

Meet the speakers and moderator for Panel A: STEM Panel

Panel Moderator:



Meet [David Wei, PhD](#)! He is currently a Pharm/Tox reviewer in the Office of Generics Drugs (OGD) at the FDA. He is also a Diplomate of the American Board of Toxicology (DABT), a globally recognized credential in toxicology representative of competency and commitment to human health and environmental sciences.

Before joining the FDA, David was a Cancer Research Training Award (CRTA) postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute (NCI) in the Urologic Oncology Branch (UOB) studying kidney cancer. David is truly passionate about his work and always eager to connect with people interested in therapeutics, epigenetics, and cancer research.

David has a Ph. D. in Toxicology from UNC Chapel Hill and dual bachelor degrees in Molecular Cell Biology and Molecular Toxicology from UC Berkeley. He is always interested in hearing from former colleagues, managers, or any curious individuals, so feel free to contact him if you'd like to connect.

Panelist:



Meet [Riya Dange](#)! She is currently a Postbaccalaureate Intramural Research Training Award (IRTA) Fellow in the Clinical and Translational Neuroscience Branch at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) at the National Institutes of Health (NIH).

“I was born and raised in the Silicon Valley, California, and hopped across the country to attend college at Duke University. There, I majored in Neuroscience and minored in Linguistics. I also competed on Duke’s Mock Trial team, served as Editor-in-Chief of Duke’s student-run neuroscience research journal, and did research on mantis shrimp visual systems with an eye toward improving human bionic eye technology. After graduating in 2019, I moved to the Washington, D.C., area for a research fellowship at the National Institutes of Health. I have been here for the past two years, working with patients who have schizophrenia and investigating the neural and genetic underpinnings of the disorder.

Outside of the NIH, I have been focusing on social justice-related work in the school-to-prison pipeline and cultural engagement with the South Asian community through an organization called Shakti Collaborative. Most recently, I co-founded Social Justice Advocacy for Incarcerated Persons, a multidisciplinary advocacy network, along with five other NIH fellows and launched a podcast called “Let’s Talk Reform.” When I’m not working, I love to travel and learn new languages (I speak six so far and am looking to add to my collection). I also read, write, paint, and spend time with my dog, Spock.”

Panelist:



Meet [Liling Lee](#)! She is currently a GIS Specialist in the National Operations Center at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM).

One of my most vivid memory from childhood in Taiwan was my parents describing their home, "When you look across, you can see a meadow of emerald, a sky of sapphire, and an earth filled with treasure." After moving to California, my curiosity and affection of the land grew as I explored the green spaces that were dramatically different than the busy city of Taipei. This prompted me to pursue a B.S. in Environmental Science and a minor in Sustainable Design at UC Berkeley. One of the class I took was Geographic Information Systems (GIS), and I was motivated to look into how people were linked to the place they live and GIS provided a valuable method to do that and more. I completed a certificate program first in Geographic Information Science & Technology (GIST) from University of Southern California back in 2015, then finally obtained my M.S. in May of 2020.

My career path took on an interesting route as I began my internship in the summer of 2014 with the BLM at Springfield Interagency Office in Oregon, trekking on public lands every day to monitor a rare and threatened plant and create a site-specific habitat restoration management plan for it. Then in 2015, I worked as a GIS Analyst at National Audubon Society in San Francisco, CA, conducting various spatial analyses and designing maps to support Audubon Science's conservation and climate science. I was able to use my Direct Hiring Authority (DHA) from my BLM internship and became a GIS Specialist at Denver, CO in 2017, where I get to perform analysis and prepare maps for BLM Headquarters to be used in strategic planning, program coordination, and brief reporting for managing and protecting our public lands.

I love to explore and see different places (and always excited to try new food). Reading and learning new crafts are also my jam. I'm excited to meet you and feel free to connect!

Panelist:



Amy Huynh is a senior at the University of California, Irvine, studying Aerospace Engineering and Mechanical Engineering. She is a first-generation, low-income (FGLI) Vietnamese-Chinese American college student, who has interned at four NASA centers (Goddard, Ames, Langley, and Marshall), two non-profit organizations (Dreams for Schools and Space for Humanity), and two space startups (Made In Space and Astra). At UCI, her research focuses on how engineering internships affect the learning experiences of female engineering students, in hopes of providing more context to, and increasing retention of, women in engineering.

Amy is a 2020 Matthew Isakowitz Fellow, a 2019 Brooke Owens Fellow, Women in Aerospace Scholar, and an AIAA Diversity Scholar. She hopes to dedicate her research and career to making aerospace accessible for everyone and to uplift marginalized voices as she continues to define her role in aerospace and find her own voice.