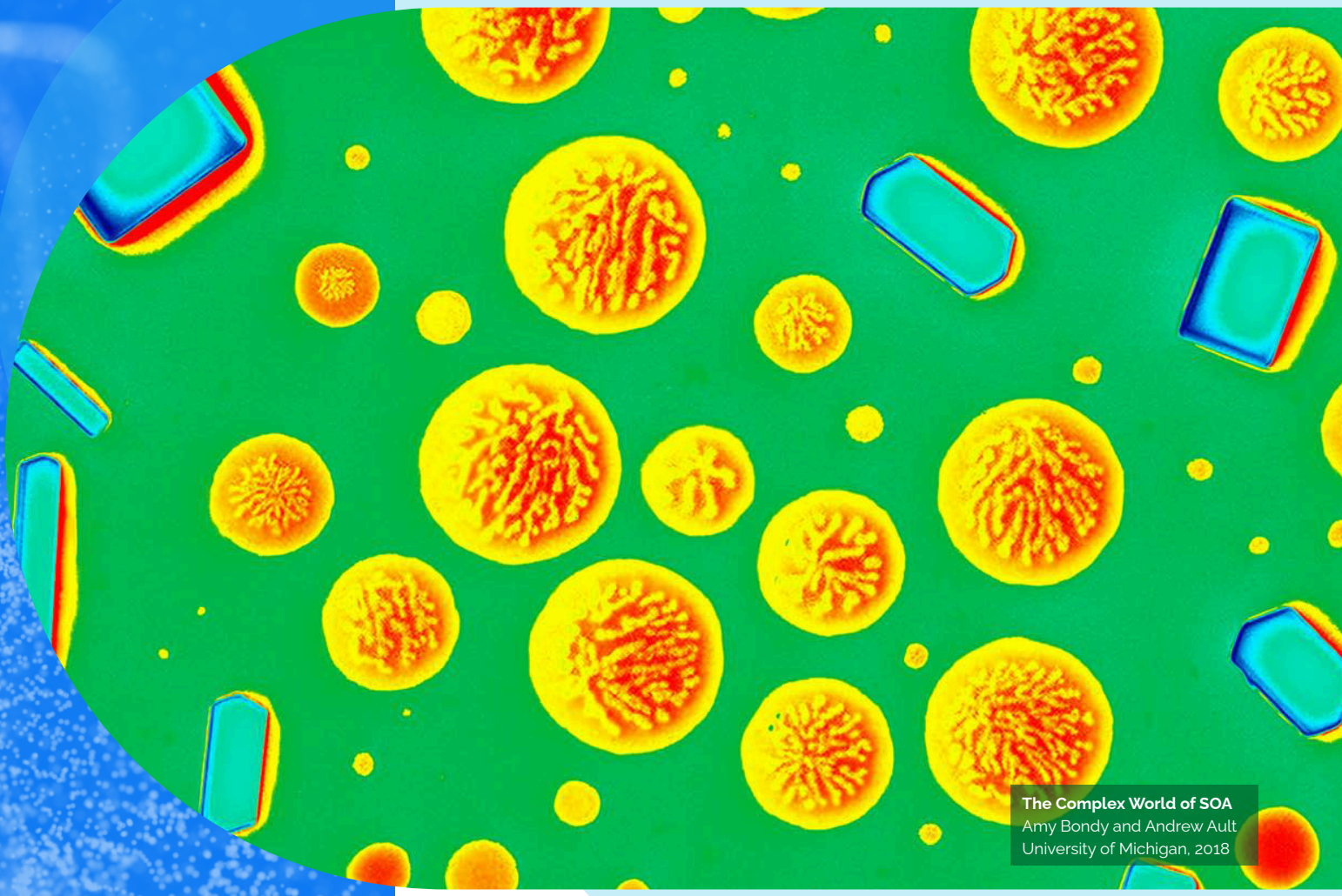
Our Investment in the Future of AAAR



The Complex World of SOA
Amy Bondy and Andrew Ault
University of Michigan, 2018

AAAR

American Association
for Aerosol Research

Endowment Fund Annual Report

January to December 2025

Mission

Dear Colleagues,

The mission of the American Association for Aerosol Research Endowment Fund is to assist in advancing aerosol science and technology by providing stable, long-term financial support for the Association's programs. The goal is to establish, and increase in net worth, a set of funds that will provide significant financial support to aid in achieving AAAR's strategic objectives. The Endowment Fund is intended to complement AAAR's revenue from dues, conference registrations, exhibition fees and other sources. This mission is enabled by the generous contributions of colleagues, their friends and families, and aerosol instrumentation companies. It is currently being realized by funding awards, plenary lectures, and a strategic project developed by the Vice-President Elect.

