Dear Reader,

Recently I was invited as a panelist to share my experiences in transitioning from an academic postdoctoral position to a biotech company. The panel was a rather mixed group with participants from pharmaceutical companies, contract research organizations and small biotech companies. To my surprise, I knew five of the six panelists very well.

The lively discussion between the panelists and the audience confirmed my opinion that having a network in the biotech community can play an important role in how you find career opportunities and how opportunities find you.

Building a network, however, takes time and effort. Getting out there, talking to strangers and giving your elevator speech after a full day at work can be rather a daunting prospect. And that is probably one of the most important reasons why new members join AWIS-SD.

We as an organization are dedicated to the advancement of women in science and science-related fields. Our programs are conceived to provide you with ample opportunities to build your network within the larger San Diego biotech community. Whether you attend an Event, a Strategy Session or our bi-annual Women in bioScience Conference, you will always meet women who share similar interests, and because of that you will find that you improve your networking skills without even noticing it.

So, to start building your network, why not attend our Annual Open House on Thursday October 26? Perhaps that will be the time you learn about a new opportunity!

As always, if you have any comments or ideas please drop me a line at, I am pleased to announce, my new e-mail address: president@awissd.org.

With warmest regards,

Karin Zeh

---

AWIS Mourns Denice Denton
Chancellor of UC Santa Cruz

AWIS members were saddened to hear of the death of Denice Denton on June 24, 2006. Denton was a pioneering woman engineer, Chancellor of UC Santa Cruz, and AWIS Fellow.

I feel privileged to have met her at the Networking Breakfast and Leadership Skills workshop organized by the AWIS Seattle chapter at the AAAS meeting in Seattle in February 2004. One of four panelists, Denton held the participants spellbound as she described the obstacles that she had overcome as a woman engineer in her typical matter-of-fact, no-frills style. Denton, a native Texan, described her arrival at MIT, where she earned her bachelor's and master's degrees and Ph.D.; she recalled her bewilderment at the array of gourmet sandwiches in the Boston student cafeterias.

Denton’s first academic position was as a professor at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she was the sole woman on the engineering faculty. She suffered horrific discrimination at the hands of her male peers, who went as far as to change the locks on her lab to prevent her access. Denton’s solution was to create a support network for women faculty at UWM and to stand up for and encourage women and minorities to succeed in engineering and in their chosen studies. In 1996, at the age of 36, Denton became the first female engineering dean of a major research university, University of Washington in Seattle, where she tirelessly continued to advocate for, and encourage women and minorities. She became Chancellor of UCSC in February 2005.

I was personally inspired by Denton’s story and captivated by her down-to-earth persona. She was an unforgettable role model for women scientists and engineers, and she will be sorely missed.

Sincerely,
Janet White

---

Inside this Issue

NEWS
Letter from AWIS President 1
Denice Denton 1
New AWIS E-mail Addresses 2
Upcoming Events 2
Expanding Your Horizons 2
Senomyx Event 2-3
Strategy Session: A Bit of Healthy Living 3

FEATURES/OPINIONS
Tooting Our Own Horns: A Call for Nominations 4
The Case for Starting a Family 4-5
New AWIS E-mail Addresses

Please note that AWIS E-mail Addresses have changed! If you would like to contact Board members or Committees, please use the following e-mail addresses. Please set up your e-mail filters on your inbox to accept these addresses.

**Board Members**
- President@awissd.org
- PastPresident@awissd.org
- VicePresident@awissd.org
- Treasurer@awissd.org
- Secretary@awissd.org
- Eyoder@awissd.org
- Sfitch@awissd.org
- Board@awissd.org

**Committees:**
- Bookclub@awissd.org
- Events@awissd.org
- FocusSessions@awissd.org
- CorporateSponsorship@awissd.org
- Membership@awissd.org
- Newsletter@awissd.org
- Outreach@awissd.org
- PublicRelations@awissd.org
- Scholarship@awissd.org
- StrategySessions@awissd.org
- Website@awissd.org

