

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

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## Washington Wire

Edited by Rachel Britt

May 2017 - Issue II



Dear Lauren,

The AWIS Governance Committee is pleased to present the FY18 slate of candidates for election to the National Governing Board. This year we are looking to fill the office of President-Elect and four Councilor positions.

The Committee is pleased to have candidates who bring their energy, enthusiasm, and commitment to AWIS. We are grateful to those who, via nomination or self-nomination, were willing to volunteer to serve AWIS and its members.

In determining the final slate of candidates from among the many qualified nominations received, the Governance Committee made the following considerations:

- The unique set of skills and experience each candidate brings to the Board and to AWIS, particularly when viewed through the lens of the priorities established in the strategic plan.

**Member Profile**  
**Lauren Dembeck**  
**Member Type: Junior**  
**Expiration: 2017-08-26**  
**00:00:00**

## Featured Job Opportunities

Assistant Professor,  
Agroecosystem Landscape  
Ecology  
Department of Entomology,  
Kansas State University –  
Manhattan, KS, United  
States

- Knowledge of the literature and public policy implications of issues directly relevant to AWIS goals.
- Diversity with respect to discipline, work sector, and geography.
- Ability to travel and actively participate in AWIS board meetings and other AWIS sponsored activities without expense reimbursement.
- Willingness to contribute financially to AWIS fundraising initiatives in addition to membership at the Sustaining membership level or above.

Your vote is important to the success of AWIS. As we continue to advocate for positive system transformation, support and develop leaders in STEM, and build our organizational capacity, it is ever more important to have diverse voices at the table contributing to the organization's growing impact.

[Click Here to Vote](#)

All ballots must be received by 11:59 EDT June 9, 2018.

Sincerely,  
The AWIS Governance Committee  
Chair, Ann Lee-Karlon, PhD  
Immediate Past President

## AWIS STEM to Market

### Bay Area Cohort

The [application](#) for the Bay Area cohort of [STEM to Market: The AWIS Accelerator](#) is now open! STEM to Market: The AWIS Accelerator is a unique program designed to help STEM-trained women transform their research into market-ready products that make customers' lives better. If you:

- Are in or near the Bay Area,
- Identify as a woman,
- Have training or experience in one or more STEM field(s),
- Have STEM research you want to commercialize,
- Have already made some investment in your idea, and
- Can commit to the [course requirements](#).

The program is **free** to accepted participants, thanks to funding from the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation. The

### Lecturer of Mechanical Engineering Technology

University of New Hampshire at Manchester – Manchester, NH, United States

### Research Scientist (Environmental Genomics and Systems Biology)

Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory – Berkeley, CA, United States

## AWIS Member Spotlight



### Dr. Karen C. Seto

Associate Dean of Research; Director of Doctoral Studies; Professor of Geography and Urbanization Science  
Sustaining member since 2016

Professor Seto's research is on the human transformation of land and the links between urbanization, global change, and sustainability. She is an expert in satellite remote sensing analysis and has pioneered methods to reconstruct historical land-use and to develop empirical models to explain and forecast the expansion of urban areas. She is a specialist in contemporary urbanization in China and India, where she has conducted research for over

application deadline is **June 30, 2017**.

Building on 46 years of AWIS experience, STEM to Market: The AWIS Accelerator is the first accelerator program tailored to the needs of women in STEM. STEM to Market combines your scientific expertise with the specialized knowledge, mentorship, and community you need to build a solid foundation and navigate the challenging technology transfer and start-up worlds. Through the ten-month program, you will:

- Receive customized commercialization training and support;
- Become part of a network and community of STEM entrepreneurs, experts, and investors;
- Access mentoring and advising from successful entrepreneurs, investors, funders, and market experts to help you build your product and/or company;
- Develop strong connections to the investment community.

We are excited to travel with you on your commercialization journey!

Not near the Bay Area? [Sign up](#) for the waitlist for our program coming soon to Chicago and we'll notify you when the applications are open.

Please forward to those in your networks who may be a good fit.