AAAR endowment funds are invested in a blend of high-quality stocks and bonds following the AAAR investment policy. In order to support AAAR activities, a total of about $19,000 was disbursed in 2025, including support for the Friedlander Memorial Plenary Lecture, seven AAAR awards, and a joint award with the International Society of Aerosols in Medicine. Further details about the current funds and how they were used can be found in this report.

We are pleased to announce that the International Friendship Fund, led by Susanne Hering, has met initial fundraising goals and requested matching funds from the Board of Directors. The goal is to provide support for international aerosol scientists outside the US and Canada to attend the AAAR annual conference. Fundraising will continue so that several travel grants can be provided.

If you would like to donate to this, or any other endowment fund, please visit https://www.aaar.org/donations/.

On behalf of the entire Endowment Committee, thank you for your contributions!

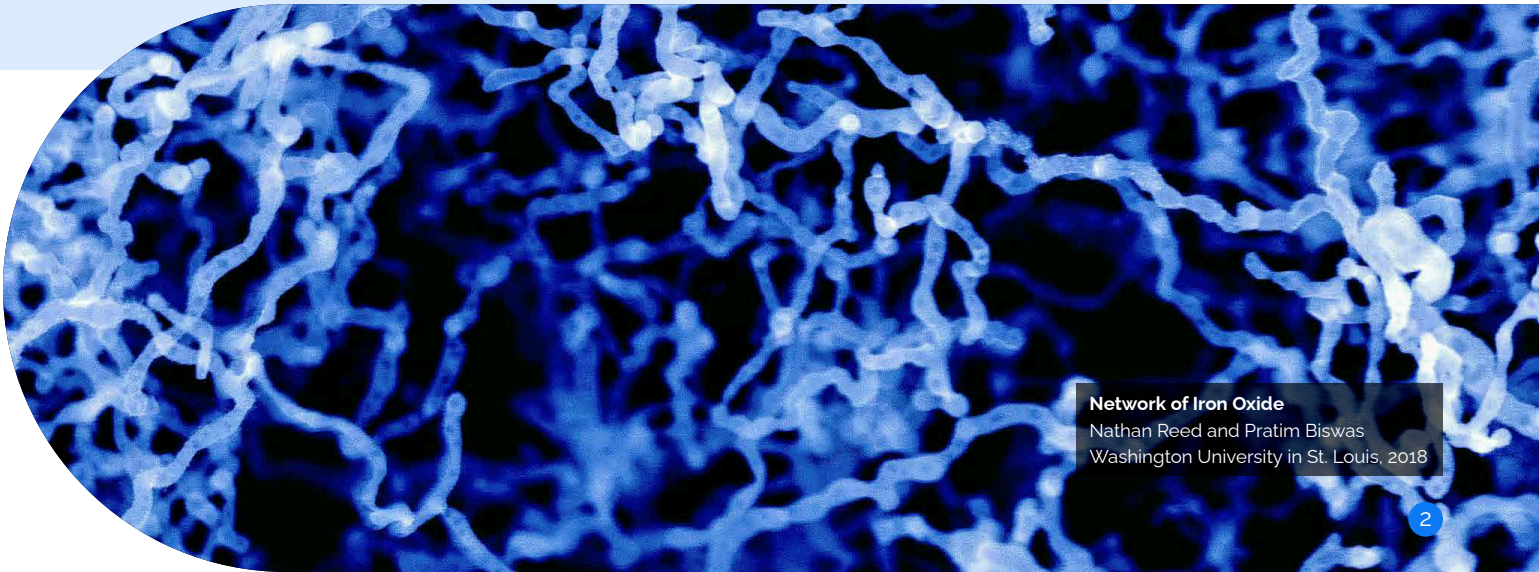
Sincerely,

Leah R. Williams

Leah Williams
Endowment Committee Chair 2025

> *It is a considerable honor to receive the David Sinclair Award from the AAAR! This recognizes the contributions of the amazing group of talented early career researchers and collaborators I have had the privilege to work with in aerosol science over 25 years. It has been quite a journey and the AAAR community has been a consistent and supportive presence. As recognition of an established scientist still active in their career, I hope that I can continue to live up to the aspirations of this award and the achievements of past awardees to make a lasting impact in aerosol science.*

Jonathan Reid
2025 Sinclair Award



Network of Iron Oxide
Nathan Reed and Pratim Biswas
Washington University in St. Louis, 2018

Current Endowment Funds and 2025 Activities

The AAAR Endowment Fund is comprised of sub-funds that are either True Endowment Funds or Quasi Endowment Funds. True Endowment Funds are established by donor-restricted gifts. The original value of gifts contributed to True Endowment Funds cannot be spent. The income and appreciation earned by True Endowment Funds provide a source of expendable revenue in perpetuity for the purposes specified by the donor and agreed to by AAAR. Quasi Endowment Funds are created by donor gifts or by AAAR Board designation and are treated the same as True Endowment Funds except that the original contributions can be spent in accord with the purpose of the fund and may have a finite lifetime. The AAAR Endowment Funds currently have seven True Endowment Funds and six Quasi Endowment Funds.