**Upcoming Events**
Compiled by Janice Payne

**October 3:** Strategy Session. Balancing Career and Family. Members only event. Location: Salk Institute. Time: 6-8pm

**October 26:** Annual AWIS Open House. Bring your friends and show them what AWIS is all about. Location: Biogen Idec. Time: 5-8pm

**November:** Pros and Cons of Teaching at a Community College. Date: TBD. Location: Miramar Community College.

---

**Expanding Your Horizons Conference**
**AWIS Outreach Event**
By Milka Kostic

On Saturday, May 6, 2006, the University of California San Diego (UCSD) campus was full of activity. Usually dormant at this time of the day, the campus came alive with hundreds of girls in grades 6-10, busily humming around. It was the beginning of UCSD’s fourth Expanding Your Horizons (EYH) conference, and everyone was ready to embark on a journey to discover the fun side of science.

Girls could choose from more than 40 different hands-on workshops, with topics ranging from flying an airplane to taming the bird flu pandemic. All young participants were assigned an EYH group. By the end of the day, each group had attended three different workshops located throughout the campus. Everybody had plenty of opportunity to soak in the college atmosphere and make new friends while learning about different careers in science and engineering.

Members of the AWIS-SD Outreach Committee were there in large numbers and organized five of the workshops.

**Gumdrop Chemistry:** Dana Weinberger, Mariana Cherney and Annika Montag demonstrated the basics of chemical bonding and molecular structure to their young audience in this workshop.

**Quake:** Spaghetti and marshmallows went to new heights, in this workshop, led by Jeannine Di Gennaro and Jessica Kleiss. Competition was fierce to build the tallest tower that could withstand a simulated earthquake using spaghetti as bricks and marshmallows as cement.

**Population Genetics and Swedish Fish:** Never was a fishpond more sweet than at this workshop. Michelle Juarez and Debbie O’Leary used tasty treats to illustrate the basics of trait inheritance within a population of a species.

**Genetic Manipulation – Play with Your DNA:** Using simple household ingredients, students got a chance to isolate and look at their own DNA in this workshop, presented by Hart Dengler and Holly Heaslet.

**Solving Plant Puzzles:** Mary Ann Hawke, Judy Gibson and I guided attendees through this mystery workshop. In the classroom full of pots with wonderful, bright blossoms, we kept everybody busy dissecting flowers and identifying plant families. Botany is not usually taught in schools, and we were happy to see girls show genuine interest in this hands-on activity.

After the girls left our classroom, we were exhausted but content. Our workshops prompted interesting questions and discussions. Careers in science and engineering come in many shapes and forms, and our workshops allowed the girls to take a glimpse at a fraction of those.

There is always more to be done. AWIS-SD Outreach Committee hopes to continue its active involvement in EYH conferences. If you would like to get involved, we would love to have you on board. Don’t hesitate to e-mail: outreach@awissd.org.

---

**Senomyx: Behind the Scenes at a Unique Flavor Company**
By Sama Tamrakar
If you like visiting food sampling stations in supermarkets or being asked for your opinion on your friend’s cooking, you might enjoy joining the panelist of taste testers at Senomyx. However, that will require more than just responses like “yum” or “delicious”. Over a dozen questions may follow a taste test of a single jellybean. These questions pale in comparison to the amount of research that scientists do on the product before and after your evaluation. AWIS members got an opportunity to learn what that science is in the recent event at Senomyx.

Senomyx, as described by Gwen Rosenberg, executive director of investor relations and corporate communications, is a unique company that utilizes biotechnology tools to develop taste modulators that help reduce the need for sugar, salt, and monosodium glutamate (MSG). Founded in 1998 by Lubert Stryer, Charles Zuker, and Roger Tsien, the company has a library of more than 250,000 natural and synthetic compounds and collaborates with other companies like Kraft Foods, Coca-Cola, Campbells Soup, and Ajinomoto.

