

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt, PhD

Issue II June 2015



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Dear Lauren,

AWIS has partnered with the [National Women's Business Council](#) (NWBC) as part of our on-going mission to create systems that are more inclusive to women in leadership, entrepreneurship, and innovation. Many recent studies point out that women remain on the fringes of the tech and biotech booms of the past several years. In fact, a recent AWIS study found that in 2014, there were 80 initial biotech public offerings (IPOs), but only 6 of the companies had female CEOs. We also know women file proportionately fewer invention disclosures and patents, launch fewer startup companies, and are less successful at attracting venture capital and angel funds.

As part of NWBC's annual research into issues affecting women business owners, the NWBC is conducting a study of how women participate in business incubation and acceleration programs. The goal is to understand the characteristics of incubators and accelerators that affect the business outcomes of female entrepreneurs. In addition, NWBC hopes to gain insights into the factors, both structural and individual, that affect women's participation in incubator and accelerator programs.

To accomplish this, NWBC is conducting a multi-methodological study that will include a survey of female entrepreneurs and managers of business incubators and accelerators to better understand women's participation in these programs and the impact on their businesses. The results of this study will help the NWBC and its partners to develop recommendations to increase the participation of female entrepreneurs in incubators and accelerators and

Member Profile

Lauren Dembeck

Member Type:

Junior

Member Expiration:

2/4/2016

Join the Conversation!



National Women's Business Council Study

If you are interested in supporting this study, please select the appropriate link below to complete a survey. All the information you provide is strictly confidential and will

enhance the contributions of the programs to their businesses and the economy.

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Metcalf
AWIS Director of Research and Analysis

The National Women's Business Council (NWBC) is a non-partisan federal advisory council that serves as an independent source of advice and counsel to the President, Congress, and the Small Business Administration on economic issues of importance to women business owners. Members of the Council are prominent women business owners and leaders of women's business organizations.

Questions/Comments? Email us at awis@awis.org or call 703.894.4490. We love hearing from you.

Careers

Contributed by Jaime Smith

Calling All Female Engineers

When First Lady, Michelle Obama, traveled to London last week, she inspired many ambitious, career-oriented young women. June 23rd is National Women in Engineering Day in the U.K., and it has been estimated that 22,000 women have not returned to the engineering sector after a career break. Only six percent of the engineering workforce in the U.K. is female and the Women's Engineering Society says it can ill-afford such a massive skills gender gap.

[Womengineers](#)

Transgender Former Navy Seal Running for Congress

After 20 years of service to her country as a Navy Seal, Kristin Beck, a transgender woman is seeking a career change-she's running for Congress. During her time of service in the military, Kristin was known as Christopher Beck, a decorated war hero who was deployed 13 times. While most believe it is unlikely that Kristin will oust her competition-the second most powerful Democrat in the House, Steny Hoyer-she's in it to win it.

[SEAL of approval](#)

Education

Contributed by Lauren Dembeck

Exposure to Green Spaces Enhances Cognitive Functions in Children

A study recently published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences on more than 2,500 children in Barcelona, Spain found that the students who attended schools with more green spaces showed improvement in working memory, a type of short-term memory that's critical for reasoning, learning and comprehension, and attentiveness. There are many potential and intertwined explanations for the improvements including increased exercise, protection from air pollution, and more opportunities for risk taking, discovery, and creativity.

[Think green](#)

Columbia University Divests from For-Profit Prison Companies

In the 1980s, private, for-profit companies started running state and federal prisons. Due to concerns about the link

be used for research purposes only.

Women business owners:

<http://bit.ly/NWBCINA1>

Women graduates of incubators and accelerators:

<http://bit.ly/NWBCINA2>

Incubator/accelerator managers:

<http://bit.ly/NWBCINA3>

Featured Jobs

[Assistant Professor of Chemistry](#)

University of Chicago
Chicago, IL

[Data Integration Analyst](#)

Children's Hospital of Philadelphia
Philadelphia, PA

[Assistant Professor in Animal Physiology](#)

W.M. Keck Science Department
Claremont, CA

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

AWIS Member Spotlight



**Julie Matweyou, MS
Kodiak, Alaska
AWIS Member since
June, 2015**

As an assistant professor at the University of Alaska, Fairbanks and a member of the Marine Advisory Program, Julie Matweyou works at the Kodiak

between mass incarceration and company profits, the Columbia trustees voted to divest the university's 230,000 shares of Corrections Corporation of America and pledged to not to invest future funds into private prison companies.

[Socially responsible investing](#)

Science and Technology

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

Harnessing Humidity to Power Small Devices

Scientists built new devices that use changes in humidity to generate small amounts of electricity. While, the captured energy is not free, it's pretty close! Eventually, we could end up using evaporation to power non-energy-intensive gadgets.

