

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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## Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

March Issue II 2017



Dear Lauren,

Your electronic edition of the Spring Issue of the AWIS Magazine is now available online. [Click here for access to this exclusive member benefit.](#)

AWIS believes that capitalizing on our nation's entire intellectual potential is crucial for global competitiveness. [This edition of the magazine focuses on just that: innovation and entrepreneurship.](#) We examine why women are largely absent from these ecosystems, provide helpful information on what you can do to be a successful entrepreneur, and explain current advocacy initiatives.

We are especially pleased to note that the [Promoting Women in Entrepreneurship Act](#), which we strongly supported, was signed into law on February 28, 2017. A win!

### Member Profile

**Lauren Dembeck**

**Member Type: Junior**

**Expiration: 2017-08-26**

**00:00:00**

### Featured Jobs

#### **Nuclear/High-Energy Physicist**

Los Alamos National  
Laboratory  
Los Alamos, New Mexico

#### **Product Solutions Manager**

IDEX Health & Science  
Rohnert Park, California

This on-going [advocacy work](#) would not be possible without the support of members and donors like you.

We [rely on your contributions to continue our work](#) with Congress and the Administration. Please know we appreciate it!

Andrea Lucy  
Program & Administrative Associate  
Association for Women in Science

## Careers

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

### Apps That Make Conference Networking Easier

Conferences are as much about networking as they are about attending sessions. Yet, networking at a large conference can be overwhelming. Meeting up with an old colleague? Need to make an impression with a potential collaborator/employer? Organizing a small group meeting over a meal? This article suggests a number of apps you can use to simplify these processes and make the most of your time at conferences.

[#Networkingatconference](#)

### Traps that Sustain the Gender Gap

The 2016 Global Gender Gap report claims it will take 158 years for women in America to attain equity with their male counterparts. According to the author of this article, the main contributors to this gap are unequal access to opportunities, unconscious bias in the hiring process and workplace norms, and a lack of organizational accountability.

[Gap trap](#)

### Interviewing a Job Candidate? – Ask Them This

While interviewing, have you faced the dreaded greatest weakness/greatest failure question? Apart from putting a job candidate in an uncomfortable spot, these kinds of questions often don't provide relevant information. This article provides 5 questions to draw out the candidate's enthusiasm, experience, skill, and motivation.

[Ask this, not that](#)

**Dean, School of Science  
and Engineering**  
Tulane University  
New Orleans, Louisiana

[Click here to visit the  
AWIS Career Center](#)

## AWIS Member Spotlight



**Susan Fitzpatrick, PhD**  
Benefactor Member  
Since 2001

Dr. Fitzpatrick is president of the James S. McDonnell Foundation, St. Louis, Missouri. As president, Dr. Fitzpatrick serves as JSMF's Chief Executive Officer. Dr. Fitzpatrick joined the James S. McDonnell Foundation in 1993 as the Foundation's first Program Officer. She was promoted to Program Director in 1997 and to Vice President in 2000.

Fitzpatrick is an adjunct associate professor in the department of neuroscience at Washington University School of Medicine (St. Louis) and teaches neuroscience in both lectures and seminars.

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



## Education

Contributed by Michelle Gomes

### **Can a Critical Thinking Class Dispel Pseudoscience Beliefs?**

With the rise in “fake news” and conspiracy theories, public trust in evidence-based scientific concepts has been on the decline. Critical thinking and reasoning could help us differentiate what’s real from what’s false, yet it is rarely formally taught in a class setting. A recent study from North Carolina State University showed teaching critical thinking based on lessons from history significantly reduced students’ beliefs in pseudoscience unsubstantiated by facts.

[Humanities against pseudoscience!](#)

### **MBA Programs with a Social Impact**

Most MBA programs are aimed at teaching financial and business strategies to help students excel in the for-profit private sector. However, a growing number of MBA programs are teaching students to make money with purpose by applying skills towards public issues and redefining success not only by profit earned, but also by social impact and environmental sustainability.

