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# AWIS NEWSLETTER

**Mission Statement:** The Association for Women in Science, Inc. (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the achievement of equity and full participation of women in all areas of science and technology

**Volume 7, Issue 4**

**July/August 1999**

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## Women in Bioscience Conference

Melissa Cunningham

The 1999 Women in Bioscience conference was held at The Salk Institute on Saturday May 8. Forty-five local and national sponsors helped make this year's conference a huge success. Over 375 people attended the all-day conference that began with an impressive line-up of plenary speakers. We were honored to again have Catherine Didion, executive director of National AWIS, help us open our plenary session with an inspiring speech. Following Catherine Didion were Marlene Haffner, Director of the Office of Orphan Products Development at the FDA; Wendy Johnson, VP of Business Development at Women First Healthcare; and Kim Barrett, Professor at the UCSD School of Medicine.

### Conference Overview

After the motivational plenary session, attendees were able to put their energy to use at interactive workshops. There were a total of 16 workshop sessions. Topics included career development issues, such as "Transitioning from Academia to Industry," "Negotiation Strategies," and "Career Management," as well as information about specific careers in areas ranging from intellectual property law to scientific writing to business development. In addition to these great opportunities, this year's conference included a mini-bookstore and author signing, hosted by Barnes and Noble. Barnes and Noble donated almost \$500 from its sales to AWIS-San Diego.

### Biannual Networking Event

The Women in Bioscience conference is a biannual event hosted by AWIS-San Diego and designed to showcase the achievements and positive role models of local women in bioscience. The conference also provides an excellent networking atmosphere and numerous opportunities for career enrichment. This year the plenary session showcased the potential of the AWIS-San Diego scholarship winners with a certificate presentation.

### Conference Organizers Welcome Comments

Several participants have already mailed in their conference evaluation forms. We value your feedback. If you haven't mailed your comments on the conference yet, please mail them to San

Diego AWIS, PO Box 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096.



Conference attracted 375 participants



Catherine Didion, center, executive director of National AWIS, pictured here with Lynne Friedmann, right, and Susan Forsburg.



Plenary speakers Kim Barrett, Wendy Johnson, and Marlene Haffner are pictured here with conference organizers Sharon Wampler, Elaine Weidenhammer, Shila Jalali, and Marcelle Vogel.

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## AWIS – San Diego Sponsors its First Mentoring Event

Cathy Manner

On Saturday, June 5, the AWIS-San Diego Outreach Committee held its first mentoring event at Torrey Pines State Reserve. Six junior and senior high school girls from all over San Diego County joined nine Outreach Committee members for a fun-filled afternoon, which included a nature hike, a potluck lunch, and sand-castle making on the beach.

**Mentoring in a "High-tech" Age**

This event was the inaugural activity of AWIS-San Diego's new mentoring program, which will pair girls interested in science with an individual mentor who will provide friendship, support, and information about careers in science. The twosomes will have weekly e-mail or phone contact, as well as monthly face-to-face meetings. In addition, quarterly group activities will provide an opportunity for the mentor-mentee pairs to come together and socialize.

**AWIS Mentoring Organizers**

Kudos to Lee Fortunato, Anita McElroy, and Barbara Armstrong for planning this initial mentoring event, and to all the Outreach Committee members who participated in making it a success. A similar event will take place in September to match another group of girls with mentors. If you are interested in becoming involved in this program, or if you know of a junior or senior high school girl who would like a science mentor, contact Lee Fortunato at [leef@biomail.ucsd.edu](mailto:leef@biomail.ucsd.edu).



**AWIS Hosts Career Development Workshop**

Do you have a dream list of the ideal business or career you would like to be in? Do you wonder what career would best be suited to your skills? Would you like to learn more about techniques to get what you want in your career?

Join us for the July AWIS event to learn more about how to position yourself to get the best possible career for YOU.

Our speaker is Gaylene Pringle of The Leadership Edge, Inc. The Leadership Edge provides executive and management training, one-on-one coaching, and customized development programs to the Biotech Industry.

**Event Information**

**When: Thursday, July 22**

**Where: Dura Pharmaceuticals**

Directions to Dura Pharmaceuticals:

Interstate 805 to Vista Sorrento Parkway/Mira Mesa Exit. At the stop sign for Mira Mesa Blvd, go straight ahead up the hill (Vista Sorrento Parkway). Turn right onto Lusk Blvd. First left on Lusk into Dura Pharmaceuticals (across from Wateridge & Stellcom). Follow AWIS event signs to the west-facing doors of the middle building.

For other directions, call Dura Pharmaceuticals at: (619) 457-2553.