Traditionally, flavor discovery has involved testing known flavors and trying them out in different combinations. This process is limited by the capacity of human sensory function. At Senomyx the biology of taste receptor guides the testing. Taste bud cells throughout the tongue harbor receptors for five different tastes: umami (savory taste of glutamate), sweet, bitter, salty, and sour. The first three receptors fall under the category of GPCRs (G-Protein Coupled Receptors) and the latter two are ion channels.

Amy J. Arthur, the associate director of project management, provided an overview of the process of flavor discovery, which begins with an extensive study of receptors. Under a high-throughput system, various compounds that act upon these receptors are screened. After further optimization, with the help of chemistry and informatics, lead compounds are then evaluated by taste testers, and the most promising ones developed into products.

Each program in search of novel taste modulators is aptly named after the taste receptor involved. The Savory Program focuses on a savory taste enhancer molecule that will increase the sensation of meat-like flavor, thereby reducing the need for MSG, a compound with a negative reputation. Similarly, enhanced sodium ion channels will require less salt in food, something that a majority of people consume in excess. So far, Senomyx has achieved a 33% reduction in salt requirement. With 25 different receptors, bitter is considered the most complex taste. Compounds that can block these receptors will improve palatability of food and will have applications in pharmaceuticals.

Since the compounds discovered are meant to enter food and beverages, they are analyzed and processed under the principles of food science. Rhondi Shigemura, associate director of product development, is one of two senior food scientists at Senomyx. She explained the need for multi-disciplinary expertise that ranges from chemistry, microbiology, and sensory science to processing, packaging and business. Experts from these fields determine the stability of food and ingredients, make them appealing, and choose the right compound for a certain type of food.

Ultimately, the opinion of a human being is what counts for the success of a product. Before a product gets out into the real world, people evaluate it in a process called sensory evaluation. According to Tanya Ditschum, manager of Sensory Science, this is more than just a taste test. People, used as instruments, are not good at quantifying sensations and therefore, various factors need to be considered in designing experiments. At Senomyx, the food evaluation is analytical, unlike the food industry’s method, which is hedonic.

After an elaborate and interesting overview of various testing methods described by Ditschum, we were led into taste testing rooms. Each of us sat at a separate station, ate the test food in front of us (a jellybean in this case), and answered a detailed questionnaire on the station computer. We then moved on to another testing room and identified the tastes of several unknown samples.

In addition to satisfying the palates of panelists, regulatory compliance is also an essential part of bringing out a product. Similar to the FDA’s evaluation of pharmaceutical products, an expert panel of the Flavor and Extract Manufacturers Association (FEAMA) determines a product to be Generally Regarded As Safe (GRAS) before it can be commercialized. The first product from Senomyx is expected to be on the market in late 2006. Sharon Wicker, senior VP of Commercial Development and Chief Strategy Officer, shed light on the necessity of food industry insight along with the science of food.

According to Holly Workman, human resource generalist, the company has grown to 118 employees, approximately 60% of whom are women. Senomyx hires interns from UCSD and SDSU.

The AWIS-San Diego Events Committee organized this event. Thanks to Senomyx for putting together a great program.

---

**A Bit of Healthy Living**  
**AWIS Strategy Session**  
**By Amber Dance**

“Oh no!” exclaimed one AWIS member as she entered the August strategy session, “A guy!”

“Like I don’t feel intimidated enough,” responded guest speaker Jon Belanger, aka Jonny Pilates. Belanger, invited to present tips on healthy living, needn’t have worried about his all-female scientist audience. He held his own, discussing osteoporosis and postpartum concerns, and even graphing metabolic rate for the technically-minded participants.

For the August Strategy Session, the committee chose to focus on a personal topic: “Healthy Living: Small Changes for Big Results.” Many attendees shared the challenge of integrating healthy habits into a busy schedule. The small changes started with the refreshments. Participants sampled healthy salads and snacks, and even took home the recipes. More fattening items, like peanut M&Ms and chocolate-covered raisins, were measured into plastic cups worth only 50-100 calories each. Taking small portions, or using small plates, is one way to limit your food intake.

