

Doran I. G. B(ennett) Raccah, Ph.D.

PO Box 750314, Dallas TX 75275 • doranb@smu.edu

www.mesosciencelab.com • [Google Scholar](#) • [GitHub](#)

Education

2015 - 2019 **Harvard University**, Post-Doctoral Fellow
2008 - 2013 **UC Berkeley**, Ph.D., Chemistry
2003 - 2007 **University of Chicago**, B.A./M.S. Chemistry, B.S. Applied Mathematics

Research and Professional Experience

Fall 2023 - **(expected) Assistant Professor**, University of Texas Austin, Dept. of Chemistry
2019 - 2023 **Assistant Professor**, Southern Methodist University, Dept. of Chemistry
2015 -2019 **Post-Doctoral Fellow**, Harvard University, Dept. of Chemistry & Chemical Biology
Advisor: Alan Aspuru-Guzik
2013 - 2015 **Senior Chemist**, Dow Chemical Co., Inorganic Materials & Heterogeneous Catalysis
2008 - 2013 **Graduate Student**, UC Berkeley, Dept. of Chemistry
Advisor: Graham Fleming
2007 - 2008 **Research Assistant**, University of Maryland, Dept. of Chemistry
Advisor: Millard Alexander
2003 - 2007 **Research Assistant**, University of Chicago, Dept. of Chemistry
Advisor: Laurie Butler

Honors and Awards

Fellowships

Visiting Scholar, Max Plank Institute for the Physics of Complex Systems 2019
CIFAR - Bio-Inspired Light Harvesting Post-Doctoral Fellow 2016-2019
Dow Chemical Rotational Fellow 2013-2015
NSF Graduate Research Fellowship: Physical Chemistry 2007-2011
DAAD RISE Professional 2007
Goldwater Scholar 2006
Beckman Scholar 2005-2007

Academic Recognition

NSF-CAREER Award 2022
International Conference on Microbial Photosynthesis Travel Award 2018
Biophysical Society Travel Award 2018
Clean Energy Poster Prize: Excited State Process Conference 2016
Dan Lucas Memorial Prize: UC Berkeley 2009
Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor: UC Berkeley 2009
Student Marshal: University of Chicago 2007
Phi Beta Kappa 2007
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois Scholar 2007
Physical Chemistry Poster Prize: ACS Fall Meeting 2006

Mesoscience Lab at 3 Years

External Funding Received

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------|
| Number of Grants | 5 |
| Total Budget for Mesoscience Lab | \$1,441,466 |
| Total Amount | \$2,961,466 |

CAREER: Simulating mesoscale quantum dynamics and non-linear microscopy

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| PI | Bennett |
| co-PI | – |
| Source of Support | National Science Foundation (NSF-CHEM) |
| Total award amount | \$650,000 |
| Total award period | Feb 1, 2022 – Jan 31, 2027 |
| Award Number | 2145358 |

Adaptation of photosynthetic membranes to environmental change

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| PI | Bennett |
| co-PI | Roberta Croce, Ben Engel |
| Source of Support | Human Frontiers Science Program (HFSP) |
| Total award amount | \$1,095,000 (Mesoscience Budget \$365,000) |
| Total award period | Dec. 1, 2021 – Nov. 31, 2024 |
| Award Number | RGP0005/2021 |

Start-up Grant: Cyanobacteria light harvesting when iron is scarce

| | |
|--------------------|--|
| PI | Bennett |
| co-PI | Nir Keren, WE Moerner |
| Source of Support | Binational Science Foundation (BSF) |
| Total award amount | \$75,000 (Mesoscience Budget \$75,000) |
| Total award period | Oct. 1, 2020 – Sept. 30, 2022 |
| Award Number | 2019330 |

Mesoscale quantum dynamics in new semiconductor materials

| | |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| PI | Bennett |
| co-PI | – |
| Source of Support | Welch Foundation |
| Total award amount | \$240,000 |
| Total award period | June 1, 2020 – May 31, 2023 |
| Award Number | N-2026-20200401 |

NSF-BSF: High-resolution mapping of the protein landscape in plant photosynthetic membranes

| | |
|--------------------|---|
| PI | Helmut Kirchoff |
| co-PI | Bennett |
| Source of Support | National Science Foundation (NSF-MCB) |
| Total award amount | \$901,466 (Mesoscience Budget \$111,466) |
| Total award period | May 1, 2020–April 30, 2023 |
| Award Number | 1953570 |

