

# Matthew D. Kvalheim

Assistant Professor of Mathematics  
University of Maryland, Baltimore County  
✉ [mdkvalheim.github.io](https://mdkvalheim.github.io)  
Citizenship: USA

## Research Interests

Dynamical Systems, Control Theory, and Applied Topology and Geometry.

## Education

- 2013–2018 **Ph.D.**, *University of Michigan*, Electrical Engineering.
- 2013–2017 **M.S.**, *University of Michigan*, Mathematics.
- 2013–2017 **M.S.**, *University of Michigan*, Electrical Engineering.
- 2009–2013 **B.S.**, *Ohio University*, Electrical Engineering, *summa cum laude*, #1 EECS graduate.

## Employment

- 2023– **Assistant Professor**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*, Department of Mathematics and Statistics.  
Eminent Scholar Program Mentor: Eduardo D. Sontag
- 2022–2023 **Postdoctoral Assistant Professor**, *University of Michigan*, Department of Mathematics.  
Mentor: Anthony M. Bloch
- 2019–2022 **Postdoctoral Researcher**, *University of Pennsylvania*, Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering.  
Mentors: Yuliy Baryshnikov, Daniel E. Koditschek
- 2018–2019 **Postdoctoral Research Fellow**, *University of Michigan*, Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science.  
Mentors: Anthony M. Bloch, Shai Revzen

## Peer-Reviewed Journal Publications

- 12 **Why should autoencoders work?**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim and Eduardo D. Sontag*  
Transactions on Machine Learning Research (2024), pp. 1–24. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 11 **A compositional approach to certifying the almost global asymptotic stability of cascade systems.**  
*Jake Welde, Matthew D. Kvalheim, and Vijay Kumar*  
IEEE Control Systems Letters, 7 (2023), pp. 1969–1974. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 10 **Flux in tilted potential systems: negative resistance and persistence.**  
*Yuliy Baryshnikov and Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
Communications in Mathematical Physics, 400.2 (2023), pp. 853–930 ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 9 **Obstructions to asymptotic stabilization.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
SIAM J. Control and Optimization, 61.2 (2023), pp. 536–542 ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 8 **A generalization of the Hopf degree theorem.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
Proceedings of the American Mathematical Society, 151.1 (2023), pp. 453–454. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))

- 7 **Planning of obstacle-aided navigation for multi-legged robots using a sampling-based method over directed graphs.**  
*Kaustav Chakraborty, Haodi Hu, Matthew D. Kvalheim, and Feifei Qian*  
 IEEE Robotics and Automation Letters, 7.4 (2022), pp. 8861–8868. ([article](#))
- 6 **Necessary conditions for feedback stabilization and safety.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim and Daniel E. Koditschek*  
 J. Geometric Mechanics, 14.4 (2022), pp. 659–693. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 5 **Families of periodic orbits: closed 1-forms and global continuability.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim and Anthony M. Bloch*  
 J. Differential Equations, 285 (2021), pp. 211–257. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 4 **Conley’s fundamental theorem for a class of hybrid systems.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim, Paul Gustafson, and Daniel E. Koditschek*  
 SIAM J. Applied Dynamical Systems, 20.2 (2021), pp. 784–825. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 3 **Existence and uniqueness of global Koopman eigenfunctions for stable fixed points and periodic orbits.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim and Shai Revzen*  
 Physica D, 425 (2021), pp. 132959. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 2 **Gait modeling and optimization for the perturbed Stokes regime.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim, Brian Bittner, and Shai Revzen*  
 Nonlinear Dynamics, 97.4 (2019), pp. 2249–2270. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 1 **Global linearization and fiber bundle structure of invariant manifolds.**  
*Jaap Eldering, Matthew D. Kvalheim, and Shai Revzen*  
 Nonlinearity, 31.9 (2018), pp. 4202–4245. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))

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## Peer-Reviewed Conference Publications

- 3 **The role of symmetry in constructing geometric flat outputs for free-flying robotic systems.**  
*Jake Welde, Matthew D. Kvalheim, and Vijay Kumar*  
 2023 IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation (2023), pp. 12247–12253. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 2 **Generic properties of Koopman eigenfunctions for stable fixed points and periodic orbits.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim, David A. Hong, and Shai Revzen*  
 IFAC-PapersOnline, 54.9 (2021), pp. 267–272. ([article](#), [arXiv](#))
- 1 **Data-driven models of legged locomotion.**  
*Shai Revzen and Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
 Micro-and Nanotechnology Sensors, Systems, and Applications VII, 9467 (2015). ([article](#))