Belanger promised that small changes to nutrition and fitness could help reduce stress. However, some effort is required. “There’s no magic pill that’s going to make your life better,” he counseled. Instead, Belanger advocates a healthy diet and a variety of physical activities.

Federal guidelines recommend that to maintain fitness, you should reach your target heart rate for thirty minutes, three times a week. (Visit http://www.heartchecksystems.com/heart.asp to calculate your target heart rate.) Belanger also stressed the importance of strength training, using gym equipment or Pilates. Not only does strength training augment muscle mass, it increases bone density—and thus could prevent future breaks.
Belanger got the audience on their feet with exercise demonstrations. He showed the right and wrong ways to work the abs; it’s important to keep the lower belly flat and taught, not bulging or crunched. He also demonstrated simple movements to keep the blood flowing during a long workday hunched over a computer, and suggested stretches to avoid carpal tunnel injury.

On nutrition, Belanger provided good news and bad news. Chocoholics rejoice: a little bit of dark chocolate provides valuable antioxidants. But for those who can’t pass a Starbucks without going inside, he advised against fancy lattes and mochaccinos. Stick to regular coffee or tea, and stay away from those preservative-filled muffins! Most importantly, eat regular, planned meals; avoid “grazing” on snacks all day long.

Just a few of the tips offered:

- To maintain your workout schedule, consider joining a class or exercising with a friend. You’ll have to show up—they’re expecting you.
- Vary your workout to exercise different muscles; don’t just focus on one problem area.
- “Hydrate like crazy,” says Belanger. Drinking lots of water keeps your metabolic rate high.
- Eat whole grains.
- Before bed, cut up fruit and veggies to bring to work the next morning, so you can grab something healthy and still get out the door on time.
- Fruit juice has almost as many calories as soda. Try diluting juice with water.

For those who want to change their habits, Belanger advises starting small. Don’t clear your kitchen of all junk food and jump-start a six-day-a-week workout routine. Change one meal at a time, walk a little bit more—even these small changes can yield big results.

**FEATURES / OPINIONS**

**Tooting Our Own Horns: A Call for Nominations**

By Hima Joshi

Of the 72 members elected to the National Academy of Sciences (NAS) in 2006, only 12 are women. Why is this number so low? Why are so few women receiving scientific awards in general? One reason is that many female scientists leave academia long before they become eligible for the top awards. Another reason is that many eligible women at all levels of academia and industry aren’t getting their names in the nomination pools.

Nominating a candidate takes time and effort. “It’s not just a matter of thinking of a name and throwing it in a pot,” says Mary Ellen Avery, professor of pediatrics at Harvard Medical School (The Scientist, November 22, 1999). A nomination package typically includes a written nomination piece as well as several letters. Younger faculty generally don’t have time to write nominations, and senior faculty, who are usually men, tend to nominate their friends, who are also men.

Another issue is that many women do not promote themselves. “Many of us, both male and female, but particularly women, are less comfortable tooting our own horn,” says Catherine Didion, former executive director of AWIS National (The Scientist, November 22, 1999). She suggests that women nominate themselves or ask colleagues to nominate them.

And that’s where you come in. Who are the leading women in your field? Do you know a female colleague who has made great strides in science? Nominate these women for awards! If you are not in a position to write a nomination, suggest a candidate to your supervisor. Would you be a good candidate for an award? Nominate yourself or tell your friends at work to nominate you. Here is a short list of awards to help you get started:

- **American Association for Cancer Research – American Cancer Society Award for Research Excellence in Cancer Epidemiology and Prevention** (deadline October 2, 2006)
  This award honors outstanding research in the fields of cancer epidemiology, biomarkers and prevention. The winner will give a lecture during the 2007 AACR Annual Meeting in Los Angeles (April 14-18, 2007). For more information, visit the following website: [http://www.aacr.org/page6721.aspx](http://www.aacr.org/page6721.aspx)

