



2026

MML ACCOLADES GALA

HONORING EXCELLENCE THAT DRIVES MML FORWARD



Thursday, September 10, 2026



1:30 PM ET | 11:30 AM MT

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MML ACCOLADES GALA

www.nist.gov/mml/mml-accolades

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS



Opening Remarks

Kate Beers, MML Director
Gerette Balon and Jim Warren, Event Cohosts

Presentation of Accolades

Gaithersburg: Kate Beers, MML Director; Steven Choquette / Maria Polakoski, Vincent Shen, Mark VanLandingham / John Bonevich, Dave Holbrook, Sheng Lin-Gibson / Tara Eskandari, Rebecca Zangmeister, Marcela Najarro, MML Division Chiefs; Frannie Johnson, MML Executive Officer; Michael Fasolka, MML Associate Director; Michael Tarlov, Acting MML Deputy Director; Lisa Derby, MML Safety Program Coordinator
Boulder: John Perkins, MML Division Chief
Charleston: Stephanie Hooker, MML Associate Director

TECHNICAL EXCELLENCE ACCOLADES



Collaboration & Teamwork

Polette Centellas (642), Sebastian Engmann (643), Katherine Evans (642), Amanda Forster (643), Andrew Gayle (643), Gale Holmes (642), Andrew Korovich (642), Anthony Kotula (642), Alexander Landauer (643), Young Lee (644), Yong Li (644), Chris Michaels (643), Ryan Nieuwendaal (642), Jan Obrzut (642), Christopher Soles (642), Ran Tao (643)

For outstanding collaborative resilience and inter-divisional synergy in developing an integrated metrology framework to solve semiconductor packaging warpage challenges.

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Collaboration & Teamwork contd.

Sandra Da Silva (644), Joy Dunkers (644), Tara Eskandari (644), Angela Furlow (630), Alex Gooden (644), Holly Hack (644), Zhiyong He (644), Ian Hines (644), Monique Hunter (644), Scott Jackson (644), Jason Kralj (644), Damian Lancelotta (OFPM), Nancy Lin (644), Alshae Logan (644), Danielle Lynam (644), Carly Muletz Wolz (644), William (Brad) O'Dell (644), Kirsten Parratt (644), Michelle Wims (OFPM)

For coordination of the Rapid Microbial Testing Methods Consortium interlaboratory study sample generation, characterization, preparation, and delivery.

Measurement Science Excellence

Fernanda Piorino (644)

For exceptional technical work in developing quantitative characterization assays for benchmarking transcription and translation performance of cell-free expression systems.

Malgorzata (Gosia) Musial (647), Demian Riccardi (641), Kathleen Schwarz (641), Christopher Suiter (647), Jason Widegren (647)

For advancing multiscale models and nuclear magnetic resonance spectroscopy temperature-referencing accuracy to predict solvation and ion pairing phenomena.

Measurement Services Excellence

Amanda Bayless (646), Fabio Casu (646), Abraham Kuri Cruz (646), Sandra Da Silva (644), W. Clay Davis (646), Debra Ellisor (646), Samuel Forry (644), Kristine (Krissie) Gierz (776), Monique Hunter (644), Hariharan (Hari) Iyer (776), Scott Jackson (644), Nancy Lin (644), Kirsten Parratt (644), Tracey Schock (646), Stephanie Servetas (644), Aaron Urbas (646)

For production and characterization of RM 8048, Human Fecal Material from Omnivore and Vegetarian Donors.

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Measurement Services Excellence contd.

Ashley Beasley Green (645), David Bunk (645), Eric Kilpatrick (Retired from NIST), Lisa Kilpatrick (645), Mark Lowenthal (645), James Yen (776)

For development of SRM 927g, an improved total protein reference material.

Lorin Bachmann (Virginia Commonwealth University), Ashley Beasley Green (645), Johanna Camara (646), N. Alan Heckert (ITL-776), W. Greg Miller (Virginia Commonwealth University), Elena Wood (646)

For promoting the implementation of SRM 3666 Albumin and Creatinine in Human Urine by IVD manufacturers through a commutability assessment.

Data Management & Capabilities

Samuel Forry (644), Tyler Laird (644), Stephanie Servetas (644)

For timely production of a NIST test dataset for demonstrating screening of Sequences of Concern by synthetic nucleic acid producers.

Andrei Kazakov (647), Eugene Paulechka (647)

For developing high-accuracy computational protocols that modernize and validate NIST thermochemical databases for organic compounds.

Postdoctoral Fellow

Katarina Goodge (643)

For contributions and leadership in developing a machine-actionable NIR spectra dataset of verified fabrics to advance textile fiber identification.

Michael Haines (643)

For significantly advancing understanding of massive phase transformations during additive manufacturing of steel and their implications for materials qualification.

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Postdoctoral Fellow contd.

Samuel Hales (643)

For exemplary work developing a benchmark material and transferable measurement protocols for rheological testing of dense ceramic suspensions.

Rion Wendland (647)

For pioneering microscale metrology to accelerate photopolymer bioprinting.

Early Career

Katya Beltran (643)

For outstanding contribution to the development of RGTMs under the Characterized Authentic Drug Samples Project.

Zachary Norris Buck (647)

For pioneering measurements of a novel phase transformation and providing critical data to national standards for safe hydrogen pipeline transportation.

