

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

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Dear Lauren,

Tomorrow is #GivingTuesday and we need YOUR support.

You can help us #STEMawardsbias by making a generous contribution to AWIS advocacy initiatives like the AWARDS Project.

When AWIS intervenes change happens. But sustainable change requires persistent effort over time. [As this chart illustrates](#), without repeated and intentional efforts, it becomes easy to slip into problematic and unconscious patterns that have been part of the organizational culture for so long.

With your help, we can continue to advocate for change.

So, tomorrow, please take a moment to [visit our Donate to AWIS page](#) to help us get and keep women in the picture.

Thank you,

Heather Metcalf, PhD
Director of Research and Analysis
AWIS

Member Profile

Lauren Dembeck

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Featured Jobs

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Research
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Conservation Biology](#)

University of California
Riverside
Riverside, CA

Careers

Contributed by Sophia Jeon

Google Identifies Trust among Employees as Most Important

Google just released the results from a study they did over two years by conducting interviews with more than 200 employees. It turns out the top two qualities to make a team successful at work are psychological safety and dependability, both of which are based on trust. The findings may have a big impact on hiring decisions when many tech companies, including Google, are still struggling to diversify their workforce.

[5 traits for work success](#)

Why We Still Don't See More Women on Top

One of the reasons why female representation in top management is strikingly low might be because companies tend to pat themselves on the back once they put a woman in a high position and then move on to other priorities. Researchers at Columbia University found that the probability of a woman getting a position in top management was lower when there was another woman who held a similar position on the same team.

[The implicit quota](#)

Interview with Four Fabulous Female Chief Executives

Are you in need of a little inspiration or a pep talk? Are you afraid of speaking up during meetings? Here is a great article for you! Rather than shying away from discussing gender-related career topics, this recent New York Times piece explores female leadership face-to-face with women chief executives, and offers priceless pieces of wisdom.

[Advice from 4 female execs](#)

Education

Contributed by Lauren Dembeck

Afghani Woman Wins the World Innovation Summit for Education (WISE) Prize

WISE is an international initiative that seeks to transform education through innovation and overcoming barriers to education. In 1995, Sakeena Yacoobi founded the Afghan Institute of Learning, which provided schooling and medical care for Afghani refugees. The Institute even functioned in secret during Taliban rule. Yacoobi's commendable efforts have helped educate over 12 million people, many of whom were young girls in rural Afghanistan.

[WISE awardees](#)

Gates Foundation to Provide \$35 Million for New Teacher Preparation Centers

Five new Teacher Preparation Transformation Centers in the U.S. will be supported by the Gates Foundation. The Centers are intended to "bring together higher education institutions, teacher-preparation providers and K-12 school systems to share data, knowledge and best practices." They will "develop, pilot and scale effective teacher-preparation practices to help ensure that more

[Associate Director, Healthcare Delivery Research Program](#)

National Cancer Institute
Rockville, MD

Click [here](#) to visit
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AWIS Member Spotlight



Tooba Cheema, PhD

Dr. Cheema is a scientist at Momenta Pharmaceuticals working to advance therapeutics for oncologic and autoimmune indications. Prior to Momenta, she was a post-doctoral research fellow at Massachusetts General Hospital under the fellowship from the American Brain Tumor Association.

She received her BS in biochemistry from Tufts University and her PhD in pharmacology from the University of Michigan.

Dr. Cheema is a MASS AWIS board member and has been an AWIS member since 2008.

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

teacher-candidates graduate ready to improve student outcomes in K-12 public schools."

[Teaching teachers](#)

Science and Technology

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

Massive DNA Study Pinpoints Top Suspects for Causing Disease

Alter any one of about 3200 genes in the human body and you could be done before you begin. A new study finds that about 15 % of our 20,000 genes are so critical to our development and subsequent survival that certain changes can kill us before we're born. The findings could help researchers identify disease-linked genes.

[3230 genes you can't do without](#)

Will You Be Swallowing Your Fitness Tracker?

Wearing bulky gadgets and wires to monitor your health may soon be history. MIT researchers have developed an ingestible sensor that simultaneously monitors temperature, heart rate, and breathing from the inside. Beyond a hospital setting, the tracker could also be used to monitor the real-time health status of military personnel, athletes, and astronauts.