True Endowment Funds

Sheldon K. Friedlander Memorial Fund for Promoting Aerosols as an Enabling Discipline

This fund was established in 2009 by the family of Sheldon Friedlander with a $50,000 donation. Friends and colleagues contributed additional funds. The goal of the fund is to support activities related to promoting aerosols as an enabling discipline, such as plenary lectures and special symposia at the annual conference.

The 2025 Friedlander Lecture was presented by Chuji Wang of Mississippi State University and titled "Optical Trapping for Aerosol Science and Applications: Advances and Perspective."

The Friedlander Fund also continues to support the AS&T Paper Lecture Series. This initiative aims to highlight the research in our community, tie our journal to other AAAR activities, and provide an opportunity to bring us all together outside of the Annual Conference. Each month the Editors of AS&T selected a high impact journal article to be presented by its author. For each lecture, one of AAAR's Student Chapters serves as host. Nine lectures were held in 2025. Recordings are available to view at https://www.aaar.org/meetings-events/aaar-lectures-series/.

Fissan-Pui-TSI Award Fund

This fund was established in 2005 with a $75,000 donation from TSI Incorporated, which provided the award amount in 2006 and $65,000 to support future awards. The Award is granted by the International Aerosol Research Assembly (IARA) to recognize international collaboration in the field of aerosol science and technology between researchers/engineers residing on at least two different continents. The award is presented every four years at the International Aerosol Conference (IAC).

The Fissan-Pui-TSI Award was not awarded at the IAC in 2022.

Presidents Fund

This fund was started in 2016 with a generous donation from David Ensor and additional contributions from Past AAAR Presidents. The Board of Directors then voted to contribute matching funds to bring the Presidents Fund up to the amount of $50,000. An official account was set up in early 2019. The donors decided that the Vice-President Elect would use the income from this fund to help support an activity they would like to help establish during their Presidency to further support the mission of AAAR. In 2025, Vice-President Suresh Dhaniyala used this funding to provide travel grants to current and recent Federal Employees in the US. We were able to fund all applicants. Each received a travel grant and registration waiver to attend the 2025 Annual Conference.

> *I am truly humbled and honored to receive the 2025 Teaching, Mentoring and Training (TMT) Award from AAAR, especially since more senior members of AAAR have been incredible role models, mentors and teachers to me throughout my own career! The senior members of AAAR are a true inspiration and are the reason so many of us continue to call AAAR our scientific home today - thank you! We are fortunate to have an organization like AAAR that values this critical aspect of research. Thank you to all my current and past mentees for making me look good - you all make research a joy, especially when I get to see your excitement in new data you generate to address ongoing environmental or public health issues!*
>
> **Jason Surratt**
> 2025 Teaching, Training and Mentoring Award

I am incredibly honored to receive the Sheldon K. Friedlander Dissertation Award. My time within the AAAR community has been extremely important for my career, and I am thankful for the mentorship, collaboration, and inspiration I have found here. To be recognized by this community is truly meaningful, and I look forward to continuing to contribute to AAAR in the coming years.

Payton Beeler
2025 Friedlander Dissertation Award

AS&T Outstanding Publication Award Fund

The AS&T Outstanding Publication Award was established in 2015 and is presented annually to recognize a paper published in Aerosol Science and Technology (AS&T) that has had a significant impact on the field. Part of this award is provided by Taylor and Francis, who publishes AS&T, and part by AAAR. This fund was created in 2018 to provide AAAR's portion of the award with a generous donation from Peter McMurry and additional contributions from other former and current AS&T Editors. The Board of Directors then voted to contribute matching funds to bring the AS&T Outstanding Publications Award Fund up to the amount of $50,000. An official account was set up in 2019.

In 2025, the AS&T Outstanding Publication Award was presented to W. Patrick Arnott, Khadeejeh Hamasha, Hans Moosmüller, Patrick J. Sheridan, and John A. Ogren, for their 2004 paper "Towards Aerosol Light-Absorption Measurements with a 7-Wavelength Aethalometer: Evaluation with a Photoacoustic Instrument and 3-Wavelength Nephelometer." The award winners very generously donated the award back to AAAR to use for student travel grants to the 2026 Annual Conference.

