



### LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear AWIS-SD Members, Partners, Sponsors, and Allies,

AWIS-SD has spent the summer winding down from our successful spring events and planning for the upcoming year. We are holding steady with membership and community engagement all thanks to our hard-working board members, committee co-chairs and members, and volunteers. This hard work would also not be possible without the generous donations from our sponsors which we appreciate tremendously!

We are looking for new members to join our various committees that include Corporate Sponsorship, Academia to Industry and Outreach. In addition, we have a new and exciting Communications Committee which includes 3 branches: Newsletter, Website and Public Relations. If you are interested in building our social media presence, have website design experience or enjoy writing about events hosted by AWIS, please consider joining that committee. Joining a committee will let you expand your communication and leadership skills and connect you to a talented group of women in STEM who support each other and are great allies to have.

AWIS-SD is excited for this upcoming year's events! We will be hosting our annual Open House on Wednesday, October 12, and are looking for volunteers to organize this event, showcasing what our local chapter is all about ([register here](#)). Also, we will be having our WIST (Women in Science and Technology) in the Spring.

For more information on how to join a particular committee, or volunteer for either the Open House and WIST conference, please visit our website: <https://www.awissd.org/index.php/about/committees> or e-mail our next Interim president Kina Thackray at [president@awissd.org](mailto:president@awissd.org).

On a personal note, I am forever grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have received from joining AWIS-SD! I have met wonderful colleagues who inspire me and have learned valuable skills that have helped me in my career. I hope you consider joining fantastic organization.

Sincerely,

**Michelle**

Michelle Muldong

Interim President AWIS-SD

[mmuldong@awissd.org](mailto:mmuldong@awissd.org)



**AWIS-San Diego invites you to our Fall Open House on Wednesday, October 12, 2022!**

Meet our members, chat with leadership, network with STEM professionals and learn how to get involved in our chapter!

Time: 5:30 pm - 7:30 pm

Location: SOVA Science District - Patio Lawn (next to New English Brewing)

11545 Sorrento Valley Rd, San Diego, CA 92121

Food and drinks will be provided.

Register here: [conta.cc/3xU940m](https://conta.cc/3xU940m)



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## Career Advancement Committee Panel: Recruiters' Tips

By Satarupa Bhaduri

The AWIS San Diego Career Advancement Committee held our first in-person event, "Recruiters' Tips for All Stages of your Career Journey" on April 6, 2022, at Point Loma National University, Kearny Mesa campus.

We welcomed our three distinguished recruitment specialists: Barbara Preston, Ph.D. (Senior Executive Recruiter, PharmaScouts), Melissa Simonsen (Senior Director, Talent Acquisition, Poseida Therapeutics) and Stacy Willard (Senior Talent Acquisition Manager, Crinetics Pharmaceuticals).



**Barbara Preston, Ph.D.**  
Sr. Executive Recruiter,  
PharmaScouts Inc.



**Melissa Simonsen**  
Sr. Director, Talent Acquisition,  
Poseida Therapeutics



**Stacey Willard**  
Sr. Talent Acquisition Manager,  
Crinetics Pharmaceuticals

The event was held as a panel discussion, and was mostly attended by undergraduate and graduate students, and postdocs.

Our guests shed some valuable light on several subtle points and shared resources geared towards the job search process- for all stages of career journey.

Here, we summarize some of the tips and resources shared at the event, on topics ranging from networking, resumes, cover letters, salary negotiations:

1. Make good use of LinkedIn, which has evolved into an amazing resource for professionals. Join several groups and reach out to people to build meaningful relations.
2. Employee referrals help you go a long way. So, network, network, network!
3. It was unanimously agreed that transparency is the first quality of a job candidate that impresses recruiters.
4. The resume is the most important document highlighting your career trajectory and skills. The site [www.scientificresumes.com](http://www.scientificresumes.com) is a good resource for tailoring professional resumes.

5. Make your resume as straightforward as possible. Avoid using a column system and use active past tense. Do not use your academic CV.
6. Create a master resume, and tailor every application according to the listed job requirements.
7. Always include soft skills in your resume such as communication, teamwork, creativity, timeline adhesion and results-driven, etc.
8. Use a cover letter only under particular situations such as when you are changing fields or returning to the workforce after a gap.
9. Asking for the salary range is legal. You can also access market data about salaries from [Bradford Global](#).
10. You can also access salary compensation data from sites such as Glassdoor and Indeed.
11. Always, negotiate salaries. Data shows men are better than women in salary negotiations. So, ladies, let's step up your game! Reviews on Glassdoor also a highlight company's culture, at least to some extent. While talking with current employees of a company, always, ask about the culture of the company.
12. Lastly, read the book "[Careers in Drug Discovery and Biotechnology](#)" written by Toby Freedman. This publication assimilates first-hand experience and wisdom from hundreds of key players in the biotechnology industry. It's a great read for any job seeker at any career stage.

