

## KAVLI COMMUNITY UPDATES

JUNE 2021 ISSUE 2



**Welcome!** Kavli Community Updates feature announcements, news, events, and opportunities of interest to members and partners of the [20 Kavli Institutes around the world](#), where scientists explore the frontiers of science in the fields of astrophysics, nanoscience, neuroscience and theoretical physics.



### Spread the Word

Share this [sign-up link](#) for the Kavli Community Updates with Kavli Institutes colleagues.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Interested in Communications and Public Engagement Training? Share your opinions and ideas.**

In response to interest from the institutes, the foundation is excited to be planning a virtual communications and public engagement training for scientists at the Kavli Institutes. To help us ensure this training best fits your needs and interests, please complete this short survey and share the link with members of your institute. Don't delay; the survey will close on July 2.

[COMPLETE THE SURVEY HERE](#)

**Kavli Launches Astrophysics Community on Slack**

To increase networking opportunities and foster community, The Kavli Foundation has launched an astrophysics Slack workspace for members and alumni of Kavli Institutes. Kavli Neuro Futures, a Slack workspace for neuroscience was launched a few months ago, and a workspace for nanoscience will come later this year.

Join the conversation on Slack:

[KAVLI ASTROPHYSICS FORUM](#)

[KAVLI NEURO FUTURES](#)

## IN THE NEWS



### [Sleeping Under the Star-Shaped Cells](#) | Bio Eats World

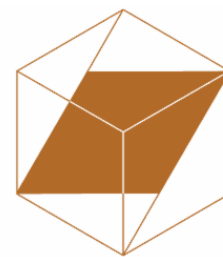
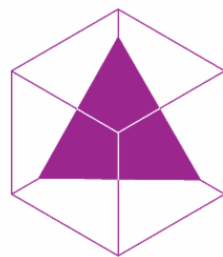
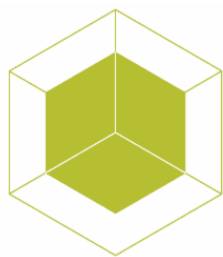
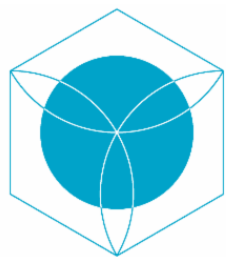
Curious about how astrocytes influence sleep depth and duration? Check out the *Bio Eats World* interview with [Kira Poskanzer](#) from the [Kavli Institute for Fundamental Neuroscience](#).

### [A Brain Begins – in a Dish](#) | Science Clear + Vivid with Alan Alda

By coaxing skin cells to become brain cells in a dish, [Alysson Muotri](#), an affiliate of the [Kavli Institute for Brain and Mind](#), hopes to learn how early brain development can go wrong in conditions like autism or epilepsy – and how our brains differ from those of our cousins, the Neanderthals.

### [A Brain Speaks](#) | Science Clear + Vivid with Alan Alda

During brain surgery, [Edward Chang](#) at the [Kavli Institute for Fundamental Neuroscience](#) can record the brain's electrical activity while the patient speaks – then reproduce the spoken words. His goal is to develop a device that will give a voice to people who have lost their ability to speak.



## ASTROPHYSICS

### Tools of the Astrophysical Trade, Old and New

New telescopes and instruments are always needed to further advance the science of astrophysics, but there are some oldies-but-goodies that continue to deliver.

## NANOSCIENCE

### Nanoscience Goes Green

Advances at the smallest of scales can have an impact on the climate at large.

## NEUROSCIENCE

### From DNA to the Brain

How studying genetic information in our cells helps us understand the nervous system.

## EVENTS

### ASTROPHYSICS

### **Kavli Astrophysics Postdoctoral Forum Workshop**

VIRTUAL WORKSHOP | THE KAVLI FOUNDATION

### **REGISTRATION EXTENDED!**

The Kavli Astrophysics Community Forum is a career-focused workshop seeking to connect current physics and astrophysics postdocs, fellows, and senior graduate students from The Kavli Foundation family of institutes to professionals from academia, government/NGO/policy, and the private sector.

The organizing committee is pleased to announce our day one keynote

speaker, Dr. Karen Kelsky, author of *The Professor Is In: The Essential Guide to Turning Your Ph.D. Into a Job*, and an exciting lineup of panelists, breakouts, and professional development training.