Student Award and Honors

- Moody Fellowship (five years full funding: \$150,000) [Jacob Lynd]
- SMU Chemistry Dept Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award [Bailey Raber]
- Presentation Poster Prize at APS Regional Meeting [Leo Varvelo]
- 2nd place Physical/Computational talk at ACS DFW Meeting-in-Miniature (2021) [Leo Varvelo]
- Undergraduate Speaking Prize at ACS DFW Meeting-in-Miniature (2021) [Jacob Lynd]

- 3rd place Physical/Computational talk at ACS DFW Meeting-in-Miniature (2022) [Jacob Lynd]
- Poster Prize - Eastern Regional Photosynthesis Conference (2023) [Mohamed Elrefaiy]

Post-doc Award and Honors

- Poster Prize - Eastern Regional Photosynthesis Conference (2023) [Kajwal Patra]

Publications

* - Corresponding Author

24. T. Gera, L. Chen, A. Eisfeld, J. R. Reimers, E. J. Taffet, **D. I. G. B. Raccah***
Simulating optical linear absorption for mesoscale molecular aggregates: an adaptive hierarchy of pure states approach.
J. Chem. Phys., arXiv:2301.03718 (2023)
[Editor's Choice] [Cover Image]
23. L. Varvelo, J. K. Lynd, B. Citty, O. Kühn, **D. I. G. B. Raccah***
Formally Exact Simulations of Mesoscale Exciton Diffusion in a Light-Harvesting 2 Antenna Nanoarray.
J. Phys. Chem. Lett., *14* 3077 (2023)
22. L. Chen*, **D. I. G. Bennett***, A. Eisfeld*
Calculating nonlinear response functions for multidimensional electronic spectroscopy using dyadic non-Markovian quantum state diffusion.
J. Chem. Phys., *157* 114109 (2022)
21. L. Chen*, **D. I. G. Bennett***, A. Eisfeld*
Simulation of absorption spectra of molecular aggregates: a hierarchy of stochastic pure states approach.
J. Chem. Phys., *156* 124109 (2022)
20. W. Nawrocki, X. Liu, B. Raber, C. Hu, C. de Vitry, **D. I. G. Bennett**, R. Croce
Molecular origins of induction and loss of photoinhibition-related energy dissipation q_I .
Science Advances, *7* eabj0055 (2021)
19. L. Varvelo, J. K. Lynd, **D. I. G. Bennett***
Simulating mesoscale quantum dynamics with an adaptive hierarchy of pure states.
Chemical Science, *12* 9704-9711 (2021)
18. J.C. Dean, **D. I. G. Bennett**, M. Saniforth, M. Maiuri
Editorial: Vibrationally-mediated chemical dynamics
Frontiers in Chemistry, *9* 681457 (2021)
17. H. Zhou, F. Wang, **D. I. G. Bennett**, P. Tao
Directed kinetic transition network model.
J. Chemical Physics, *151* 144112 (2019)

Prior to SMU

16. **D. I. G. Bennett**, K. Amarnath, S. Park, C. J. Steen, J. Morris, G. R. Fleming
Models and Mechanisms of the Rapidly Reversible Regulation of Photosynthetic Light harvesting
Open Biology, *9* 190043 (2019)
15. C. Chuang, **D.I.G. Bennett**, J. R. Caram, A. Aspuru-Guzik, M. G. Bawendi, J. Cao
Generalized Kasha's Model: T-Dependent Spectroscopy Reveals Short-Range Structures of 2D Excitonic Systems
Chem, *12* 3135 (2019)