- **American Chemical Society National Awards** (deadline November 1, 2006)
  The ACS has a long list of awards in various categories. Some awards are discipline-specific and others, like the Award for Team Innovation and the Award for Encouraging Women Into Careers in the Chemical Sciences, are more general. Visit the following website for more information: [http://www.acs.org/nominate](http://www.acs.org/nominate)

- **YWCA Tribute to Women & Industry (TWIN) Awards** (deadline typically in February)
  These awards recognize outstanding female managers, executives and professionals. For more information, visit the following website: [http://www.ywwasandiego.org/events/twin/index.php](http://www.ywwasandiego.org/events/twin/index.php)

- **American Institute of Biological Sciences Awards** (deadlines in July)
  AIBS has several research, education and service awards. Please visit the following website for more information: [http://www.aibs.org/about-aibs/awards.html](http://www.aibs.org/about-aibs/awards.html)

- **American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) Awards** (most deadlines August 1)
  The International Scientific Cooperation Award and the Award for Public Understanding of Science and Technology are two of the many awards given by AAAS. Visit the following website for a list of awards: [http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/](http://www.aaas.org/aboutaaas/awards/)

**The Case for Starting a Family**

By Paula Campos Soto

Growing up, I knew I wanted to study and have a successful career so that I could live comfortably. And I also wanted to find a handsome guy, get married, and have children. I never suspected the two aspects could interfere with each other in any way. More recently however, I have been made painfully aware that the two do
interfere, and quite significantly. So much so that, in my view, one of the biggest impediments to women’s advancement in science, or any other field, is the difficulty of balancing their family and professional lives.

I came to this conclusion after reading the recent publicity stirred up by a speech made by Harvard University president Larry Summers. In his speech, Summers points out that, starting about twenty years ago, the number of women attending graduate school increased significantly, but that increase did not translate into more women in high-ranking jobs. His explanation for this discrepancy is that there are “issues of intrinsic aptitude”, which make women less willing to dedicate themselves to a job they have to think about eighty hours a week.

I strongly disagree. I believe women are as able as men to dedicate themselves and succeed in any career. But once they get out of graduate school they are usually faced with a choice: family or career. And women are forced to choose because there is no support system available that would allow them to balance both. Therefore, I would like to make the case for women to create their support system and start their families.

Three years into my PhD studies I got the urge. It was an unexplainable desire to have a baby. I had been right on track for all my major goals: I went to college, met an amazing guy, got married, got a job… So now it seemed it was the right time to do it. Except for one thing: I was in graduate school. My husband and I took another year to decide if we could, should, and would have a baby.

Today, still in graduate school, I am the extremely proud mother of an 18-month-old precious little girl. Each day is a battle, learning at home that 18 months seems more like 18 years old when my daughter tells me to lay down next to her and enjoy the view of a beautiful blue summer sky; and learning at work that experiments that had been working for months are suddenly yielding completely different results, with no clues as to why. But each hour spent at work makes me appreciate my daughter’s love much more, and when a really bad “terrible two” day comes along, I feel some comfort reminding myself that I have an experiment designed that will answer intriguing questions.

Because of this experimental knowledge that both family and career can co-exist, I want to make the case for graduate students to start their families. The secret to succeeding in both is an incredible, and much deserved, support network. I would not have made it this far in graduate school and as a mother had it not been for my husband, my family, my friends, and a very rudimentary, but still present, societal support. My husband’s acceptance that everything in our lives, including house chores, is to be shared, allows me to dedicate more time to my work and family. And daycare is available at a somewhat reduced price, albeit after a dreadfully long waiting list.

Unfortunately, today families are constantly moving away from loved ones, even to different countries, and neighbors are rarely seen in their front yards. Therefore, it is necessary to revive the importance of a support system of family, friends, and society. Modern society focuses on independence and isolation, which make it nearly impossible to combine career and family. However, when the appropriate support system is in place, it can be done, and I am hoping to convert a few co-students into moms.

