



# 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.

## NEWS

### Letter from the AWIS-SD President Janet White

As we move into those hazy, lazy days of summer it feels like the pace of life is slowing, if only temporarily, and there is more time to pause and reflect. The AWIS-SD Board has been looking back over the last six months and also looking forward as we plan and budget for the coming year. I've been reflecting on some of the innovations we've seen within AWIS this spring.

Looking back, we've recently tried a number of new things. The Black and White Ball was a new approach to our biennial Scholarship Gala and was a truly spectacular evening. Over 100 guests enjoyed learning Swing and Salsa dance steps with their feet and learning about scientific phenomena with their hands through interactive exhibits in a setting of ultimate elegance. All those attending will agree that the Gala demonstrated what a very long way our chapter has come and the new level of professionalism we have attained. What could be better publicity for AWIS-SD?

Our May 11<sup>th</sup> event in North County was another innovation coming from our new strategy to establish satellite activities in locations away from Torrey Pines Mesa. This event was very successful and was attended by over 25 members. We really appreciate the efforts of those of you who valiantly struggled north on I-5 through rush-hour traffic to attend this event.

We have also introduced the AWIS-SD Salary survey, by popular request. In order to receive a copy of the survey, you must first input your own data at <http://freeonlinesurveys.com/rendersurvey.asp?id=57654> and then e-mail me the password that is given at the end to receive the results.

Innovation is not without risk, as anyone working in R&D will know, and AWIS is not immune to this. We are very keen to keep innovating, trying new things, improving what we do and learning as we go. However, all this often comes at a cost. As we plan and budget for next year's activities, we find that there is much more that we would like to do than we will likely be able to afford.

Our Corporate Sponsorship Committee is gearing up fundraising efforts, and we are seeking volunteers to help us raise funds to support activities in the next 12 months – particularly our Women in Bioscience Conference on May 21, 2005. Do you have contacts in local companies or with local foundations or grant-giving bodies? Are you willing to join our team to approach these contacts to raise funds for the many valuable activities of AWIS? Please contact me at [janet.white@pfizer.com](mailto:janet.white@pfizer.com) if you can help.

Warm regards - Janet

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## Upcoming Events

**July:** Hike in Torrey Pines State Park (joint event with the Outdoor Club)

**August 2:** Strategy Session: Creating a More Productive Work Environment

**August 12:** AWIS Committee Mixer

**September:** Gender Equity

**October 4:** Strategy Session: Gender Gaps in the Workplace

**October:** AWIS Open House

**November:** Nanotechnology

**December 6:** Strategy Session: Strategies on Building Self Confidence

**December:** Social

## Black and White Ball Recognition of 2004 AWIS Scholarship Winners and A Celebration of Women in Science By Helen Chen

The sixth AWIS – San Diego Scholarship Gala, "The Black and White Ball," took place on May 22 at the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center in Balboa Park. The elegant, entertaining event drew more than a hundred guests to honor the AWIS scholarship winners, as well as to celebrate women in science. This year's AWIS scholarships honored eight outstanding women who are studying science at four local institutions. The recipients are not only successful in academics; they are actively involved in scientific research and community outreach.

In addition to honoring these outstanding women, The Black and White Ball was an opportunity for some of San Diego's leading science academicians and business people to socialize and have fun. The Fleet's décor for the evening was black and white in keeping with the theme of the Ball. Many guests wore traditional black and white evening attire, while others found more creative ways to interpret the theme. Guests mingled over cocktails and scrumptious appetizers while enjoying the interactive exhibits throughout the Fleet. Award-winning UCSD ballroom dance coach Peter Edwards taught swing and salsa dancing. In another highlight of the evening, participants won over 40 prizes in a raffle, including a free UCSD Extension Bioscience course.

The AWIS Gala Committee and many non-AWIS volunteers contributed valuable time and effort to make this event possible. AWIS also thanks all the vendors who generously donated raffle prizes.

