



Newsletter

Mission Statement: The Association for Women in Science, Inc. (AWIS) champions the interests of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics across all disciplines and employment sectors. Working for positive system transformation, AWIS strives to ensure that all women in these fields can achieve their full potential.

Letter From the President



Dear AWIS-SD members and friends:

As you read this newsletter, you will get a taste of the AWIS-SD community. Our committees do excellent work, ranging from putting together this newsletter, offering career workshops, to reaching out to the greater San Diego community with STEM events.

Why not take full advantage of your AWIS-SD membership by joining a committee? Visiting the committee page (<http://www.awissd.org/index.php/about/committees>) and learn about all the different committees. Find one that interests you and join. You will expand your leadership, communication, and organizational skills when you join an AWIS-SD committee.

Our annual Open House is coming up in late October. The Open House needs Co-Chairs and members to organize this local STEM community event. Interested? Email DeeAnn at president@awissd.org.

Are you a social media person? Consider joining the Public Relations Committee. Learn how to use Hoot Suite to coordinate postings on social media. Email the committee at publicrelations@awissd.org.

Still want to find out more about AWIS-SD? Attend the Meet the Board Event on Tuesday, September 19 to hear the AWIS-SD Board and each committee present their way to continue providing the diverse programming that AWIS-SD has to offer.

August is the month to relax, regroup, and strategically plan ahead. Build your skills by joining an AWIS-SD committee.

Best,

DeeAnn

DeeAnn Visk,
President AWIS-SD
president@awissd.org

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From Academia to the Executive Suite: Meet Lori Yang, Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer and co-founder of Lectenz® Bio and AWIS-SD Treasurer

by Pat Rarus

Lori Yang, Ph.D.'s gracious smile and quiet demeanor disguise a scientific Wonder Woman. Our AWIS Treasurer possesses formidable scientific credentials, impressive business savvy and boundless energy. Perhaps most important to AWIS, Lori serves as a role model for female scientists of all ages—particularly young women – who wish to transition from academia to industry.

Recently, Yang, co-Founder and Chief Scientific Officer of Lectenz® Bio, served as a featured panelist at San Diego Startup Week. Attendees were impressed by how enthusiastically she shared her experience about transitioning from the bench to the C-Suite. Lori also emphasized the importance of women leadership in biotech.

Yang was working as a bench scientist at La Jolla Bioengineering Institute, when she began a long-distance collaboration with Robert J. Woods, Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, and Chemistry, at the Complex Carbohydrate Research Center, University of Georgia. Woods focuses on exploring the relationships between the conformations of carbohydrate molecules and biological recognition and activity. Eventually, Woods and Yang decided to co-found Lectenz® Bio (then known as Glycosensors and Diagnostics or G&D), where Yang leads vital scientific discoveries.

“Lectenz® Bio is developing novel products that employ our unique Lectenz® reagents and GlycoSense™ technology, to speed up and simplify the detection and discovery of disease biomarkers,” explained Lori.

“These products enable targeting glycan biomarkers of clinical significance for investigation and leveraging them for advancing human health.”

Advancing human health has always been Yang's mission. Specifically, her expertise involves protein engineering, molecular evolution, and flow cytometry. A graduate of University of Virginia and Yale University, she holds a Ph.D. in Molecular Biophysics and Biochemistry. Yang was a co-leader of Women in Science at Yale and completed her post-doctoral research at the La Jolla Bioengineering Institute. She was also a Research Fellow at the National University of Ireland, Galway.



One of Yang's foremost career accomplishments was establishing G&D's satellite operations at Johnson & Johnson Innovation, JLABS in San Diego in 2013. This milestone enabled the beginning of commercialization efforts and rebranding to Lectenz® Bio this year. The company recently received approval of its first patent for a carbohydrate-like small molecule inhibitor.

In her spare time, Yang enjoys yoga, tennis and swimming. Most of all, she loves spending quality time with her husband Andreas Goetz, an Assistant Research Scientist at the San Diego Supercomputer Center at UCSD. Yang said she joined AWIS because, "I wanted to get to know other scientific women. I ran for Treasurer so that I could give back to this great organization." Yang is not only giving back to AWIS, but also to the community, as she mentors and inspires future female scientists.

Thank you, Yang!

SD

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Academia to Industry (A2I) Coffee Club: A Visit with Whitney Whitlow

by Joanna Redfern

Whitney Whitlow is a Strategic Solutions Account Executive at Ultimate Staffing in Washington D.C. She met with the A2I coffee club on February 3, 2017. At that time, she was a Senior Account Executive with one of the largest staffing firms in San Diego. As a Senior Account Executive, Whitney partnered with local biotechnology and pharmaceutical companies to assist with their staffing needs. Whitney specialized in the recruiting and staffing efforts of both clinical and non-clinical professionals. Staffing companies typically fill many positions in the second and third quarters of the calendar year (June through October) as companies are looking to fill positions and use up their fiscal year budgets. During the end and beginning of the year (November through April), hiring tends to be slower, so don't be discouraged if you don't hear anything back during those times of the year. Staffing companies fill 60-70% of the vacant positions in the companies they represent.