14. **D.I.G. Bennett***, G. R. Fleming*, K. Amarnath*
Energy-dependent quenching adjusts the excitation diffusion length to regulate photosynthetic light harvesting.
PNAS, *115* E9523 (2018)
13. **D.I.G. Bennett***, P. Maly, C. Kreisbeck, R. van Grondelle, A. Aspuru-Guzik
Mechanistic regimes of vibronic transport in a heterodimer and the design principle of incoherent vibronic transport in phycobiliproteins
J. Physical Chemistry Letters, *10* 2665 (2018)
12. S. Blau[†], **D.I.G. Bennett[†]**, C. Kreisbeck, G. Scholes, A. Aspuru-Guzik
Local protein solvation drives direct down-conversion in phycobiliprotein PC645 via incoherent vibronic transport
PNAS, *115* E3342 (2018)
11. S. Doria, J. R. Caram, T. S. Sinclair, **D.I.G. Bennett**, C. Chuang, F. Freyria, C. P. Steiner, P. Foggi, K. Nelson, J. Cao, A. Aspuru-Guzik, S. Lloyd, M. G. Bawendi
Photochemical Control of Exciton Superradiance in Light Harvesting Nanotubes
ACS Nano, *12* 4556 (2018)
10. K. Amarnath*, **D.I.G. Bennett***, A. Schneider, G. R. Fleming*
Multiscale Model of Light Harvesting by Photosystem II in Plants
PNAS, *113* 1156 (2016)
9. J.J.J. Roden, **D.I.G. Bennett**, K. B. Whaley
Long Range Energy Transport in Photosystem II
J. Chemical Physics, *144* 245101 (2016)
8. **D.I.G. Bennett**, K. Amarnath, G. R. Fleming
A structure based model of energy transfer reveals the principles of light harvesting in photosystem II supercomplex
JACS, *135*, 9164 (2013)
7. S. J. McGurk, M. L. McKendrick, M. L. Costen, **D.I.G. Bennett**, J. Klos, M. H. Alexander, P. J. Dagdigian
Depolarization of Rotational Angular Momentum in CN+Ar Collisions
J. Chemical Physics, *136*, 164306 (2012)
6. J. M. Dawlaty, **D.I.G. Bennett**, V. M. Huxter, G. R. Fleming
Mapping the spatial overlap of excitons in a photosynthetic complex via coherent nonlinear frequency generation.
J. Chemical Physics, *135*, 044201 (2011)
5. A. Khachatrian, P. J. Dagdigian, **D.I.G. Bennett[#]**, F. Lique, J. Klos, M. H. Alexander
Experimental and Theoretical Study of Rotationally Inelastic Collisions of CN with N₂.
J. Physical Chemistry A, *113*, 3922 (2009)
4. B. L. J. Poad, P. J. Wearne, E. J. Bieske, A. A. Buchachenko, **D.I.G. Bennett[#]**, J. Klos, M. H. Alexander
The Na⁽⁺⁾-H₂ cation complex: Rotationally resolved infrared spectrum, potential energy surface, and rovibrational calculations.
J. Chemical Physics, *129*, 184306 (2008)
3. **D.I.G. Bennett**, L. J. Butler, H.-J. Werner
Comparing Electronic Structure Predictions for the Ground State Dissociation of the Vinyloxy Radical
J. Chemical Physics, *127*, 094309 (2007)
2. M. J. Bell, K.-C. Lau, M. J. Krisch, **D.I.G. Bennett**, L. J. Butler, F. Weinhold
Characterization of the Methoxy Carbonyl Radical Formed via Photolysis of Methyl Chloroformate at 193 nm.
J. Physical Chemistry A, *111*, 1762 (2007)
1. L. R. McCunn, **D.I.G. Bennett**, L. J. Butler, H. Fan, F. Aguirre, and S. T. Pratt
Photodissociation of Propargyl Chloride at 193 nm

Presentations

| | | |
|--|---------------------|------|
| Dept. of Physics, Oregon State University, Corvallis, OR (USA) | Invited | 2023 |
| ACS National Convention (Spring), Indianapolis, IN (USA) | Invited | 2023 |
| Telluride Workshop: Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Excitons, Telluride, CO (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| Coherent Multidimensional Spectroscopy Conference (CMDs), Austin, TX (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| Photosynthesis Research Lab, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| Telluride Workshop: Quantum Frontiers, Telluride, CO (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| Dept. of Chemical and Biological Eng., Albuquerque, NM (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| ACS Spring Meeting, San Diego, CA (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, Wayne State University, Zoom (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, UT Austin, Austin, TX (USA) | Invited | 2022 |
| Berkeley Lab, Molecular Biophysics and Integrated Bioimaging Division, (Zoom) | Invited | 2022 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, Texas Tech University, (Zoom) | Invited | 2021 |
| UT Tyler, Undergraduate ACS Chapter, Tyler, TX (USA) | Invited | 2021 |
| ISPR: Computational Methods in Photosynthesis Conference, (Zoom) | Keynote | 2021 |
| ACS Southwest Regional Conference, Austin, TX (USA) | Invited | 2021 |
| Loyola University of Chicago, Dept. of Chemistry, (Zoom) | Invited | 2021 |
| Telluride Workshop: Spatio-Temporal Dynamics of Excitons, (Zoom) | Invited | 2021 |
| Western Regional Photosynthesis, (Zoom) | Invited | 2021 |
| Dept. of Physics, Rostock University (DE), (Zoom) | Invited | 2021 |
| Workshop: Excitons at Different Length Scales and Dimensionality, (Zoom) | Invited | 2020 |
| Virtual Conference on Theoretical Chemistry, (Zoom) | Invited | 2020 |
| Telluride Workshop, Telluride (USA) | [Invited, Canceled] | 2020 |
| McGill MiniScience Meeting, Montreal (CA) | [Invited, Canceled] | 2020 |
| ACS Spring Meeting, Philadelphia, PA (USA) | [Canceled] | 2020 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, Midwestern State University, Wichita Falls, TX (USA) | Invited | 2020 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, University of Texas, Dallas, Dallas, TX (USA) | Invited | 2019 |
| Dept. of Biology, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, TX (USA) | Invited | 2019 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, Angelo State University, San Angelo, TX (USA) | Invited | 2019 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, LeTourneau University, Longview, TX (USA) | Invited | 2019 |
| American Chemical Society Fall Meeting, San Diego, CA (USA) | | 2019 |