### May Event: "Getting to the Next Level in Your Career!"

By Barbara Armstrong

Marla Goonan, a professional coach, speaker, and instructor gave a lively and interactive talk about strategies for career advancement on May 11 at Quorex Pharmaceuticals, Inc. in Carlsbad. It was the first event to spearhead AWIS-San Diego's interest in reaching out to our North County members and in bringing together interesting and informative speakers and scientists who work outside of the North Torrey Pines area.

#### Know where you want to go

In order to "get to the next level in your career" you need to actively direct your career rather than allow your career to lead you. To do this, you need to know what you want to do, where you want to work, and with whom you wish to work. Next, you need to do some research, develop a plan and prepare a seven-second "elevator speech" that communicates who you are in a way that makes the listener want to know more about you.

#### Networking and career advancement

Networking is an important strategy for advancing your career. Networking is the act of making and establishing relationships. To be successful at networking, you should join organizations or associations within your field as well as outside of your field who are likely to want your work skills. Through networking, you will learn which events and functions are important to attend. In addition to establishing relationships with your peers, you should also connect members of your network to one another. (If you know someone who is looking for a person with a particular set of skills, and you know someone with those skills, you should connect those two contacts.) Goonan calls this "power networking."

#### Growing personally and professionally

Many of us fail to grow personally and professionally because we become comfortable where we are or we fear the unknown. The fear that we would not be successful leading a project, supervising others, or running our own business keeps us from growing. Goonan says that getting out of your comfort zone is key to growing personally and professionally.

#### Getting help in advancing your career

Goonan recommends finding at least one mentor who can give you ideas and feedback. The mentor could be your current boss.

Developing a positive relationship with your boss starts from day one. Goonan advises a proactive approach; you should take the first step by scheduling meeting(s) with your boss. Don't wait for your boss to make appointment(s) with you. Don't allow negative assumptions about office hierarchy to inhibit you from inviting your boss to lunch or asking for input.

#### Office politics

Goonan advises avoiding the office politics. The people who are involved in office politics seem to have a need for drama in their lives. Resist the temptation to get involved out of the desire of wanting to please or to be liked. If pressed, Goonan's advice is to be neutral.

For more information about classes or coaching offered by Goonan, you can contact her at [mgoonan@san.rr.com](mailto:mgoonan@san.rr.com) or (858) 487-2886.

## Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) Workshop Held at Gompers Secondary School

By Celeste L. Bobryk-Ozaki

The San Diego section of the National Council of Negro Women (NCNW) held their third STEM Workshop at Gompers Secondary School on May 1, 2004. The STEM workshop is a project started by former President Dessie Russell and member Tanja McCoy in 2001. The goal of the workshop is to inspire young women in grades seven through ten to pursue careers in technical industries. The STEM workshop is comprised of various presentations covering topics such as career planning, career opportunities, and hands-on experience with science and technology.

Dr. Tracie Gibbons and Ms. Celeste L. Bobryk-Ozaki from the AWIS-SD Chapter presented a workshop titled "Scientific Sleuths." Each presenter talked about her educational background and career path to demonstrate how she got to her current position. Participants of this workshop were given an opportunity to help solve a kidnapping mystery. Poor Mrs. Peach, a successful baker on the verge of a major business deal, was kidnapped. There were several pieces of evidence present at the crime scene. However, before the attendees could solve the mystery, they had to first understand some of the common techniques used by forensic scientists to help solve a crime.

The presenters provided a fairly condensed background on forensic science and included details about techniques that were actually used in the workshop. The participants had the opportunity to test unknown compounds using simple chemistry. They checked for chemical reactions, color changes, consistency changes, and pH changes. They also used chromatography to differentiate between similar looking ink samples. They performed a fingerprint analysis and handwriting analysis. The most important aspect of this workshop was to show the power of the human mind in solving a crime. As it turned out, Mrs. Peach's next-door neighbor, Captain Steel, kidnapped her because he was jealous of her success.

