

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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## Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt, PhD

Issue II August 2014



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Dear Lauren,

We are very excited to announce our Fall 2014 Leadership & Talent Development Webinars. The webinars were selected to engage and support the professional development of AWIS members at all stages of their careers.

We kick-off September with [Title IX and Pregnancy](#) for members thinking about starting a family and those responsible for programs and institutions desiring to be more family friendly.

I am particularly excited about a [two-part series](#) about the process of getting books published. This will appeal to anyone with a story to tell; whether it's research or a novel about the life of a scientist.

We will also feature a conversation about ["rebranding"](#) our professional identity. This webinar is for those who aspire to new roles as leaders and need to refresh their public brand from "outstanding scientist" to "outstanding team leader." And speaking of leadership, watch for the "Stress Management for Leaders" in December.

This is just the beginning. It is going to be a great year!

Sincerely,

## Member Profile

**Lauren Dembeck**

**Member Type:**  
Junior

**Member Expiration:**  
2/4/15 0:00

Join the Conversation!



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## Featured Jobs

[Chief Academic Officer](#)

Birgham and Women's Hospital  
Boston, MA

[In Vivo Pharmacology Intern](#)

Takeda  
San Diego, CA

[Chemistry Faculty Position](#)

University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, MN

Ric Weibl  
Chief Learning Officer

PS: I welcome your comments and questions. Write me at  
learn@awis.org.

Click [here](#) to visit  
our Career Center!



## Careers

Contributed by: Shabnum Patel

### Challenges for Women in STEM

A new study conducted in the University of Cincinnati's psychology program demonstrates the importance of social support systems and mentoring for women in STEM. The manifestation of gender stereotypes in the workplace was evident in the study participants' lack of authority, conflicting role expectations, and observed interpersonal cues that indicate gender bias. The study revealed that social support systems including colleagues and friends were important in helping women overcome challenges presented to them in male-dominated STEM fields.

[Workplace Gender Stereotypes](#)

### Can You Make the Cut at Amazon?

Amazon has dominated online retail for years, thanks to their broad range of products and focus on customer satisfaction. CEO Jeff Bezos attributes the growth and success of Amazon to the caliber of its employees and the individuality they can bring to the company. Bezos revealed his top three questions when selecting employees to join his company.

[3 Questions](#)



## Education

Contributed by: Jaime Smith

### Challenges, Strategies for Women Pursuing STEM Careers

A new study shows the importance of social support and mentoring for women pursuing STEM careers. This support plays a key role in helping women overcome the challenges they face in these male-dominated areas. It all begins while they are in school.

[It takes a village](#)

### Why Should We Invest in Girls' Education?

In many developing countries, young women face deep-rooted stigmas against education and encounter alternatives such as sex trafficking or prostitution. Champions of social change must realize that girls' education should be universally accessible and is critical to women's empowerment, success, and health. Educational benefits carry over across generations as well—women who have had formal schooling are more than twice as likely to send their own children to school.

[Girls rule, school is cool](#)

## AWIS Spotlight

*Smart women doing cool stuff*



**Susan L. Forsburg, PhD**  
**AWIS Member since 1993**

Susan Forsburg, PhD, was recently selected as a Fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology. Of the 88 Fellows, only 16 are women.

Dr. Forsburg is a professor professor of biological sciences at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles. She holds a PhD in biology with a concentration in genetics from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. She joined the faculty at USC in 2004 and was promoted to full professor in 2006.

[Click here to learn more.](#)

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

**Follow the link to check it out!**

## Science and Technology

Contributed by: KengJin Lee

### **New App Prevents Teens from Ignoring their Parents' Calls**

The newest app on the market allows parents to take control of their child's smartphone. Once installed, parents can use this new technology to lock the phone, preventing any internet or phone use until ignored calls and messages are returned. The creator Sharon Standifird, a Texas mother of two, was frustrated that her kids were screening her calls. She took matters into her own hands, teaching herself app design to bring her idea to life.

[Ignore no more](#)

### **Portable Air Quality Monitoring**

A California-based startup is developing a small and relatively inexpensive wearable air quality monitor that sends data to a smartphone. This technology can detect up to twelve types of hazardous chemicals using a combination of nano-particles and polymer technology. The company hopes that this will lead to prevention of respiratory problems such as asthma attacks.