Susanne V. Hering Award Fund

This fund was established in 2021 to honor Susanne V. Hering, Founder and President of Aerosol Dynamics, Inc. as well as a previous AAAR President, Conference Chair, Board Member, Plenary Speaker, Tutorial Speaker, and Benjamin Y.H. Liu Award Winner. This award recognizes outstanding contributions to aerosol science by a scientist whose work has had a significant impact on public health, the built environment or the global ecosystem. Donations by colleagues, friends, and aerosol technology companies were matched by the Board to create this True Endowment.

The 2025 Susanne V. Hering Award was awarded to Kimberly Prather of the University of California, San Diego.

Dale Lundgren and Virgil Marple Fund

This fund honors the contributions of Dale Lundgren and Virgil Marple in their long-term collaborative efforts to advance aerosol measurement science and education. The fund supports a plenary lecture at the AAAR annual meeting. Donations by colleagues, friends and family were matched by the Board to establish this True Endowment fund in 2024.

The 2025 Lundgren-Marple Plenary Lecture was given by Christopher Hogan of the University of Minnesota and titled "Aerosol Transport Phenomena: A Tale of Two Knudsen Numbers."

AAAR Excellence in Teaching, Mentoring, and Training Award Fund

This award recognizes the importance of supporting students and early career scientists in our field. It honors both mid-career and senior scientists who have demonstrated outstanding contributions to teaching, mentoring, and training the next generation of aerosol scientists. The fund was established in 2024 by generous donations from Doug Worsnop and other AAAR members, plus matching funds from the AAAR Board of Directors.

The 2025 AAAR Excellence in Teaching, Mentoring, and Training Award was presented to Jason Surratt at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill.

I am extremely grateful to be selected for the Whitby Award and for the recognition of the great work my group has accomplished over these challenging eight years. This award is especially meaningful to me because I have spent many hours poring over Whitby's original instrument engineering drawings, and it still fills me with awe thinking about how cool and innovative aerosol science was and still is. I hope to leave a legacy as strong as Ken Whitby's and those of all the incredible researchers who have received this award before me.

Coty Jen
2025 Whitby Award

Quasi Endowment Funds

Sheldon K. Friedlander Dissertation Award Fund

Revenue from this fund supports the monetary prize for the Sheldon K. Friedlander Award which recognizes an outstanding dissertation by an individual who has recently earned a doctoral degree. The dissertation can be in any discipline in the physical, biomedical, or engineering sciences but must be in the field of aerosol science and technology. The award memorializes Sheldon Friedlander for his leadership as a researcher, teacher, and pioneer in aerosol science. One of AAAR's founders, Friedlander was a recipient of the distinguished Fuchs Memorial Award. He directed graduate students at Columbia University, Johns Hopkins University, the California Institute of Technology, and the University of California for more than 50 years.

The 2025 Sheldon K. Friedlander Dissertation Award was presented to Payton Beeler for their dissertation work at the Washington University in St. Louis and Pacific Northwest National Laboratory. Dr. Beeler generously contributed the award back to AAAR to support student travel grants to the 2026 Annual Conference.

Thomas T. Mercer Joint Prize Fund

Sponsored by AAAR and the International Society for Aerosols in Medicine (ISAM), the Thomas T. Mercer Joint Prize recognizes excellence in the areas of pharmaceutical aerosols and inhalable materials. The award honors the legacy of Thomas T. Mercer, an outstanding researcher and author whose work encompassed aerosol physics and chemistry as well as inhalation toxicology, industrial hygiene, and health physics. The fund was established by a generous donation from the Mercer Family Foundation.

The 2025 Thomas T. Mercer Joint Prize was presented to Justin Hanes of the Johns Hopkins University.

David Sinclair Award Fund

Revenue from this fund supports the David Sinclair Award which recognizes sustained excellence in aerosol research and technology by an established scientist still active in their career whose research will have a lasting impact in aerosol science. The award memorializes David Sinclair, one of aerosol science's great innovators, known for his knowledge, ingenuity and energy.

The 2025 David Sinclair Award was presented to Jonathan Reid of the University of Bristol.

Kenneth T. Whitby Award Fund

This fund supports the Kenneth T. Whitby Award which recognizes outstanding technical contributions to aerosol science and technology by a young scientist. The purpose of the award is to encourage continued work in the field. The award memorializes Kenneth T. Whitby, known for his contributions to aerosol measurement, the study of aerosol properties and behavior, and the nature of atmospheric aerosols.