The presenters had a wonderful time conducting the workshop. Much credit must be given to Dr. Gibbons for putting together a very creative and hands-on presentation. Special thanks to Carlean Arnold for contributing information about the history of the STEM workshop. If any AWIS member would like to contribute to NCNW efforts through ideas, sponsorships, or monetary support, please contact: Carlean Arnold, PO Box 740332-0332, San Diego, CA 92174-0332 (619) 479-7375.

## April Event: Balancing Careers and Family

By Hima Joshi

I'll be honest. I went to this event thinking that I would politely listen to the information about career and family and push it to the back of my mind for when and if I have kids. I also went in feeling a bit dejected that women may still worry more than men about balancing careers and families.

However, when Nahla Aboushadi of Diversa told us that over one-third of the U.S. workforce provides care for elderly family members, I realized that I had been naïve in assuming that our discussion of family would include just children. Many of us are what Suzan Tusson-McNeil of WisdomQuest calls the "sandwich generation," people who care for their children and parents at the same time. Surprisingly, only 47 percent of employers have elder care programs, and approximately 12 percent of workers quit their jobs to provide elder care full-time. Those of us who don't live near our parents will find elder care particularly challenging. By the year 2017, long-distance elder care is expected to replace childcare as the most important family issue. "We haven't learned yet how to use our elder care programs," said Angela Sifakis of Pfizer and the La Jolla Women's Network. She encouraged us to find out about elder care assistance programs at our workplaces.

The good news about kids is that "we are thankfully growing past the stage where if you have children, your company will look for a way to get rid of you," Sifakis said. In 59 percent of the families with infants under the age of one, both parents work. Most employers realize that it is in their best interests to help their employees with their childcare needs. In fact, 90 percent of employers provide childcare assistance.

Tusson-McNeil reminded us that while we are juggling jobs and familial responsibilities, we should pay attention to our personal needs. Many of us were amazed to learn that Tusson-McNeil sets aside an hour a day for reading, prayer and meditation. Although we will rarely achieve perfect balance in our lives, each of us should be aware of where we are in relation to our personal definition of balance. "Am I moving toward it or am I moving away from it?" Tusson-McNeil often asks herself. Linda Zangwill from UCSD encouraged us to be patient in our search for balance. "It doesn't all have to be right now," she said. "Wait a year or two."

The panelists agreed that although more women than men seem to worry about childcare issues, an increasing number of men are becoming involved. I was happy to hear this, and I was pleased to see all of the men in the audience at this event. Although fathers are becoming more involved in childcare, there are still double standards at many workplaces. Someone in the audience pointed out that at her office, a woman who leaves early to take care of her kids is looked down upon, but a man who leaves early to be with his kids is seen as a hero.

Juggling several responsibilities can be difficult, but all of the panelists were happy to rise to the challenge. "I think I'm a better mother as a working mom for my kids," said Aboushadi. Linda Zangwill said, "I have no regrets."

Thank you, Tracy Spalding of Acadia Pharmaceuticals, for moderating this discussion. Thanks to the Events Committee for organizing this event!

## April 2004 Strategy Session Communicate with Confidence: Stand Up, Speak Out and Get Visible for Career Success

By Alice Budai

On April 5, AWIS members assembled to learn and refine their public speaking skills. We met in the Trustees room at the Salk Institute. Women eager to participate in the lecture and group activities sat around large circular tables. The speaker, Dana Bristol-Smith from Speak for Success, emphasized overcoming fear of public speaking by focusing on three initial points: feel your feet on the ground, breathe, and speak every word to the heart of another being. The last point especially stresses the importance of creating a connection with the audience for an effective delivery.

Once Bristol-Smith had identified and listed important aspects of looking and sounding confident, we re-organized at the tables according to the skills we were most interested in developing (body language, having a confident voice, or eye contact.)

As I approached a table that had the sign "developing a confident voice" placed on it, my initial nervousness and anticipation of being put on the spot emerged. The other women at the table offered comforting smiles and introductions until we focused on our upcoming presentations by filling out questionnaires. Each person could choose from two topics that would serve as a focus for a speech. The speaker urged us to focus on the topic that seemed more challenging, so I first expressed a timid difficulty with getting started and then filled my paper with descriptions of an accomplishment at my new job.