[Out of thin air](#)

A Sixth Mass Extinction is on its Way

Biologists found that the Earth is losing mammal species 20 to 100 times faster than in the past. The rate of extinctions is so rapid, it could rival the event that killed the dinosaurs in as little as 250 years. The unprecedented speed of the extinctions as well as decades of research on the effects of pollution, hunting, and habitat loss, indicate that human activity is the culprit.

[Gone for good](#)

Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Keng Jin Lee

The Truth behind Work-Life Balance

Work-life balance appears to be an elusive goal we all strive to achieve. Although closely tied to families with children, work-life balance applies to all individuals and families. If you are struggling to define it for yourself, here are nine truths to consider. Most importantly, remember that how work-life balance is defined will change with time and is different for every individual.

[9 work-life truths](#)

Paid Time-Off for New Fathers

As we conclude the celebrations for Father's Day, it is important to remember that paternity leave is still an under-addressed issue. While maternity leave has received much attention in the past few years, many companies within the United States do not offer any paternity leave. This can imply that child-rearing is solely a woman's job and can lead to lower employee retention.

[Celebrate dads!](#)

Health

Contributed by Shabnum Patel

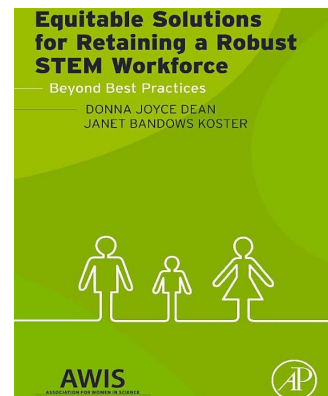
Middle East Respiratory Syndrome Outbreak

A recent outbreak of Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) has spread from the Middle East to South Korea. MERS is transmitted from human to human in respiratory droplets, like those produced by coughing. Camels are the only known animal reservoir. Over two dozen countries, including the U.S. and some in Western Europe, have reported recent cases of MERS.

Seafood and Marine Science Center. She is an environmental scientist, with experience in commercial fishing, recreational and subsistence fishing, marine safety, economic development, and education and outreach. She is also a kayak guide. Matweyou earned her Master of Science in Biological Oceanography from the University of Alaska - Fairbanks and her Bachelor of Science in Biology and Spanish from the University of Akron.

Welcome to AWIS, Julie!

Use Your 30% AWIS Member Discount & Order Your Copy Today!



Email us at awis@awis.org to get your 30% discount code. [Click here to order.](#)



Join the Conversation!



[MERS on the move](#)

The Negative Effects of High Heels

A recent study published in The International Journal of Clinical Practice followed groups of female university students, who wore heels regularly as part of the airline attendant training in their 4 year program. Researchers used computerized exercise machines to measure balance and strength of ankle muscles, comparing students in different years. The study found that while women initially displayed greater strength in their ankle muscles in Years 2-3, by Year 4 they had weakening of the muscles and dramatically worse balance than in Year 1.

[Kick the heels](#)

Editor's Choice

[Working moms have more successful daughters and more caring sons, Harvard Business School study says](#)



Opportunities

[Millennium Technology Prize](#)

The Millennium Technology Prize is Finland's tribute to innovations for a better life. The aims of the prize (worth 1 million euros) are to promote technological research and Finland as a high-tech Nordic welfare state. Nominations for the prize can be made by academies, universities, research institutes and companies. Candidates are sought from across the world and all fields of technology (excl. military technology). The Millennium Technology Prize is awarded by Technology Academy Finland (TAF), an independent foundation, established by Finnish industry and the Finnish state in partnership.

Nominations close July 31, 2015.

[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 enhancing their professional qualifications. Working with a host and mentor of their choice, the fellows implement independently developed projects in their respective field, e.g. in politics, business, society, culture or the media. The fellowship programme is under the patronage of the Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Deadline for applications is September 15, 2015.

[2015 AAMC Learning Health System Research Learner award](#)

This award allows individuals to connect with leaders in the field as a means to advance their own professional development and rise as a leader at their own institution. LHS Learners are interested in focused learning opportunities and in bridging connections between research, clinical care, and education at their institution. Awarded LHS Learners will be invited to the LHS Research Award kick-off meeting on Thursday, February 12, 2015 at the AAMC headquarters in Washington, DC. Travel and lodging fees will be waived for

the LHS Learner awardees. To apply, please email your current CV and contact information to rocc@aamc.org.

[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](#)

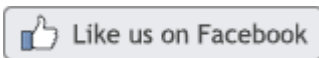
The Small Business Postdoctoral Research Diversity Fellowship program aims to encourage creative and highly-trained recipients of doctoral degrees in NSF-supported science, technology, engineering and mathematical disciplines to engage in hands-on research projects in their areas of expertise at the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