[Air sensors you wear](#)



## Work-Life Satisfaction

Contributed by: Lauren Dembeck

### **Unbalanced Flexibility: Parenthood Benefits Men Not Women**

A recent study by the American Sociological Association reports that there is a "flexibility bias" when men and women ask for "flex-time" or "flex-place". Fathers who ask for flex-work are viewed favorably over men without children; however, women, with or without children, are always perceived more negatively. The authors speculate that the cause may be the assumption that women have difficulty juggling work and domestic tasks. They suggest that more objective policies are needed to keep biases from creating barriers for working women.

[Flexibility Bias](#)

### **When Women Have it All**

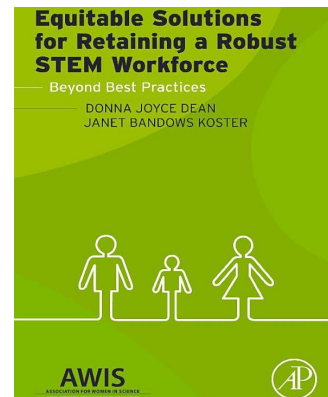
You can tailor 'leaning in' to your own specific needs, and you can have it all. Jyoti Mishra explains how it's important to understand that having it all can be different for each person and it can change over time. We can't keep comparing ourselves to others, or expect to have our lives and their lives. She has a successful career, a supportive family, and a husband who is an equal parent for their children. They work to be present at work and present while at home. Having it all can be a moving target, but also something we must keep in perspective.

[We Can](#)



Questions? Email us at [awis@awis.org](mailto:awis@awis.org).

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**Join the Conversation!**



 **Health**

Contributed by: Mrinalini Muralidharan

**Breastfeeding Cuts Postpartum Depression Risk**

A study published in Maternal and Child Health showed that there was a 50% reduction in the risk of post-natal depression among women who breastfed their infants. But the risk of depression more than doubled among women who wanted, but were unable, to breastfeed. The study brings to the fore the importance of providing support to women who are unable to breastfeed.

[Breastfeeding & depression](#)

**New estrogen-based compound suppresses binge-like eating behavior in female mice.**

Binge eating affects approximately 5% of US adults and is a symptom of a major eating disorders. Researchers at the USDA/ARS Children's Nutrition Research Center at Baylor College of Medicine and Texas Children's Hospital found that the hormone estrogen can specifically trigger brain serotonin neurons to inhibit binge eating in female mice in a report today in the Journal of Clinical Investigation.

[Controlled Eating](#)

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**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.

[Solve this Math Problem: The Gender Gap](#)

[AWIS Institutional Partner, Duke University, Recognized as Family-Friendly Employer](#)

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 **Events****[AWIS San Diego Chapter Focus Session: Build Your Own Business](#)**

*Monday, September 8, 2014*

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

*Tuesday, September 9, 2014*

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

*Thursday, September 18, 2014*

**[AWIS Massachusetts Chapter 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!**

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## 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.**

### [2015 Margaret L. Kripke Legend Award](#)

The Office of Women Faculty Programs at MD Anderson Cancer Center is requesting nominations for the seventh annual Margaret L. Kripke Legend Award, which recognizes an individual - female or male - who has made significant contributions to the advancement and promotion of women in cancer medicine and cancer science. This award was established in honor of Margaret L. Kripke, Ph. D., for her unwavering advocacy for and promotion of women in academic medicine and science. The national award is given each year to an individual for her/his ongoing support and extraordinary dedication to enhancing the careers of women in cancer medicine and cancer science.

For more information on award criteria and submitting a nomination, see attachments or visit the Women Faculty Programs website or contact Abby Mitchell at 713-792-6142. **The deadline for nominations is Wednesday, October 1, 2014.**

### [2015 Alan T. Waterman Award](#)

The National Science Foundation is pleased to accept nominations for the 2015 Alan T. Waterman Award. Each year, the Foundation bestows the Waterman Award to recognize the talent, creativity, and influence of a singular young researcher. The award consists of a \$1,000,000 prize, a medal, a certificate, and a trip for two to Washington, DC, to receive the award. Nominees are accepted from any field of science or engineering. Nominations must be submitted electronically. Please direct all inquiries about the award and the nomination procedures to Mayra Montrose ([mmontros@nsf.gov](mailto:mmontros@nsf.gov)). **Deadline: October 24, 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](#)**

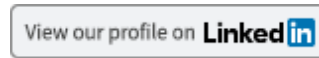
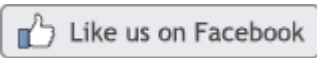
The Small Business Postdoctoral Research Diversity Fellowship program aims to encourage creative and highly-trained recipients of doctoral degrees in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematical disciplines to engage in hands-on research projects in their areas of expertise at the 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](mailto:rgrimm@ostp.eop.gov).



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