I was the first person to speak, so I stood up and began by introducing myself. Strategy Sessions focus on becoming familiar with useful skills, but they provide an atmosphere that is perfect for getting to know other women. The personal goal I decided on for my presentation was to remain calm and speak slowly. As I did this, I made eye contact with my listeners. For a moment I was surprised that four people were paying close attention to me, and it was easy to practice attentive eye contact. I remember what that was like and plan to remember it the next time I present to an audience. Even though I still felt shy and somewhat nervous after the difficult task of speaking about myself, I was happy with my presentation.

As the other women stood up and spoke, their individual strengths and weaknesses became apparent. I tried to be as encouraging and attentive as they had been. Some struggled as much as I had, while the strengths of others offered an immense amount of courage to the beginners. Speaking with confidence takes time and practice, and we were urged to put our fears aside when we find opportunities to practice.

Strategy Sessions provide opportunities for professional development in a supportive workshop setting. They are open only to members of AWIS-San Diego. Upcoming meetings are posted at [http://awis.npaci.edu/shtml/member\\_lounge\\_info.shtml](http://awis.npaci.edu/shtml/member_lounge_info.shtml).

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**FEATURES**


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## AWIS San Diego Scholarship Committee Presents 2004 Scholarship Recipients

By Fran Putkey

As part of AWIS-San Diego's mission to support female students and professionals in all fields of science, each year we award scholarships to female community college, undergraduate and graduate science students attending San Diego colleges and universities. The Scholarship Committee selected eight students from a total of 100 applicants. The scholarship recipients were chosen based upon their academic records, letters of reference and, most importantly, personal essays describing their scientific interests, extracurricular activities and career aspirations. First place awards were \$2000, and second place awards were \$1000. We are able to award these scholarships due to the generous donations we received from local biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies. The scholarship recipients were proudly presented at the Black and White Ball on May 22, 2004.

### Community College

#### First Place: Michelle Scott, San Diego City College

Michelle is studying biology at San Diego City College and plans to transfer to UCSD to pursue a degree in evolution, animal behavior and ecology. She currently participates in the Mathematics Engineering Science Achievement (MESA) program and was named 2003 Female Student of the Year by this group. Her accomplishments are numerous and include a summer internship at the Birch Aquarium and a research presentation at a UC Irvine conference. Michelle also tutors students in mathematics, English, biology and chemistry. Michelle's activities and accomplishments demonstrate that she is determined and eager to learn. More great accomplishments are sure to follow as Michelle pursues her career in ecology.

#### Second Place: Lisa Olshansky, San Diego City College

Lisa is enrolled in the Honors General Biology program at San Diego City College and plans to transfer to UC Riverside to earn a degree in botany with a specialization in ethnobotany. She has an enthusiastic interest in the identification and development of natural medicines, and she recognizes the need to maintain sensitivity to the cultural and ethical issues surrounding drug prospects. One of her goals is to improve the educational exchanges and relationships between the scientific community and indigenous tribes. Lisa demonstrates leadership skills by interacting well with other students, contributing to classroom discussions, and assisting other students with laboratory activities. Her intellectual curiosity, initiative and social awareness will help Lisa achieve her goals with great success.

### Undergraduate

#### First Place: Christina Sing, Point Loma Nazarene University

Currently studying biology with a pre-medical emphasis, and minoring in nutrition, Christina plans to graduate in 2005 and continue her education by attending medical school. In addition to her coursework, she devotes her time to a variety of volunteer projects, including work at a children's hospital, work at a children's orphanage in Mexico and weekly volunteer efforts in the oncology ward at Sharp Memorial Hospital. Her scientific interests are broad, as indicated by her pre-medical studies, her interest in traditional Chinese health treatments and her research with the San Diego Zoological Society and Center for the Reproduction of Endangered

Species. Christina's dedication to her academic studies and to people in need make her well prepared for a career in medicine.

