

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**The Okinawa Institute for Science & Technology (OIST) Foundation in partnership with the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University's Center for Professional Development & Inclusive Excellence (C-HUB), the Wilbury Theatre Group, and University of California Science to Policy, with funding from The Japan Foundation names:**

### **Fellows of Japan-U.S. Science Communication & Policy Fellowship Network Program**

New York, NY (August 22, 2022) – The Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology (OIST) Foundation, the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University's Center for Professional Development & Inclusive Excellence (C-HUB), the Wilbury Theatre Group, and University of California, Riverside Science to Policy --- named 22 Fellows for the inaugural Japan-U.S. Science Communication & Policy Fellowship Network Program, funded by The Japan Foundation.

The new Fellows, who are based in Japan and the U.S., represent a broad spectrum of scientific disciplines and research areas, ranging from PhD students to assistant professors and scientists. All were selected for their scientific achievements, commitment to strengthening Japan-U.S. relations, and desire to communicate effectively and strategically about scientific discoveries and research to policymakers and the public.

Through the program, these early-career scientists from Japan and the U.S. will engage in bilateral training and exchange for effective communication towards strategic collaboration with policymakers. Selected Fellows will participate in a year-long cohort experience and receive training to communicate science-informed policy to a wide audience, promoting meaningful cooperation between the two countries on global challenges by bridging a critical gap between science and policy.

#### About the OIST Foundation

The mission of the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Foundation, Inc. is to promote innovative global scientific breakthroughs through enhancing and strengthening science and technology research and related programs at the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST) and to empower Americans to support the sustainable development of Okinawa and deepen U.S.-Japan relations through OIST.

#### About the OIST Center for Professional Development and Inclusive Excellence (C-Hub)

The Center for Professional Development and Inclusive Excellence (C-Hub) provides the OIST community with a centralized place where: faculty, students, postdocs, research staff, administrative staff, and administrative leaders can explore opportunities for personal and career growth; evidence-based practices and research are applied toward professional development to support all careers in a diverse, equitable, and inclusive climate; connections and collaborations can be created across and beyond the university.

The C-Hub enacts its mission by engaging the diverse experiences, perspectives, and contributions amongst the broader OIST community to foster productive dialogue and exploration, and ultimately support OIST's mission toward scientific and educational excellence.

### About the Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate University (OIST)

OIST is an interdisciplinary and international graduate school in Okinawa offering a 5-year PhD program in Science. In 2019 Nature Magazine ranked OIST as number 1 in Japan number 9 globally for scientific research quality. OIST was founded by the Japanese government to contribute to science and technology worldwide, attract leading researchers from Japan and abroad to conduct high-quality research, advance the development of a world-class research hub, and nucleate a knowledge cluster that will catalyze technology transfer and industrial innovation in Okinawa.

### About The Wilbury Theatre Group

Winner of the 2018 *National Theater Company Award* from the American Theatre Wing, The Wilbury Theatre Group is a professional, nonprofit theatre company that engages our community in thought-provoking conversation through new works, reimaged classics and adventurous playmaking. We are idealistic, ambitious, and stubborn in our resolve to create theatre that entertains, enlightens, and inspires. For more information visit [thewilburygroup.org](http://thewilburygroup.org)

### About the UCR Science to Policy

Science to Policy at the University of California, Riverside, was founded on the idea that scientists can and should play a critical role in public policy. By hosting and supporting professional development opportunities on and off-campus, S2P's vision is to empower STEM graduate students and early career scientists to participate in science policy. Hands-on training for students to build experience and learn from public policy experts and policymakers are integral to this vision. Participating graduate students engage with practitioners at the highest level to understand local, state, and federal policymaking; to strategize the value of scientific input in policy making; and to garner professional development critical to careers in public policy.

### About the Japan Foundation

The Japan Foundation is Japan's only institution dedicated to carrying out comprehensive international cultural exchange programs throughout the world. To cultivate friendship and ties between Japan and the world, the Japan Foundation creates global opportunities to foster friendship, trust, and mutual understanding through culture, language, and dialogue.

The Japan Foundation was established in October 1972 as a special legal entity supervised by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In October 2003, it was reorganized as an incorporated administrative agency. Based on a government endowment of 78 billion yen, the activities of the Japan Foundation are financed by annual government subsidies, investment revenue, and donations from the private sector.

### For More Information

OIST Foundation | [www.oistfoundation.org](http://www.oistfoundation.org)

OIST C-Hub | <https://groups.oist.jp/c-hub/about-c-hub>

OIST | <https://www.oist.jp>

Wilbury Theatre Group | [www.thewilburygroup.org](http://www.thewilburygroup.org)

UCR Science to Policy | <https://sciencetopolicy.ucr.edu>

Japan Foundation | [www.jpf.go.jp](http://www.jpf.go.jp)

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## **APPENDIX: List of Fellows**

Ayşe Haruka Açıkbaz Oshima

*PhD Candidate | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – Marine Biology*

Mohamed (Moe) Atwa

*PhD Candidate | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – Materials Science & Engineering*

Lilian Azer

*PhD Candidate | University of California, Riverside – Cognition and Cognitive Neuroscience*

Sandra Liliana Atehortua Bueno

*PhD Postdoc Researcher | Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory – Chemistry*

Sarah Bobardt

*PhD Candidate | University of California, Riverside - Genetics, Genomics, and Bioinformatics*

Marcy Cage

*PhD Candidate | Center for Lung Biology, University of South Alabama College of Medicine – Lung Biology & Air Pollution*

Miles Desforges

*PhD Candidate | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology Graduate School – Neuroscience*

Yuna Hattori

*PhD Candidate | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – Fluid Mechanics*

Michael Izumiyama

*PhD Candidate | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – Marine Biology*

Takehito Kamata

*PhD Professor | Sophia University – Higher Education*

Ruvi Lecamwasam

*PhD Postdoc Researcher | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – Quantum Metrology*

Natalie Linton

*Epidemiologist | State Public Health – Infectious Disease Modeling*

Albert Mufundirwa

*PhD Postdoc Researcher | Japan Synchrotron Radiation Research Institute – Materials for Fuel Cells*

William Makoto Ota

*PhD Candidate | University of California, Riverside – Freshwater Urban Ecology*

Jamila Rodrigues,

*PhD Postdoc Researcher | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – Embodied Cognitive Science & Anthropology*

Jenna Roper

*PhD Candidate | University of California, Riverside – Bioengineering*

Collin Stecker

*PhD Professor | Institute for Chemical Reaction Design and Discovery, Hokkaido University – Materials Science*

Maki Kohata Thomas

*PhD Candidate | Okinawa Institute of Science and Technology – Marine Biophysics*

Agnes Varghese

*CCST Science and Technology Policy Fellow | California Governor's Office of Emergency Services – Disaster Recovery*

Tiffany Victor-Lovelace

*Assistant Scientist | Brookhaven National Laboratory – Biological Chemistry*

Katherine Yanagi

*PhD Postdoc Fellow | Fred Hutchinson Cancer Center – Cellular/Molecular Biology & Genetics*

Emily G. Yang

*PhD Graduate | University of Michigan – Climate & Space Sciences & Engineering*