I came to this conclusion after reading the recent publicity stirred up by a speech made by Harvard University president Larry Summers. In his speech, Summers points out that, starting about twenty years ago, the number of women attending graduate school increased significantly, but that increase did not translate into more women in high-ranking jobs. His explanation for this discrepancy is that there are “issues of intrinsic aptitude”, which make women less willing to dedicate themselves to a job they have to think about eighty hours a week.

I strongly disagree. I believe women are as able as men to dedicate themselves and succeed in any career. But once they get out of graduate school they are usually faced with a choice: family or career. And women are forced to choose because there is no support system available that would allow them to balance both. Therefore, I would like to make the case for women to create their support system and start their families.

Three years into my PhD studies I got the urge. It was an unexplainable desire to have a baby. I had been right on track for all my major goals: I went to college, met an amazing guy, got married, got a job… So now it seemed it was the right time to do it. Except for one thing: I was in graduate school. My husband and I took another year to decide if we could, should, and would have a baby.

Today, still in graduate school, I am the extremely proud mother of an 18-month-old precious little girl. Each day is a battle, learning at home that 18 months seems more like 18 years old when my daughter tells me to lay down next to her and enjoy the view of a beautiful blue summer sky; and learning at work that experiments that had been working for months are suddenly yielding completely different results, with no clues as to why. But each hour spent at work makes me appreciate my daughter’s love much more, and when a really bad “terrible two” day comes along, I feel some comfort reminding myself that I have an experiment designed that will answer intriguing questions.

Because of this experimental knowledge that both family and career can co-exist, I want to make the case for graduate students to start their families. The secret to succeeding in both is an incredible, and much deserved, support network. I would not have made it this far in graduate school and as a mother had it not been for my husband, my family, my friends, and a very rudimentary, but still present, societal support. My husband’s acceptance that everything in our lives, including house chores, is to be shared, allows me to dedicate more time to my work and family. And daycare is available at a somewhat reduced price, albeit after a dreadfully long waiting list.

Unfortunately, today families are constantly moving away from loved ones, even to different countries, and neighbors are rarely seen in their front yards. Therefore, it is necessary to revive the importance of a support system of family, friends, and society. Modern society focuses on independence and isolation, which make it nearly impossible to combine career and family. However, when the appropriate support system is in place, it can be done, and I am hoping to convert a few co-students into moms.

I strongly disagree. I believe women are as able as men to dedicate themselves and succeed in any career. But once they get out of graduate school they are usually faced with a choice: family or career. And women are forced to choose because there is no support system available that would allow them to balance both. Therefore, I would like to make the case for women to create their support system and start their families.

Three years into my PhD studies I got the urge. It was an unexplainable desire to have a baby. I had been right on track for all my major goals: I went to college, met an amazing guy, got married, got a job… So now it seemed it was the right time to do it. Except for one thing: I was in graduate school. My husband and I took another year to decide if we could, should, and would have a baby.

Today, still in graduate school, I am the extremely proud mother of an 18-month-old precious little girl. Each day is a battle, learning at home that 18 months seems more like 18 years old when my daughter tells me to lay down next to her and enjoy the view of a beautiful blue summer sky; and learning at work that experiments that had been working for months are suddenly yielding completely different results, with no clues as to why. But each hour spent at work makes me appreciate my daughter’s love much more, and when a really bad “terrible two” day comes along, I feel some comfort reminding myself that I have an experiment designed that will answer intriguing questions.

Because of this experimental knowledge that both family and career can co-exist, I want to make the case for graduate students to start their families. The secret to succeeding in both is an incredible, and much deserved, support network. I would not have made it this far in graduate school and as a mother had it not been for my husband, my family, my friends, and a very rudimentary, but still present, societal support. My husband’s acceptance that everything in our lives, including house chores, is to be shared, allows me to dedicate more time to my work and family. And daycare is available at a somewhat reduced price, albeit after a dreadfully long waiting list.