#### Second Place: Kelly Featherstone, UC San Diego

Kelly is an electrical engineering major whose professional aspiration is to apply her education in the areas of communication systems and wireless networks. For three summers, she has participated in an internship program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology. Inspired by her summer research projects, Kelly undertook an independent research project with a professor of electrical engineering at UCSD. She also spent a summer as an engineering intern at Qualcomm, where her performance led to an invitation to perform an additional research project this summer. Kelly's dedication, ability and motivation will prepare her to be a successful professional, as well as a role model for aspiring engineers.

#### Second Place: Jennifer Lynn Nielsen, San Diego State University

Jennifer's childhood outdoor experiences inspired her desire to learn about the natural world and prompted her to pursue a geology degree, with minors in mathematics and oceanography. In addition to her coursework, Jennifer has undertaken a senior thesis project, which is a geologic study of structures in Picacho State Recreation Park in California. Jennifer also participated in a study of deep southern ocean temperature changes. Ultimately, Jennifer desires to further her education by obtaining a master's degree and eventually a Ph.D. in the field of paleoceanography. Jennifer is an articulate, natural leader who is sure to have an outstanding career in geology.

### Graduate

#### First Place: Kathryn Nguyen, UC San Diego

Motivated by her undergraduate research on the protective effects of estrogen on the cardiovascular system, Kathryn joined the Department of Reproductive Medicine at UCSD for her graduate work. All of Kathryn's research efforts in her career thus far demonstrate a keen awareness of women's health issues. Kathryn also displays a genuine interest in outreach efforts, as evidenced by her participation in STARS, an NIH-funded outreach program for the training of underrepresented minority undergraduate students in research. As a mentor in STARS, she advised students on the graduate school application process and taught a class on scientific writing and presentation. Her initiative, dedication and accomplishments reveal an aspiring scientist with great potential and outstanding leadership skills.

#### Second Place: Paula Stigler, San Diego State University

Paula is a master's student in the Environmental Health Sciences Program at SDSU, where her thesis research focuses on environmental health and water quality monitoring workshops and training in low-income communities. Her studies in South America and Mexico inspired her decision to further her education and pursue a career in the research of environmental health issues in developing countries. Paula's dedication to water quality issues is illustrated by her initiation of drinking water quality monitoring programs in four different indigenous communities in Mexico. Paula is a bright, dedicated woman who demonstrates scientific abilities in the laboratory and in the field. Her passion for her chosen field will make her immensely successful.

#### Second Place: Sharon Cohan, UC San Diego/San Diego State University

An introductory psychology course during her undergraduate tenure sparked Sharon's interest in using scientific methods to study human behavior. After graduating with honors, she worked as a clinical interviewer at Massachusetts General Hospital where she conducted

interviews with victims of interpersonal violence. She also volunteered with a rape crisis hotline and a treatment program for abused children. All of these experiences prompted her to enter the joint doctoral program in clinical psychology at UCSD/SDSU. As a pilot project for her dissertation research, Sharon is currently designing a study of individuals with post-traumatic stress disorder. Sharon is a student with tremendous potential who has already had an extremely productive research career and takes an avid interest in research opportunities.

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### Profile: Marye Anne Fox, Incoming Chancellor of University of California, San Diego

By Susan D. Brown

In mid-August, Marye Anne Fox, Ph.D. will become the Chancellor of the University of California, San Diego. She is the first woman to be appointed permanently to the position.

Fox is a chemist who built a very successful research and teaching career at the University of Texas in Austin before making a transition to leadership positions in academic administration and national science policy.

Strong contributions to basic science formed the basis for her later success. "I developed the most active and innovative research program in the department," she said, "and I worked hard on my teaching. It is important to excel in the area you are pursuing."

In addition to a long list of awards for her research, Fox has been repeatedly recognized for her excellence in both undergraduate and graduate teaching. She was the 1996 recipient of the Monie Ferst Award, a national honor that recognizes a scientist who has inspired others to significant achievement in science.

