

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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## Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

October 2015 Issue II



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Dear Lauren,

The latest issue of AWIS Magazine is out! Our fall issue is jam packed with valuable and enjoyable articles.

Even though our cover features a man, the cover story is all about women. Jonathan Sposato, chairman of Geekwire.com and CEO of PicMonkey, champions systematic transformation for women's access to venture capital.

This issue also digs into big data, new research on gender inequity, STEM entrepreneurship and much more.

[Click here to access our latest issue of AWIS Magazine online.](#)

Enjoy!

Amy Neale  
Director of Communications

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## Careers

Contributed by Laura Dembeck

### Returning to Research After a Career Break

## Member Profile

**Lauren Dembeck**

**Member Type:**

**2/4/2016 0:00**

**Member Expiration:**

**2/4/2016**

**Join the Conversation!**



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## Featured Jobs

[Director, Office of Cancer Centers](#)

National Cancer Institute  
Rockville, MD

[Assistant/Associate Professor of Genetics](#)

University of Pennsylvania  
Philadelphia, PA

[Senior Information Scientist](#)

Gilead Sciences

Several organizations now offer special fellowship programs for women (and men) to return to scientific research careers after a career gap. One such organization, the Daphne Jackson Trust, recently reported results from a survey of ~200 former fellows. Approximately 50% had taken their leave in the early career stages (<6 years research experience). Of the respondents, 90% said that the fellowship helped them get jobs and 72% reported that they were able to get their career of choice. Programs such as this offer personal mentorship and professional development courses to help returning fellows succeed.

[Making a comeback](#)

### Facebook Launches TechPrep

In collaboration with McKinsey & Company, Facebook conducted a survey on the participation of underrepresented minorities in programming careers. They found that "50% of Blacks and 42% of Hispanics say they would be good at working with computers" despite being underrepresented in computer science careers. More than 77 % of lower income parents and guardians reported not knowing how to help their child pursue a career in computer science. The results suggest that "lower access to both people and programs is a major driver of Black and Hispanic drop-off when pursuing programming as a career path." The TechPrep site seeks to help parents, guardians, and learners understand more about computer science and programming.

[From socializing to codifying](#)

Contributed by Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

### Where in the World Are the Women Leaders?

Elle UK photoshopped men out of images of global politics as part of their #morewomen campaign. The images portray mostly-empty board rooms and legislative chambers and provide a stark reminder of the huge gender disparity in world affairs. Women currently lead about only 10% of the countries of the world. The reasons for a lack of female world leaders are varied, but are important to address.

[#morewomen](#)

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## Education

Contributed by Keng Jin Lee

### Sesame Street Has its First Autistic Character

Meet Julia - she has orange hair and green eyes, she just moved to Sesame Street and, oh, she has autism. Since autistic kids are five times more likely to get bullied, the goal was to heighten awareness and understanding and to celebrate what all children share in common. Julia has not made it to the small screen yet, but can be found in a digital storybook called "We're Amazing, 1, 2, 3."

[How to get to Sesame Street?](#)

### Homecoming Queen Is Also a Football Kicker

When Jodie Farnetti was recently crowned homecoming queen at her school in Alabama, she was not in your typical regal attire - she was wearing her football uniform. Moments later, she threw aside her tiara and sash and went out to kick an extra point for her team (it was good). What made it extra special was sharing the win with her dad, who is the head coach of the football team.

Foster City, CA

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

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### Join the Conversation!



### AWIS Member Spotlight



**Roslyn Schneider, MD, MSc**

Roslyn started at Pfizer in 2006 as its director of RMRS. Nine years later, Roslyn is still with Pfizer, but is now global patients affairs lead for Pfizer Medical.

She received her BS from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education from the City College of New York, her MD from Mount Sinai School of Medicine, and her MSc in Pharmaceutical Medicine from Hibernia College.

Roslyn is a fellow at both the American College of Physicians and the American College of Chest Physicians.

She has been an AWIS member since 2012.

[Learn more about Dr. Schneider here.](#)

[And ... it's good!](#)

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## Science and Technology

Contributed by Shabnum Patel

### Autopilot Feature Eliminates Driving Frustrations

Tesla recently released an autopilot mode to its cars allowing the car to dodge other swerving cars, stop for pedestrians, change lanes automatically and parallel park. Autopilot will not operate if it is unable to see road markings, and Tesla ensured the car would alert the driver with a loud noise to indicate the need to switch back to manual operation. Perhaps most importantly for commuters, the autopilot mode on Tesla is able to drive in stop and go traffic during rush hour.

[Self-driving Tesla](#)

### The Science behind Hangry

Many people have experienced what has been termed 'hangry' - anger due to hunger. Now, scientists are studying this state to help understand treatments for obesity and aggression. Scientists at the University of Sydney in Australia believe that the aggression manifested when hungry is actually a survival mechanism. The body recognizes a lack of glucose as a life-threatening condition, and releases stress hormones that contribute to aggression - a natural survival mechanism to 'fight' for food.