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## Book Chapters

- 2 **Bioinspired legged locomotion, chapter 3.2: Templates and anchors.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim and Shai Revzen*  
 Butterworth-Heinemann, Elsevier, Oxford (2017)
- 1 **Bioinspired legged locomotion, chapter 3.5: Locomotion as an oscillator.**  
*Shai Revzen and Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
 Butterworth-Heinemann, Elsevier, Oxford (2017)

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## Preprints

- 8 **Relationships between necessary conditions for feedback stabilizability.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
(2023). ([arXiv](#))
- 7 **Linearizability of flows by embeddings.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim and Philip Arathoon*  
(2023). ([arXiv](#))
- 6 **Koopman embedding and super-linearization counterexamples with isolated equilibria.**  
*Philip Arathoon and Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
(2023). ([arXiv](#))
- 5 **Estimating phase from observed trajectories using the temporal 1-form.**  
*Simon Wilshin, Matthew D. Kvalheim, Clayton Scott, and Shai Revzen*  
(2022). ([arXiv](#))
- 4 **A pasting lemma for Lipschitz functions.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim, Paul Gustafson, and Samuel A. Burden*  
(2021). ([arXiv](#))
- 3 **Phase response curves and the role of coordinates.**  
*Simon Wilshin, Matthew D. Kvalheim, and Shai Revzen*  
(2021). ([arXiv](#))
- 2 **Poincaré-Hopf theorem for hybrid systems.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim*  
(2021). ([arXiv](#))
- 1 **Reverse-engineering invariant manifolds with asymptotic phase.**  
*Matthew D. Kvalheim and Shai Revzen*  
(2016). ([arXiv](#))

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## Invited Talks

- 2024 **Identifying engineering (im)possibilities with geometry and topology**, *University of Delaware*, Newark, DE, USA.  
Electrical and Computer Engineering Spring Seminar Series
- 2024 **Linearizability of dynamical systems by embeddings**, *Joint Mathematics Meetings*, San Francisco, CA, USA.  
Minisymposium: Geometry and Symmetry in Differential Equations, Control, and Applications
- 2023 **Discovering engineering (im)possibilities with geometry and topology**, *Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Laboratory*, Baltimore, MD, USA.
- 2023 **Discovering engineering (im)possibilities with geometry and topology**, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA, USA.  
GRASP SFI Seminar ([link](#))
- 2023 **Asymptotic stabilizability**, *Banff International Research Station*, Banff, AB, Canada.  
Workshop: Geometry, Topology and Control System Design ([link](#))
- 2022 **Existence and uniqueness of Koopman eigenfunctions near stable equilibria and limit cycles**, *International Symposium on Nonlinear Theory and Its Applications*, online.
- 2022 **Negative resistance in small-noise dynamics via persistent homology**, *Indian Institute of Technology Bombay*, online.  
SysConTalks
- 2022 **Nonlinear systems**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.

- 2022 **Large deviations, persistent homology, and Brownian conductors with negative resistance**, *Cornell University*, online.  
Probability Seminar
- 2022 **When can hybrid systems operate safely?**, *University of Michigan*, online.  
Control Seminar
- 2022 **Flux in small noise dynamics: persistence and negative resistance**, *Brown University, Division of Applied Mathematics*, online.
- 2021 **Flux in small noise dynamics: negative resistance and persistence**, *University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign*, online.  
Mathematical Biology Seminar
- 2021 **When and how are hybrid dynamical systems conjugate to their classical quotients?**, *SIAM Conference on Control and its Applications*, online.  
*with Samuel A. Burden*  
Minisymposium: Physically grounded semantics for programming hybrid dynamical systems
- 2021 **Toward a physically grounded type theory for robot task composition**, *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, online.  
*with Daniel E. Koditschek and Paul Gustafson*  
Workshop: Compositional robotics: mathematics and tools
- 2021 **Toward a physically grounded type theory for robot task composition**, *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, online.  
*with Daniel E. Koditschek and Paul Gustafson*  
Workshop: Compositional robotics: mathematics and tools
- 2021 **Small noise dynamics, persistence, and negative resistance**, *SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems*, online.  
*with Yuliy Baryshnikov*  
Minisymposium: Stochastic oscillators
- 2021 **Flux in tilted potential systems: negative resistance and persistence**, *Army Research Office SLICE MURI W911NF-18-1-032 Group Meeting*, online.
- 2021 **Towards a Conley theory for hybrid dynamical systems**, *Rutgers University*, online.  
TRIPODS/DATA-INSPIRE Workshop: Dynamics, Topology, and Robotic Control
- 2021 **Hierarchical composition via collapse of dimension in dynamical systems**, *ETH Zürich*, online.  
Series: Autonomy Talks
- 2021 **Existence and uniqueness of global linearizing coordinates**, *Army Research Lab*, online.  
Representing the MURI group funded by Army Research Office MURI 911NF-17-1-0306
- 2021 **Safety and stabilization: necessary conditions**, *Army Research Office SLICE MURI W911NF-18-1-032 Group Meeting*, online.
- 2021 **Necessary conditions for feedback stabilization and safety**, *University of Pennsylvania*, online.  
Kod\*Lab Research Seminar
- 2020 **Proving periodic orbits exist: global continuation and Lyapunov 1-forms**, *Invited Talk, University of Pennsylvania*, online.  
Graduate Research Seminar in Applied Topology
- 2020 **Proving periodic orbits exist: Lyapunov 1-forms and global continuation**, *University of Pennsylvania*, online.  
Kod\*Lab Research Seminar