[Green MBA](#)

## Science & Technology

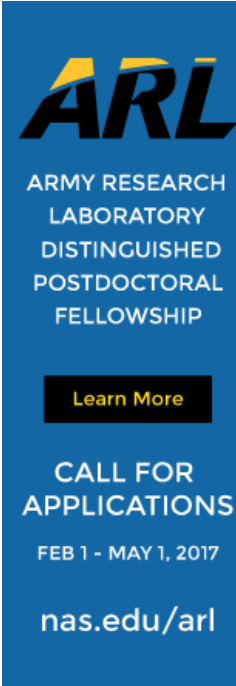
Contributed by Lauren M. Dembeck

### **Lungs Involved in Blood Production**

Dogma has held that production of blood cells occurs in the bone marrow. However, a study in mice using a new imaging technique revealed their lungs play a critical role in making platelets – the blood components that mediate blood clotting. Platelet-producing cells take up residence in the lungs and formed most of the mouse’s platelets. This finding highlights how using new technology to reexamine old questions can facilitate unexpected scientific advances.

[Move over marrow](#)

### **Researchers Suggest Most Mutations in Cancerous Cells Are Randomly Acquired**



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Cancer is characterized by mutations in DNA. Using cancer incidence and epidemiological data a team of researchers estimated that 66% of mutations occur randomly during cell division, 29% from environmental causes, and 5% were inherited genetic variants. However, others members of the cancer research community argued that the focus on mutations oversimplifies the causes of cancer.

[Cancer origins debate](#)

## Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Sophia Jeon

### Here's How Millennials Do Work-Life Balance

A healthcare software company called PatientPop has a number of interesting strategies to make their millennial employees want to come to work, thereby increasing productivity. How? By letting them bring their dogs to work and by encouraging camaraderie through group activities. Another trick? Helping them fulfill their life's passion through meaningful work and shared values.

[Re-inventing work-life](#)

### Sorry Not Sorry, I'm Taking Two Hours to Get My Hair Done

Alicia Glen, New York City's Deputy Mayor for Housing and Economic Development, is not afraid of everyone knowing about her hair appointments that occur every few weeks. She believes being honest rather than trying to "hide" her personal life can empower other women to achieve their own work-life balance.

[Good hair day](#)

### The Semantics of Work-Life Balance

Elisa Steele, CEO of Jive Software, says she decided there is no such thing as work-life balance. Work is part of life and sometimes life is part of work. Working from home full-time, Ms. Steele asks herself "what is the most important thing for me to do at this time?" and then does it. For people who are fortunate enough to have flexible working hours, maybe it is time to re-think what work-life balance means for them.

[Stop worrying](#)

## Opportunities

### AWIS Advocacy Internship

The Association for Women in Science dedicates time and energy to our internship program, offering hands-on advocacy and policy writing experience on a number of issues at the nexus of STEM and Gender. Internships at AWIS are part-time, paid positions, with the option of a flexible schedule, including start and end dates although applicants are expected to work a minimum of three months. As a part of the internship program experience, interns represent the organization at events around DC, including Capitol Hill briefings. Interns will work on-site in Washington, DC.

Duties and assignments for the intern may include:

- Online research and data analysis specific to policy initiatives;
- Drafting and updating fact sheets, correspondence to Capitol Hill, position papers, legislative updates and alerts, briefing materials, and articles for policy publications;
- Assisting with AWIS' social media presence as they relate to public policy;
- Supporting special events;
- Answering requests from AWIS members regarding public policy issues;
- Attending various coalition meetings, briefings, meetings, and conferences as a representative of AWIS;
- Other related activities as assigned.

Learning objectives include:

- Build knowledge of gender and STEM policy issues;
- Learn new research and technology which apply to policy initiatives;
- Network and establish professional contacts in the STEM policy arena by attending coalition meetings, briefings, meetings, and conferences as a representative of AWIS.

Please contact [Meredith Gibson](#), Chief Operations Officer, for more information.

### Research Opportunities in Europe for NSF Postdoctoral Research Fellows

Current Postdoctoral Research Fellows can apply for research visits to any identified, appropriate European research group. Instructions on how to apply and other

relevant policies and requirements are provided below. A similar Dear Colleague Letter invites NSF CAREER awardees to participate (see [NSF 17-058](#)).

ERCEA has provided a list of ERC-funded principal investigators and research teams interested in hosting NSF Postdoctoral Fellows. NSF Fellows should request this list via email from [nsf-erc@nsf.gov](mailto:nsf-erc@nsf.gov), and then communicate directly with ERC PIs to ascertain areas of mutual interest and research goals for a visit. Fellows may then submit their requests directly to their NSF Program Officers. If approved by NSF, the request is forwarded to ERCEA for review and for making arrangements with the ERC-funded project.

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