

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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## Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

Issue II January 2017



Dear {First Name},

The Woman's March on Washington and sister marches around the world were powerful statements of unity and collective action. We must keep this momentum going. Here's how you can join with AWIS and have an impact:

- Connect with your [local AWIS Chapter or Affiliate](#) and encourage your peers to join our community of advocates. Use our [member directory](#) and find peers in your area.
- Become a [better ally](#).
- Register for our [on-demand training opportunities](#) and learn to advocate for issues important to you.
- Call, write, and engage your elected officials to make sure they understand [AWIS policy priorities](#).

### Member Profile

**Lauren Dembeck**  
**Member Type: Junior**  
**Expiration: 8/26/17 0:00**

### Featured Jobs

**Scientific Director**  
The National Institute of  
Neurological Disorders and  
Stroke (NINDS)  
Bethesda, Maryland

**Faculty Position in  
Exoplanet Habitability**  
University of California,

Thank you for your support and solidarity in elevating our STEM community, and advocating with AWIS.

Sheri Potter,  
Director of Community and Stakeholder Engagement  
Association for Women in Science

## 2017 International Day of Women and Girls in Science

Bahija Jallal, AWIS Governing Board President, to speak at the opening ceremony for the United Nations International Day of Women and Girls in Science on February 10, 2017

The theme for the 2017 International Day of Women and Girls in Science is "Gender, Science and Sustainable Development: The Impact of Media".

The universal 2030 Development Agenda cannot be understood without understanding that our civilizational attitudes need to be changed and therefore the idea of girls having role models of women as scientists need to be inclusive role models.

[Register to attend](#)

## Careers

Contributed by Sophia Jeon

### "Hidden Figures" Sparks Conversations about Diversity in Science and Engineering

A new film, "Hidden Figures," is based on the true stories of three black female mathematicians at NASA in the 1960s. It's stimulating conversations about why it is important to include more women and underrepresented minority populations in science. In this article, a young, black, female astrophysicist shares her experiences with sexism and racism in her career and talks about how we can make science more inclusive.

[Embracing diversity](#)

### We Will Always Have to Make Sacrifices for Our Careers

Judy Marks, CEO of Siemens USA, looks back at her 30+ year career and emphasizes that no matter how many

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## AWIS Member Spotlight



**Dr. Tracey Weiler, PhD**  
(Patron Member Since 2016)  
Assistant Professor,  
Department of Human and  
Molecular Genetics

Dr. Tracey Weiler is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Human and Molecular Genetics at Florida International University. A native of Canada, she received her PhD from the University of Manitoba's Department of Biochemistry and Medical Genetics. Her doctoral research focused on limb girdle muscular dystrophy in unique Manitoba populations.

Learn more about the benefits of [joining AWIS](#).



institutional barriers we remove, we will always have to make sacrifices. But, we could think of them as making decisions that establish priorities rather than calling them “sacrifices.” Here are her thoughts on making well-balanced choices for your career and personal life without feeling guilty.

[Making trades](#)

## Education

Contributed by Lauren M. Dembeck

### **A Message from the Outgoing U.S. Secretary of Education**

Dr. John B. King Jr., who was the first African-American and Latino to serve as U.S. Secretary of Education, completed his term last week. His earnest message promotes the newly passed Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) and maintains that all Americans have the right to an equal education – “When the light of opportunity shines on those who lack it, it does not dim for those already in its glow.”

[Education dispatch](#)

### **“Catching” Social Bias: Exposure to Biased Nonverbal Signals Creates Social Biases in Preschool Children**

Identifying the origins of social bias is critical to devising strategies to overcome prejudice. The spread of bias observed in these experiments lays a critical foundation for understanding the way that social biases may develop and spread early in childhood.