- 2020 **Geometry and dynamics of circulant systems**, *AMS sectional meeting*, online.  
with Anthony M. Bloch (speaker)  
Special session: Geometric dynamics
- 2020 **Conley's fundamental theorem for a class of hybrid systems**, *Army Research Office SLICE MURI W911NF-18-1-032 Group Meeting*, online.
- 2020 **Conley's fundamental theorem for a class of hybrid systems**, *University of Pennsylvania*, online.  
Kod\*Lab Research Seminar
- 2020 **Toward a task planning theory for robot hybrid dynamics**, *Casa Matemática Oaxaca*, online.  
Workshop: Topological complexity and motion planning
- 2020 **Isochrons from short, noisy data**, *Dynamics Days Europe*, online.  
with Simon Wilshin, Clayton Scott, and Shai Revzen  
Minisymposium: Stochastic oscillators
- 2019 **Invariant manifolds, locomotion, and the Koopman operator**, *Invited Talk, University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA.  
Chaudhari Research Group Seminar
- 2019 **Templates, anchors, and normally hyperbolic invariant manifolds**, *Invited Talk, University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA.  
DAIR Lab Research Seminar
- 2019 **Templates, anchors, and normally hyperbolic invariant manifolds**, *Invited Talk, University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA.  
ScalAR Lab Research Seminar
- 2019 **Existence and uniqueness of linearizing semiconjugacies for stable fixed points and periodic orbits**, *California Institute of Technology*, Pasadena, CA.  
Army Research Office MURI 911NF-17-1-0306 Group Meeting
- 2019 **Dynamics of circulant systems of ODEs**, *SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems*, Snowbird, UT.  
with Anthony M. Bloch (speaker)
- 2019 **Reduced-order models for locomotion in the perturbed Stokes regime**, *SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems*, Snowbird, UT.  
with Shai Revzen
- 2019 **Hybrid oscillators: phase and amplitude in a class of non-smooth systems**, *SIAM Conference on Applications of Dynamical Systems*, Snowbird, UT.  
with Shai Revzen
- 2018 **Aspects of invariant manifold theory and applications**, *University of California Santa Barbara*, Santa Barbara, CA.  
Army Research Office MURI 911NF-17-1-0306 Group Meeting
- 2018 **Oscillators, asymptotic phase, and reduction of dynamical systems**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Applied and Interdisciplinary Mathematics Student Seminar
- 2018 **Invariant manifolds, asymptotic phase, and data-driven algorithms**, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA.  
Kod\*Lab Research Seminar
- 2016 **A recipe for embedding templates in anchors**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Legged Robotics Seminar

- 2015 **Introduction to homology: towards topological data analysis, pt. II**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Signal Processing Student Seminar
- 2015 **Introduction to homology: towards topological data analysis, pt. I/II**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Signal Processing Student Seminar

