

**ARNOLD O. BECKMAN  
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP  
PRESS KIT**

**Contact:**

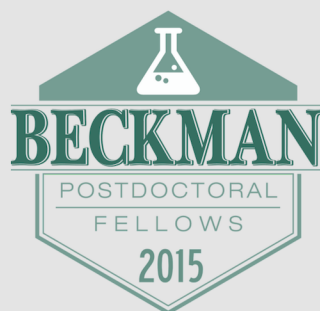
949.560.5942 | [aobpostdoc@beckman-foundation.org](mailto:aobpostdoc@beckman-foundation.org)

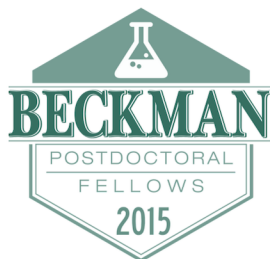
**Anne Hultgren, PhD**

*Executive Director*

**Dani Skolnick, MPA**

*Program Administrator*





### **About the Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship**

The Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chemical Sciences or Chemical Instrumentation Award Program supports advanced research by postdoctoral scholars within the core areas of fundamental chemistry or the development and build of chemical instrumentation. Research must be innovative in method, speed or process, or represent new instrument technology. This fellowship will be a catalyst from "mentored yet independent" postdocs to outstanding, independent researchers in academic or industry/governmental labs. The Fellowships will be in one of two tracks:

- Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chemical Sciences will allow chemists to pursue advanced research within the core areas of fundamental chemistry, such as chemical physics, chemical engineering, and chemistry of materials research.
- Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chemical Instrumentation will allow researchers in chemistry to conceptualize, develop and build instrumentation suitable to advanced research in chemistry, chemical physics, chemical engineering, and chemistry of materials science. Instrumentation projects must be suitable to the two-year fellowship timeframe, be driven by a need in the chemical sciences listed above, be innovative in method speed or process or represent a wholly new instrument for technical advancement in chemistry and may potentially be used for future research in the broader scientific community.

Fellows will be appointed for two years, with possibility for third year by renewal.

- The award amount is \$224,000 over 2 years for salary, fringe benefits and research expenditures; instrumentation fellowships will receive an additional one-time amount of up to \$200,000. Fellows receiving year 3 renewal award will receive additional \$118,000.
- Additional details about eligibility, application procedure, and more, are located on the program info page.

### **Program Timeline (subject to change)**

June - Letter of Intent Opens

September - Letter of Intent Due

October - Applicants Notified

December - Full Application Due

February - Awardees Selected and Notified



### **Additional National Grant Programs at the Foundation**

- Beckman Young Investigator Award – Provides research support to the most promising young faculty members in the early stages\* of their academic careers in the chemical and life sciences, particularly to foster the invention of methods, instruments and materials that will open up new avenues of research in science.
- Beckman Scholars Program – Provides 15-month mentored research experiences for exceptional undergraduate students in chemistry, biological sciences, or interdisciplinary combinations thereof.
- Beckman Speaker & Conference Support Fund – Provides funding that may be used for speaker travel support for members of the Beckman Family (current/past awardees, Institute Directors, Science Advisory Council, or Board Members), and other expenses related to hosting a seminar or conference. This program seeks to increase exposure to innovative science, promote leadership and communication skills, and enhance networking within Beckman awardee groups.

The Foundation also has a research technology initiative which evaluates the need for instrumentation grant programs and implements them as short-term opportunities on a periodic basis; most recently, Mass Spectrometry for Atmospheric Monitoring.

*\*The BYI program is open to those within the first four years of a tenure-track position, or an equivalent independent research appointment, at a United States academic or non-profit institution that conducts research in chemical and life sciences. Additional guidelines regarding eligibility can be found on the program info webpage.*

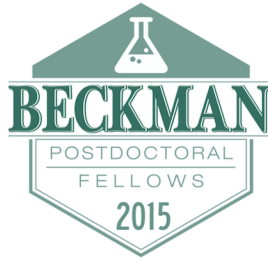
 949.560.5942

 [aobpostdoc@beckman-foundation.org](mailto:aobpostdoc@beckman-foundation.org)



ARNOLD & MABEL

**BECKMAN**  
FOUNDATION



### **AOB Postdoc Program Administrator**

The Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship is administered by Dani Skolnick, under the direction of the Executive Director, Deputy Director, and Board of Directors.



