



2022-03-21: 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellowship Winners

March 21, 2022

Pasadena, CA — Today, Out to Innovate is proud to announce the winners for the 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellowship, formerly known as the Ben Barres Fellowship. This merit-based fellowship provides awards, for up to \$5000, to support professional development of trans, intersex, and non-binary graduate students and post-doctoral fellows in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM).

Thirteen trans, intersex, and non-binary early career researchers have been awarded amounts ranging from \$1000 to \$5000. This year's fellows are in the fields of particle physics, bioengineering, wildlife ecology, neuroscience, marine ecology, restoration ecology, and forensic anthropology at universities in the US and Canada. This is a merit-based award, and the funds support the recipient's professional development. Twelve awards were funded in 2021 by an anonymous donor and one by 23andMe.

The majority of the funds are supporting equipment, training courses, supplies, and conference attendance. The winners of this year's awards are:



Christine Hamadani,
2022 Out to Innovate
Career Development
Fellow

Christine Hamadani is a graduate student in chemistry at the University of Mississippi validating novel ionic liquid coated nanoparticles for therapeutic applications.



Claire Hansel, 2022 Out
to Innovate Career
Development Fellow

Claire Hansel is a physics graduate student at the University of Colorado – Boulder studying ion channel laser radiation as it interacts with plasma, in an effort to validate its use in small scale X-ray beam experiments.



Courtney Willett, 2022
Out to Innovate Career
Development Fellow

Courtney Willett is a graduate student in genetics and molecular biology at Emory University studying the relationship between cell potency and chromatin dynamics, a poorly-understood component of cell differentiation.



Drew Powell, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

Drew Powell is a graduate student in the Geography and Environmental Systems Department at the University of Maryland Baltimore County studying the interactive effects of tree cover and proximity to pollutant sources on heavy metal air pollution in Baltimore.



Eli Chlan, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

Eli Chlan is a graduate student at Emory University in the Neuroscience program studying glia in retinal pathology and neurovascular function.



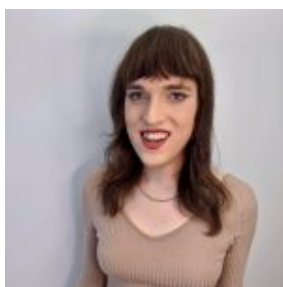
Em Lim, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

Em Lim is a graduate student in biology at Simon Fraser University studying the impacts of animal excrement on cold-water reef ecosystems of the Pacific Northwest with implications for aquaculture and conservation.



M Wittkop, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

M Wittkop is a graduate student in chemistry at Montana State University optimizing computational methods to more accurately replicate quantum processes such as photochemistry.



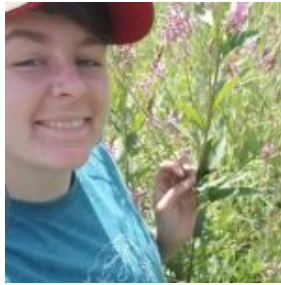
Mila Halgren, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

Mila Halgren is a graduate student at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the Brain & Cognitive Sciences Department comparing neocortex physiology across species in effort to understand the evolution of the mammalian brain.



Parker Lund, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

Parker Lund is a graduate student in biology at Humboldt State University establishing the role of host-associated microbes in anemone invasion ecology.



Riley Pizza, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

Riley Pizza is a graduate student at Michigan State University in the Department of Plant Biology investigating seeding strategies for successful and biodiverse environmental restoration.



Silas Fischer, 2022 Out to Innovate Career Development Fellow

Silas Fischer is a graduate student in ecology at the University of Toledo studying desert songbird responses to climate change.



Taylor Flaherty, 2022
Out to Innovate Career
Development Fellow

Taylor Flaherty is a graduate student in forensic anthropology at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas quantifying the effects of gender affirming hormone therapy on bone structure for more accurate and affirming forensic classification.



Hannah Young, 2022
Out to Innovate Career
Development Fellow

This year we are pleased to be able to provide one fellowship sponsored by 23andMe to Hannah Young. Hannah is a graduate student in molecular biology at the University of Utah studying how the immune system differentiates between genetic material from the host and virus during a viral infection.

The winners will be invited to the next Out To Innovate awards ceremony on May 28, 2022.

Out to Innovate™ is:

a professional society and global community of LGBTQ+ students and professionals in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.