## Other Talks

- 2023 **A compositional approach to certifying the almost global asymptotic stability of cascade systems**, *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, London, UK.  
*with Jake Welde (speaker) and Vijay Kumar*  
Workshop: Compositional robotics: mathematics and tools
- 2023 **A principal bundle perspective on differential flatness in complex robotic and biological systems**, *Americal Physical Society March Meeting*, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA.  
*with Jake Welde (speaker) and Vijay Kumar*
- 2019 **Is legged locomotion almost smooth?**, *Dynamic Walking*, Calgary, AB, Canada.  
*with Shai Revzen (speaker) and George Council*
- 2018 **Testing an extended 'Posture Principle'**, *Annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*, San Francisco, CA.  
*with Shai Revzen*
- 2015 **Phase-based models of rhythmic systems**, *Dynamic Walking*, Columbus, OH.  
*with Shai Revzen*
- 2015 **Better models of rhythmic systems: predicting locomotion from phase alone**, *Annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*, West Palm Beach, FL.  
*with Shai Revzen*
- 2014 **Why the trot?**, *Annual meeting of the Society for Integrative and Comparative Biology*, Austin, TX.  
*with Shai Revzen and Sam Burden (speakers)*

## Posters

- 2023 **The role of symmetry in constructing geometric flat outputs for free-flying robotic systems**, *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*, London, UK.  
*with Jake Welde (presenter) and Vijay Kumar*
- 2020 **A mode map representation to predict steady states and attraction basins for legged locomotion on obstacle terrains**, *International Conference on Intelligent Robotics and Systems (IROS)*, online.  
*with Haodi Hu (presenter), Michelle Joyce, Simon Wilshin, Andrew Spence, and Feifei Qian*  
Workshop: Robotics-inspired biology
- 2019 **Principal Koopman eigenfunctions for nonlinear and nonsmooth systems**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Los Angeles, CA.  
*with Shai Revzen*  
Workshop: Operator theoretic methods in dynamic data analysis and control

- 2019 **Principal Koopman eigenfunctions for nonlinear and nonsmooth systems**, *University of California, Los Angeles*, Los Angeles, CA.  
with Shai Revzen  
Workshop: Operator theoretic methods in dynamic data analysis and control
- 2018 **Global linearization and fiber bundle structure of invariant manifolds**, *AIMS Conference Series on Dynamical Systems and Differential Equations*, Taipei, Taiwan.  
with Jaap Eldering and Shai Revzen
- 2018 **Templates and Anchors: a review of notions of model reduction**, *Dynamic Walking*, Pensicola, FL.  
with Shai Revzen
- 2017 **Asymptotic phase, model reduction, and control of Templates & Anchors**, *Ohio State University, Mathematical Biosciences Institute*, Columbus, OH.  
with Shai Revzen  
Workshop: Sensorimotor control of animals and robots
- 2017 **A dynamical systems perspective on Templates & Anchors: some general methods for anchoring templates**, *IEEE/RSJ International Conference on Intelligent Robots and Systems (IROS)*, Vancouver, BC.  
with Shai Revzen  
Workshop: Robotics-inspired Biology
- 2014 **Phase-based algorithm for modeling time-rescaling distortion of rhythmic data**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
with Shai Revzen  
Engineering Graduate Symposium
- 2013 **A hybrid system provides a robust alternative to a linear regulator**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
with Shai Revzen  
Engineering Graduate Symposium
- 2013 **An indoor navigation device for use in GPS-denied environments**, *Ohio University*, Athens, OH, Award: 1st place, EECS division.  
with Ryan Kollar, Christopher Moore, Jessica Belzer, and Matthew Miltner  
Ohio University Student Expo

## Academic Service

### Service to the Profession

- 2023– **Associate Editor**, *Mathematics of Control, Signals, and Systems*.
- 2023 **Co-organizer**, *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*.  
Workshop: “Compositional Robotics: Mathematics and Tools”
- 2022 **Co-organizer**, *Festschrift in honor of Daniel E. Koditschek* ([link](#)).
- 2022 **Co-organizer**, *IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation*.  
Workshop: “Compositional Robotics: Mathematics and Tools”
- Reviewer**, *AFOSR Dynamical Systems and Control Theory Program; Annual Reviews in Control; ASME J. Biomechanical Engineering; Automatica; Biological Cybernetics; Chaos; IEEE Conference on Decision and Control; IEEE Control Systems Letters; IEEE International Conference on Robotics and Automation; IEEE Transactions on Automatic Control; International Symposium on Nonlinear Theory and Its Applications; Learning for Dynamics & Control; Machine Learning: Science and Technology, Mathematics of Control, Signals, and Systems; Robotics: Science and Systems; Scientific Reports; SIAM J. Control and Optimization; Stochastic Models*.