[Tiny technology](#)

Malaria Blocking Strains of Mosquitoes

Scientists aiming to take the bite out of malaria have produced a strain of mosquitoes carrying genes that block its transmission. The idea is that these mosquitoes could breed with other members of their species in the wild and produce offspring that cannot spread the disease. Malaria-infected mosquitoes can eventually return to sites that were treated with insecticides. However, with the new transmission-blocking technology, blocking strains of mosquitoes could mate with the interlopers and prevent further spread of the disease.

[Buzz kill](#)

Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Keng Jin Lee

Pharma Company Is Saving the Holiday Season

Pharma companies might have a bad reputation, but Radius Health is determined to do things differently. The company announced that they are delaying the regulatory application for a new osteoporosis drug until after the holiday season in order to "respect employees' work-life balance." CEO Robert Ward said the decision came after the realization that it would be unfair to ask employees to work on an accelerated basis during a time when most everyone has personal plans.

[No bah humbug!](#)

Tech Companies Starting to Focus on Family

Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg made headlines earlier this month when he announced that he would take two months of paternity leave following the birth of his daughter. Other tech companies such as Amazon, Google, Netflix, and Spotify have recently begun to advertise their family leave policies - but are they all equal? Here is a review on the different types of parental leave models and a suggestion on which one is best.

[ABCs of parental leave](#)

Health

Contributed by Shabnum Patel

Health Benefits of Coffee

A recent study by the Harvard School of Public Health found that drinking coffee was associated with a reduced risk of death. The study included over 250,000 men and women who were surveyed for coffee consumption, diet, and rates of disease and death over two decades. They found there was a significant decrease in incidence of death in coffee drinkers, including lower risk of heart and neurological diseases. Coffee contains some chemicals that reduce inflammation and control blood sugar, which may contribute to the lowered risks.

[Cup of coffee a day](#)

FDA Approves Genetically Engineered Salmon

AquaBounty has produced AquaAdvantage Salmon which have been genetically modified to grow faster than their farm-raised counterparts, allowing for quicker delivery to consumers. These salmon were approved by the FDA, making them the first genetically engineered animal available for consumption. There is no biological difference between the genetically modified and regular salmon that would require the company to label them differently. Some researchers believe this will help to keep up with demand for fish, and future genetic modifications could help to stave off disease.

["Frankenfish" salmon](#)



Opportunities

[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.](#)

[DHS HS-STEM 2016 Summer Internship Program](#)

The Department of Homeland Security sponsors a [10-week summer internship program](#) for undergraduate and graduate students majoring in homeland security related science, technology, engineering and mathematics (HS-STEM) disciplines. The program provides students with quality research experiences at federal research facilities located across the country and allows students the opportunity to establish connections with DHS professionals.

Areas of research: Engineering, computer science, mathematics, physics, chemistry, biological / life sciences, environmental science, emergency and incident management, social sciences, and many more.

10-week research experiences are offered at: Coast Guard Research and Development Center • Homeland Security Studies and Analysis Institute • Customs and Borders Protection • Engineer Research and Development Center • Federal Emergency Management Agency • National Security Technologies • National Urban Security Technology Laboratory • Naval Research Laboratory • Transportation Security Laboratory • DOE National Laboratories: Argonne, Berkeley, Livermore, Los Alamos, Oak Ridge, Pacific Northwest, and Sandia

[Click here to apply.](#)
[Detailed information about the internships can be found here.](#)

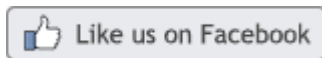
Application deadline is December 16, 2015.

Pathways to Science Resources

Pathways to Science is a project of the Institute for Broadening Participation (IBP) that supports pathways to the STEM fields: science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. It places particular emphasis on connecting underrepresented groups with STEM programs, funding, mentoring and resources.

Here are a few links to some of its resources:

- [Financial Support in Graduate School](#)
Fellowships and graduate programs in a wide variety of STEM disciplines.
- [Opportunities in the Ocean Sciences](#)
Search over 175 opportunities in ocean science, including summer research programs, internships, fellowships, graduate programs and postdoc opportunities.
- [Opportunities in Engineering](#)
Search for opportunities by user group, discipline or region.





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