Recruiting agencies fill three different types of positions for companies. These positions include:

Contract – Contract positions are typically for short periods of time (2-3 months)

Temp-to-Hire – These posts generally start as 6-month trial positions that are converted to permanent hires if the company likes the contract person's work.

Direct Hire – These positions are for full permanent employment. Companies pay recruiters to find employees. Potential employees do not pay recruiters to find them the jobs.

Employee is in a temporary position when he or she is paid through the staffing agency. In a temp-to-hire position, the employee is paid through the staffing agency until he or she is hired as a permanent employee.

Transitioning from industry to academia is an uphill battle since companies want employees with industry experience, and potential employees in academia want industry experience too! Whitney emphasizes staying up to date on trends in the market. She suggests keeping an eye on industry news and updates in areas such as orphan drug research and medical devices.

Science Ticker

By Alyson Smith

- A team of scientists including Jun Wu at the Salk Institute has reportedly used CRISPR to genetically modify single-cell human embryos. The embryos were not allowed to develop beyond a few days. As this is the first study of its kind, biomedical ethicists and scientists such as Jennifer Doudna, one of the developers of CRISPR, are calling for more public debate on whether and how CRISPR technology should be applied in the clinic.
- Scientists Vicki Lundblad, Katherine Jones, and Beverly Emerson of the Salk Institute have separately sued the Salk, alleging long-term gender discrimination, including lower pay and fewer promotions and benefits. The institute responded by denying any gender discrimination, claiming that Lundblad and Jones have poor publication and funding records, and releasing statements from other Salk scientists denying any discrimination. The scientists are asking for recovery of lost wages and benefits, punitive damages, and an injunction preventing future discrimination.
- A group of researchers at the Scripps Research Institute published a study reporting that cows can rapidly produce broadly neutralizing antibodies against fragments of HIV, a process that can take years in humans. The cow antibodies have very elongated target recognition domains, making it possible to target regions on the virus not accessible to human antibodies. The researchers hope to develop these cow antibodies into drugs to treat or prevent HIV infection, and to develop drugs for other viral infections.
- The federal government has awarded \$14.9 million to a team of scientists at UC San Diego, UC Irvine, and UC Riverside to continue to develop a genetic technology called gene drives, which can rapidly spread genetic alterations through mosquito populations. This technology has been tested extensively in the lab against malaria-bearing mosquitos, and the researchers hope to extend its application to other mosquito-borne illnesses and to wild populations, which could more easily develop resistance to the technology.

A Visit with Whitney Whitlow, cont.

Networking is very important for moving from one arena to another. Having 150+ connections is good, but having connections to people in industry and especially people at the companies you are interested in is even better. If people in your network know people working at companies you are interested in (second level contacts in LinkedIn), reach out to your connections and ask for an introduction. Joining some professional groups in areas that are related to the type of work you would like to do in industry is also a useful way to make contacts with people at companies you are interested in. For example, if you want to move into regulatory affairs, then you should join SDRAN. Other biotech networking groups Whitney listed include Women in Bio, SD Entrepreneurs, SD Life Science Network, Athena, ConnectSD, BIOCUM, and Healthcare Businesswomen Association. Mentorship programs are also valuable for networking.

“Persistence is key to finding a job! “

Questions from A2I Members to Whitney:

Is it important for the recruiter to know the applicant (for a position they are working on filling)?

Yes, very. The recruiter needs to sell the candidate, so they need to know each other.

Does the applicant pay to be represented by the recruiter?

No, the company pays the recruiter for finding the talent.

How important is it to match the skill set of the applicant to the position?

Usually, the recruiter needs to match 3 or more of the “skills requirements” for a candidate to be considered.

Temporary positions are usually more flexible about work experience when hiring. Larger companies can be more flexible with respect to skill sets (especially if you don’t have every skill they are looking for). If you are just starting out in Industry (trying to get your foot in the door), you need to apply for jobs in big companies since they are more flexible with respect to skills. Smaller companies usually want more experienced people. A good personality goes a long way too.