We are grateful to our guests for a wonderful, information-rich, friendly evening. It was truly a "great kickoff to in-person events" for AWIS-San Diego.



Career Advancement Committee co-chairs: Jill Slaboda and Satarupa Bhaduri



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## The A2I February Coffee Club Meeting with Dr. Vivian Fu

By Eulalia Coutinho

The AWIS-San Diego's Academia to Industry (A2I) committee hosted Dr. Vivian Fu at our May 2022 Coffee Club, a Senior Manager of Global Scientific Publications at AbbVie.

Fu walked us through her career journey transitioning from academia to industry, sharing the things that made her switch and the knowledge she has gained about medical affairs. She completed her Ph.D. in Biomedical Science from UC San Diego in April 2020. During her Ph.D. studies, Fu's interest in drug development and clinical research led her to pursue an internship at Pfizer. She said this was a great opportunity to connect with industry professionals. After completing her Ph.D., Fu joined Allergan/AbbVie as a Medical Affairs Fellow of Global Medical Communications. More information about USC-AbbVie and other fellowships can be found here: (<https://pharmacyschool.usc.edu/program/fellowship-programs/>)



Fu was hired as Publications Manager in April 2021 after completing the fellowship. Later, she was promoted to Senior Manager. Fu talked about her job responsibilities as well as the different roles in medical affairs. When asked about the skills needed for this job, she mentioned that project and people management are key. Also important are the ability to manage multiple projects and coordinate and communicate with external people (KOLs) and internal people (from other teams). Fu encouraged attendees interested in medical communications to build their network and connect with industry professionals. She also emphasized the importance of networking in finding a job. She candidly responded to all questions the attendees posed, providing beneficial information for those planning to transition to a career in medical communications.

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## **A2I June 2022 Coffee Club with Dr. Renee Rotolo: Medical Science Liaison**

**By Shanna Lavalle**



AWIS-SD Academia to Industry (A2I) committee was honored to host Dr. Renee Rotolo for our June 2022 virtual Coffee Club. It was an informative and lively discussion about her career as a Medical Science Liaison (MSL).

Dr. Rotolo received her Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience from the University of Connecticut, where she stayed for a one-year postdoc. Towards the end of her graduate career, she began exploring careers

outside of academia by launching a webinar series where she invited speakers to talk about their careers in industry. In 2020 she co-founded the [Ask and Tell with MSL](#) webinar series, featuring conversations with medical affairs professionals. In 2021, Dr. Rotolo made the transition from academia to MSL at Sage Therapeutics.

During the June A2I Coffee Club, she explained that the major role of an MSL is to bridge the knowledge gap between the internal company and the external world of health care providers. This ensures that providers have the most up-to-date medical information. Dr. Rotolo's day-to-day activities involve lots of traveling, relaying information to and from providers, and continually identifying new "Key Opinion Leaders." Job performance is evaluated at a team-level and relies heavily on the ability to build meaningful connections with Key Opinion Leaders.

Some of the challenging aspects of being an MSL include managing time without deadlines and having no control over the content of the research or product being presented. Some of Dr. Rotolo's favorite aspects about her career as a MSL are the great work-life balance, employers who value their employees, and the constant learning. Her advice for anyone interested in a MSL career is to gain exposure to clinical research and start reaching out to current MSLs for informational interviews.

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## Member News

Congratulations to Yewande Okunoren-Oyekenu, volunteer of the Special Monitoring Mission International Human Rights Commission that has signed a Collaboration with Morley College London's North Kensington Campus. to train 44 teenagers for work experience in science, health, legal and education disciplines. The collaboration led to Yewande's promotion from volunteer to regional volunteer coordinator. The Interns will be making the Air Ambulance Service Models for Disaster Preparedness and will be taught remotely. Yewande has been involved with AWIS, San Diego since December of 2018.



