Many organizations present awards that recognize outstanding scientific achievement in a variety of disciplines, but these are typically given later in a scientist’s career. There are many scientists, however, who have made exceptional contributions and discoveries early in their careers. These researchers tend to be on the cutting edge of new and exciting fields. To recognize these deserving younger researchers, the Association for Psychological Science presents the Janet Taylor Spence Award for Transformative Early Career Contributions. Since its inauguration, the Spence Award has gone to more than 70 outstanding psychological scientists.

In this special episode of *Under the Cortex*, we talk with some of the most recent Spence Award winners. Each is considered one of APS’s most creative and promising investigators. Today, you’ll hear from six of them: Arielle Baskin-Sommers from Yale University, Sudeep Bhatia from the University of Pennsylvania, Eiko Fried from Leiden University, Celeste Kidd from the University of California at Berkeley, Steven Roberts from Stanford University, and Daisy Singla from the University of Toronto.

Read more about their backgrounds in the latest edition of the *Observer*. 