Jane Rigby



Dr. Jane Rigby is awarded as 2022's LGBTQ+ Scientist of the Year by Out to Innovate. She is an astrophysicist at NASA working on the James Webb Telescope and high signal-to-noise IR spectroscopy imaging. As a high school student, Rigby was inspired by astronaut Sally Ride, the first American woman and known LGBTQ+ astronaut. Rigby pursued her bachelor's degree in physics and astronomy at Penn State, then earned her PhD studying galactic nuclei at the University of Arizona. Throughout her career, Rigby has lacked LGBTQ+ peers and representation in the workplace. Rigby often found it difficult to feel included. Today, turning to address these issues, Rigby has co-founded a creative STEM outreach program for LGBTQ+ students and serves on the LGBT equality working group. Dr. Rigby has also been awarded the Robert H. Goddard Award for Exceptional Achievement for Science and listed as Nature 10s Ones to Watch.

"When a person can be their authentic self at work, I strongly believe that they will do more brilliant, creative science." – Jane Rigby

Ben Barres



Dr. Barres was an openly transgender neurobiologist and department chair at Sandford. His research focused on the development and disease of glial cells and their myelin sheathes. Over his career, Dr. Barres published over 160 papers yet faced blatant sexism and discrimination. As a child, Ben was denied access to science and math courses, unable to explore his interests until attending a summer camp at Columbia University. He obtained his bachelors degree in biology at MIT, and his PhD at Dartmouth. Until transitioning in 1997, Ben faced consistent discrimination. After transitioning, Ben was a large advocate for women in science and shared his story to highlight inequality in science. In 2013, Ben was elected to the national academy of sciences for his contributions.

"I lived life on my terms: I wanted to switch genders, and I did. I wanted to be a scientist, and I was . . . I stood up for what I believe in and I like to think I made an impact." – Ben Barres

Sally Ride



Sally Ride was the 1st American woman in space. She was born in Los Angeles, CA in 1951. Ride was the only women majoring in physics in her undergraduate class and considers herself lucky to face minimal academic discrimination as a women. However, Sally hid her identity as a lesbian until her death in 2012. At Stanford, Sally graduated with a bachelors in physics and English and a master's and PhD in physics. After graduating, Ride joined NASA and became the youngest astronaut at the time. In 1987, Sally became a professor at UC San Diego and director of the California Space Institute. Ride worked with UCSD to start Sally Ride Science—a company focused on providing fun scientific content to middle and high school girls. Among many awards, Ride was inducted into the National Women's Hall of fame in 1988.

"Studying whether there's life on Mars or studying how the universe began, there's something magical about pushing back the frontiers of knowledge" – Sally Ride

John Pham



John Pham was born in the Florida in the late 1970s. Pham obtained his bachelor's degrees in biochemistry and music at Bates College before earning his Ph.D. at Northwestern. Pham completed post docs at Harvard and Bringham and Women's Hospital. His research focused on RNA splicing and RNA interference to modify cellular protein production. In 2008, Pham joined the advisory board for *Molecular Cell* where he improved data transparency and archiving. In 2018, Pham became the Editor-in-Chief of *Cell* Journal. So far Pham has pushed to expand *Cell*'s coverage to immunology and genomics. Pham has also improved diversity at *Cell,* growing the advisory board from 20% to 50% women and reviewers from 18% to 33% women. Pham is an LGBTQ+ activist and has spoken at Elsevier Pride and WorldPride NYC.

Editor-in-Chief of *Cell* journal.

Alan Turing



Alan Turing was a British mathematician and logician most famous for his contributions in military intelligence for the Allied Forces in WWII. Born in London in 1912, Turing became enthralled with math as a child, and studied mathematics at Cambridge in his early career. He pursued his PhD at Princeton where he proved the central limit theorem, answered the *Entscheidungsproblem*, and proposed the Turing machine. He continued his work at the Code and Cypher School in England, until WII. During the war, Turing deciphered German code and provided over 80,000 messages per month. He received an OBE award for his efforts. He continued working on developing the first electronic computers at NPL, creating the first programming manual. In 1950, despite his work for the British government, He was turned over to authorities as homosexuality was a crime. He was placed under house arrest and chemically castrated until his suicide 2 years later.