[Hangry: a survival mechanism](#)

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## Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

### Work Life Balance Is a Dad Issue Too

Paul Ryan, in negotiation for a less hectic schedule as Speaker of the House, has become the poster child for working dads balancing family and work needs. While a younger generation of men are looking to play a more active role at home, public opinion and employer policies have yet to catch up with the change in psyches of working dads.

[Can Paul Ryan have it all?](#)

### Great Perks or Golden Handcuffs?

Companies are increasingly offering various perks - free meals, yoga classes, unlimited vacations, even paying to freeze your eggs. But when is a 'perk' not a perk? Is an employer trying to keep you at your desk longer? It all depends on company culture.

[Shackled to your desk](#)

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## Health

Contributed by Sophia Jeon

### **American Cancer Society Recommends Mammograms to Start at 45**

Mammography is not perfect. There is increasing evidence that false-positive results lead to unnecessary biopsies and that it is less useful for younger women with an average risk of breast cancer. Reflecting these data, the American Cancer Society (ACS) recently issued new guidelines recommending women to start mammograms at 45 rather than the previously recommended age of 40.

[Latergram Mammograms](#)

### **Try This New Weight Loss Method: Meditation**

Buddha may have a big belly but that doesn't mean you will have one too if you meditate often. Eric Loucks, an assistant professor of epidemiology at Brown University, thinks that mindfulness (i.e. making mindful decisions about your lifestyle) could be a key to reducing cardiovascular risk factors such as obesity, smoking, poor diet, sedentary lifestyle and high blood pressure.

[Omm ...](#)

### **Helping Low Income Moms in America vs. Britain**

Nurse-Family Partnership is a health program in the U.S. where registered nurses visit low income, first-time, single moms to give advice on pregnancy and how to nurture a baby. They also answer any health-related questions. It has been quite successful in the U.S., but a new study published in the Lancet surprisingly shows that a similar program in the U.K. has not shown any benefits.

[Nurse-Family Partnership](#)



## **Opportunities**

### **IBP Professional Development Webinars for Students**

Below are upcoming webinars for students from the Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP). Webinars are free and feature guest speakers from federal agencies and academia. All webinars feature closed captioning for the hearing impaired.

Classes are encouraged to join as a group, but students may also join individually. Click the webinar link to register.

[Funding your Graduate Education](#)

November 9th at 3:00 p.m. EST

[Paid Summer Research for Undergraduates](#)

December 9th at 3:00 p.m. EST

[Paid Summer Research for Undergraduates](#)

January 27th at 3:00 p.m. EST

[Preparing and Applying for a Postdoc Position](#)

February 24th at 3:00 p.m. EST

[Learn more about IBP here.](#)

## [Nominations for the 2016 Resonate Awards from the Resnick Institute](#)

[The Resonate Awards](#) from the Resnick Institute honor outstanding achievement in renewable energy and sustainability-focused science and technology. The goal of the awards is to shine a light on up-and-coming innovators under the age of 40 (as of 11/9/15) with new contributions to the field of sustainability science. An ideal honoree's work charts new pathways or opens up new areas to solutions with long-term impacts on sustainability challenges such as energy security, climate change and the environment.

[Click here to learn more about the awards. Submit your nominations here.](#)

The deadline for nominations is November 9, 2015.

## [Office of Women's Business Ownership Challenge](#)

The SBA is looking for innovative products and services that help impact and empower the lives of women and families. As the demands on women and families grow, the need for products and services that address these unique challenges increases. This [Challenge](#) will provide a platform to fulfill that need. Contestants must develop a product or service that meets the following three Challenge criteria:

- Has a measurable impact on the lives of women and families (30%);
- Has the potential for commercialization (40%); and
- Fills a need in the marketplace (30%)

Challenge winners will be awarded:

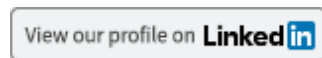
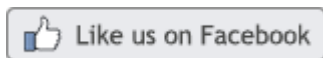
- 1st Place - \$40,000
- 2nd Place - \$20,000
- 3rd Place - \$10,000

Entries must be submitted by December 2, 2015. [Read about the process, rules and more here.](#)

## [2016-2017 SRCD Policy Fellowships](#)

SRCD is seeking applicants for [SRCD Policy Fellowships for 2016-2017](#). There are two types of fellowships: Congressional and Executive Branch. Both types of fellowships provide researchers with exciting opportunities to come to Washington, D.C. and use their research skills in child development to inform public policy. Fellows work as resident scholars within congressional or federal agency offices. Fellowships are full-time immersion experiences and run from September 1st, 2016 through August 31st, 2017. The SRCD Office for Policy and Communications in Washington, D.C. facilitates the fellowship experience and is available as a resource throughout the year.

Application deadline is December 15, 2015. [Click here for details.](#)



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