

SEA2025 Application Form

SEA2025_ Di Iorio_OE3C

1. Ontario Ecology Ethology and Evolution Colloquium.
Carleton University, 1125 Colonel By Dr, Ottawa, ON K1S 5B6.
May 15th-17th 2025

2. The Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C) is a dynamic student-led conference hosted this year at Carleton University in Ottawa. Designed as a conference for students by students, the OE3C provides a unique environment for emerging researchers in diverse biological disciplines to share their findings and grow professionally. With support from the American Genetic Association, OE3C extends this opportunity to more early career researchers through generous student travel awards.

3. Name and contact details of the AGA member responsible for organizing the event and overseeing the expenditure of any funds awarded.

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Carleton Biology PhD Candidate
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647-984-0286

4. The institution to which an award should be made.

Please format cheque to include the date and make it out to “Carleton University” and use the memo section to write: “OE3C Biology”.

Please send cheque by mail to:
OE3C/Department of Biology
Carleton University
209 Nesbitt Building
1125 Colonel By Drive
Ottawa ON K1S 5B6

5. A 2- to 3-page rationale and event description:

The Ontario Ecology, Ethology, and Evolution Colloquium (OE3C) is a dynamic student-led conference hosted this year at Carleton University in Ottawa, Canada. Designed as a conference for students by students, the OE3C provides a unique environment for emerging researchers to share their findings, build networks, and grow professionally. With support from the American Genetic Association (AGA) Special Event Award, OE3C aims to extend this opportunity to more early career researchers by providing travel awards. By helping more students and researchers afford access to this opportunity, these awards will play a role in advancing diversity, collaboration, and scientific discovery. OE3C has become an anticipated event for undergraduate and graduate biology students across Ontario. The conference aims to draw young researchers from diverse disciplines such as evolutionary biology, behavioral ecology, and conservation genetics to promote interdisciplinary research and relationships.

OE3C has the potential to significantly impact the academic and local communities. First, the

conference will highlight innovative student-led research and encourage early-career scientists to pursue excellence in their respective fields. This is also an opportunity to facilitate knowledge exchange among researchers, professionals, and community members invested in ecological and genetic conservation efforts. We hope to encourage conversations regarding conservation and climate change with our event's theme: "Navigating earth's ecosystems: today and tomorrow". Finally, we hope this conference will encourage participants to enhance public understanding of the importance of genetics, genomics, and biodiversity management through scientific outreach.

OE3C also provides an exceptional training ground for young researchers by offering a multitude of opportunities. Early career researchers and students will have the opportunity to present research findings as oral presentations or in poster format. This will allow them to enhance communication skills and receive constructive feedback from peers and mentors. In addition, participants will have the opportunity to attend various excursions on the first day of the conference. These excursions will highlight Ottawa's vibrant community of biologists. We hope to include opportunities such as nature walks, museum tours, and laboratory walk-throughs. Carleton has an extensive greenhouse, where we hope to highlight current work being done in plant molecular genetics. In addition to these excursions, participants will be able to engage in networking activities such as panel discussions with established researchers and conference mixers. Together, these opportunities ensure that attendees leave with both professional skills and meaningful connections, empowering them to succeed in their academic and professional pursuits.

Most importantly, OE3C is committed to fostering an inclusive and diverse scientific community. We are making every effort to broaden participation. For example, we are actively recruiting participants from historically excluded groups in science, including Indigenous scholars, women, and LGBTQ+ individuals. We intend to use the AGA SEA to offer travel grants and fee waivers to reduce financial barriers for participants. Priority will be given to individuals from underrepresented communities. The conference programming will include keynote speakers and panelists with diverse backgrounds and experiences, serving as role models for attendees. Most importantly, OE3C and Carleton University will work together to create a learning environment that is accessible and welcoming to all. By prioritizing inclusivity, OE3C strives to inspire diverse voices to contribute to the fields of ethology, ecology, and evolution.

The outcomes of OE3C will be evaluated and both the successes and failures will be taken into account by future OE3C committees. After the event, surveys will be distributed to attendees to gather feedback on conference logistics, content, and impact. We will also keep track of metrics such as the number of presentations, attendance demographics, and excursion participation rates. Finally, conference proceedings will be compiled into a detailed program including research abstracts, ensuring the dissemination of scientific findings to a wider audience. This data will be particularly helpful for the 2026 OE3C committee (Brock University). It will inform their decisions and can be used to demonstrate the OE3C's value to participants and sponsors.

The OE3C aligns with the goals and values of the AGA. Through presentations and excursions featuring cutting-edge research, we will encourage the study of comparative genetics and genomics. Given the theme of this conference, we hope to promote the application of genetic and genomic methods to biodiversity conservation by showcasing student projects focused on applied genetics and genomics. We will also uphold inclusivity and diversity by creating a welcoming environment open to all researchers regardless of race, gender, sexuality, or religion.

By supporting OE3C, AGA would help foster the next generation of geneticists and ecologists dedicated to advancing science and its application for both societal and environmental benefit.

The OE3C conference has benefitted from AGA's generous support in 2020, 2021, 2022, and 2023. This sustained funding has enabled the formation of collaborative research among participants, fostering interdisciplinary projects aligned with AGA's mission. It has increased the visibility and participation of underrepresented groups in the sciences, contributing to a more diverse and inclusive academic community. Notably, it has provided students and early career researchers with travel awards. These awards are vital to students without alternative forms of funding. These awards prevent students from missing out on an important opportunity to disseminate their research and enhance their communication and networking skills.

Building on these successes, OE3C 2024 aims to expand its reach and impact further, leveraging AGA's continued support to inspire and empower the next generation of scientists.

In summary, the OE3C conference represents a unique opportunity to empower young scientists, promote diversity, and advance the application of genetics and genomics in the study of ecology, ethology and evolution. With AGA's support, we aim to make OE3C 2024 an impactful event for all involved.

6. Include a table outlining expenses and income:

Expenses	Amount	Income	Amount
Student Travel Awards	\$6,000	AGA	\$6,000
Speaker Travel	\$ 2,000	Registration	\$ 15,000
Speaker Lodging	\$ 2,000	In hand Sponsorship	\$200
Banquet for Speakers & Fellows	\$ 25,000	Seed fund from previous year	\$19,200
Excursions	\$2,000	**	
Total Expenses	\$37,600	Total Income	\$40,400

**Seeking funding from other sources (such as the university and other grants), nothing else is confirmed