TUESDAY–WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15–16



[LEARN MORE](#)



[REGISTER](#)

## NEUROSCIENCE

### 7th Annual BRAIN Initiative Investigators Meeting

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | THE BRAIN INITIATIVE ALLIANCE

The Kavli Foundation was a major participant in the development of the BRAIN Initiative and is a key partner in the [BRAIN Initiative Alliance](#). The BRAIN Initiative Investigators Meeting convenes BRAIN Initiative awardees, staff, and leadership from the contributing federal agencies, plus representatives and investigators from participating non-federal organizations, and members of the media, public, and Congress.

The purpose of this free public meeting is to provide a forum for discussing exciting scientific developments and potential new directions, and to identify areas for collaboration and research coordination.

Professor [Erich Jarvis](#), member of the Kavli Neural Systems Institute at Rockefeller University, and 2018 Kavli Prize Laureate Professor [Jennifer Doudna](#) will be presenting keynote addresses. Scientists and trainees from several of the Kavli Institutes in Neuroscience will be presenting at this conference, including Professor [Kay Tye](#) (UCSD/Salk Institute), postdoc [Anna Gillespie](#) (Frank Lab, UCSF), postdoc [Merrilee Thomas](#) (Picciotto Lab, Yale), and MD/Ph.D. student Kaitlin Stouffer (Miller Lab, Johns Hopkins).

TUESDAY–THURSDAY, JUNE 15–17



[LEARN MORE](#)



[REGISTER](#)

## SAVE THE DATE

## NEUROSCIENCE

### Neuro Futures Forum Meeting

VIRTUAL MEETING | THE KAVLI FOUNDATION

The Kavli Foundation is hosting this series of virtual meetings and the

[Neuro Futures Slack Community](#) to bring together neuroscience Kavli Institute members, post-docs, grad students and Kavli alumni for scientific discussion and community building, with a focus on forging meaningful networks. Speakers and registration for the second meeting will be announced soon.

MONDAY, JULY 12 9AM – 10:30PM PDT / 6PM – 7:30PM CEST

#### **PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT WITH SCIENCE**

### **Communicating the Future: Engaging the Public in Basic Science**

VIRTUAL CONFERENCE | SCIENCE PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT PARTNERSHIP

SciPEP aims to empower scientists and professionals to engage the public in basic science. If you lead any efforts that engage the public in basic science, or are a scientist who wants to learn more about engaging the public in your science, register now for the free virtual conference.