"Sometimes it is the people who no one imagines anything of who do the things that no one can imagine."

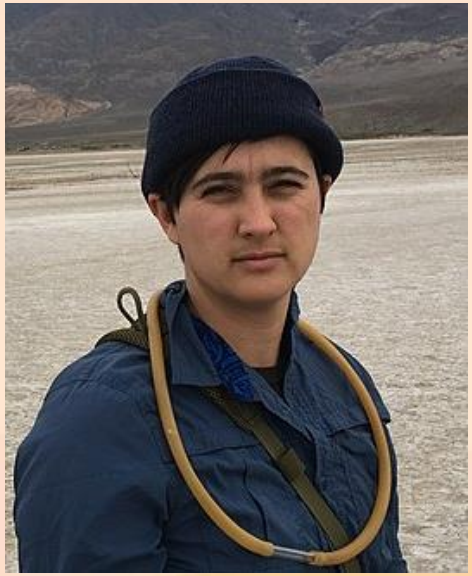
Carolyn R. Bertozzi



Dr. Carolyn R. Bertozzi is an American chemist who earned her Ph.D. in chemistry at UC Berkeley in 1993. After earning her doctorate, she worked for both UC Berkeley and HHMI, where she founded the field of biorthogonal chemistry. Bertozzi has performed research on the glycobiology of diseases like cancer, tuberculosis and COVID-19. She has also founded several biotechnology startups dedicated to implementing biorthogonal chemistry to specialized fields. Bertozzi went on to receive the MacArthur genius award and in 2010, became the first woman to receive the Lemelson-MIT Prize faculty award. She is also a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the National Academy of Medicine, and the National Academy of Inventors.

The inventor of the field of biorthogonal chemistry.

Lauren Esposito



Dr. Lauren Esposito is an entomologist from El Paso, Texas and one of the world's only women scorpion experts. Her passion for studying insects and birds began from a young age, including a first-grade science project studying the Mendelian genetics of pigeon colors. With a growing interest in studying arachnids during undergrad, she earned a PhD in arachnology from the City University of NY (2011). After her graduate studies, Esposito studied scorpion genetic information and studied the use of scorpion venom in cancer research and medication. Currently at UC-Berkeley, her research revolves around the evolution of scorpion venom and distribution of scorpions in the Caribbean. Wanting to make an impact through outreach apart from research, she created the organization 500 Queer Scientists as a network of LGBTQ+ scientists worldwide. Being openly queer herself, Esposito was inspired to create the organizations after learning that over 40% of LGBTQ+ scientists in the US were not 'out' to their colleagues. For her work in outreach, she received the Walt Westman Award by the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP), the highest honor that the NOGLSTP awards to a member.

"Visibility is important for mental health, for standing up to injustices, and for mentoring current colleagues and future scientists."

Florence Nightingale



Florence Nightingale was a British nurse, statistician, and social reformer. She served as a nurse in the Crimean war and established St. Thomas's Hospital and the Nightingale Training School for Nurses. She is commonly known as the founder of modern nursing. She was born in 1820, and by the time she was 16, Nightingale became active in volunteering to tend to the old and ill. When she was 17, she refused a marriage proposal from a man, despite her parents' objection, to attend the Lutheran Hospital of Pastor Fliedner. Soon after graduating, she was promoted to superintendent of Middlesex hospital until 1854. She was called upon to help war efforts, so she amassed 34 nurses for 18,000 soldiers-–reducing deaths by 2/3. After the war she worked to found her hospital and school. She also worked on statistical graphics to incorporate a scientific approach to medicine, establishing many modern practices. At the age of 88, she was conferred the merit of honor by King Edward.

"Rather, ten times, die in the surf, heralding the way to a new world, than stand idly on the shore."

