



Media Advisory
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Science Coalition to Host Media Roundtable with Early-Career Scientists
Recipients of Presidential Early Career Awards for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) to discuss their research, its impact, and the role federal funding has played in advancing their work

Washington, DC – The Science Coalition will host a media roundtable featuring early-career scientists and engineers on Thursday, Oct. 13, at 9 a.m. at the National Press Club. These young researchers are leading pioneering work that has wide-ranging implications for health, energy, security, communications and the environment, as well as helping to motivate and train next-generation scientists and engineers.

WHO: Outstanding early-career scientists and engineers
WHAT: Roundtable discussion with journalists
WHEN: Thursday, Oct. 13, 9 – 10 a.m.
WHERE: National Press Club – Holeman Lounge, 529 14th St. NW, Washington, DC
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More than 30 scientists from Science Coalition member universities were among the 94 researchers to receive the PECASE, the highest honor bestowed by the U.S. government on science and engineering professionals in the early stages of their independent research careers. Participants will include:

- **[Rommie Amaro](#), assistant professor of pharmaceutical sciences and computer science at University of California, Irvine**, who uses cutting-edge computational models to shed light on the complex machinery of life at the microscopic level and to help discover new drugs. Her work is supported by the National Institutes of Health.
- **[Michael Arnold](#), assistant professor of materials science and engineering at the University of Wisconsin-Madison**, who leads work on engineering better carbon nanomaterials with unique and exceptional properties for next generation semiconductor electronics, optoelectronics and energy applications. His work is supported by the Department of Defense.
- **[Noah Cowan](#), associate professor of mechanical engineering at Johns Hopkins University**, who studies how animals process sensory information to control their movement and is leading innovative research in biologically inspired robotic systems that have applications from disaster recovery to space exploration. His work is supported by the National Science Foundation.
- **[Dirk Englund](#), assistant professor of electrical engineering and of applied physics at Columbia University**, who is a leading researcher in the emerging fields of chip-based quantum optics and nanophotonics. His research addresses problems in communication, computation, sensing and efficient information technology. His work is supported by the Department of Defense.

- **[Michael Escuti](#)**, associate professor of electrical and computer engineering at **North Carolina State University**, who has pioneered the development of liquid crystal “polarization gratings.” These have many potential applications, including efficiently using lasers to transfer data between moving platforms (such as between aircraft and soldiers), significantly improving the optical throughput of liquid crystal displays and devices, and enabling advanced spectral and polarization cameras. His work is supported by the National Science Foundation.
- **[Ian Howat](#)**, assistant professor in the **School of Earth Sciences at Ohio State University**, who uses data collected from space satellites to study the state of the Earth’s large ice sheets. A recent study by Howat provides a “high-definition picture” of climate-caused changes and refined the way ice loss in Greenland is measured. His work is supported by NASA.
- **[Gang Logan Liu](#)**, professor of electrical and computer engineering at the **University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign**, who specializes in using nanoengineering methods to understand and control molecular and cellular systems. He has helped to develop devices and techniques that are used to study chemicals and biological molecules adsorbed on a solid surface. This work has important implications for advancing energy research, as well as biodefense applications. His work is supported by the Department of Energy.
- **[Benjamin Mazin](#)**, assistant professor of physics, **University of California, Santa Barbara**, whose research has led to breakthroughs in superconducting detectors that allow researchers to determine the energy and arrival time of individual photons. The detectors have the potential to detect Earth-like planets around nearby stars, as well as many general astrophysics applications, such as untangling the emission mechanisms of pulsars. His work is supported by NASA.
- **[Lilianne Mujica-Parodi](#)**, assistant professor of biomedical engineering at **Stony Brook University**, whose neurological research based in “complex systems,” a rapidly emerging field that integrates many disciplines – from physics to economics to social networks and biology, is contributing to the neurodiagnostics of mental and neurological illness. Her work is supported by the National Science Foundation.

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The Science Coalition is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization of the nation’s leading public and private research universities. It is dedicated to maintaining strong federal funding of basic scientific research as a means to stimulate the economy, drive innovation and secure America’s global competitiveness.

www.sciencecoalition.org