Access Polar and the need for Disabled Inclusion and Representation in Polar Research

accessinpolarresearch@gmail.com

@Accessibility in Polar Research

@accesspolar
What is APR?

- UK & USA based organisation
- Six volunteers
- Founded during the pandemic (May 2021)
Who am I?

- APR Co-Founder
- Multiple disabilities
- LGBTQ+ in STEM
- PhD Student in Astrobiology

@angusaldis
The Committee

@lainsword
@dyesharp
@izzcoops
ikeppler.scrippprofiles.ucsd.edu
@charlotteecx_
The Committee

@lainSword1  @DyessHarp  @izzcoops  lkeppler.scrippsprofiles.ucsd.edu  @charlotteecx_
Our Disabilities Have Made Us Better Scientists

But only because we have had access to health care, emotional support and institutional backing

By Gabi Serrato Marks, Skylar Bayer on July 10, 2019
The disability perspective

Our Disabilities Have Made Us Better Scientists

But only because we have had access to health care, emotional support and institutional backing

By Gabi Serrato Marks, Skyler Beyer on July 10, 2019

"We are expected to work extra hard to fit into the current academic culture, so we expect similar effort from institutional leaders to think beyond legally required accommodations and support all scientists."
Identified Barriers

- Blanket Policies based on 2D diagnosis
- Coping Mechanisms
- Digital Accessibility
Digital Accessibility
Digital Accessibility
Our experiences

Diversity in general makes research stronger, so fields miss out on our talents by being exclusionary.

How our disabilities make us better researchers
Ways forward

❄️ Accessibility Survey

❄️ APR workshops

❄️ Funding → Long-term project 'Attracting researchers with disabilities into Polar Research'
Thank you!

accessinpolarresearch@gmail.com

@Accessibility in Polar Research

@accesspolar