 100th 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 on 17 October 2016 in Rochester, NY, US. The program will be hosted at the Hyatt Regency Rochester from 11:00-17:00.

To register for this event please sign up by [clicking here](#). Note that you do not have to register for the conference and the registration for the symposium is free. Men, women, students, and professionals alike are invited to attend!

The overall goal of the “Global Women of Light” symposium is to shine light upon women's careers in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and entrepreneurship, recruit women across career ranks and disciplines, and build a sustainable community of women in both academia and industry from which career growth, mobility, and leadership opportunities may be sought out.

WiSTEE Connect (www.wisteeconnect.org) is an organization which serves to connect female students, faculty members, scientists, and engineers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Entrepreneurship (STEE) from universities, government labs, and private companies. The vision of WiSTEE Connect is to promote women leadership in STEE and assist women involved in these areas to gain regional and/or global connections and recognition. This organization, started in upstate New York, helps to bridge the gap between science and entrepreneurship while providing a forum through which women in these fields may learn, connect, and lead.

I hope you will be able to join me and other women from around the world for a thought-provoking and impactful program focused on moving the careers of women in our field forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jie Qiao".

Jie Qiao, Ph.D, M.B.A.
Founder, WiSTEE Connect
Associate Professor
Chester F. Carlson Center for Imaging Science
Rochester Institute of Technology

Global Women of Light Symposium

Monday, 17 October

Hyatt Regency Rochester
125 East Main Street
Rochester, NY, US

Agenda

- 10:20-11:00 **Meeting and Greet Pre-Meeting Networking**
- 11:00 – 11:30 **Welcome Remarks and Introduction to WiSTEE Connect**
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|-----------------------------------|--|
| Jie Qiao, Chair
WiSTEE Connect | Chad Stark, Executive Director
OSA Foundation |
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- 11:30 – 12:00 **Panel Discussion: Intersecting Science and Entrepreneurship**
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| Amy Eskilson, CEO
Inrad Optics | Susana Marcos, Founder
Plenoptika, Inc |
| Jannick Rolland, Founder
LighTopTech Corp. | Christine Whitman, CEO
Complemar Partners Inc. |
- 12:00 – 12:30 **Round-Table Discussion 1:** What are two key essential traits to be successful in your sector as female?
- 12:30 – 13:30 **Lunch and Remarks**
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| Elizabeth A. Rogan, CEO
The Optical Society |
| Carmiña Londoño and Dominique Dagenais
US National Science Foundation |
- 13:30 – 14:00 **Round-Table Discussion 2:** What are common obstacles/barriers 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 females?

(program continued)

14:30 – 16:30

Start Smart Salary Negotiation Workshop

Created for working women, Work Smart is an interactive workshop that teaches you to evaluate, negotiate, and articulate your worth confidently in the job market.

Speaker to be announced
American Association of University Women

16:30 – 17:00

Closing Remarks

Jie Qiao, Chair
WiSTEE Connect

17:00 – 18:00

Diversity & Inclusion Program and Reception: A Look at the LGBT Climate in Physics

Hear about highlights from the 2016 American Physical Society's (APS) LGBT Climate in Physics Report. Following the presentation join your colleagues for a networking reception to discuss ways the optics and photonics community can improve diversity and inclusion.

Ramon Barthelemy, AIP Statistical Research Center

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..



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.



Christine Whitman

Ms Whitman is Chairman and CEO of Complemar 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.



Susan Houde-Walter

Dr. Houde-Walter is co-founder, CEO and Chairman of the Board of LaserMax, Inc. Prior to joining LaserMax full time as CEO, Susan was a tenured Professor of Optics at the University of Rochester. She is adjunct faculty at the College of Optical Science, University of Arizona, Fellow OSA and the American Ceramic Society, and has served on the U.S. Army Science Board (2006-2015) and the U.S. Air Force Science Advisory Board (2011-2016). Susan served as President of OSA in 2005.

Presenters and Lead-Speakers for Round-Table Discussions

Government Program Management



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.

Industry and Associations



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.



Liz Rogan

Ms Rogan is the Chief Executive Officer of The Optical Society (OSA). 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.

Government Research



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.



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.



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.



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. Dr. Nikzad is also a Fellow of APS.

Academic



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.