TUESDAY–WEDNESDAY, JULY 27–28



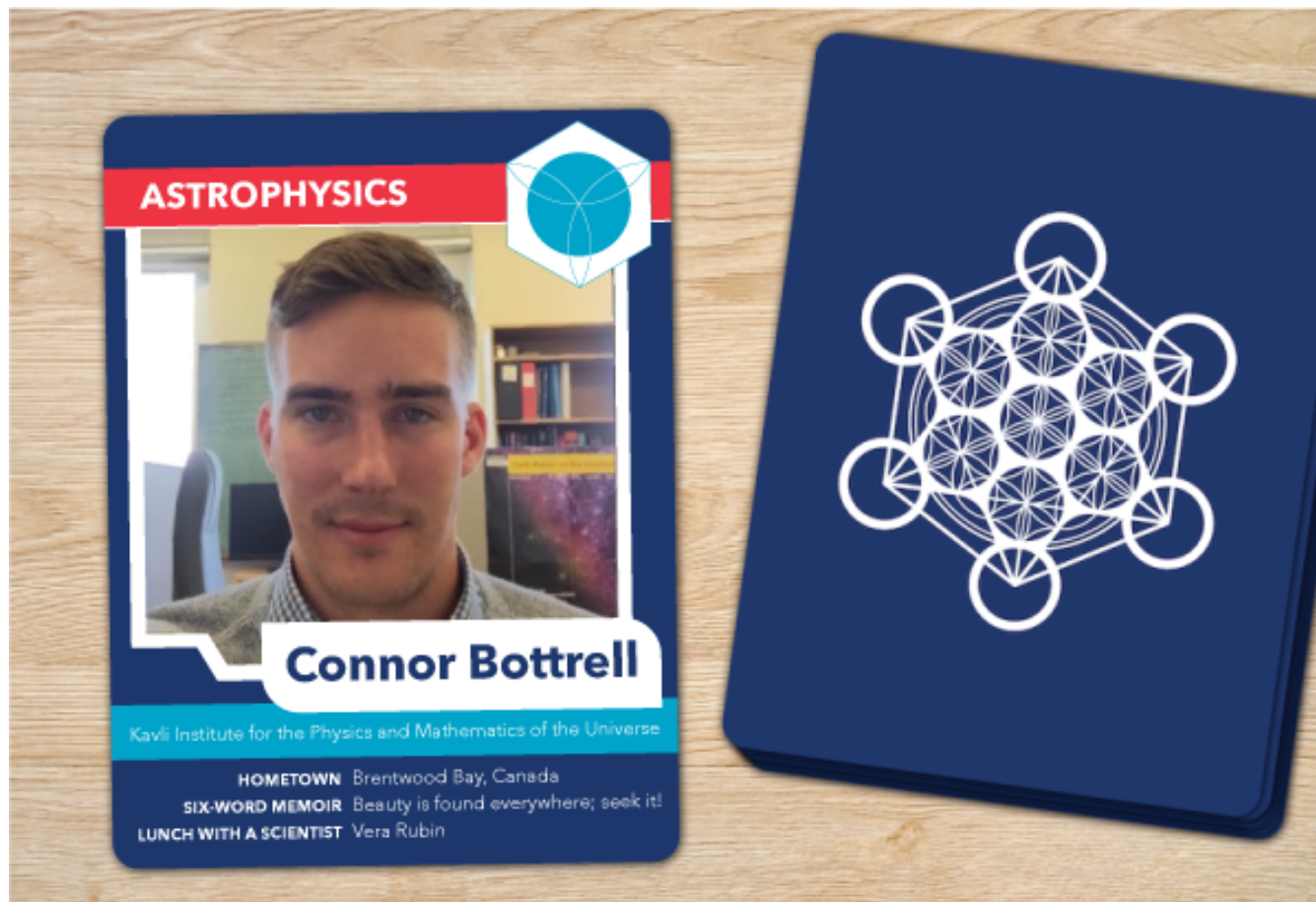
[LEARN MORE](#)



[REGISTER](#)

Discover more lectures, webinars, and conferences offered by The Kavli Foundation, Kavli Institutes, and partner organizations on the [Kavli Community Calendar](#).

## **COMMUNITY SPOTLIGHT**



## Connor Bottrell

Project Researcher in Astronomy

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR THE PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS OF THE UNIVERSE

**Hometown:** Brentwood Bay, British Columbia, Canada

**Favorite Scientific Discovery:** The observational evidence for the existence of exotic/invisible “dark” matter presented by Vera Rubin and Kent Ford.

**Favorite Book & Movie:** Lord of the Rings

**First Job:** Cleaning chainsaws, wood-chippers, trucks and other equipment for his Dad’s tree care company.

**Six-Word Memoir:** Beauty is found everywhere; seek it!



*Connor Bottrell recently started his postdoctoral research at IPMU in Japan. He's passionate about astrophysics but also makes sure to find time for barbecuing and hiking (this photo was taken at Sentinel Pass in Banff National Park, Canada).*

### **What are you most inspired by in current science?**

The first direct image of the supermassive black hole in M87 and the detection of gravitational waves from black hole and neutron star binaries are two outstanding discoveries from the last few years that are inspiring for me. Fast radio bursts are also very curious and exciting phenomena and their origin is not understood. The recent landing of the Mars Perseverance Rover in February this year was also a thriller.

### **What is the question that most drives your work?**

I am primarily interested in role the role of galaxy collisions and subsequent mergers in transforming galaxies throughout cosmic history. Our galaxy, the Milky Way, is due to merge with another nearby galaxy, Andromeda (M31), in  $\sim 4.5$  billion years. What happens in such an interaction? How are interactions such as this responsible for the assembly of stellar material in galaxies? What physical phenomena are triggered or halted by mergers? And what is the relative contribution of mergers in

driving these changes?

**You've moved from Canada to Japan for your postdoc, that's a big cultural transition. What excites you most about doing your postdoc in a country that is so different from North America?**

I am always excited by meeting new people and engaging in new ideas and directions. So I was excited at the prospect of getting involved in collaborations and projects with people here in Japan that I had never met before but whose research I found exciting. In a non-professional context, I was (and still am!) excited to visit the national parks and countryside.

