

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

September 2015 Issue II



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Dear Lauren,

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself - I'm the new AWIS director of communications. Over the past two decades I have worked for several nonprofit organizations in various marketing and communications roles. Before joining AWIS, I was the content marketing manager at CU Solutions Group, a subsidiary of the Michigan Credit Union League.

A passion for nonprofits and, of course, a passion for women's issues brought me here. I have a 10-year-old daughter who is in love with science and STEM. My hope is that working with and supporting all of you in my position at AWIS will help turn the tide of bias and inequality in the STEM fields, paving a smoother path for not only my daughter but any female with a love of STEM.

At AWIS, I will be developing and executing strategies that serve to build awareness of the organization, membership and donor base through special events, media outreach, the AWIS Magazine, e-newsletters and much, much more.

Ultimately, I am here for you - as we all are here at AWIS. Feel free to [reach out to me](#) anytime. I look forward to being of service to AWIS and you, our members.

Regards,

Amy Neale
AWIS, Director of Communications

Member Profile

Lauren Dembeck

Member Type:
Junior

Member Expiration:
2/4/2016

Join the Conversation!



[Featured Jobs](#)

[Molecular/Cellular Toxicologist](#)
Environmental Protection Agency
Research Triangle Park, NC

[Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor in Computational Biology](#)

Yale Cancer Biology Institute
New Haven, CT

Careers

Contributed by Keng Jin Lee

Finding the Right Company to Advance Your Career

How do you know when you have found the right organization for you? Nadine Haupt, the author of *The Career Women's Guide to Increasing Impact, Influence and Income* has some advice on choosing the right company to advance the careers of women. She includes a list of five questions to ponder when choosing a company. But, always start by asking yourself what you want - because that answer will be different for every individual.

[5 points to ponder](#)

8-year Old Journalist Making Headlines

Hilde Lysiak, an 8-year-old from Selinsgrove, PA is a reporter producing her own monthly newspaper - *The Orange Street News*. She got the journalism bug from her father and travels around town on her bicycle, snaps pictures with her smartphone and knocks on doors to ask tough questions. The next goal of this budding entrepreneur? Increasing circulation to obtain revenues from advertising!

[Watch out Diane Sawyer](#)

Education

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

Ivy League Education Insufficient to Close the Gender Wage Gap

Startling statistics from the Department of Education reveal that even among alumni of the country's most exclusive universities men vastly out-earn their female counterparts. The difference can be as great as \$58,000 - the median income of the US. The gap shrinks, but persists, even for graduates with the same major.

[Same degree - unequal pay](#)

Making Computer Science More Attractive to Girls

Stereotypes play a big role in why girls shy away from computer science. Studies show that redesigning computer classroom space, raising awareness and using role models who reflect diverse populations help change the perception of computer science only being for "geeky" boys. The important element was to make sure girls felt as though they belonged in a computer science class rather than being excluded.

[Changing stereotypes](#)

Science and Technology

Contributed by Sophia Jeon

Shaming Moms Who Let Their Babies Watch iPads? - Think Again!

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Join the Conversation!



AWIS Member Spotlight



Mary Jo LaDu, PhD

What do iPads do to babies? Studies show that watching too much television can lead to delayed language learning and social/emotional development for kids under the age of two. However, a new, soon-to-be published study by Dr. Heather Kirkorian at the University of Wisconsin-Madison suggests that an iPad, unlike TV, allows more interactive experiences and therefore could be a useful tool to parents.

[iPacifier](#)

Giving Girls and Minority Kids a Chance to Learn Coding

New York City Mayor De Blasio recently announced that all NYC public schools will be required within 10 years to offer computer science classes to all students. This means all kids whether of color or not, female or male, rich or poor, would have a chance to learn programming. However, the biggest challenge will be in training or recruiting enough qualified teachers to teach computer science.

[Kindercoding](#)

Mary Jo LaDu is a professor at the University of Illinois Chicago and runs its LaDu Neurodegeneration Research Lab.

