

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt, PhD

Issue II July 2014



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Dear Lauren,

I am so pleased to welcome Yvonne Rodriguez, PhD, to our AWIS community as the 2015 Phoebe S. Leboy Public Policy Fellow. Dr. Rodriguez most recently served as the Director of Programs & Scientific Professional Advancement for the Society for Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science. She earned her PhD in Physics from the University of California - Santa Cruz and, as a non-traditional student and first generation college graduate, Dr. Rodriguez understands the challenges that woman face while building their careers in the STEM disciplines.

Dr. Rodriguez will continue work on key issues which impact AWIS members such as pay equity, family friendly workplace policies, expansion of Title IX application, and increased funding for science. She will be a great advocate for AWIS members and I hope you will join me in making her feel welcome.

Have questions about AWIS' advocacy and outreach programs? Please contact Dr. Rodriguez at Rodriguez@awis.org.

Sincerely,

Member Profile

Lauren Dembeck

Member Type:
Junior

Member Expiration:
2015-02-04

Join the Conversation!



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Careers

Contributed by: Jaime Smith

Study Reports that Top Labs Run by Men Tend to Hire Fewer Women

A recent study published in, PNAS, reported that in laboratories run by top-ranked male biological scientists, females comprised only 36 percent of postdoctoral researchers and 47 percent of graduate students. These numbers are significantly less than in labs run by female investigators, where women make up 46 percent of postdocs and 53 percent of graduate students. The statistics are even worse in labs led by men who won prestigious awards or funding.

[The XX factor](#)

Gender Quotas May Work Better in Cultures Where People Like Rules

Gender quotas are an ever-controversial way to increase the percentage of women in business-leadership positions. But new research from the University of Toronto's Rotman school of management suggests that people need to be more aware of the different effects they will likely have in different cultures. And some of those effects run a bit contrary to how we normally view gender issues in more "traditional" cultures.

[Enforce It](#)



Education

Contributed by: Lauren Dembeck

The Universities that Educated the World's Most Powerful Women

Fifty-two percent of women on Forbes World's 100 Most Powerful Women 2014 list have at least one degree from just 15 universities. Harvard claims the most graduates; however, the top 10 women are from a variety of institutions around the world. Find out if your university is on the list.

[Educational powerhouses](#)

Do Pink Toys Stop Women from Becoming Scientists?

There is an obvious imbalance in the number of men and women working in the STEM fields today. Where does the imbalance begin and does the marketing of toys make a difference?

[Where does it start?](#)



Science and Technology

AWIS Spotlight

Smart Women Doing Cool Stuff



The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) with the Society for Physics Students presented the 2014 Kirsten R. Lorentzen Award to Angela M. Ludvigsen of St. Paul, Minn.

Ludvigsen, a rising junior at the University of Wisconsin, River Falls, is majoring in physics and mathematics with an outstanding 4.0 grade point average. In addition to her challenging course load, she finds time to tutor in math and physics and served as a Chancellor Student Ambassador.

"This award makes it possible to pursue my dream of obtaining a PhD in Physics and making meaningful contribution to science," Ludvigsen wrote. "I am determined to work hard to deserve the honor bestowed upon me."

[See the full story here!](#)

**Have you read the
summer issue of AWIS**

Contributed by: Rachel Britt

70 % of Twitter's Workforce is Male

The social media giant, Twitter, recently released workforce data indicating that only 3 in 10 of its employees are female. Twitter employees are also predominantly white. These statistics mirror recent reports from other social media companies including Google and Facebook. As Twitter has the grace to point out in their blog, they "have a lot of work to do."

[#OverwhelminglyMale](#)

Why a Lack of Biodiversity May Have Done-in the Dinosaurs

While it's rare for paleontologists to come to a consensus, many agree that the impact of an asteroid near the Yucatan Peninsula is the likely cause of the mass extinction of dinosaurs. However, new evidence suggests that the timing of the impact was particularly bad and that dinosaurs may have survived if the asteroid had hit earlier or later. A decrease in diversity of key plant-eating dinosaur species, around the time the asteroid hit, may have left the whole population vulnerable to collapse.

