2024 Future Leaders in Aerospace Symposium

Stanford University | Massachusetts Institute of Technology | University of Colorado, Boulder | Pennsylvania State University

Image from our 2018 symposium

The **2024 Future Leaders in Aerospace Symposium**, organized by Stanford University in conjunction with Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), University of Colorado Boulder (CU Boulder), and Pennsylvania State University (Penn State) offers outstanding doctoral and postdoctoral researchers a unique opportunity to present their research, learn about careers in academia, discuss emerging trends in aerospace engineering, and build their network. Participants will:

- Exchange views on the future of aerospace engineering through research presentations, inspiring keynote presentations, and interactive panel discussions;
- Learn how to embark on the academic job search, win research grants, maintain career-life balance as a young faculty member, and design a sustainable research program;
- Engage with industry and government professionals to learn how to spark and maintain impactful academic-industry and academic-government research partnerships.

Participants (one to two years from, or up to two years following, receipt of their doctoral degree) will be selected through a competitive application process. Applicants should show a strong research background, contributions to the aerospace community, and an interest in pursuing a career in research.

Agenda 15 - 17 May 2024 450 Durand Building Stanford University	
Day 1: Wednesday, May 15	
6:30 pm - 8:00 pm	**Welcome Reception**
Day 2: Thursday, May 16	
9:00 am - 09:30 am	**Welcome** *Introduction*, **Prof. Debbie Senesky (Stanford University)** *Introduction*, **Chair Juan Alonso (Stanford University)**
9:30 am - 10:30 am	**TECHNICAL SESSION #1** **Propulsion & Combustion (6 student talks)** *Moderator: Asta Wu*
10:30 am - 11:00 am	**Break**
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	**PANEL #1** **Putting Your Best Foot Forward: Winning the Faculty Position** *Panelist*: **Prof. Manan Arya (Stanford University)** *Panelist*: **Prof. Maria Sakovsky (Stanford University)** *Panelist*: **Prof. Torin Clark (CU Boulder)** *Panelist*: **Prof. Adrian Lozano-Duran (MIT)**

12:00 pm - 1:30 pm	**Lunch & Poster Session w/ Faculty**
1:30 pm - 2:30 pm	**TECHNICAL SESSION #2** **Aerodynamics & Controls (6 student talks)** *Moderator: Lauren Simitz*
2:30 pm - 3:00 pm	**Break**
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	**PANEL #2** **Building a Thriving Research Career in Industry or Government Laboratory** *Panelist*: **Dr. Hannah Alpert (NASA Ames)** *Panelist*: **TBD (TBD)** *Panelist*: **TBD (TBD)** *Panelist*: **TBD (TBD)**
4:00 pm - 4:30 pm	**Group Photo**
4:30 pm - 5:30 pm	**Break & Transit to Dinkelspiel Auditorium**
5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	**Keynote (Dinkelspiel Auditorium)** *The Fusion Breakthrough* **Dr. Andrea "Annie" Kritcher (Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory)** *Note: Co-organized with nano@stanford, SLAC, & Plasma Seminar Series*
7:00 pm - 8:30 pm	**Reception (Faculty Club)**
Day 3: Friday, May 17	

9:00 am - 09:10 am	**Welcome** *Introduction*, **Debbie Senesky (Stanford University)** *Introduction*, **Dean Jennifer Widom (Stanford University)**
9:10 am - 10:00 am	**TECHNICAL SESSION #3** **Flight, Controls, & Navigation (5 Student Talks)** *Moderator: Lauren Simitz*
10:00 am - 10:50 am	**PANEL #3** **Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Mentoring, Promotion & Tenure** • *Panelist*: **Juan Alonso (Stanford University)** • *Panelist*: **Amy Pritchett (Penn State)**
10:50 am - 11:00 am	**Break**
11:00 am - 12:00 pm	**Keynote Presentation** *Momentum after Pivotal e-VTOL Breakthroughs* **Kristina Menton (Pivotal)** *Note: Co-organized with the Aero/Astro Department & WIAA*
12:00 pm - 12:45 pm	**Lunch & Round Table Discussion** **Walking a Tightrope: Time Management, Career & Family** • *Panelist*: **Prof. Debbie Senesky (Stanford University)** • *Panelist*: **Prof. Hamsa Balakrishnan (MIT)**
12:45 pm - 1:45 pm	**TECHNICAL SESSION #4** **Materials & Structures (6 Student Talks)** *Moderator: Asta Wu*

1:45 pm - 2:30 pm	**Break**
2:30 pm - 3:30 pm	**The Stanford Dish Hike (Optional)** *Lead: Lauren Simitz*