#### *Program Administrator*

- Dani Skolnick, MPA

Dani joined the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation in 2024 and serves as Program Administrator of the Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship. She holds a MPA from Arkansas State University.

#### *Executive Director and CEO*

- Anne Hultgren, PhD

#### *Deputy Director*

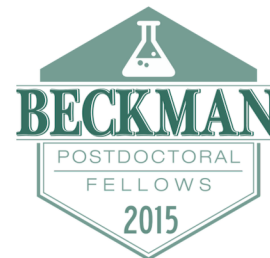
- Catrina Bryant

#### *Board of Directors*

- Jane Buchan, PhD, Board Member
- Jacqueline Dorrance-Tomlinson, Board Secretary
- Heather Haworth, Board Member
- Jeffrey Johnston, PhD, Board Vice-Chair
- Andrew Lyon, PhD, Board Chair
- Kristen Monson, Board Member
- Shlomi Nachman, Board Member
- Steven Pizula, Board Member
- Lynn Rahn, Board Treasurer
- Deborah Wuttke, PhD, Board Member

IRVINE, Calif.

05/19/2023



# PRESS RELEASE

## Beckman Foundation Announces 2023 Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellows

### *Sixteen Research Fellows to Receive Over \$4.7M in Science Funding*

The Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation announced today its 2023 class of Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellows in Chemical Sciences, individuals who underscore the Foundation's mission of supporting basic research in the chemical sciences and chemical instrumentation. They were selected after a three-part review led by a panel of scientific experts.

The Foundation will award more than \$4.7 million in funding over the next three years for 16 exceptional research fellows from 11 universities and research institutions:

#### **Chemical Instrumentation Development**

- Suman Gunasekaran, Ph.D., Cornell University

#### **Chemical Sciences**

- Ashley Arcidiacono, Ph.D., The University of Chicago
- Alexander Hurben, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
- Christian Oswood, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Clorice Reinhardt, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Grigorii Skorupskii, Ph.D., Princeton University
- Jakob Dahl, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Jake Jagannathan, Ph.D., University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
- James Law, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Jonathan Shultz, Ph.D., Duke University
- Kelsie Wentz, Ph.D., Johns Hopkins University
- Matthew Hannigan, Ph.D., New York University
- Neil Razdan, Ph.D., Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- Stephanie Hart, Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley
- Steven Chapman, Ph.D., Northwestern University
- Steven Chavez, Ph.D., Stanford University

- more -

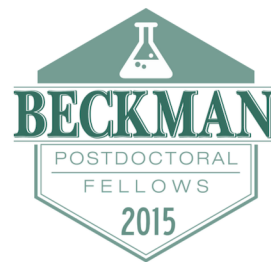
 949.560.5942

 aobpostdoc@beckman-foundation.org



ARNOLD & MABEL  
**BECKMAN**  
FOUNDATION

- continued -



"Congratulations to the 2023 class of Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellows!" shared Dr. Anne Hultgren, Executive Director of the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation. "We are inspired by their innovative chemistry and instrument development projects, and excited to provide this group of excellent scientists with support to help them transition to independent research careers."

The Arnold O. Beckman Postdoctoral Fellowship provides salary and research support to postdoctoral scholars with the highest potential for success in an independent academic career in the chemical sciences, and to assist in their moves from mentored yet independent researchers to tenure-track positions. Funds for 2023 awardees will be issued this summer and extend over a period of up to three years.

#### **About the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation**

Located in Irvine, California, the Arnold and Mabel Beckman Foundation supports researchers and nonprofit research institutions in making the next generation of breakthroughs in chemistry and the life sciences. Founded in 1977 by 20th century scientific instrumentation pioneer Dr. Arnold O. Beckman, the Foundation supports United States institutions and young scientists whose creative, high-risk, and interdisciplinary research will lead to innovations and new tools and methods for scientific discovery. For more information, visit [beckman-foundation.org](http://beckman-foundation.org).