Fox has been the beneficiary of mentoring relationships as well. Her first important move into a leadership role in creating national science policy was an appointment to the National Science Board, the governing body for the National Science Foundation, in 1991. "I was nominated by my friend and mentor, Norman Hackerman, one of the wise men of chemistry," said Fox. Hackerman and Fox were colleagues at the University of Texas. Their offices were close to each other and their friendship was cemented over coffee-break discussions.

In 1994, the new University of Texas President, Robert Berdahl, invited Fox to join his administration as Vice President for Research. Berdahl's invitation came in part because of Fox's participation in guiding national science policy. The position was newly created, allowing Fox to build her office from the ground up.

Four years later, Fox became Chancellor of North Carolina State University in Raleigh. "It was time for me to do more," said Fox, "I wanted to be in charge of an operation, and I liked the opportunity."

At the time, North Carolina State University was the nation's leader in cooperation between academia and industry. One of the most visible components of this leadership is the Centennial Campus, a new and unique real-estate development that provides space for university, corporate and government research. Under Fox's leadership, 39 new corporate and government partners moved onto the campus, and space for research and development doubled to 1.5 million square feet.

Fostering relationships between academia and industry is something Fox plans to continue when she moves to the University of California, San Diego. She will certainly bring a long history of success to the new position.

"I always did the best I could in whatever I was doing," said Fox. "The new positions required the same set of skills: the ability to work well with other people, to align people into collaborative and cooperative teams, all the things you'll read about in books about leadership. People just have to realize that they pertain to science."

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### DEPARTMENTS

#### Your Two Cents Compiled By Hima Joshi

##### Question from last time:

If you could elect anyone in the world to be our president, who would it be and why?

##### Responses:

Dianne Feinstein. She has experience, charisma, personal integrity and is dedicated to women's rights. But I will vote for ABB (Anybody But Bush)!  
- Karin Lucas

I'd elect the Dalai Lama and hope for a more peaceful world.  
- Janet White

##### Question for next time:

What is your favorite TV show and why?

We would like to publish your responses to this question in the next Newsletter! Please reply to Hima Joshi ([hjoshi@sandiego.edu](mailto:hjoshi@sandiego.edu)).

**Note:** Unless you indicate that you would like to remain anonymous, your name will be included with your response.

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### AWIS Book & Movie Review for May: Book Review: "My Voice Will Go With You: Teachings of Milton H. Erickson"

Reviewed by Alice Budai

Milton H. Erickson (1902-80) was a hypnotherapist who used a non-conventional way of treating patients. He told stories.

Erickson stressed the importance of trusting your mind to learn information and utilizing the knowledge that we have. He also identified the learning process as experiencing first, without trying to analyze a situation, and slowing down to allow time for sensory associations. For example, a trance, which is what a patient under hypnosis experiences, allows for handling information that has been acquired. Erickson's belief is that we often disregard the learnings that we have obtained, but a trance enables us to focus and deal with a problem by changing our frame of reference.

"My Voice Will Go With You" presents the stories Erickson told his patients by giving very brief descriptions of the patient, the story, and the final outcome of the therapy. The accounts demonstrate the power of suggestion, the ability of a therapist to build up a patient's confidence, and the idea that the patient ultimately cures his or her own problem.

Erickson was very perceptive of small details and how they related to people. When he was 19 years old, he became disabled from polio. During his confinement to a bed (which involved blunting of sensory perception as well), he closely observed his brother and seven sisters. He realized that his sisters displayed finely tuned signals of body language and that their communication skills differed from what he would normally have recognized. His attention to detail enabled him to develop his therapeutic techniques.

The editor, Sidney Rosen, comments on each of Erickson's stories. The specific techniques used in the stories are pointed out repeatedly, and the book is very easy to follow. The Book and Movie Club members gave the book a low rating. The majority of the members did not finish reading the book because the first few stories disappointed them. However, this light read did provide an interesting topic for discussion.