**Program**

5:30 - 6:15p.m. Refreshments (Drinks & appetizers)  
6:15 - 7:30 "Creating the Career You Want" Gaylene Pringle (The Leadership Edge)

Please plan to join us!

RSVP by July 15 to:  
Marilyn Ferrari, Ph.D.  
Vical, Inc.  
e-mail: [mferrari1@san.rr.com](mailto:mferrari1@san.rr.com)  
phone: 619-646-1221

**Future AWIS Events**

**August**  
Wine Tasting

**September**  
Overcoming Roadblocks in your Career

**October**  
Guided Tour of the Mount Laguna Observatory (Jointly with Sigma Xi)

**November**  
Joint Career-Building Seminar with American Chemical Society

**Events Planning Committee Welcomes Participation of AWIS Members in Planning Future Programs**

The AWIS-SD Events planning committee is planning its "Year 2000" program. Events include:  
Symphony or opera event  
Financial planning seminar  
Understanding the different functions in a biotech company  
Tour of the Olympic Center  
Grantwriting seminar  
Negotiation skills seminar  
If you have any ideas for future events or would be



interested in helping to plan a particular event, please contact Silke Thode at [sthode@adnc.com](mailto:sthode@adnc.com).

**AWIS-SD Speakers Bureau Looking for Scientists to Inspire Students**  
**Diana Hussey, Director, Speakers Bureau**

With the close of the 1998-99 traditional school year, the members of the AWIS Speakers Bureau can look back to many special experiences shared with the youth of San

Diego's schools. This year, several of our members had the opportunity to speak in elementary and secondary classrooms on topics varying from careers to DNA to Physics. Sandra Sankar, a graduate student in Physics at UCSD, has a simple motivation for donating her time; "seeing these kids get excited about science makes it worth it."

The Speakers Bureau is anticipating an even more successful year in 1999-2000, with a reorganized teacher/speaker matching and feedback system, and more publicity in the schools. We would like to thank Sandra Sankar, Denise Hickey, Lori Weston and Sheila Alojipan for volunteering their time to give presentations in the local schools. We are in need of dedicated speakers from all fields of science. If you are interested, please call Diana Hussey at (619) 294-2618 before August 1 to become part of our speaker database.

### San Diego Chapter Welcomes new Members

AWIS San Diego is happy to welcome the following new members:

Rhonda Dunten	
Kim Hanson	The Salk Institute
Christine Haws	
Debra Hope	San Diego Supercomputer
Diana Hussey	San Diego City Schools
Michelle Krakowski	Scripps Research Institute
Wanda Krall	California Clinical Trials
Mousumi Majumdar	UCSD
Jutta Marzillier	Desmos
Shiva Merat	UCSD
Christina Niemeyer	Structural Bioinformatics, Inc.
Dawne Page	UCSD
M. Laurie Phillips	Cytel Corporation
Leigh Pierce	Immusol
Margaret Smith Riggs	UCSD
Sonja Strah	
A. Tsahai Tafari	UCSD
Helen Tighe	UCSD
Laura Waggoner	UCSD
Elisabeth C. Walcott	The Neurosciences Institute
Justine Whaley	
Martha Wild	
Joan Zeltinger	Advanced Tissue Sciences

### Industry Instructors Needed for Biotechnology Instrumentation Course

*"Teaching Opportunities in the San Diego Community  
Colleges' Biotechnology Programs"*

**David Singer**

Recognizing the need for skilled technicians in the bioscience industry, the Center for Applied Competitive Technologies-San Diego (CACT-SD) and San Diego City

College have created a program consisting of chemistry and biology prerequisites culminating in one of two industry-taught courses. These courses provide a real-life perspective and hands-on training for a prospective technician in the Biotech industry.

### Description of Lab Courses

Biotechnology Instrumentation (BIO 206) is offered in the fall and emphasizes training for entry-level positions in research and development. BioProduction Technology (BIO 265) is offered in the spring and emphasizes training for entry-level positions in production and manufacturing. Both are coordinated by Dr. David Singer and use industry instructors.

### Instructors Come from Area Biotech Firms

From 1994 to the present, there have been 56 industry instructors affiliated with BIO 206/265, representing 21 companies. Of these, 28 have been women representing 16 organizations (Advanced Tissue Sciences, Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Arena Pharmaceuticals, Chiron Technologies Center for Gene Therapy, Digital Gene Technologies, Dura Pharmaceuticals, General Atomics, IDEC Pharmaceuticals, Immusol, Molecular Medicine, Mycogen, PharMingen, Signal Pharmaceuticals, Stratagene, Vical Inc., and UCSD).