Thank you,  
The STEM to Market team  
[support@stemtomarket.org](mailto:support@stemtomarket.org)

## Careers

Contributed by Sophia Jeon

### Female Astronomers Get Cited Less Frequently

Findings from the latest study in citation trends for astronomy suggest that publications with female first authors get 10% fewer citations than those with male first authors. Considering that a number of metrics of productivity in academia are based on how frequently one is cited, this could mean negative consequences for female astronomers' career trajectories.

[Gender-biased citations](#)

### Jobs that Will Never Disappear in the Future?

twenty and ten years, respectively.

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



## AWIS @ Work



### Tapping Professional Associations in STEM

AWIS Executive Director and CEO, Janet Bandows Koster, was featured as a keynote speaker at the 6th annual U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership Conference in California.

[Read more about how AWIS is strengthening STEM education and workforce development](#)



### 3 Lessons: Diversity Diligence by Drake Sorey, Associations Now Staff

For Cynthia L. Simpson, CAE, the chief business development officer for the Association For Women In Science, D+I isn't just "one and done."

Automation may mean more efficiency, but it could also mean robots may replace you in a couple of decades. However, some occupations likely will never be obsolete, especially if they require creativity or a human touch. An analysis of data from the job site Indeed.com suggests these 9 jobs (including data scientist) are “future-proof.” [Robots can't do this](#)

### **Grant Writing Tips (and Encouragement) for Early Career Scientists**

Writing the first big grant application can be a daunting task for many young investigators, but it doesn't necessarily mean the chances of receiving an award are lower than those of more senior investigators. A recent *Nature* article discusses the secrets to successful grant writing in biomedical research such as embracing inexperience, talking to program officers beforehand, and not giving up. If you need to take a break from working on that grant and would like a little pep talk, this is it. [Grant guidance](#)

## **Education**

Contributed by Lauren M. Dembeck

### **What is College Advising Corps?**

With less than 40% of U.S. adults holding a bachelor's degree, many high school students lack parental guidance on how to apply for college and federal aid or scholarships. This is particularly true in rural areas where there are few full-time guidance counselors in schools. The non-profit organization College Advising Corps is sending recent college graduates to work at rural high schools to educate students on what it takes to earn a degree.

[A handle on higher ed](#)

### **Academic Freedom Bills May Alter Science Education**

In early May, Florida's legislature approved a bill that would allow state residents to file complaints about school curriculums. Such academic freedom bills provide a means by which educators can then teach topics including evolution and climate change as scientifically contentious. Three states have adopted these bills into law.

[Concerning curriculums](#)

### **Advice from Professionals on How to Talk to Children about Terrorist Attacks**

When a terrorist attack happens, it may be difficult to decide if you should discuss it with your children. In this article, clinical psychologist Emma Citron suggests that

[Read more about AWIS Leadership in D&I](#)



### **Science Must Clean Up Its Act**

AWIS Director of Research and Analysis, Dr. Heather Metcalf, calls for science to clean up its act in her article published today in *Scientific American*.

[Read the op-ed online](#)



talking about the event is better than avoiding the topic. She guides parents to give the basic facts but to “avoid nasty details” and not show images. Read further for helpful and reassuring phrases and a list of signs of trauma to watch for in your child.

[Talking about terrorism](#)

## Science & Technology

Contributed by Michelle Gomes

### **Innovative Technology Aims to Reduce Breast Cancer Surgeries**

The goal of breast conserving surgeries is to remove an entire tumor while retaining undamaged breast tissue. However, current methods to analyze the extracted tissue take a week or two and often require follow-up surgery. Researchers at the Optical Imaging Laboratory at Caltech have developed a photoacoustic microscopy (PAM) imaging technique that potentially could be used in an operating room to confirm if an entire tumor has been removed, reducing the need for additional surgeries.

[PAM spots cancer](#)

### **Safety of Stem Cells for Premature Ovarian Failure**

Premature ovarian failure (POF) is the loss of ovarian function before the age of 40. Although rare, it causes infertility, and the only currently available treatment is hormone replacement therapy. The therapy reduces symptoms, but does not restore fertility. Egg-making stem cells from adults, when transplanted into mice with POF, can generate offspring. Are these offspring biologically normal and healthy? A new study explores this question.