The 2025 Kenneth T. Whitby Award was presented to two outstanding scientists, Celia Faiola of the University of California, Irvine and Coty Jen of Carnegie Mellon University.

Benjamin Y. H. Liu Award Fund

This fund supports the Benjamin Y. H. Liu Award which recognizes outstanding contributions to aerosol instrumentation and experimental techniques that have significantly advanced the science and technology of aerosols. The award honors Benjamin Liu for his leadership in the aerosol community and his own seminal contributions to aerosol science through instrumentation and experimental research.

The 2025 Benjamin Y. H. Liu Award was presented to Chongai Kuang of Brookhaven National Laboratory.

Fuchs Memorial Award Fund

The Fuchs Memorial Award is the premier international prize in aerosol science and is sponsored by AAAR, the Gesellschaft für Aerosolforschung (GAeF) and the Japan Association of Aerosol Science and Technology (JAAST). This fund supports AAAR's contribution to the award. Presented every four years at the International Aerosol Conference, the award memorializes Nikolai Albertovich Fuchs, the great Russian scientist who is regarded by many as the "father of aerosol science." The award recognizes outstanding worldwide contributions to the field of aerosol research.

The 2022 Fuchs Memorial Award was awarded at the International Aerosol Conference to Juan Fernandez de la Mora of Yale University.



Faceted ZnO Raspberry
Nathan Reed and Pratim Biswas,
Washington University in St. Louis, 2018

Endowment Committee

The Endowment Committee oversees the management of the AAAR Endowment Funds and provides leadership for AAAR's philanthropy-based, long-term fundraising activities. The Committee is responsible for developing, reviewing and implementing policies for fundraising, and making recommendations to the Board for the use of the funds to support AAAR's programs. The Committee develops fundraising goals, spearheads fundraising activities and educates AAAR members as to the value of philanthropic giving to AAAR's Endowment Funds.

Members of the Endowment Committee

Benjamin Nault	2022–2025
C Y Wu	2022–2025
Murray Johnston	2023–2026
Roya Bahreini	2024–2027
Leah Williams (2025 Chair)	2024–2027
Faye McNeill (Immediate Past President)	2024–2025
Jim Smith (Immediate Past Treasurer)	2024–2026
Amy Sullivan (President)	2024–2025
Jesse Kroll (Treasurer)	2024–2025

Receiving the Whitby Award in 2025 was an incredible honor, and I was deeply humbled to be recognized alongside so many previous awardees whose work has inspired my own research interests. As a scientist who explores highly interdisciplinary questions that cut across so many research areas, I have found a wonderfully supportive research community at AAAR annual conferences who all understand the unique challenges of working between different fields. There are few scientific societies that can cut across such depth and breadth of different disciplines to address some of the most challenging problems facing our world. I am grateful to the AAAR endowment for supporting this recognition of my team's research at the interface of plant ecology and aerosol science and facilitating the next generation of innovation in aerosol research.

Celia Faiola
2025 Whitby Award



A Wrinkle in Entropy
Owen S. Fuhr
University of Connecticut, 2025

Building the Future

The Endowment Committee seeks to engage AAAR members, and their families and friends, in establishing and directing the future of the endowment. The following funds are currently under development. Help us support aerosol science and its application to important societal issues with a contribution. An on-line donation portal along with a description of all our funds can be found on the AAAR website at https://www.aaar.org/donations/. We also welcome donations from donor advised funds or individual retirement accounts. Please let us know if you have included AAAR in your estate plans.

Funds Under Development

International Friendship Fund. This fund will support international participation in AAAR annual meetings through travel grants to aerosol scientists who work outside the US and Canada. This fund has met initial fundraising goals and requested matching funds from the Board of Directors. The first international travel grants supported by this fund will be given at the 2026 Annual Meeting.

