



Global Ocean Acidification
Observing Network

Pier2Peer

GOA-ON
Mentorship
Program



FALL 2018

About the Program

The [Global Ocean Acidification Observing Network \(GOA-ON\)](#) relies on international collaboration to share data and understand the global ecological impacts of ocean acidification (OA). As an international organization, GOA-ON is committed to promoting diversity across disciplines, countries, socioeconomic status, gender and ethnicity. In 2016, the 3rd GOA-ON Science Workshop had participation from over 40 countries and many new members were in attendance. GOA-ON's members represent diverse backgrounds and a demonstrated commitment to the program's mission.

To support diversity of membership and international collaboration, GOA-ON created Pier2Peer, a scientific mentorship program that matches senior researchers with early career scientists to provide professional guidance and technical support. The [Pier2Peer mentorship program](#) can be integral in helping GOA-ON achieve global observing capabilities and ultimately to diversify and advance the program mission.

Pier2Peer Spotlight

Mentor: Patrizia Ziveri –
Universitat Autònoma de
Barcelona, Spain

Mentees:

- Sheck Sherif – Liberia
- Adekunbi Falilu –
Nigeria
- Koffe Urbain – Cote D'Ivoire



Sheck, Falilu, and Koffe are working with their Pier2Peer mentor Patrizia to develop a west African white paper on regional ocean acidification research priorities and challenges. In addition, they are individually developing collaborative proposals and associated budgets to conduct such research locally. Falilu and Patrizia were awarded a Pier2Peer scholarship by the Ocean Foundation in spring 2018 for their proposal to investigate impacts of ocean acidification on coccolithophores off the coast of Nigeria. These mentor-mentee pairings exemplify the goals of the Pier2Peer program – to encourage international collaborations and provide an exchange of scientific expertise.

Who is a Pier2Peer Mentor?

Returning GOA-ON participants and senior scientists are encouraged to become mentors. If you are matched with a new member, your primary role as a Pier2Peer Science mentor will be to provide support to the new member, to share your personal experiences in the field of OA observing, and to serve as a resource for professional development for early-career scientists. A Pier2Peer Science mentor should be active and engaged in ocean acidification research while at the same time sensitive to the non-traditional views of science that some students may bring to the table. We strongly encourage mentors to seek out resources to support these collaborations. We are expecting that participation in the program may elevate the status of applications for funding to traditional (post doc openings, Fulbright fellowships) and non-traditional sources (small university funding pools for overseas work, overseas embassy science funds, etc.)

Who is a Pier2Peer Mentee?

New GOA-ON members, students, and early-career scientists are eligible to be assigned a Pier2Peer Science Mentor. OA observation benefits from international cooperation. The success of GOA-ON relies on the participation of scientists from across the globe with broad perspectives on local and regional impacts to guide future research initiatives and foster a holistic understanding of research needs. Pier2Peer is designed to build community among the entire GOA-ON cohort and within new member groups and to provide support for new members. We also strongly encourage mentees to work with their mentor to identify funding resources to support these collaborations.

Joining Pier2Peer

To become a Pier2Peer Mentor:

<https://docs.google.com/a/noaa.gov/forms/d/1gHafZHRF2kfnFdoldvsHEtOQGyQZ2dJTQ8yDpIGktuY/viewform>

To become a Pier2Peer Mentee:

<https://docs.google.com/a/noaa.gov/forms/d/19INhZ6hNDvomBloJHoPerjP7wnv-jaeX-Eu-IPJVZWI/viewform>

You can also register by emailing meredith.kurz@noaa.gov. Please be sure to include:

- 1) Name
- 2) Country
- 3) Expertise
- 4) Your desired designation (i.e., “I would like to serve as a mentor” or “I would like to be provided with a mentor”)

Expected Outcomes

The Pier2Peer program is expected to encourage a broad range of international collaborations that may otherwise not have materialized. Ideally, these collaborations will lead to funding opportunities, data collection, experiments, lab visits and exchanges, and publications, and will result in increased global coverage of ocean chemistry and biology measurements for OA.

Support from GOA-ON

GOA-ON is prepared to provide assistance to Pier2Peer mentors and mentees in a number of ways, including by writing a letter of support noting their contributions, sharing details about upcoming funding, PhD, and postdoctoral opportunities, and providing an information sharing platform for all GOA-ON members to share information and questions about OA research. GOA-ON will also play a facilitation role between mentors and mentees and can help foster and encourage open and frequent communication. However, there is no specific source of funding for this program so we are relying on the ingenuity and passion of the paired scientists to seek out resources to support their work. Please get in touch if you need help brainstorming funding sources.

The Ocean Foundation Scholarships

The Ocean Foundation, a US nonprofit organization dedicated to the conservation of the ocean, has gathered funds to give selected Pier2Peer pairs \$5,000 awards to facilitate their collaboration. These awards are meant to support in-person training sessions, or to help the pair set up monitoring or experimental activities that fill a gap in GOA-ON knowledge of ocean acidification. Participants must write a proposal that fits a specific set of guidelines, and applications are reviewing on a quarterly basis for as long as funds are available.

For more details on how to apply, contact Ms. Meredith Kurz (meredith.kurz@noaa.gov) or Ms. Alexis Valauri-Orton (avalauriorton@oceanfdn.org).