

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

February 2016 Issue II

Dear Lauren,

AWIS is building on the momentum generated from our two previous summits by bringing you a third, the AWIS National Summit on Innovation and Entrepreneurship in the Health and Medical Sciences: A Roadmap for Inclusion. This upcoming summit will center on how we, as a society, can fuel innovative solutions to global challenges facing all our citizens. It takes place on March 31st from 1:00-7:00 p.m. CDT at the Gleacher Center in Chicago, IL.

We design these summits to provide our members with the opportunity to connect with experienced innovation professionals who represent STEM and the broader health and medical science community from corporate, academic and government agencies. The true engagement comes with the forum-style conversations where panelists and participants discuss how to develop inclusive, fiscally-responsive systems to drive research excellence and feed long-term economic growth.

[To learn more about the summit or to register, click here.](#) You can also follow the event on our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) profiles and post about the summit using #AWISummit2016.

I'm looking forward to hearing and learning from our diverse lineup of speakers and hope to see you there.

Member Profile

Lauren Dembeck

Member Type:

2/4/2016 0:00

Member Expiration:

Junior

Join the Conversation!



Featured Jobs

Post Doctoral Scholar

Northwestern University
Evanston, IL

National Program Leader,

Food Safety

U.S. Dept. of Agriculture
Beltsville, MD

Research Scientist,
Medical Bioinformatics

Regards,

Janet Bandows Koster

Executive Director and CEO
Association for Women in Science

CSIRO
Sydney, Australia

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

Careers

Contributed by Keng Jin Lee

Need a Mentor? There's an App for That

The organization Everywomen has launched an app called Modern Muse. Its main goal? To encourage women working in STEM fields to act as mentors, showcasing their careers to young girls. "You'll never know whose life you're going to change," said Karen Gill, co-founder of Everywomen. The app allows students, as well as their parents and teachers, to learn more about careers in STEM from the women who work there.

[E-mentor for the win](#)

Lessons on When to Jump

Need some advice on changing careers? Learn from Barbara Harris - who left the world of corporate public relations to become the first female African-American bishop in the Anglican Communion. She discusses the adversity and discrimination she faced, and how her strong faith helped to pull her through it. If you're going to jump, she advises, have a plan!

[Leap of Faith](#)

Education

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

PBS and NASA Create a STEM Program with a Female Role Model

PBS has launched a new multi-platform preschool science program, Ready Jet Go!, featuring astronomer Amy Mainzer. This STEM initiative, funded by the U.S. Department of Education, targets younger, at-risk and low-income children and provides girls with a role model to emulate.

[Ready Jet Go!](#)

How Male Biology Students See their Female Peers



Celebrating
the Energy
Entrepreneur

arpa·e
energy
innovation
summit

Feb. 29 - Mar. 2, 2016
Washington, D.C.



ARPAE-Summit.com

A University of Washington anthropologist's survey showed that male students assumed their male classmates knew more about material from their biology courses than their female classmates - even if the female students earned better grades. Today's students with their ingrained gender bias will be tomorrow's hiring managers, potentially maintaining a difficult path for STEM women.

[XY bias](#)

Traditional College Education Threatened by Online Learning?

Is it better to learn online for free than to break the bank for a college degree? Is the purpose of higher education to acquire knowledge and skills, or to carry the clout of a university degree? MIT professor and EdX president, Anant Agarwal, suggests that massive open online courses (MOOCs) are the future of education and can even now give a competitive edge over for promotions or hiring.

[Degree or MOOC?](#)

Science and Technology

Contributed by Sophia Jeon

Linking Zika to Severe Disease, a Role for Dengue?


The Zika outbreak in South American countries has scientists working hard to find the causal culprit of microcephaly in newborn babies and some neurological problems in adults infected with Zika. Currently, there is a strong correlation between Zika infection of pregnant women and microcephaly in infants, but no clear causal link. Researchers are considering a new hypothesis that prior infection with one or more of the four dengue viruses could increase the severity of Zika infection and potentially lead to the severe outcomes now being observed.

[Dengue theory](#)

Reversing Some Autism Symptoms in Mice by Gene Editing

MIT researchers succeeded in reversing some autism symptoms in mice by activating a gene called Shank3. Approximately 1% of humans with autism don't have Shank3, which facilitates communications among brain cells. Even in older mice displaying behavioral symptoms of autism, turning on Shank3 improved their motor skills and reduced anxiety. The results cautiously suggest that gene editing could be a future treatment option for humans without Shank3.

[Turn on Shank3](#)



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Brighter Future*

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Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Shabnum Patel

Stressful Tech Jobs

CareerCast recently released a list of the most and least stressful jobs in 2016. In the technology industry, there were eight jobs listed under most stressful based on factors such as travel, deadlines, physical demands, competition, person life and growth potential, to name a few. Among these eight most stressful job titles were web developer, data scientist, software engineer and computer programmer.

[Tech Stress](#)

The New Work-Life Balance

In a study on work-life balance by the staffing firm Robert Half, 55% of participants reported placing an increased emphasis on their personal lives. Younger employees (18-35) were found to make strong commitments to both their personal and professional lives, compared to those over age 35. Some tips offered to help the participants improve work-life balance included using restraint when working from home, disconnecting on vacation time and not letting projects drag on.



[Balancing act](#)

Health

Contributed by Lauren Dembeck
Employee Health Tracking

The Wall Street Journal reported that companies are hiring outside firms to track employees' medical claims and prescription medication purchases. This also includes practices such as predicting employee pregnancies by identifying women who have stopped filling birth control prescriptions. The companies then use this information to send employees information about lower-cost healthcare alternatives and claim that their motivation is to help employees make informed choices. However, sensitive healthcare information can lead to discriminatory practices and must be handled with care.

[Creeping companies?](#)



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AWIS Member Spotlight



Brittany Parker Kerrigan, PhD

Brittany is a postdoctoral fellow in the department of neurosurgery at MD Anderson Cancer Center. She received her bachelor's of science in Biology from the University of California and her PhD at University of Texas MD Anderson.

Brittany has been an AWIS member since 2013 and is currently president of the AWIS Gulf Coast Houston

Keystone Symposia Fellows Program

The Keystone Symposia Fellows Program is a highly unique, research-driven, diversity-centered program educates early-career scientists regarding the inner workings of the life sciences community and provides a venue for high-level interaction with established and leading scientists nationally and globally.

The Fellows Program provides context, understanding and insight regarding the development of high-powered research meetings, utilizing shadowing experiences with scientist organizers and key Keystone Symposia staff members. These experiences allow for learning how the research agenda is set, how to engage in high-level discourse on research topics and how to broaden perspectives in life science research.

The closing date for the 2017 Keystone Symposia Fellows program is May 20, 2016. [Click here for details.](#)

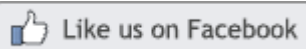
Denice Denton Emerging Leaders Workshop 2016

The Denice Denton Emerging Leader ABIE Award, named in her honor, have organized a faculty development workshop on **Friday June 3, 2016** in Madison, WI.

The workshop will focus on the development of knowledge, skills, strategies and critical networks for mid-career faculty in the fields of engineering, computing, mathematical and physical sciences, who are assistant or associate professors with 4-15 years of experience in tenure-line faculty positions.

Topics addressed through the workshop will include strategies for mid-career development planning, modes of academic leadership, developing and utilizing mentors and sponsors, skills for effective team science and more.

[Click here to learn more and to register.](#)





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