###



949.560.5942

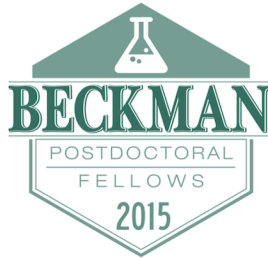


[aobpostdoc@beckman-foundation.org](mailto:aobpostdoc@beckman-foundation.org)



ARNOLD & MABEL

**BECKMAN**  
FOUNDATION



**Notable Awardee: 2015 AOB Postdoc Nina Lany, PhD**

Affiliation at the time of the award: Michigan State University  
Research Title: "Improving Predictions of Climate Change Effects on Ecological Communities with Ecological Complexity"



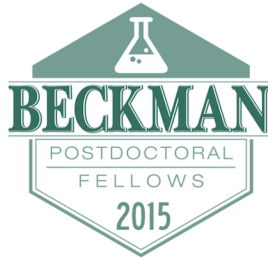
Now: Ecologist, U.S. Department of Agriculture

Dr. Nina Lany took an unconventional path to science, starting with studying literature and languages, then traveling and backpacking, pursuing environmental education and getting interested in the natural world. As a postdoctoral fellow, Lany developed mathematical methods for incorporating interactions among species and ecological food webs into models of their distribution with an emphasis on being able to predict distribution in abundance of organisms under climate change.

"We found by incorporating these processes, like interactions with other species, or demographic processes such as birth and death rates into the model," Lany explained, "we learned a lot about the underlying processes or the mechanisms of what was happening. And that allows us to understand the biology of the system better and also to make better predictions in novel environments or when novel conditions come up."

After her Beckman-funded postdoctoral fellowship, Lany decided to look for a job that combined teaching and research and kept an open mind. She took a job as an ecologist with the U.S. Forest Service.

"The Northern Research Station is part of the research arm of the Forest Service, so almost my entire job is focused on research activities. A big part of my job is that I maintain the integrity of the long-term data records... they have taught us a lot about the effects of logging, acid rain, mercury cycling in ecosystems, and so I have a big role in maintaining those into the future," shared Lany. "...And then I also do research support and I work on team research projects, and then I have a few projects that I lead myself, that I design...I just finished a museum display on climate change and the White Mountains. I did a lot of the data analysis and presentation work with communications specialists and museum specialists to develop the method and put together the product and that was really fun."



**Notable Awardee: 2015 AOB Postdoc Luis Mejia, PhD**

Affiliation at the time of the award: Cold Spring Harbor  
Research Title: "Striatum-projecting Orbitofrontal Neuron  
Subpopulations in the Express of Repetitive Compulsive  
Behaviors in Mice"



Now: Editor, *Nature Neuroscience*

Dr. Luis Mejia describes his upbringing as being surrounded by science because both of his parents were trained as food scientists. This led to many science related discussions in the house, and initially put him on the path towards research and his current career. During his undergrad, he became interested in neural mechanisms of psychiatric disease or mental illness. His coursework focused largely on neurobiology and motivated his pursuit of a doctoral degree.

"I attended Harvard to study neuroscience to receive a PhD in neuroscience, and from there I went on to do a postdoctoral fellowship at Cold Spring, our laboratory, and throughout my path I focused heavily on neural circuits that are relevant to mental illness," Mejia explained.

During his Beckman-funded postdoc, he wanted to delve more into an area of neuroscience having to do with manipulating and imaging neural activity in vivo, in mice. He joined Cold Spring Harbor, where they looked at the subpopulation of neurons in the brain of mice that are involved in the decision to approach a reward or to avoid an aversive stimulus.

"I trained substantially in this type of work, and I came to a point where I simply had to make a decision about whether to pursue a job in academia, whether to pursue a job in the industry," shared Mejia. "One of the jobs that came up was the possibility of working as a scientific editor...the primary job of editors and including editors in *Nature Neuroscience* is to evaluate research...and then ultimately make decisions about which papers we want to appear in the Journal. So, you know, 90% of our time is dedicated to analyzing...to evaluating research projects and discussing them as a team and seeking feedback from the neuroscience community...you're embedded in the research all day...It actually offers a lot of opportunities for learning about subfields that you perhaps have not studied and involves a kind of a love for learning about different projects."