[LEARN MORE ABOUT CONNOR BOTTRELL](#)

## OPPORTUNITIES

Discover open positions and other opportunities within the Kavli Community.

To share an opportunity please send the details to [community@kavlifoundation.org](mailto:community@kavlifoundation.org).

### ASTROPHYSICS

#### Postdoctoral Research Fellows

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR ASTRONOMY and ASTROPHYSICS | PEKING UNIVERSITY

The Kavli Institute for Astronomy and Astrophysics (KIAA) at Peking University invites applications for postdoctoral research positions to work with Prof. Kohei Inayoshi, Ran Wang, and Luis Ho on early growth and evolution of Quasars. Applications will close on July 1, 2021.

[LEARN MORE](#)

#### Postdoctoral Positions

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS AND COSMOLOGY | STANFORD UNIVERSITY

A postdoctoral position to begin as early as August 1, 2021, is available in observational cosmology with LSST Dark Energy Science Collaboration. This position will be in the Physics Department with a focus on preparing for and contributing to



the commissioning phase of Rubin Observatory. Applications will be accepted until July 1, 2021.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Part-Time Science Communications Specialist

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR ASTROPHYSICS AND SPACE RESEARCH | MIT

The Transiting Exoplanet Survey Satellite (TESS) Team is looking for a part-time (25%) science communications specialist to assist with media generation and coverage for mission events and scientific discoveries.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Upcoming Postdoctoral Opportunities for Fall 2022

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR PARTICLE ASTROPHYSICS AND COSMOLOGY | STANFORD UNIVERSITY

Positions may be available in galactic magnetic fields or interstellar medium science with [Susan Clark](#), cosmic microwave background science analyses with [Kimmy Wu](#), adaptive optics instrumentation to work on the Gemini Planet Imager with [Bruce Macintosh](#), and the Rubin Observatory's Legacy Survey of Space and Time.

## NANOSCIENCE

### KIND Quantum-Bio Postdoctoral Fellow Program

KAVLI INSTITUTE OF NANOSCIENCE DELFT

KIND Postdoctoral Fellows are high-profile, two-year postdoctoral positions with significant independence and resources. Fellows will work in partnership with Delft faculty on a nanoscience project that involves both quantum and biological nanoscience research at KIND. Applications are due by September 1, 2021

[LEARN MORE](#)

### Postdoc Position and Ph.D. Student

KAVLI INSTITUTE OF NANOSCIENCE DELFT

The Gröblacher Lab has openings for one Ph.D. student and several Postdocs to study quantum optomechanics with photonic crystals.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## NEUROSCIENCE

## Postdoctoral Fellow

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR THE BRAIN AND MIND | UCSD / SALK INSTITUTE

The Asahina lab is seeking a highly motivated postdoctoral fellow who wishes to understand the neural basis of social behavior. One of the main focuses of the lab is uncovering the molecular and cellular bases of strategic action choice. The primary model organism is the fruit fly, but the lab intends to extend research into social insects as well.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## THEORETICAL PHYSICS

### KITP Scholars

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR THEORETICAL PHYSICS | UCSB

The Kavli Institute for Theoretical Physics supports visiting researchers in physics who are faculty at teaching intensive U.S. colleges. Scientists interested in this program should apply before December 15, 2021.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## OTHER FIELDS

### Project Assistant Professor Position on STEM Gender Research

KAVLI INSTITUTE FOR THE PHYSICS AND MATHEMATICS OF THE UNIVERSE | UNIVERSITY OF TOKYO

The Kavli Institute for the Physics and Mathematics of the Universe (Kavli IPMU) invites applicants for a 5-year, fixed-term position at the rank of Project Assistant Professor to conduct STEM gender research within Prof. [Yokoyama](#)'s group. Applicants must hold a Ph.D. or equivalent in the field of Science and Technology Studies, Psychology, Educational Psychology, Education Economics, or a closely related field of science. Applications are encouraged before August 31, 2021.

[LEARN MORE](#)

For questions, feedback, or to inform us of events and opportunities at your institute, please send an email to [community@kavlifoundation.org](mailto:community@kavlifoundation.org).

**"It is my vision that these institutes will form an outstanding research core, to draw information from each other and promote interchange between disciplines by scientists"**

around the world."

-FRED KAVLI

**THE KAVLI FOUNDATION** | [kavlifoundation.org](http://kavlifoundation.org)



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