### AWIS Book & Movie Review for April: Movie Review: "The Magdalene Sisters" Reviewed by Christopher Guimond

"The Magdalene Sisters," a true story set in Ireland in the sixties, is about an institution that housed women who were deemed by society to be "outcasts" due to adverse situations in their lives such as pre-marital pregnancies. Since during this time, this was deemed as an outrage to society, these women were sent away to an institution where they could live together and potentially be forgiven of their sins and wrongful doings. As AWIS Book and Movie Club member Ann Onton put it, the institution was "to provide a shelter for women who were outcasts of society and otherwise would have virtually no means of survival in the outside world. They were not virgins, and as such had little chance of marriage. They were from small villages, where everyone knew their background, and as such they would be discriminated against in the few opportunities that existed at the time in education, employment, etc. Their families, if they did not outrightly disown them for the sake of the family reputation, would consider them a burden on the family for the rest of their lives. Thus, their families willingly sent them there. And while their treatment was harsh, they always had many things that might not have been available to them in the outside world: food, a roof over their heads, and a means of livelihood, however meager."

The film was creative and portrayed the ideas of unconscious behavior very well. In other words, these people lived their lives in such a fear-driven way, that this unconscious behavior simply manifested itself throughout these societies. As another AWIS Book and Movie Club member, put it, "I agree with Steven Greydanus' criticisms of the film. It was a film about the 'bad apples,' and it wasn't balanced. I don't think there is a rule that says a film has to be balanced. The film was about the experience of three women who were committed to the asylum by their families. It was clear in the film that the society treated women as second-class citizens with no legal rights. I thought the film did a good job of laying out the story, explaining the motivation of the asylums (through hard work and starvation these women are making their penance to God so that when they die, their souls will go to heaven) and making the audience care about the three women characters. Perhaps a good thing about the film is that it provided an opportunity to discuss its short-comings and to learn about our own prejudices."

The group gave the movie an overall rating of four out of five stars. Most people felt that they would recommend this movie to a friend

and that the film was laid out very well and tended to flow. Mostly, however, the film seemed to clearly convey how twisted and cruel it was that people could treat others in such a way and live in a society where people put so much emphasis on what others might think.

### Biotech Briefs By Jessica Yingling

A California ballot initiative proposing a bond package of up to \$3 billion to fund human stem cell research for medical uses has qualified for the November ballot. Three years ago, President Bush signed a Presidential Order barring the federal government from funding research on new lines of stem cells while allowing funds for research on approximately 60 existing stem cell lines. The initiative would protect the research by providing non-federal government funding and establish the **California Institute for Regenerative Medicine**.

**Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.**, and Eli Lilly and Company presented data from Phase 3 studies of exenatide at the American Diabetes Association's 64th Scientific Sessions in Orlando, Florida. Exenatide is the first potential therapy in a new class of drugs, known as incretin mimetics, under investigation for the treatment of Type II diabetes. The studies showed that exenatide significantly lowered average blood sugar levels in patients who were unable to control glucose levels using other oral regimens. Exenatide treatment also resulted in weight loss.

**The Immune Response Corporation (IRC)** suggests its lead product candidate, REMUNE(R) (HIV-1 immunogen), may produce an HIV-1 specific immune response in drug-naïve HIV-1 infected patients. Ability to generate HIV-1 specific immune responses is thought to be an important indicator of clinical utility. The IRC also has data that its second candidate, IR103, which combines REMUNE(R) with an immunostimulatory oligonucleotide adjuvant Amplivax(TM), generated robust HIV-1 specific immune responses in a number of assays.

**Neurocrine Biosciences, Inc.** announced results from six studies from Phase I, II and III clinical trials with both formulations of indiplon. The studies demonstrate that two formulations of indiplon, an immediate release capsule and a modified release tablet, can help patients who suffer from insomnia fall asleep faster and stay asleep longer without experiencing next-day residual effects.

**AVANIR Pharmaceuticals'** anti-anthrax monoclonal antibodies protected rats from lethal anthrax toxins, according to a study published in the peer-reviewed *Journal of Immune Based Therapies and Vaccine Antibodies*. Treatments that neutralize anthrax toxins may augment existing treatment options. Currently, a vaccine and antibiotics are available; however, both have limitations. The anthrax vaccine may take several weeks before immunity is established and requires multiple injections over 18 months, in addition to annual boosters. Antibiotics are effective in killing anthrax bacteria but have no effect on the lethal anthrax toxins.