### Teaching Opportunities for Area Scientists

Each year new instructors from the local bioscience sector have joined the "teacher corps" of BIO 206 and 265. The potential to involve additional personnel has been further increased by staffing of BIO 133 (Applied Biotechnology II), the industry-taught fall course at Miramar College. Sharon Wampler, an AWIS-SD Board member, taught the B206 course last year and noted that this is an opportunity for scientists who have left academia to participate in teaching.

Industry professionals who are interested in participating should have a first-hand perspective of a technician's work and enjoy the prospect of teaching a diverse group. They should also be able to design and teach a protocol that will encompass two to four, four-hour sessions. During these sessions data is collected and analyzed, and time is allotted for a debriefing or summary. Industry instructors also serve as important mentors and role models for biotechnician trainees. For additional instructor requirements and salary information, contact Dr. Singer at 619-450-4631.

### Sharing Science

#### Lee Fortunato

Here is an opportunity to share your science with the students of Girl Power. Nancy Stubbs, a former teacher at Chula Vista Junior High, is the director of the girlpower project...they work with young teenaged girls during the summer and help foster an awareness and interest in science and engineering in these "less privileged" kids. She is looking for a "few good women" to come down to Chula Vista the week of July 26-August 1st (or around then) to do some hands on demos for the kids ....time committment is probably total about 4 hours (2 times, 2 hour slots)....she's

ideally looking for some biotech people, but I'm sure she'd be delighted with what we bench scientists could come up with too!!!

Thanks for your time and interest in these kids!!! Contact Lee Fortuanto for more information or to schedule speaking date and time.

San Diego Chapter

**Important AWIS Information**

Call:

**AWIS Voice Mail** (619) 687-5580

Visit:

**AWIS National Web Site:** <http://www.awis.org>

**AWIS-San Diego:** <http://awis.npaci.edu>

Write:

**AWIS National**

1522 K St., NW, Suite 820  
Washington, DC 20005

**AWIS, San Diego Chapter**

P.O. Box 178096  
San Diego CA 92177-8096

worldwide and improve the quality of life. In doing so, we seek a dynamic, high energy Biochemist for our Research Department.

This team player will be responsible for creating and testing preclinical samples with prototype immunoassays for novel tumor markers. Requirements include a BS/MS in the life sciences plus 1-4 years experience in biochemistry/assay development, specifically dual monoclonal immunoassays, antibody conjugation/modification, and research ELISAs. Willingness to work with human serum samples and the ability to work independently in a research environment are also essential.

Hybritech provides an innovative, empowering team environment where continuous process improvement is recognized and rewarded. We offer a competitive compensation program, benefits and employee development. Please send your resume noting the job code to:

**HYBRITECH INCORPORATED**  
**Human Resources Department**  
**Job Code: S/AWIS/6.99**  
**PO Box 269006**  
**San Diego, CA 92196-9006**  
**FAX 619-621-4415**  
**e-mail: [hybritechr@beckman.com](mailto:hybritechr@beckman.com)**

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**About the AWIS Newsletter**

The AWIS Newsletter is published bimonthly and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on chapter activities, career development, and issues related to women in science. The newsletter is free to AWIS members. Subscription rate for non-members is \$20 a year.

Newsletter committee

Barbara Armstrong                      Cathy Manner

Elaine Weidenhammer                  Janice Payne

Angelika Kehlenbach

*Send news items and suggestions to Barbara Armstrong via e-mail: [baawis@access1.net](mailto:baawis@access1.net) OR AWIS, PO Box 178096, San Diego CA 92177-8096. If you would like your article to be included in the next issue, please send your items in by August 10.*

**Biotechnology**

**Job Posting**

**RESEARCH ASSOCIATE**  
**Assay Feasibility**

**Hybritech Incorporated** is a subsidiary of Fortune 500 Beckman Coulter and a recognized leader in the development of medical diagnostic products utilizing monoclonal antibody technology. Our vision is to help science create a significant difference in human health

**AWIS Committees:**

AWIS-SD Database  
Outreach  
Scholarship  
Newsletter  
Publicity  
Events Planning

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**AWIS Board:****Board Members 1998-1999:**

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Marcelle Vogel  
Sharon Wampler

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Bylaws  
Membership  
Treasurer  
Website

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Sharon Cherf, [scherf@qualcomm.com](mailto:scherf@qualcomm.com)

**Moving? Address change?**

Please give us your new address so you won't miss our mailings! You may email Susan Jennings at: [sdawis@san.rr.com](mailto:sdawis@san.rr.com), phone AWIS voicemail: (619) 687-5580 or mail changes to AWIS – San Diego, PO Box 178096, San Diego CA 92177-8096.