

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt, PhD

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Dear Lauren,

Mark your calendars to participate in a special event designed for all women in STEM on Tuesday, October 14th, 2014 from 4:00pm-4:45pm ET.

In partnership with AWIS, ARPA-E is holding a Women in STEM webinar. It is a chance to hear from three leaders, AWIS President Ann Lee-Karlon, Acting Director of ARPA-E Cheryl Martin, and Professor Eileen Pollack, as they discuss their career paths and engage in a free-form discussion about the unique challenges facing women in STEM, the unique benefits women bring to STEM, and tips for career success. As an added bonus there will be a moderated Q&A!

Stay tuned: AWIS will release more information on how to sign-up as we get closer to the date. Have a topic you would like to have us cover? Please let me know at learn@awis.org.

Best Regards,

Janet Bandows Koster

Member Profile

Lauren Dembeck

Member Type:

Junior

Member Expiration:

2/4/2015 0:00

Join the Conversation!



Featured Jobs

[Clinical Pharmacologist](#)
University of Pennsylvania
Philadelphia, PA

[Assistant Professor of Sustainability](#)
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ



Careers

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

It's Who Knows You

Sometimes you have a mentor, sometimes you need a sponsor. A sponsorship is another professional who is established in his or her career and can vouch for your skills. Women with sponsors are more likely to negotiate pay raises, remain employed full time as mothers, and request high visibility projects. This article focuses on the importance of building strong professional relationships which can transition into sponsorship.

[Benefits of sponsorship](#)

Gender Tech Gap in the Federal Government

Women make up about 44% of the federal workforce. A closer look shows that in areas such as IT, only 30% of the workforce comprises of women. For example, women make up only 20% of the aerospace engineers employed at NASA. Find out what the government might do to get its house in order.

[Technology gender gap](#)



Education

Contributed by Shabnum Patel

Girls Excel at School Compared to Boys

A recent meta-analysis study by psychology professors at the University of New Brunswick looked at the grades of more than 1 million boys and girls, encompassing 30 nations. They found that, worldwide, girls had higher grades than boys in every field, including the sciences - a surprising statistic considering the heavily male-dominated STEM fields.

[You go girl!](#)

A Promise for Global Education

Under the Clinton Global Initiative, Hillary Clinton and former Australian Prime Minister Julia Gillard have partnered with governments and the private sector to commit \$600 million in funding global education for girls worldwide. The money should reach over 14 million girls and focuses not just on providing girls with education, but also with security, transportation to school, matriculation and transition assistance after schooling, and support for educators of these girls.

[Education for all](#)



Science and Technology

Contributed by Lauren Dembeck

[Director, Diagnostic Center for Population and Animal Health](#)

Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI

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

AWIS Member Spotlight



Melissa Starovasnik
Vice President, Protein Sciences
Genentech
AWIS Member since 1993

As Vice President, Protein Sciences, Melissa is responsible for all protein therapeutics discovery at Genentech overseeing the departments of Antibody Engineering, Protein Chemistry, and Structural Biology, while serving on the Research Leadership Team and Research Review Committee. Among her 21 years at Genentech, she also served as head of Research Operations from 2008-2012, published 12 papers, and received the Genentech Women Professionals - Professional Development Award of 2011. She also received the Merck index Award for Outstanding Senior Chemist from the University of Washington in 1987 and was a National Science Foundation Predoctoral Fellow from 1987-1990. Melissa earned her PhD in Biochemistry from the University of Washington.

Have you read the summer issue of AWIS Magazine?

Follow the link to check it out!

Who Found the Vertebrae of World's Largest Dinosaur

The newly described dinosaur, "Dreadnoughtus," was two stories tall and as large as a jumbo jet. North Carolina Public Radio interviewed doctoral candidate Alison Moyer about her experience on the dig in Southern Argentina.

[Women of science in action](#)

NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory Develops FINDER

When a disaster leaves survivors trapped under rubble, there is limited time to rescue them. FINDER (Finding Individuals for Disaster and Emergency Response) can detect the vibration created in the body by one's heartbeat. The device is easily transportable and takes only minutes to learn how to use. "It's not often you get to use tech developed for deep space and to go out and save lives," said the creator of FINDER.

[Detecting signs of life](#)



Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Jaime Smith

Creating Work-Life Balance as a Working Mother

Rachel Brennan knew at a very young age that she wanted to be a pediatrician. She also knew she wanted a family. Like many working mothers with full-time careers and young children, Rachel has had to re-define balance and learn to be flexible when life is not. She credits her supportive husband and colleagues with helping her maintain a successful work-life balance.

[Moms on the go](#)

7 Expert Tips for Working Parents

It was recently National Working Parents Day, and to honor the occasion, assistant professor and behavioral scientist, Nancy Aragon, provided her top seven tips for finding the elusive work-life balance. Topping her list is to find and embrace employee-centric work places. Many employers are quickly realizing that employee happiness is directly related to their bottom line. Flexible work schedules and telecommuting are just a couple perks that have become commonplace.

[Work flow](#)



Health

Contributed by Keng Jin Lee

Breastfeeding Benefits Both Mom and Baby

Breast milk is commonly linked to multiple benefits for infants, including protection from a long list of illnesses. However, did you know it is just as beneficial for Mom? Mounting evidence shows that breastfeeding is associated with protection against heart disease, high blood pressure, diabetes and high cholesterol for moms who have breastfed their babies.

[It's about your health too](#)

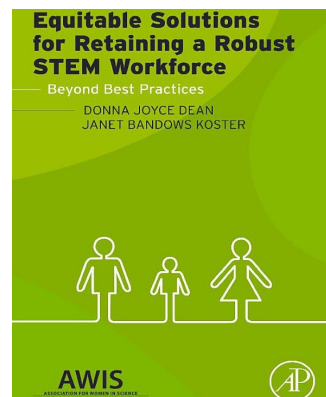
Artificial Sweeteners May Disrupt Regulation of Blood Sugar Levels

In this new study, artificial sweeteners such as sucralose,



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aspartame or saccharin were found to significantly alter the bacterial population in the intestinal tract leading to disruption of the body's ability to regulate sugar levels. These findings are the first of their kind showing how artificial sugars may contribute to serious complications such as Type-2 Diabetes.

[Ditch the diet soda](#)



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.

[Hostile Work Environment Keeping Women out of Science](#)

[Paid Maternity Leave Push Underway At U.S. Labor Department](#)

[The Women who STEM-ed Their Way to Power](#)



Events

[AWIS Webinar: Leveraging Networks for Career Success](#)

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

[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). **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](#)

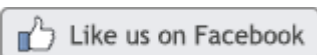
The Small Business Postdoctoral Research Diversity Fellowship program aims to encourage creative and highly-trained recipients of doctoral degrees in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematical disciplines to engage in hands-on research projects in their areas of expertise at the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



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