Lynn Conway



Lynn Conway was born in Mt. Vernon, NY in 1938. Conway was fascinated with astronomy and math, building her own telescope as a kid, and eventually pursued a B.S. in Physics at MIT. Conway experienced gender dysphoria throughout her youth, and, after an unsupported attempt to transition her gender during college, Conway left MIT in 1957. Conway later earned a B.S. and M.S.E.E. in 1962 and 1963 from Columbia University and began working at IBM in 1964 to design supercomputers. Despite major project contributions, Conway was fired in 1968 when she underwent her gender transition. IBM would apologize to Conway in 2020 after public backlash. Conway would find work as a computer architect at Memorex and Xerox while keeping her past in secret. In her work, Conway developed multi project wafers which allow multiple computer components on a single computer chip and revolutionized computer design and size. In 1978, Conway became a visiting associate professor at MIT and taught computer chip design methodology. Conway would become associate dean of engineering at the University of Michigan in 1985. Conway publicly shared her gender transition in 2000 and, today, is a strong transgender rights activist.

"If you want to change the future, start living as if you're already there."

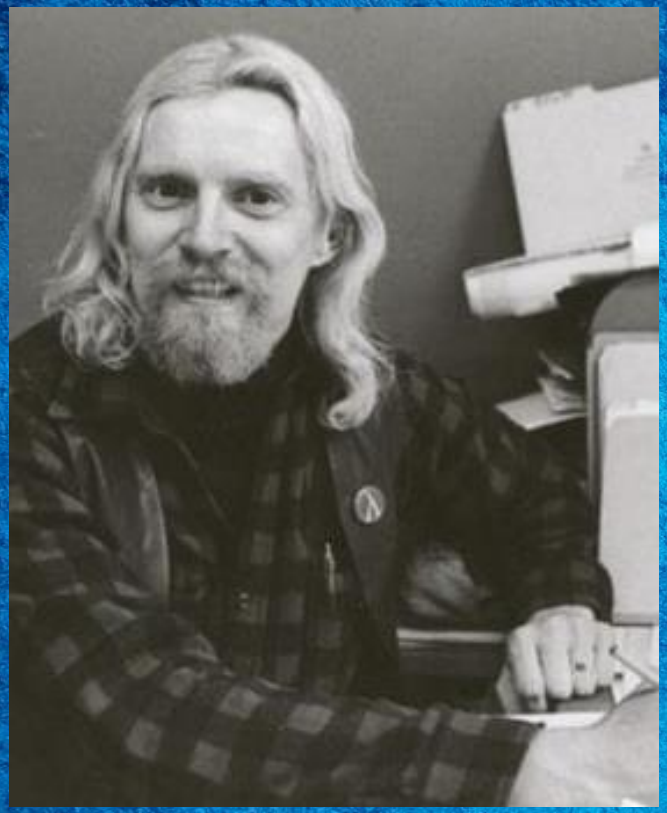
Sara Josephine Baker



Sara Josephine Baker was born in 1873 in Poughkeepsie, NY and is known for developing new medical practices for infants. Baker decided to pursue a career as a physician at 16 when her father passed away suddenly from typhoid. Despite opposition against woman physicians, Baker graduated from the Women's Medical College of the New York Infirmary in 1894 and joined the New England Hospital for Women and Children. Here, Baker dedicated herself to reducing illness and infant mortality in impoverished New York communities. Baker developed one of the first baby formulas and wax-sealed, single-dose containers for medicinal use. Baker also heavily campaigned to license midwives, improve milk pasteurization, and hiring nurses at every school. Baker eventually went on to teach at New York University Medical School where she also enrolled and became the first woman to obtain a doctorate in public health. She then continued her career beyond medicine as the first woman representative at the League of Nations. Overall, she published over 250 papers and wrote 5 books. Throughout her career, Baker made large strides for women and LGBTQ+ in medicine and government.

"All my life, I have maintained that the prejudice of the world can learn to live together in peace if they are not brought up in prejudice."