**Member**, *American Mathematical Society, Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics, SIAM Activity Groups on Dynamical Systems and on Control and Systems Theory.*

#### University Service

- 2024 **Volunteer, Faculty Meet-and-Greet, Admitted Student Sneak Peek**, *College of Natural and Mathematical Sciences, University of Maryland, Baltimore County.*
- 2023–2024 **Co-organizer and Volunteer**, *UMBC Science Olympiad Co-organizer and Volunteer, University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MI.*
- 2022 **Volunteer**, *Females Excelling More in Math, Engineering, and Science (F.E.M.M.E.S.), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI.*

#### Departmental Service

- 2023– **Co-adviser, Pi Mu Epsilon Chapter**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County, MD.*  
Mathematics honor society
- 2019 **Volunteer, demonstrations to visiting K-12 students, Philly Robotics Expo (PRX)**, *University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA.*  
Robotics outreach
- 2019 **Volunteer, demonstrations to members of the National Society of Black Engineers**, *Detroit, MI*, Representing BIRDS Laboratory, University of Michigan; robotics outreach.  
45th Annual Convention of the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- 2015 **Volunteer, demonstrations to alumni and industry**, *Engineering Graduate Symposium, Ann Arbor, MI.*  
Representing BIRDS Laboratory, University of Michigan; robotics outreach
- 2015 **Volunteer, panel participant**, *Graduate Student Council, Ann Arbor, MI.*  
Member of panel of University of Michigan graduate students; answering questions from prospective graduate students
- 2014 **Volunteer, demonstrations to elementary schoolers**, *Bryant Elementary School, Ann Arbor, MI.*  
Representing BIRDS Laboratory, University of Michigan; robotics outreach

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#### Honors and Awards

- 2013 **Rackham Engineering Award**, *University of Michigan.*  
A graduate research fellowship awarded by Rackham Graduate School
- 2013 **Outstanding Senior in Electrical Engineering**, *Ohio University.*  
Awarded by a faculty panel
- 2013 **First place, Undergraduate Student Expo**, *Ohio University.*  
Senior design team awarded first place in the EECS division
- 2012 **Undergraduate Research Award, College of Engineering**, *Ohio University.*  
My proposal was funded for a semester of undergraduate research
- 2012 **Outstanding Junior in Electrical Engineering**, *Ohio University.*  
Awarded by a faculty panel
- 2009–2013 **Gateway Excellence Scholarship**, *Ohio University.*  
Academic merit-based scholarship (full tuition)
- 2011 **Dean's Scholarship**, *Ohio University.*  
Academic merit-based scholarship



- 2011 **Fritz/Dolores Russ Scholarship**, *Ohio University*.  
Academic merit-based scholarship

## Teaching Experience

- 2024 **Course Instructor**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*, MD.  
Instructor of record for Ordinary Differential Equations (Math 612) in Spring 2024
- 2023 **Course Instructor**, *University of Maryland, Baltimore County*, MD.  
Instructor of record for Introduction to Linear Algebra (Math 221) in Fall 2023
- 2023 **Course Instructor**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Instructor of record for two course sections of Differential Equations (Math 316) in Winter 2023
- 2022 **Course Instructor**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Instructor of record for two course sections of Calculus I (Math 115) in Fall 2022
- 2019 **Guest Lecturer**, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA.  
Graduate course: Dynamical Systems for Engineering and Biological Applications (ESE 512)  
Course instructor: Daniel E. Koditschek
- 2014 **Graduate Student Instructor**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Senior-level course: Discrete-Time Signal Processing (EECS 451)  
Course instructor: Laura Balzano
- 2011–2012 **Supplemental Instruction Leader, Academic Achievement Center**, *Ohio University*, Athens, OH.  
Sophomore-level course: Statics (CE 220)

## Mentoring

- 2022–2023 **Mentor of graduate student**, *University of Michigan*, Ann Arbor, MI.  
Mentored 1 graduate student in research
- 2019–2023 **Mentor of graduate students**, *University of Pennsylvania*, Philadelphia, PA.  
Mentored 2 graduate students in research
- 2013–2018 **Mentor of undergraduate and graduate students, BIRDS Laboratory**, *University of Michigan*.  
Mentored 2 undergraduate and 3 graduate students

## Trainings and Certifications

- 2024 **Spring Faculty Success Program**, *National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity (NCFDD)*, online.  
Nominated by the Office of the Provost at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County
- 2023 **Principal Investigator Research Administrative Training & Education**, *Office of the Vice President for Research, UMBC*, Baltimore, MD.
- 2023 **Media and Communications Training for STEM Faculty**, *American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS)*, Baltimore, MD.