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**Cavity Quantum Electrodynamics with a Rydberg-blocked Atomic Ensemble** KYLE ARNOLD, CHERN HUI LEE, MURRAY BARRETT, National University of Singapore — We report our experimental progress towards trapping of a cold ensemble with Rydberg-excited atoms in a high finesse optical cavity. Initial experiments are being performed in a moderate finesse ( $F=1200$ ) cavity and high finesse ( $F=100,000$ ) cavity experiment is currently under construction. This system will allow for realization of an optical non-linearity which is both non-dissipative and sufficiently strong to be useful at the single photon level. Such a system has numerous applications for quantum information, in particular, the implementation of a two-photon phase gate.

Kyle Arnold  
National University of Singapore

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