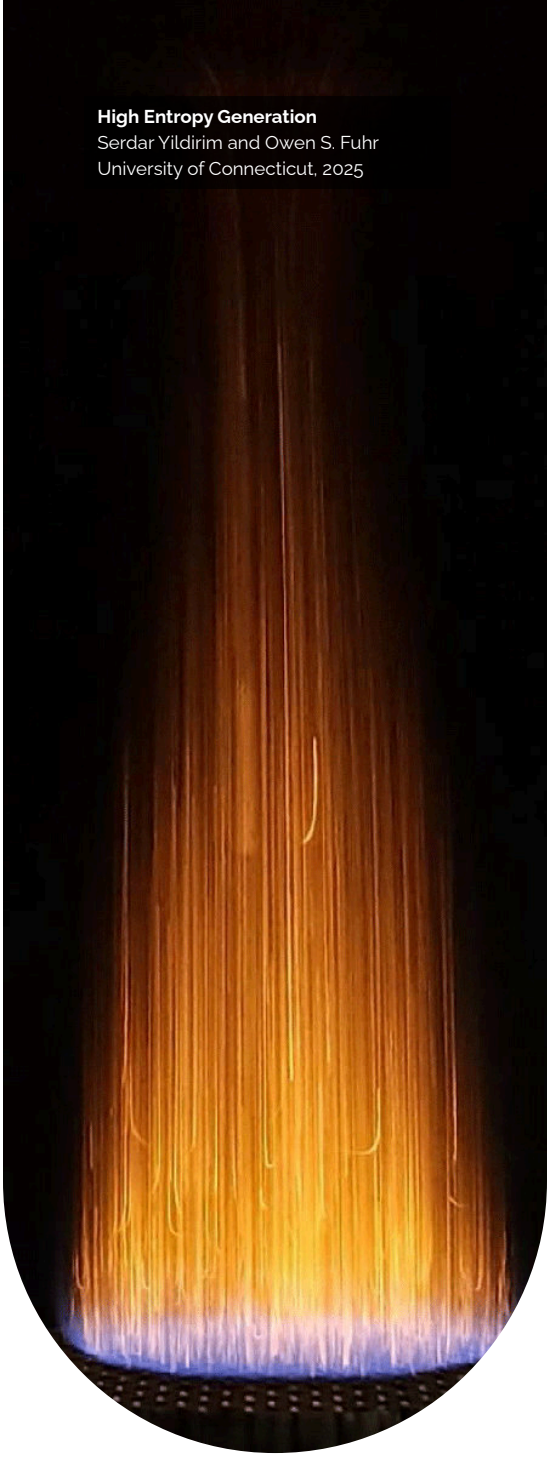
Your Engagement in Developing Endowment Funds

We welcome your thoughts regarding other activities that could make AAAR more effective in fostering and supporting aerosol science. Some possible concepts for endowment funds are included in the table below. Named funds to memorialize the legacy of prominent members of the aerosol community are a possibility as well. Please send your ideas to Committee Chair Leah Williams at williams@aerodyne.com. Also note that the Board of Directors has set a policy to provide up to $25,000 in matching funds for groups that raise at least $25,000 so that a true endowment fund can be established.

Ideas for Potential New Endowment Funds to Support AAAR's Mission

Concept	Annual spending	Endowed amount*
Student Poster Prizes (To award 10 at $200 each)	$ 2,000	$ 50,000
Early Career Travel Grant (To cover registration, lodging and some travel)	$ 2,000	$ 50,000
Plenary lecture (To cover honorarium, lodging and some travel)	$ 2,000	$ 50,000
Early Career Event at Conference	$ 4,000	$ 100,000
Student Travel Grants (To award 10 at $500 each)	$ 5,000	$ 125,000