Unfortunately, today families are constantly moving away from loved ones, even to different countries, and neighbors are rarely seen in their front yards. Therefore, it is necessary to revive the importance of a support system of family, friends, and society. Modern society focuses on independence and isolation, which make it nearly impossible to combine career and family. However, when the appropriate support system is in place, it can be done, and I am hoping to convert a few co-students into moms.
When Olga reaches his side, she surveys the rows. They vary in height according to the crop variety. “It is so beautiful,” she says, with the “o” drawn out. Barry swells with pride and directs his attention to the flowers that add colorful charm to the farm. Everything has a purpose, and beauty is important, too.

As the sun shines on their backs, Barry and Olga continue to ready beds for new planting. Others are busy harvesting and watering. Barry’s thoughts return to his place on this Escondido farm. He is happy doing what he is doing and knows many of the others here share the same satisfaction. He will keep farming as long as he can, changing people’s mindsets one salad at a time. For the time being, he and his friends eat very, very well. What more is there?

You can find Barry’s produce at farmers’ markets on Sundays in Hillcrest, Tuesdays in Coronado, Thursdays in Oceanside, Fridays in La Mesa, and Saturdays in Poway. You will also find some of his vegetables in fine local restaurants such as Cavaillon, George’s at the Cove, Nine Ten, Tapenade, Michele Coulon, Modus, Region, Spread, Torrey Pines, Jack’s La Jolla, and Parallel 33.

Alice Budai was a volunteer at La Milpa Organica Farm last year following employment as a researcher at a pharmaceutical company. She is currently applying to graduate programs in soil and crop sciences.

Neurocrine Treading Water
By Siobhan Malany

“No thought I would be here for the next ten years,” said an assistant director in my department, boxes in hand. I met him in the hallway as he was heading to clear out his office. I sincerely listened as he shared his shock of being laid off from a company that earlier this year enjoyed high stock prices, excitement over launching its first drug to market, and promise of growth.

Neurocrine Biosciences, in its 13th year, has a drug discovery pipeline that targets Parkinson’s disease, anxiety, pain and endometriosis. The company also has a few candidates in clinical trials and an impressive publication record. But, FDA rejection in May of Indiplon, a treatment for insomnia, has the company now treading water in its struggle to stay afloat in San Diego’s biotech beach industry.

Back in March, Neurocrine’s stock was selling at an inflated price of $70 per share. The stock was bubbling in anticipation of Indiplon emerging on the sleep market ready to swat Sepracor’s butterfly, the marketing mascot for competitor drug Lunesta. Neurocrine was to commercialize and distribute Indiplon worldwide in partnership with big pharma Pfizer. The hype over Indiplon was that the drug would have a combination label covering an immediate release (IR) and modified release (MR) form of the drug. When federal regulators delayed approval of the IR form and rejected approval of the MR formulation, the company’s stock crashed, vaporizing over a billion dollars in equity. “That’s what happens when Wall Street makes decisions about science,” said one of the department’s VPs. The only things still bubbling were the crates of uncorked champagne in the company’s garage.

Following the disappointing FDA decision, Pfizer bumped Neurocrine off the yacht in a paddleboat and sailed away from the 400 million dollars it had already invested. With no drug to sell, Neurocrine headed for shore without their 200-person sales force. The rest of us 380 employees braced ourselves against the winds to see if we would be among the 100 researchers laid off. When the winds died, I was still afloat with my department minus one third. I felt, like many, relief for having a job, survivor guilt, grief for my sunken colleagues and dismay over the future of the company.

Anyone in biotech who has yet to experience a layoff environment is lucky. Restructuring, mergers, and buyouts are part of the business of making money. In San Diego scientists find themselves on the job hunt an average of every two to three years as a result of a layoff or in anticipation of one. Make yourself indispensable. If you find you are dispensable don’t take it personally. Move on, rely on contacts, and continue to build your network. It is your best resource.

AWIS-San Diego Sponsors

AWIS-San Diego thanks our corporate sponsors for their generous support. Donations from corporate sponsors help us fund scholarship awards, monthly events and Strategy Sessions, community outreach efforts, the Newsletter and the website.

For more information about how your company can support AWIS-SD, send e-mail to fundAWISsd@gmail.com.