[The asteroid's accomplice](#)



Work-Life Satisfaction

Contributed by: KengJin Lee

Michelle Obama's Approach to Work-Life Balance

During the early years of her career, the First Lady of the United States faced what many professional women have experienced: balancing a working schedule and young kids. Her solution in negotiating a flexible schedule with decent pay? Don't tip-toe, just ask. Be clear and concise with your requests.

[Be bold](#)

Contributed by: Jaime Smith

Three Simple Things to Improve Work-Life Balance

The White House Council on Women and Girls recently partnered with the Department of Labor and the Center for American Progress to host a Summit on Working Families. The summit tackled important issues to foster a national conversation about modernizing labor laws to meet the needs of families. Three tips for improving work-life balance include: talking about the issues within your company, advocating for sex education, and talking to your kids about the topic.

[Working 9 to 5](#)



Health

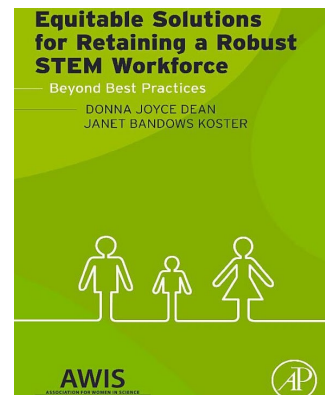
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Join the Conversation!



Contributed by Shabnum Patel

The New HPV Test

Since its introduction in the 1950s, the Pap Smear has been used to identify precancerous cells in the cervix and has contributed to the 60% reduction in cervical cancer diagnoses and deaths. A new test, the "cobas HPV test" searches for Human papillomavirus (HPV) - the virus that causes 90% of cervical cancer - through the same cervical swab technique. However, instead of identifying precancerous cells, the cobas HPV test detects virus DNA and was able to identify early signs of cancer in more women (ages 25-50) compared to the Pap Smear. Used in combination, both tests could provide women with better health screening.

[Have you been tested?](#)

Good stress? Does it exist?

An NPR and Harvard School of Public Health poll found that stress, something normally associated with negativity, can improve our daily lives. Stress can sharpen memory, as stress hormones increase alertness in an individual. The immune system also depends on moderate stress to generate hormones for the body's defense. Excessive stress can be detrimental to your health, but everything in moderation, right?

[Don't stress . . . or should you?](#)



Editor's Choice

The Editor's Choice is a Washington Wire section that includes reports and articles that the AWIS National Staff and other AWIS members think will interest you.

[Sexual harassment in the field](#)

[10 sexist scenarios that women face at work](#)



Events

[8th Annual NCC Picnic](#)

Saturday, August 9, 2014

Family friendly potluck picnic. NCC AWIS will provide meat and drinks, you bring a side or dessert. We hope to see you there!

[AWIS Webinar: Title IX and Pregnancy](#)

Tuesday September 9, 2014

[AWIS Webinar: Personal Re-Branding for Leadership Roles](#)

Thursday, September 18, 2014

[MASS AWIS 10th Anniversary Luncheon](#)

Saturday, September 20, 2014

Proceeds of this event will go towards the MASS AWIS Scholarship Fund. The Scholarship Fund will help women join a supportive network of women in STEM and, in turn, create opportunities for them to pursue and grow a career in their field.

[AWIS Webinar: Writing to Get Published: How to Craft a Marketable Book](#)

Tuesday, September 23, 2014

[AWIS Webinar: Leveraging Networks for Promotion](#)

Thursday, October 2, 2014

[AWIS Webinar: Navigating the Book Publishing Process: From Manuscript to Book](#)

Tuesday, October 14, 2014

[AWIS Webinar: Leadership and Difficult Conversations](#)

Wednesday, October 30, 2014

For more information on upcoming events for 2014, or to register for an event, visit the [AWIS Events Calendar](#) online!