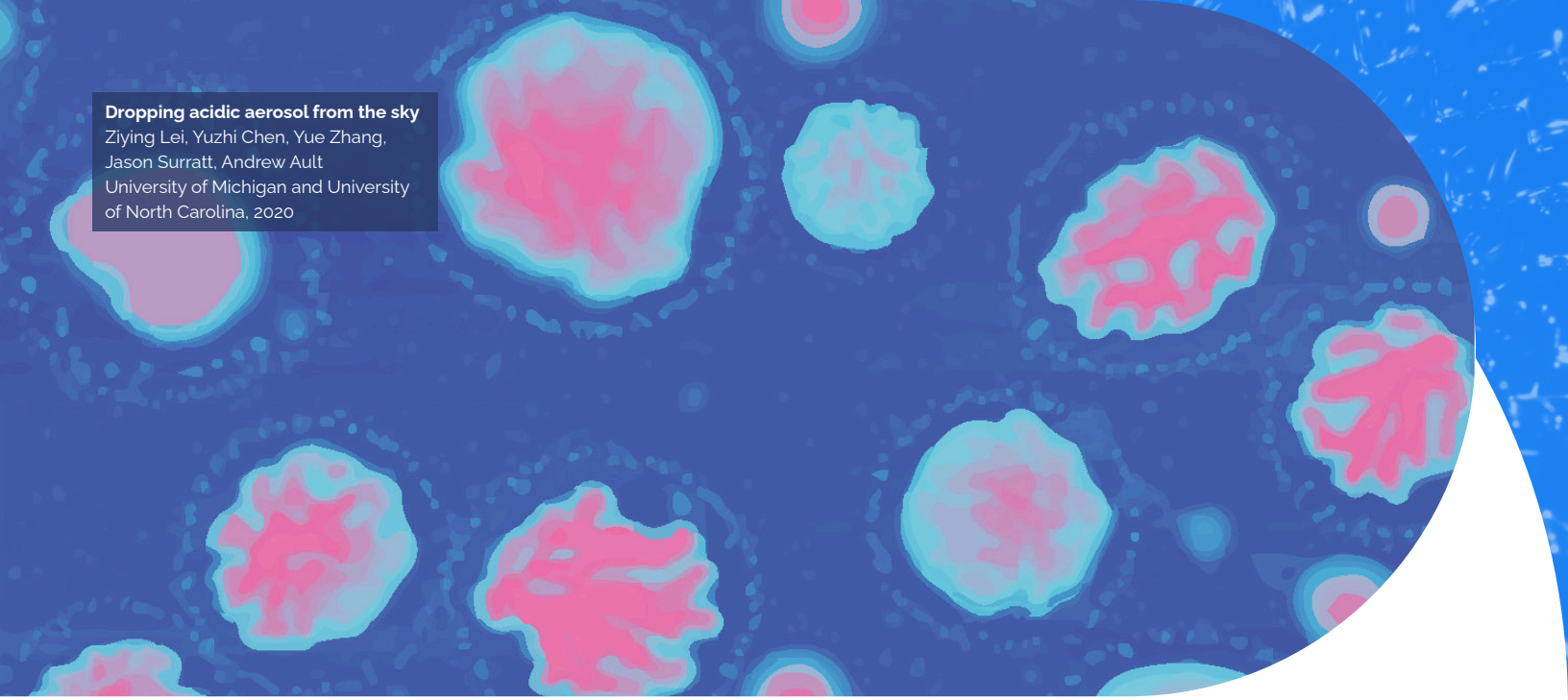
*Endowed amount is based on assuming a 4% average rate of return on investments to support annual spending.



High Entropy Generation
Serdar Yildirim and Owen S. Fuhr
University of Connecticut, 2025

Winning the 2025 AAAR Benjamin Liu Award is both an incredible honor and a deeply meaningful milestone in my career. This gratifying recognition also reflects the generous mentorship, invigorating collaboration, and supportive community that have shaped my work in studying atmospheric aerosol processes and impacts. I am deeply grateful to the AAAR for this recognition and it reinforces my commitment to continue advancing aerosol research as an impactful multi-disciplinary science.

Chongai Kuang
2025 Liu Award



Dropping acidic aerosol from the sky
Ziying Lei, Yuzhi Chen, Yue Zhang, Jason Surratt, Andrew Ault
University of Michigan and University of North Carolina, 2020

Status of the Funds in 2025

AAAR Endowment Funds Financial Summary for 2025					
Name of Endowment Fund	**Net Assets** Beginning of Year 1/1/2025 (Audited)	**Contributions + Matching Funds**	**Total Disbursed in 2025**	**Net Return** (Gain/Loss + Interest - Fees)	**Net Assets End of Year 12/31/2025**
True Endowment Funds (Permanently Restricted Corpus, Remainder Temporarily Restricted)					
Friedlander Memorial Fund ($50,000 Corpus)	$ 147,301		-$ 700	$ 18,261	$ 164,862
Fissan-Pui-TSI Award Fund ($65,000 Corpus)	$ 156,363			$ 19,355	$ 175,719
Presidents Fund ($20,100 Corpus)	$ 74,211	$ 500	-$ 2,676	$ 8,827	$ 80,862
AS&T Outstanding Publication Award Fund ($25,100 Corpus)	$ 69,005	$ 1,000	-$ 2,076	$ 8,439	$ 76,368
Susanne V. Hering Award Fund ($53,373 Corpus)	$ 79,957	$ 4,000	-$ 1,576	$ 9,593	$ 91,974
Lundgren-Marple Fund ($28,050 Corpus)	$ 56,357		-$ 1,000	$ 6,742	$ 62,099
Excellence in Teaching, Mentoring and Training Fund ($36,950 Corpus)	$ 65,228		-$ 1,576	$ 7,723	$ 71,375
Quasi Endowment Funds (Board Designated)					
Friedlander Dissertation Award Fund	$ 49,438		-$ 1,576	$ 5,944	$ 53,806
Thomas T. Mercer Joint Prize Fund	$ 58,274		-$ 1,603	$ 6,925	$ 63,597
David Sinclair Award Fund	$ 46,694		-$ 1,576	$ 5,728	$ 50,846
Kenneth T. Whitby Award Fund	$ 44,961		-$ 3,152	$ 5,521	$ 47,330
Benjamin Y. H. Liu Award Fund	$ 54,416		-$ 1,576	$ 6,765	$ 59,605
Fuchs Memorial Award Fund	$ 65,171			$ 7,974	$ 73,145
Funds Under Development					
International Friendship Fund	$ 27,450	$ 1,000			$ 28,450

Donor Acknowledgements 2025

We would like to recognize these donors for their generous contributions to our new and existing Endowment Funds and to student travel grants.