PRINCIPAL
Pfizer

PREMIER
Alexion Antibody Technologies
Genentech
Morrison & Foerster, LLP

CONTRIBUTING
Amylin Pharmaceuticals, Inc.
Peptisyntha, Inc.

FRIEND
ActivX
Friedmann Communications
Gemini
Gordon & Rees, LLP
Kforce Professional Staffing
Porter Novelli Life Sciences (formerly Atkins + Associates)
TargeGen, Inc.
The Dow Chemical Company
Fidelity Charitable Gift Fund
Perry Scientific

DEPARTMENTS

AWIS Member News

Former AWIS Membership Committee co-chair Lisa Whalen has decided to leave science and start a business as a professional organizer. Her work will cater to residences, businesses and laboratories. She will continue to be active in AWIS, sending updates and announcements to members. Her new company is Whalen Organizing & Consulting.
Alice Budai, AWIS Book and Movie Club co-chair and cherished member of the Newsletter Committee, has accepted a position in molecular biology at the Hungarian Academy of Sciences in Budapest. Good luck!

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 newsletter@awissd.org and write “AWIS Member News” in the subject heading.

Not getting AWIS-SD member e-mails?

Update your contact information!

Go to the member services page using the following link:
https://www.sgmeet.com/awis/memberlogin.asp

You will need your member ID and password. If you need assistance, please contact AWIS Member Services by phone (866-657-AWIS) or by e-mail (membership@awis.org).

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.

September/October Newsletter staff:
Alice Budai          Hima Joshi          Siobhan Malany
Janice Payne         Sama Tamrakar       Amber Dance
Paula C. Soto

If you are an AWIS-SD member, we encourage you to contribute articles to the Newsletter. Please send articles as MS Word attachments to newsletter@awissd.org. News articles should not exceed 250 words, and event summaries may be between 500 and 1000 words. Feature articles (special-interest stories and profiles) should not exceed 1000 words. The submission deadline for the next issue is October 6, 2006.

IMPORTANT CONTACTS

AWIS Board
President          Karin Zeh            President@awissd.org
Past President     Janet White          PastPresident@awissd.org
Treasurer          Kathy Ogilvie        Treasurer@awissd.org
Secretary          Jenny Chaplin        Secretary@awissd.org
Member at Large    Sheela Talwalker     Board@awissd.org
                  Elizabeth Yoder        Eyoder@awissd.org
                  Susan Fitch            Sfitch@awissd.org

To contact the Board, visit the following website:
http://awis.npaci.edu/officers/biographies.htm

AWIS National Councilor (San Diego Chapter)

Sonya Summerour Clemmons
To contact Sonya, visit the following website:
http://www.awis.org/network/board.html
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Committee</th>
<th>Chair(s)</th>
<th>E-mail</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Book Club</td>
<td>Alice Budai</td>
<td><a href="mailto:BookClub@awissd.org">BookClub@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Corporate Sponsorship</td>
<td>Robin Rosenfeld</td>
<td><a href="mailto:CorporateSponsorship@awissd.org">CorporateSponsorship@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Events</td>
<td>Cindy Atwell</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Events@awissd.org">Events@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Membership</td>
<td>Julie Kinyoun</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Membership@awissd.org">Membership@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Newsletter</td>
<td>Janice Payne</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Newsletter@awissd.org">Newsletter@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Outreach</td>
<td>Milka Kostic</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Outreach@awissd.org">Outreach@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Diane Retallack</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Jeannine DiGennaro</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Public Relations</td>
<td>Shraddha Chaplot</td>
<td><a href="mailto:PublicRelations@awissd.org">PublicRelations@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scholarship</td>
<td>Jenafer Evans</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Scholarship@awissd.org">Scholarship@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Strategy Sessions</td>
<td>Frances Putkey</td>
<td><a href="mailto:StrategySessions@awissd.org">StrategySessions@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Website</td>
<td>Barbara Armstrong</td>
<td><a href="mailto:Website@awissd.org">Website@awissd.org</a></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>