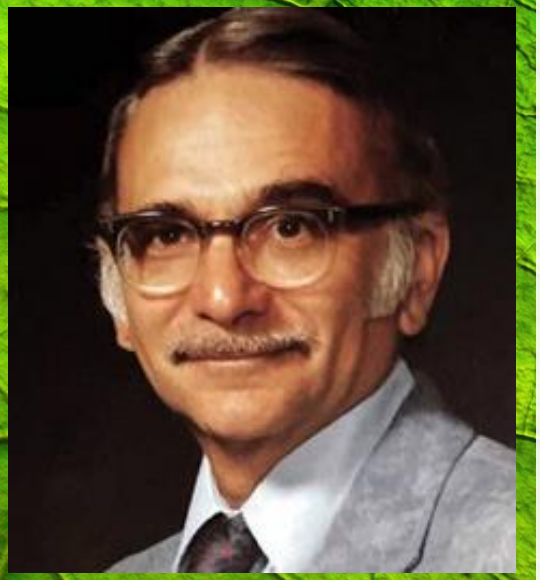
Bruce Voeller



Bruce Voeller was a biologist and prominent gay-rights activist. After obtaining his PhD in biology from Rockefeller Institute, he pioneered the field of AIDS research, including renaming the disease. At Hunter College and Cornell University, he investigated AIDS disease prevention and with the CDC, even tested nonoxynol-9, a key substance towards inactivating HIV. As an activist, he founded the organization now known as the National LGBTQ Task Force. In 1977, this task force held the first ever meeting to discuss gay and lesbian rights in the White House. Voeller was one of the inaugural members of the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor in New York City, which was the first U.S. National Monument dedicated towards LGBTQ rights and history.

A pioneer in the field of AIDS research and one of the first inductees into the National LGBTQ Wall of Honor.

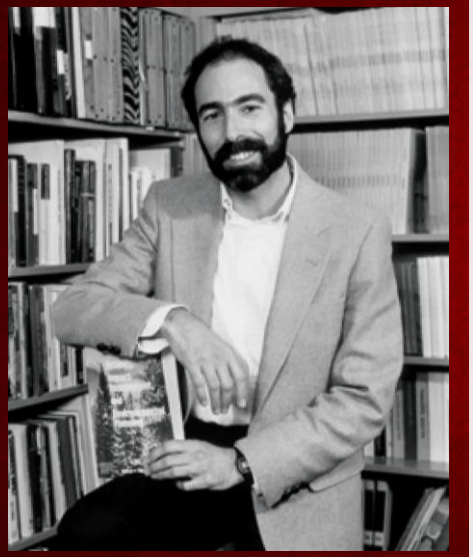
Martin P. Gouterman



Dr. Martin Gouterman was an American chemist from Philadelphia and a member of the LGBTQ+ community. Due to the treatment of the LGBTQ+ community at the time, Gouterman did not feel comfortable coming out as gay until late into his career. He received both his bachelor's and doctorate from the University of Chicago and was a faculty member at Harvard University and then the University of Washington. He performed research into the photophysical properties of porphyrins for which he developed an orbital model now named after him. Gouterman was awarded the University of Washington Minority Science and Engineering Program Faculty Excellence Award and was an Elected Fellow of the American Physical Society for his research. He was also a prominent activist for equal rights and political issues at the time, such as ending the Vietnam War and promoting Israeli-Palestinian peace.

Political activist and chemist who made significant contributions towards the field of quantum chemistry.

Walter Westman



Dr. Walter Westman (1945-1991) was an American ecologist and activist. Receiving his bachelor's in botany (1966) at Swathmore College and his master's from Macquarie University in Australia, he decided to pursue a graduate career in ecology in the United States. He completed his PhD at Cornell University under Robert Whittaker, where he studied pygmy forest ecosystems along the northwestern California coasts (1971). He held several academic appointments soon after, during which he earned international reputation for his work on biogeography, ecology, and responses to disturbance and environmental management in the Californian coastal sage ecosystems. As an openly gay man, Westman was dedicated towards advocating for LGBTQ+ rights and AIDS awareness, especially later in his academic career. He founded the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (NOGLSTP) in 1980 during a meeting of American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS). Westman was dedicated towards promoting the discussion of homophobia within the scientific workplace. Later in his life, he joined Project Inform, an advocacy group focused on empowering people with HIV and Hepatitis C. After his passing in 1991, an award was set up in his name to recognize a NOGLSTP member annually for their contributions towards the organization's mission.

Founder of the National Organization of Gay and Lesbian Scientists and Technical Professionals (1980)