W. Patrick Arnott

Payton Beeler

Khadeejeh Hamasha

Sonia Kreidenweis

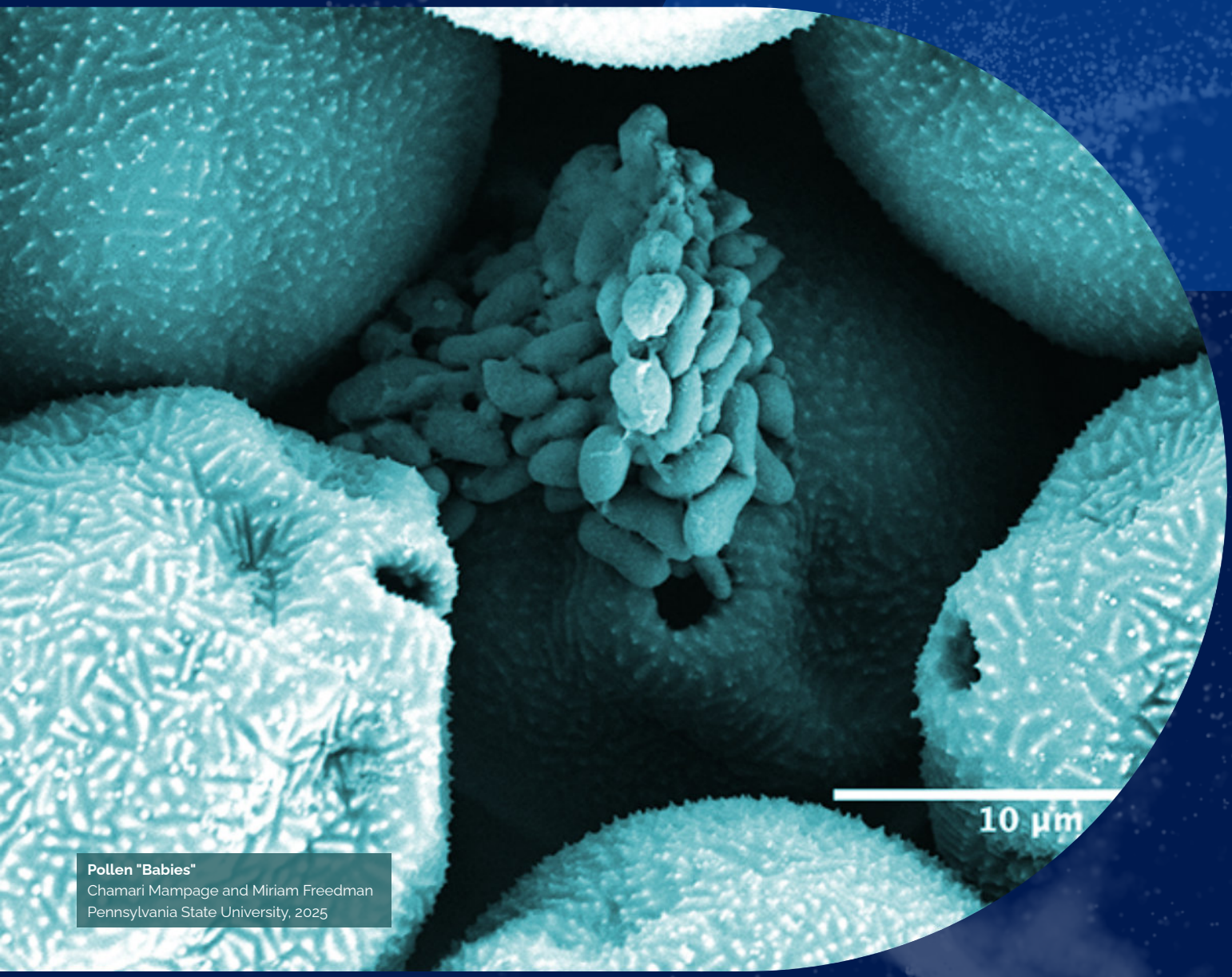
Linsey Marr

Hans Moosmüller

John Ogren

Patrick Sheridan

Leah Williams (in honor of Susanne Hering)



Pollen "Babies"
Chamari Mampage and Miriam Freedman
Pennsylvania State University, 2025