10/08/2022

To Dr. Yewande Okunoren-Oyekenu,

**Collaboration between International Human Rights Commission (IHRC) and Morley College London.**

The advertisement for HERA HUB features a circular inset image of a modern office workspace with a round table, chairs, and a potted plant. The background is a dark brown color with large, stylized blue and white wave-like shapes. The HERA HUB logo, consisting of the letters 'H' and 'H' in a white serif font inside a white circle, is positioned in the lower right. Below the logo, the text 'HERA HUB' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font, followed by 'Workspace for Women' in a smaller, white, serif font. To the left of the logo, the text 'WORK FROM HOME?' is written in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this, the text 'Sorrento Valley . Mission Valley . Carlsbad' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font. Further down, the text 'Professional work, meeting & event space for female entrepreneurs' and 'Productive & prosperous place to connect and collaborate' is written in a white, sans-serif font. At the bottom, the text 'PROFESSIONAL . PRODCUTIVE . PROSPEROUS' is written in a white, sans-serif font. The website 'HeraHub.com' is written in a smaller, white, sans-serif font at the bottom right.

**WORK FROM HOME?**

**HERA HUB**  
*Workspace for Women*

Sorrento Valley . Mission Valley . Carlsbad

Professional work, meeting & event space for female entrepreneurs

Productive & prosperous place to connect and collaborate

*HeraHub.com*

**PROFESSIONAL . PRODCUTIVE . PROSPEROUS**



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## Upcoming Events

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Food and drinks will be provided.

Register here: [conta.cc/3xU940m](https://conta.cc/3xU940m)

Check our [events calendar](#) for most up-to-date information.

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## About the Authors



**Satarupa Bhaduri, Ph.D.** is a postdoctoral researcher at UC San Diego in the department of Biological Sciences. Satarupa grew up in the city of Kolkata, India where she began her journey by studying the effects of encapsulation of hemoglobin in nanoparticles during her master's in the University of Kolkata. She then moved to the US in 2013 to pursue her graduate studies to investigate the structure-function of different chloroplast membrane proteins in facilitating photosynthesis, at Purdue University, Indiana. She wanted to pursue her interest in the working of membrane proteins, albeit in different systems during her post-doctoral training at UC San Diego, where she moved to in 2019. Presently, Satarupa is studying the structural dynamics of membrane bound proteases present in the endoplasmic reticulum of human cells, and their mechanistic action in facilitation of protein quality control pathways.



**Eulalia Coutinho, PhD**, is a scientist at Crinetics Pharmaceuticals, working on early stage drug discovery. She earned her PhD from SOKENDAI, Japan and then went on to complete two postdoctoral fellowships one at the UC San Diego and the other at University of Otago, New Zealand. She is the new chair of the A2I committee and is looking forward to organizing coffee clubs and events featuring industry professionals in various roles. In her free time, she enjoys biking, hiking, and swing dancing.



**Shanna Newton Lavalle** is a Ph.D. candidate in the Biomedical Sciences Ph.D. program at the University of California San Diego. She joined the laboratory of Dr. Pamela Mellon in July 2015 where she is currently using a combination of cell culture and genetic mouse models to study the roles of several homeodomain transcription factors within kisspeptin neurons. In 2018, she completed the Rady's School of Management MicroMBA program and was accepted into the Future Leaders Advancing Research in Endocrinology (FLARE) program. She was an active member of the Endocrine Society's Trainee and Career Development Core Committee from 2018-2020 and served as Chair of the society's Summer Research Fellowship program in 2019. In 2020 she became a Co-Chair for the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Academia to Industry committee, where she connects industry professionals to early career individuals.

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## Contribute to the Newsletter

If you are an AWIS-SD member, we encourage you to contribute to the newsletter. Please send articles, photographs, and member news as Word attachments to [newsletter@awissd.org](mailto:newsletter@awissd.org). News articles should not exceed 250 words, event summaries should not exceed 500 words, and feature articles (special-interest stories and profiles) should not exceed 1000 words. The submission deadline for the next issue is Nov 30, 2022.

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## AWIS San Diego Communications Committee - Newsletter

Co-chairs: Jean Spence and Corine Lau

Member: Pat Rarus

[Newsletter@awissd.org](mailto:Newsletter@awissd.org)

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## AWIS San Diego Sponsors

AWIS-SD thanks our corporate sponsors for their generous support. Donations from corporate sponsors help us fund scholarship awards, monthly events, career development workshops, community outreach efforts, the Newsletter and the website.

For more information about how your company can support AWIS-SD, send email to [CorporateSponsorship@awissd.org](mailto:CorporateSponsorship@awissd.org)

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