Prior to SMU

| | | |
|--|--------------|------|
| Dept. of Chemistry, Southern Methodist University, Dallas (USA) | Invited | 2018 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, Duquesne University, Pittsburg (USA) | Invited | 2018 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, Colorado School of Mines, Golden (USA) | Invited | 2018 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, City University of New York, New York (USA) | Invited | 2018 |
| American Chemical Society Fall Meeting, Boston (USA) | | 2018 |
| International Conference on Microbial Photosynthesis, Vancouver (CA) | Travel Award | 2018 |
| Dept. of Chemistry, University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia (USA) | Invited | 2018 |
| Quantum Effects in Biology, Vilnius (LTU) | | 2018 |
| Quantum Simulators Workshop, Eugene (USA) | Invited | 2018 |
| Eastern Regional Photosynthesis, Woods Hole (USA) | | 2018 |
| Bio-Inspired Solar Energy Meeting, Toronto (CA) | | 2018 |
| American Physics Society March Meeting, Los Angeles (USA) | | 2018 |
| American Chemical Society Spring Meeting, New Orleans (USA) | | 2018 |
| Dept. of Physics and Astronomy, VU University, Amsterdam (NL) | Invited | 2017 |
| Eastern Regional Photosynthesis, Woods Hole (USA) | | 2017 |
| Dept. of Physics, University of Cyprus, Latsia (CY) | Invited | 2017 |
| Center for Quantum Bio-Sciences, Ulm (DE) | Invited | 2017 |
| Center for Excitonics, Annual meeting, Boston (USA) | | 2017 |
| American Chemical Society Fall Meeting, Philadelphia (USA) | | 2016 |
| Bio-Inspired Solar Energy Meeting, Vancouver (CA) | | 2016 |
| Center for Excitonics, Annual meeting, Boston (USA) | | 2016 |

| | | |
|---|---------|------|
| Quantum Simulators of Complex Molecular Networks, Oxford (UK) | | 2016 |
| Bio-Inspired Solar Energy Meeting, Montreal (CA) | | 2016 |
| Photosynthesis Gordon Research Conference, Boston (USA) | Invited | 2015 |
| IMHC, Dow Chemical Company, Midland (USA) | Invited | 2013 |

SMU Courses Taught

- **Graduate Quantum Mechanics** Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall2022
- **General Chemistry I** Spring 2021, Spring 2022

Conference Organization

Eastern Regional Photosynthesis Conference (2022/2023)

- The Eastern Regional photosynthesis conference is a long standing 3-day conference with 50-100 attendees focused on research in photosynthesis, broadly conceived. In addition to developing symposium sessions and inviting speakers, I was involved in fundraising to support reduced graduate student and post-doc rates for attendance.
- 2022: Vice-Chair of the 39th annual ERPC
- 2023: Chair of the 40th annual ERPC

Coherent Multidimensional Spectroscopy Conference (2022)

- Local Organizing Committee: I'm serving as part of the local organizing committee for this international conference (Organizers: Sean Roberts (UT Austin) and Carlos Biaz (UT Austin)) focused on non-linear spectroscopy with approximately 200 anticipated attendees.

Service & Leadership

Grant Reviewer

- DOE, external reviewer
- NSF, Panel Reviewer
- UK- BBSRC, external reviewer
- PSC CUNY
- CECAM

Manuscript Reviewer

- Nature Communications
- Journal of the American Chemical Society
- Journal of Physical Chemistry Letters
- Chemical Science
- Biophysical Journal
- Physical Review X
- Physical Chemistry Chemical Physics
- BBA - Bioenergetics
- Photosynthesis Research
- Frontiers
- Quantum Science and Technology

Guest Editor

- Frontiers in Chemistry (2020)