Ian Hines (644)

For exceptional leadership and the advancement of NIST microbial metrology.

Student Intern

Ryan Giang (University of California San Diego)

For exceptional dedication and contributions to CHIPS packaging materials research through a first-authored research paper and standout SURF plenary presentation.

Sarika Kapadia (National Institute of Health)

For exceptional studies on microbiome measurements and analysis tools to predict microbiome structure.

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Student Intern contd.

Radha Patel (643)

For extending the specificity and selectivity of the polyamide (nylon) class in the standard test method for quantitative fiber identification.

Theresa Thomas (630)

For providing exceptional website support to MML authors and optimizing MML website analytics processes.

Technology Transfer

Ashlee Aiello (731), Christopher Stafford (642), Jeremiah Woodcock (642), Brian Yanick (136)

For transferring new inverse gas chromatograph measurement capabilities into commercial instruments adopted by the semiconductor and coatings industries.

Vladimir Diky (647)

For transitioning NIST ThermoData Engine tools into the daily operations of global researchers navigating the ThermoML archive.

Distinguished Associates

Nicholas Derimow (647), Orion Kafka (departed), Newell Moser (647), Alec Saville (647)

For leading the industrial validation of a heat treatment that pushed additive manufacturing of titanium into safety-critical applications. Significant contributors to work that was awarded a 2026 William P. Slichter Award with Nikolas Hrabe, Jake Benzing, Austin McDannald, Howie Joress, David Newton, Lucas Koepke, Matthew Connolly, and Benjamin Caplins.

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ORGANIZATIONAL EXCELLENCE ACCOLADES

Excellence in MML Administration

Jessie Cahoon (630), Kim Stavish (630), Megan Tran (630)

For exceptional leadership, innovation, and execution in adapting MML administrative systems to meet evolving mission-critical requirements.

Laurell Phillips (646), Roxanne Queen (646)

For outstanding support to Chemical Sciences Division staff by serving as a limited bank card holder.

Wendi Copello (647), Willa Mayns (647), Robin McHale (647), Andrew Uribe (647)

For providing excellent, consistent, and rapid administrative support to CHIPS Metrology projects in division 647.

MML Mentor

Laura Pierce (644)

For excellent mentorship of undergraduate students from multiple institutions in federal research and career development.

Antonio Montoro Bustos (646)

For outstanding mentoring of a UMD/NIST graduate student, advancing measurement science in the area of nanoparticle measurements.

Jay Torres (630)

For providing exceptional leadership, comprehensive training, and succession planning for administrative staff, enhancing organizational capability and ensuring strong operational readiness.

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MML Outreach

Molly Knybel (IBBR), Lauren Mullen (645), Erica Romsos (645), Peter Vallone (645)

For organizing high quality, in-person continuing education for local Forensic DNA practitioners annually in 2024, 2025, and 2026.

Dawn Henke (Standards Coordinating Body), Steven Lund (ITL-776), David Newton (ITL-776), Laura Pierce (644), Sumona Sarkar (644), Khavin Suong (644), Tam-Anh Tran (644), Catherine Zander (Standards Coordinating Body)

For developing and implementing a hands-on training course on ISO cell counting standards to strengthen the biotechnology workforce.

Service in Professional Organizations

Kyle Anderson (645)

For outstanding service to the American Society for Mass Spectrometry.

Ran Tao (643)

For visionary leadership in the North American Thermal Analysis Society (NATAS), bridging the gap between polymer science and semiconductor packaging through innovative educational programming and webinars.

Excellence in MML Safety

Sean Lehman (645)

For improving access and organization of Incident Reporting and Investigation System (IRIS) safety reports, enabling efficient retrieval of relevant information aligned work in Division 645.

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Excellence in MML Safety contd.

Greta Babakhanova, Charles Camp, Sandra Da Silva, Joy Dunkers, Melis Kant, Da Bin Kim, Young Jong Lee, Yong Li, Nancy Lin, Alshae' Logan, Kirsten Parratt, Laura Pierce, Carlos Renteria, Antonio Marcos Saraiva, Sumona Sarkar, Siddharth Singh, Jiha Sung, Huda Usman, Johnny Ho (644), Lisa Derby (630)

For establishing a protocol that enabled their Group, and all MML staff, to safely assess and dispose of legacy chemicals.

Service and Support to MML

Clay Davis (646), Kevin Huncik (646)

For extraordinary technical troubleshooting and proactive emergency response, successfully restoring critical analytical instrumentation and preventing a facility shutdown.

William (Bill) Clark, Daniel Dender, Julie Leonard, Jody Sandel (630)

For demonstrating exceptional initiative, collaboration, and leadership in supporting the Operating Unit's (OU) contract and procurement planning processes.

William Brad O'Dell (644)

For exceptional leadership in optimizing BBD operations and bridging technical research with administrative excellence in support of the NIST mission.

Cecelia Foote, Saikat Kumar Ghosh, J'aime Maynard (TPO-401)

For providing exceptional support in the management of NIST consortia and CRADA execution.

Benjamin Long (ITL-775)

For outstanding, unwavering support and development of CDCS instances powering multiple public-facing MML data repositories and registries.

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Service and Support to MML contd.

Nathali Clark (CHIPS-305)

For exceptional procurement support for MML and CHIPS Initiatives.