

Early Career Network (ECN) Chair

Gaurav SHUKLA (Chair)



Gaurav Shukla is currently working as early career professional with a consulting firm involved in the IT, energy, and resources sectors. He completed his Bachelors and Masters in Energy Management from the University of Petroleum and Energy Studies in Dehradun, India.

Shukla has been engaged in the field of hydrogen and research since college, when he published research on the topic. Currently, he is seeking to pursue a PhD on hydrogen feasibility and logistics issues for developing nations. In the IPHE ECN, Shukla has been engaged since the formation, now serving as the Chair of the Leadership team.

ECN Co-Chairs

Tomas GREEN (Co-Chair)



Tomas Green (he/him) is a Technology Manager at the United States Department of Energy's Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office, working on implementing the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and Inflation Reduction Act.

Previously, Green was a Policy Analyst at Energy Futures Initiative where he lead work on carbon management infrastructure, environmental justice, and union energy jobs. An MIT graduate from the Technology and Policy Program, Green also served as an Energy & Climate Fellow for Assistant Speaker Ben Ray Luján and was selected as a Fellow in the Clean Energy Leadership Institute.

Manan PATHAK (Co-Chair)



Manan Pathak is an early career professional, working as a Learning and Development Analyst in a leading consulting services firm. She has been associated with the IPHE ECN for the past two years, currently serving as Co-Chair.

Pathak pursued her Masters degree in Human Capital from Graphic Era University, Dehradun, India. Pathak's area of interest is especially in understanding the need of learning, development, and future requirements of the workforce by hydrogen related companies and early joiner for transitioning into the hydrogen segment.

Sookyung KANG (Co-Chair)



Sookyung Kang is an energy analyst to forecast end-use energy demand and greenhouse gas emissions by accelerating the transition to clean energy, including green hydrogen.

She is currently working on the design and operation of the process to produce green hydrogen from solar resources in a perovskite tandem solar cell. It is important to encourage greater collaboration to accelerate the development of green hydrogen and fuel cell technologies on a large scale, as well as strategic regulatory policies, so that this network contributes to the decarbonization of mobility.



ECN Education & Outreach Co-Directors

Dr. Qingwang YUAN (Education & Outreach Co-Director)



Dr. Qingwang Yuan serves as the Education and Outreach Coordinator at the IPHE ECN. He works on organizing activities and monthly webinars, sharing advancement of hydrogen research, and promoting engagement in hydrogen research of early-career researchers.

He is an Assistant Professor at Texas Tech University and is passionate about the research on clean, affordable hydrogen production directly from petroleum reservoirs and natural hydrogen from earth subsurface.

Julie FORNACIARI (Education & Outreach Co-Director)



Julie Fornaciari is an ORISE Hydrogen Shot Fellow in the Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technology Office (HFTO) of the U.S. Department of Energy and she will be serving as the outreach and education co-chair for IPHE this year.

She supports HFTO's fuel cell team, working towards cheap, heavy-duty fuel cell vehicle applications and establishing the recycling efforts as part of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. She received her PhD in chemical engineering at the University of California, Berkeley in partnership with Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory in June 2022. Prior to that, she received her BS in chemical engineering at the University of Pittsburgh.

ECN Regional Directors

Feziwe MTSHALI (Regional Director of Africa)



Feziwe Mtshali is a Climate and Sustainable Fuels entrepreneur with extensive corporate strategy and policy-making experience. She is also a Director at the Solomon Moema Foundation and convenor of its Social Innovation & Entrepreneurship Lab (a climate entrepreneurship hub).

Mtshali is an Eisenhower Fellow (Africa Climate Change 2022). Further, she is a director at the sustainable fuels start-up FM Global Holdings.

Thilo KRECHLAK (IPHE Regional Director Europe)



Thilo Krechlak is an undergraduate student at the University of Freiburg, specializing in Governance. His interest in hydrogen evolved through previous exposure with the topic in the context of an internship.

By participating in the IPHE Early Career Chapter, he hopes to broaden his understanding of international partnerships regarding hydrogen, learn more about advances in hydrogen research as well as contribute to the exchange of ideas in the realm of the Chapter.

ECN Special Events Director

Sanskar VAISHNAV (Special Event Director)



Sanskar Vaishnav is currently pursuing a Master's degree in chemical engineering from DTU, Denmark. He has a specialization in Solid Oxide Cells with his recent studies including material research for SOCs.

Vaishnav is highly passionate about achieving net carbon zero targets through Hydrogen and the fuel cell economy.

ECN Chair Emeritus

Christine WATSON (Chair Emeritus)



Christine Watson is currently an ORISE Science, Technology, and Policy Fellow in the US Department of Energy, Hydrogen and Fuel Cell Technologies Office (HFTO). She works primarily with the HFTO Safety, Codes & Standards team, supporting activities that enable the safe deployment and commercialization of hydrogen and fuel cell technologies.

In 2021, she graduated with an M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering from Oklahoma State University. Prior to this, she worked for several years for a non-profit with international leadership development programs after earning her B.S. in Chemical Engineering and B.S. in Physics from North Carolina State University.

Involved since the formation of the IPHE Early Career Network, Watson held the Chair role from 2021-2022.