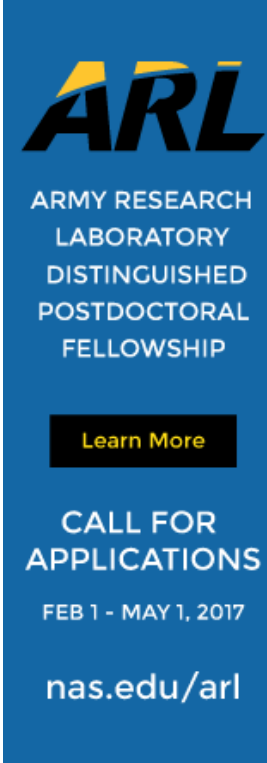
[Interpersonal bias](#)

## Science, Technology, & Health

Contributed by Michelle Gomes

### **Robotic Device Supports Heart Function**

A current treatment for heart failure uses ventricular assist devices, which function by physically pumping blood. Since these devices directly contact blood, they require



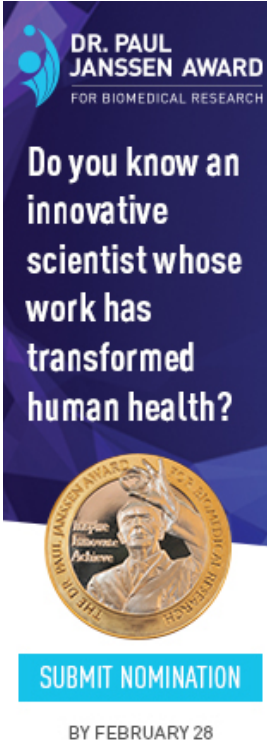
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monitoring and anticoagulant therapy to prevent blood clots. A new experimental study showed that a soft robotic sleeve-like device implanted in cardiac-arrested pigs restored heart function by gently squeezing the heart to pump blood.

[Heart hug pump](#)

### **A Global Vaccine Initiative to Prevent Epidemics**

Many infectious disease epidemics that threaten our global society could be prevented by vaccines. However, vaccine development takes several years and is costly. A global group of donors came together and raised \$500 million for a new partnership called the Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI). The aim of CEPI is to develop safe and effective vaccines against 3 known viral threats that could be deployed rapidly to curtail epidemics.

[Global health plan](#)

### **Understanding Bladder Leakage Problems**

Bladder leakage can occur in women at any age. Often, women are embarrassed to talk to their healthcare providers about it. Pelvic floor tone is crucial to prevent or reverse bladder leakage problems. Core strengthening exercises such as Kegel and Pilates, if done correctly, can help maintain a strong pelvic floor that supports the uterus and bladder.

[Light leakage](#)

### **FDA and EPA issue final fish consumption advice**

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued final advice regarding fish consumption. This advice is geared toward helping women who are pregnant or may become pregnant – as well as breastfeeding mothers and parents of young children – make informed choices when it comes to fish that are healthy and safe to eat.

[Fish to avoid](#)

## **Work-Life Integration**

Contributed by Michelle Gomes

### **Strategies to Provide Relief from Chore Wars**

Women do more housework than men, even if they are the sole breadwinner. Freeing up time from household chores could help women focus on work goals. Should women fall back and allow men to dig in? Should household chores be divided equally between partners? Successful resolution of chore wars between partners involves recognizing dysfunctional behaviors and effective negotiation of household tasks.

### [Negotiating chores](#)

#### **Take Guilt-Free Paid Time Off**

When it comes to vacation, many Americans consider themselves deprived, but skip paid vacation days due to worker's guilt and worry. With a little planning, and a change in attitude, workers can avoid vacation deprivation and enjoy some time off. Here are 5 tips on increasing vacation time, but not guilt.

### [Take vacation](#)

## **Opportunities**

#### **ELATE at Drexel**

ELATE at Drexel® is a national leadership development program designed to advance senior women faculty in academic engineering, computer science, and related fields into effective institutional leadership roles within their schools and universities.

The online application is currently available for the 2017-18 Fellowship year. Please review the information below and read our [Application Preview](#) and [Application User Guide](#) before accessing the online application system.

#### **Reaxys PhD Prize**

With submissions received from over 400 academic institutions worldwide, the Reaxys PhD Prize is the most important and recognized international Prize for young chemists. Each year hundreds of submissions are received and reviewed, from which 45 finalists are selected and awarded with: an invitation to present their research at the Prize Symposium where 3 winners are selected and receive \$2,000 prize money, lifelong membership to the Prize Club, and personal and unlimited access to Reaxys.

The 2017 Reaxys PhD Prize will be open for submissions until 13 March 2017. [Read more and apply here.](#)

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