Her lab investigates the causes of Alzheimer's disease by focusing on the structural and functional properties of, and interactions between, two proteins that are genetically, pathologically, and biochemically linked to the disease: amyloid-beta and apolipoprotein E (apoE).

[Learn more about Mary Jo LaDu and her lab here.](#)

Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Shabnum Patel

Work-Life Balance Tips: Setting Limits and Self-Care

Dr. Tim Hope, a clinical psychologist, shares tips to help achieve work-life balance and reduce stress. Some tips include setting limits so you can allocate time between work and personal life and learning to say "no" when asked to take on additional work. He also suggests leaving work in the office and reducing your daily email access. Some lifestyle tips include eating a healthy diet, getting enough sleep and relaxing for some time each day to re-energize and relieve tension.

[Change your routine](#)

The Millennial Shift of Work-Life Balance

According to Scott Behson, a professor of management at Fairleigh Dickson University, the millennial generation expects equality in both the work and home, more so than any previous generations. In this generation, men and women expect to engage in both work and family life on an equal basis. However, a study by Statistics Canada found that when both parents are working full-time, mothers still averaged 2.25 hours per day more on childcare compared to male spouses.

[Gender & Balance?](#)

Health

Contributed by Lauren Dembeck

Racial Disparities in Breast Cancer Survival Linked to Genetic Variants

In the United States, American women of African descent are 40% more likely to die of breast cancer than those of European descent. It is known that socioeconomic differences contribute to this disparity; however, there may also be underlying biological differences. Dr. Tanya Keenan at the Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center and her

colleagues have published an association study linking genetic differences to variation in tumor aggression and recurrence among these women.

[Genes & environments](#)

Pharmaceutical Price Gouging

News recently broke that after buying the rights to Daraprim, a medication used to treat parasitic infections, Turing Pharmaceuticals increased the price from \$13.50 to \$750 per pill. Unfortunately, this type of markup, especially on old drug formulas, is not uncommon. Health.com highlights five additional examples of this disturbing trend.

[5,000% price increase](#)



Opportunities

[2016 Alan T. Waterman Award Nominations](#)

The National Science Foundation (NSF) is accepting nominations for the 2016 Alan T. Waterman Award, given in recognition of the talent, creativity, and influence of a singular young researcher. The Waterman Award is NSF's highest honor for promising, early-career researchers.

Nominees are accepted from all sources, and from any field of science and engineering that NSF supports. The award recipient receives a medal and an invitation to the formal awards ceremony in Washington, DC, as well as a grant of \$1,000,000 over a five-year period for scientific research or advanced study in any field of science or engineering supported by the NSF, at any institution of the recipient's choice. They are especially interested in nominations for women, members of underrepresented minority groups, and persons with disabilities. [Click here to submit a nomination or to learn more.](#)

Nomination period ends Friday, October 23, 2015.

[Partnering for Cures Conference](#)

The [Partnering for Cures conference](#) to be held on November 1-3, 2015 at the Grand Hyatt in New York offers unmatched opportunities to connect and enter partnering discussions with non-profit funding organizations, venture philanthropy groups and pharmaceutical business developers, as well as patient advocacy groups. Both the conference and partnering sessions are designed to facilitate fruitful interactions that result in meaningful alliances to accelerate cures. Scheduling one-on-one meetings through the online partnering system enables participants to meet directly with participating organization's business development personnel who understand your technology and are motivated to develop a meaningful alliance with researchers who are developing cures.

[Wittig Postdoctoral Fellowship in Feminist Biology](#)

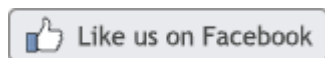
Department of Gender & Women's Studies: University of Wisconsin-Madison

[The Wittig Postdoctoral Fellows Program in Feminist Biology](#)

offers the opportunity to combine research in a Fellow's specific area of interest with teaching at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We seek a highly motivated new or recent PhD in one of the biological sciences or public health or MD, who wants to develop research skills in an area of biology related to gender and teaching skills in feminist approaches to biology. The position is also open to a mid-

career or senior scholar, for example on sabbatical. The deadline for applications for 2016-17 is February 10, 2016.

[Click here for more information.](#)



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