**Vical Incorporated** announced that the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases of the U.S. National Institutes of Health has told the company that it will support a Phase 1 clinical trial of the company's investigational plasmid DNA-based anthrax vaccine.

Centocor, Inc. announced today that its parent company, Johnson & Johnson, has acquired **Egea Biosciences, Inc.** Egea's technology will

be used to create product candidates that Centocor can further develop, manufacture and market.

Information obtained from *Biospace.com*

## AWIS- San Diego Chapter Welcomes New Members By Emily Leong

Amy N. Anzelon	UCSD
Anette Asher	San Diego Supercomputer Center
Elizabeth A. Barnes	UCSD
Jessica T. Ciesla	Continental Lab Products
Katherine DeLong	UCSD
Jamie T. Feyk	Johnson & Johnson
Pamela J. Gardner	Biotech Vendor Services
Desiree Grubisha	
Buran Haidar	Southwestern College
Cheryl M. Herrera	Howard Hughes Medical Institute
Patricia A. Holladay	
Jennifer M. MacArthur	UCSD
Makhay Miriam Malath	Diversa Corporation
Jacqueline Elizabeth Testa	The Sidney Kimmel Cancer Center
Tatyana M. Timiryasova	Genelux Corporation
Amber Doran Vadnais	Transoma Medical/Data Sciences
Kirsten E. Vroom	UCSD
Amy H. Yang	The Scripps Research Institute
Samantha Gail Zeitlin	UCSD

### AWIS Member News

In this section of the Newsletter, we report on the accomplishments (new jobs, promotions, awards, publications, etc.) of AWIS-SD members. If you have any news to report, send it to Barbara Armstrong at [baawis@nethere.com](mailto:baawis@nethere.com), and write "AWIS member news" in the subject heading.

**Tobey Tam** has joined the new San Diego office of Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati, the premier legal provider to technology, life sciences, and growth business enterprises worldwide. The office, the firm's first in Southern California, will offer a full spectrum of legal services including biotechnology, intellectual property, and corporate law, as well as litigation. Companies interested in working with experts in the intellectual property field should contact Tobey Tam ([tobey\\_awis@yahoo.com](mailto:tobey_awis@yahoo.com)).

### Subscribe to the Free AWIS E-mail List

The AWIS e-mail list will keep you up-to-date (between newsletters) with news of job opportunities, AWIS news, and events. To subscribe, please send e-mail to [sdawis@san\\_rr.com](mailto:sdawis@san_rr.com). Include your full name, address, and phone number.

#### About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS Newsletter is published six times per year 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. The subscription rate for non-members is \$20 a year.

July/August Newsletter staff:

Janice Payne	Hima Joshi	Julie Kinyoun	Siobhan
Malany	Susan Brown	Sumita Anant	
Joanne Mullen	Barbara Armstrong	Alice Budai	
Celeste Ozaki	Tobey Tam		
Jessica Yingling			

Send news items and comments to Barbara Armstrong via e-mail: [baawis@nethere.com](mailto:baawis@nethere.com); or AWIS, PO Box 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096. If you would like your article to be included in the next issue, please submit it by August 6, 2004.

#### Moving? Address Change?

Please notify us of your new address so you won't miss our mailings! Please log onto our new membership update page <http://awis.npaci.edu/html/login.html> using your AWIS-San Diego username and password. If you have not yet received a username and password, or have misplaced them, please e-mail [sdawis@san\\_rr.com](mailto:sdawis@san_rr.com). If necessary, you can also mail your updated information to: AWIS - San Diego, PO Box 178096, 92177-8096.

To post jobs in the AWIS newsletter, contact Natalie Schiller at [nschill@cox.net](mailto:nschill@cox.net), or AWIS PO Box: 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096 for details. Deadline for inclusion in the next AWIS newsletter is August 6, 2004. If submitting by snail mail, include the words "ATTN: Natalie Schiller" on the bottom left corner of the envelope.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT



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