Opportunities

[Sloan Research Fellowships](#)

The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation is now accepting nominations for Sloan Research Fellowships in eight fields: chemistry, computational and evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics, neuroscience, ocean sciences, and physics. These two-year, \$50,000 fellowships are awarded annually to 126 early-career faculty in recognition of their distinguished performance and exceptional potential as researchers. Candidates must be nominated by a department head or other senior researcher, and are selected by independent panels of noted scholars in each field.

To be eligible: Candidates must hold a tenure track (or equivalent) position at a college, university, or other degree-granting institution in the United States or Canada. Tenure track faculty positions at the candidate's institution must include a yearly teaching requirement; Candidates must hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent) in chemistry, computational or evolutionary molecular biology, computer science, economics, mathematics, neuroscience, ocean sciences, physics, or a related field; Candidate's most recent Ph.D. (or equivalent) must have been awarded on or after September 1, 2008. **Nominations and other supporting material are due online no later than September 15, 2014.**

[German Chancellor Fellowship of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation](#)

Each year, the German Chancellor Fellowship for prospective leaders gives up to 50 highly talented young professionals from Brazil, China, India, Russia and the USA the opportunity to spend a year in Germany and implement a project of their choice in cooperation with German hosts. German Chancellor Fellows come from a wide range of fields such as politics, business, media, public administration, society or culture, and choose a corresponding host organisation for their stay in Germany.

The fellowship is aimed at future decision-makers and thought leaders who hold an academic degree; they are expected to network with other international prospective leaders in Germany and return to their home countries as intermediaries between cultures. The fellowship program is under the patronage of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany. **The deadline for applications is September 15, 2014.**

[BBRG Affiliated Scholars Program](#)

The BBRG Affiliated Visiting Scholars Program is designed to accommodate scholars who would like to spend a relatively short period of time in residence, ranging from one month to six months. The BBRG Affiliated Visiting Scholars Program is open to senior and junior faculty (tenured and untenured), visiting scholars, postdoctoral scholars and independent scholars, from the U.S. and abroad, whose work is centrally on women and gender. Applicants must have the Ph.D. (or its equivalent) in hand one year prior to the beginning of the appointment. (Applications accepted throughout the academic year)

[Travel Award Program for Early Career Investigators](#)

Keystone Symposia on Molecular and Cellular Biology will offer a limited number of travel awards to early career investigators at the Assistant Professor or equivalent industry scientist level.

[Small Business Postdoctoral Research Diversity Fellowship](#)

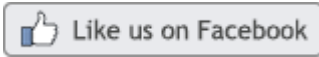
The Small Business Postdoctoral Research Diversity Fellowship program aims to encourage creative and highly-trained recipients of doctoral degrees in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematical disciplines to engage in hands-on research projects in their areas of expertise at the kind of small innovative businesses that historically have fueled the nation's economic regime. Each research fellow will receive a stipend of at least \$75,000 plus health insurance benefits.

[NSF's Career-Life Balance \(CLB\) Initiative](#)

Scientists now have the opportunity to submit supplemental funding requests to support additional personnel (e.g., research technicians or equivalent). This will help sustain research when the Principal Investigator is on family leave.

[White House OSTP Internship Program](#)

The Office of Science and Technology Policy advises the President on the effects of science and technology on domestic and international affairs. The office serves as a source of scientific and technological analysis and judgment for the President with respect to major policies, plans and programs of the Federal Government. Interns are accepted for one of three annual terms (Spring, Summer, or Fall), which each last no more than 90 days. While these positions are without compensation, the assignments provide educational enrichment, practical work experience, and network opportunities with other individuals in the science and technology policy arena. For questions, please contact Rebecca Grimm rgrimm@ostp.eop.gov.



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