[Stem-cell safety](#)

### **The Beauty of Color-Vision in Bacteria**

A group at MIT has modified genes in bacteria to respond to distinct colors of light. When activated by a particular color, the bacteria activate finely-tuned genetic switches that feed sensory data to pigment-producing genes creating colorful photographic images from groups of colored bacteria. Can these color-sensitive bugs provide practical applications?

[Living photocopies](#)

### **Air Purifier as an Energy Source**

Researchers in Belgium have engineered a device to purify polluted air and to produce a clean source of energy. The device uses activated nanoparticles and ultra violet light from the sun to purify air polluted with volatile organic compounds. At the same time, it produces

hydrogen gas, which can be used to generate energy.  
[Energy in clean air](#)

## Work-Life Integration

Contributed by Mrinalini Muralidharan

### **Take Breaks, Make Breakthroughs**

Often, graduate students and researchers equate working longer with working better. Rather than contributing to productivity, the long hours frequently lead to burnouts. This article lists 10 signs of burnout. It emphasizes the mental and physical need to unwind and also provides suggestions on how to incorporate breaks into your routine.

[Break or burnout](#)

### **Are Americans Finally Taking More Time Off?**

The average American worker with paid time off took 16.8 days of vacation in 2016 – a nearly 0.5 day increase from 2015. Millennials though, wanting to be viewed as hard workers, take less time off than GenXers and Baby Boomers. Millennial women cite guilt, perceived lack of job security, and the accumulation of work as reasons for taking fewer vacations days than men.

[No vacation nation](#)

### **Escape from the Lab Rat Race**

For researchers, the constant pressure to get grants and publish often puts all other aspects of life on the back burner. Yet, we all have relationship responsibilities as a friend, partner, parent, child, etc. that require nurturing. This article looks into the strategies some early career researchers use to balance career demands with personal life.

[Life outside lab](#)

## Opportunities

### **The Women In Technology International (WITI) Summit, June 11-13 in San Jose**

AWIS has partnered with [The Women In Technology International \(WITI\)](#) and invites you to their [WITI Summit](#), June 11-13 in San Jose. This is the annual gathering of tech-savvy women, held in the heart of Silicon Valley.

Executive women, entrepreneurs, and technology thought leaders from around the world converge to collaborate on innovative solutions to common business challenges;

explore new business opportunities that underscore how technology is powering change; and build and expand strong connections in a welcoming networking environment of women committed to helping each other succeed.

Use code [WOMEN](#) for \$200 discount off the prevailing cost of a 3-day pass.

## **Championing women in the life sciences: A public engagement project**

We at [WhatIsBiotechnology.org](#) would like to hear from AWIS members who would be willing to be give very short interviews on the phone about their experiences of working in the life sciences and healthcare sector.

These interviews are sought for a public engagement project 'Exploring the World of Women in the Life Sciences and Healthcare: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow'. This is being launched in November 2017 in time to commemorate the 150th birthday of Marie Curie.

From the start of the biotechnology revolution women have been at the cutting edge of many of its ground-breaking medical discoveries. Yet, despite their importance, their story remains largely untold. To address this problem we at [WhatIsbiotechnology](#) are planning a ground-breaking project to foster greater public appreciation of the multiple contributions women have made and continue to make to the life sciences and their applications in healthcare.

Aimed at inspiring the next generation of female scientists, this project comprises a number of different activities. A core component will be a multimedia digital exhibition that will be hosted free online. This will have an integrated engagement platform for promoting discussions between female scientists, bio-entrepreneurs, young women and other key stakeholders.

[WhatIsBiotechnology.org](#) is a non-profit website. It is developing a large collection of trusted and reliable digital educational resources about biotechnology and medicine. These are designed for the benefit of the general public, patients, scientific and medical professionals, vocational learners and students of varying ages. Launched in 2013, the website gets just over a million page views every year and attracts visitors from around the world. The website is supported by the American Friends of Biotechnology and Medicine Education Trust which has 501(c)(3) status.

To take part in this exciting venture please contact Dr  
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408 7170.

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University Press, 2015)

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