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Science Ticker, Cont

- Connect, a local nonprofit that promotes entrepreneurship, has named Jay Flatley, executive chairman of Illumina, as the 16th member of its Entrepreneur Hall of Fame. While Flatley was CEO of Illumina from 1999 to 2016, the company's sales grew from \$1.3 million to \$2.2 billion. Connect recognizes business leaders such as Flatley to inspire the next generation of San Diego entrepreneurs.
- Human Longevity Inc. of La Jolla has developed a faster and more accurate method for genotyping the human leukocyte antigen (HLA) locus. This locus is important for immune matching before organ transplants, but it contains many short repeats, making it more difficult to sequence. Human Longevity's method, which accounts for the amino acids coded for by the DNA, will now be offered as part of its standard genome sequencing service.
- Salk and UC San Diego researchers have developed a technique for imaging DNA inside the nucleus in 3D at high magnification. The technique paints DNA in a living cell with a metal polymer cast, giving the DNA strands enough contrast to be visualized with an electron microscope at 29,000x magnification. The results show that DNA strands are organized very differently than expected based on previous work, and could be used to better understand and treat diseases such as cancer.
- Researchers at UC San Diego have developed a smart glove that uses sensors to transcribe sign language into text and wirelessly transmit it to mobile devices. The device, which costs less than \$100 to manufacture, could also be used in virtual reality and in human control of robots.
- A small clinical trial led by researchers at UC San Diego and the University of Michigan found that amlexanox, a drug approved for asthma in Japan, reduced blood sugar levels and liver fat in some patients with Type 2 diabetes and fatty liver disease. Patients with higher inflammation in their fat tissue tended to respond better to the drug. More research is needed to confirm these results and identify more reasons why only some patients respond.

A Visit with Whitney Whitlow, cont.

How does the recruiter find candidates for positions?

They use records of people they have contact with, but also source candidates from Indeed and LinkedIn. These would-be people who are not in the company system already, but look to be a good fit.

What kinds of services will the recruiter provide for candidates in addition to looking for jobs?

A recruiter will help with CVs, go through job postings, and match key words from the job description to the CV.

With respect to CVs, the position you are interested dictates the length of the CV.

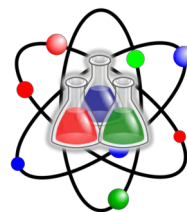
For a research scientist position— 2 pages

For regulatory affairs, it is very important to include any research papers and writing samples you've done.

Don't go too far back in job history for work experience (for example, early 90's may be too far).

Bullet point important functions in a given position (for example instrument-use experience, protocol experience).

Recruiting companies will sometimes submit cover letters for the candidate (check with the company to find out their policy on this!)



"Have no fear of perfection; you'll never reach it."

"Nothing in life is to be feared; it is only to be understood."

– Marie Curie

*1903 Nobel Prize in Physics
1911 Nobel Prize in Chemistry*

AWIS-SD Science Awards Dinner

by Alyson Smith

On April 30, 2017, AWIS-San Diego hosted an awards dinner for female students selected from hundreds who presented projects at the Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair in March. In total, five high school and nine middle school students received awards. Students completed projects in a range of disciplines including: biochemistry, plant sciences, mathematical sciences, engineering, behavioral and social sciences, and health sciences.

At the start of the awards dinner, students had the opportunity to present their projects and discuss their results with other students, their families, and AWIS-SD members who were in attendance. Following the poster sessions, members of the AWIS-SD board and outreach committee presented each winner with a certificate and a cash award recognizing her achievement. Then, students and their families had dinner with AWIS volunteers.

The awards dinner was an excellent opportunity to fulfill AWIS vision by recognizing female students for their scientific achievements and providing them with the opportunity to meet role models.

Through presenting these awards, AWIS-SD hopes to encourage female students interested in science to continue to pursue STEM careers. Numerous AWIS-SD volunteers worked together to make this event possible, and the Outreach Committee is looking forward to another awards dinner next year!



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Academia to Industry (A2I) Coffee Club: A Visit with Jeff Orr, Ph.D.

by Gabriela David-Morrison

On May 5, Dr. Jeff Orr came to the AWIS-SD Academia to Industry (A2I) coffee club's monthly meeting to share his experience in transitioning to the biotech industry in the field of computational biology.

Orr's academic research background is in biochemistry. As a biochemistry undergraduate and Ph.D. student at Indiana University (IU) Bloomington, he studied the function and interactions of Protein Kinase C (PKC) in Dr. Alexandra Newton's laboratory. Towards the end of his Ph.D. studies, the structure of a related protein, Protein Kinase A, was published by another laboratory. This research led to Orr's interest in computational biology, and he started applying computational modeling to determine the effects of mutations on the structure of PKC. A graduate student in a different laboratory at IU Bloomington engaged him in extensive discussions about ribozymes. These discussions piqued his interest in RNA architecture. After finishing his Ph.D. program, Orr decided to pursue a post-doctoral fellowship at Dr. James Williamson's laboratory at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to study RNA folding through computational modeling. As the field of computational biology grew, the amount of research data expanded exponentially. To address the data analysis challenges in the field, Orr taught himself how to code from O'Reilly books along with help from other members of the Williamson lab. Three years after joining the Williamson laboratory, the laboratory moved to San Diego and joined The Scripps Research Institute.

Orr's entrance into the biotech industry was facilitated by his conversations and interactions with scientists who already worked in industry, and he emphasized the value of networking for academics seeking to transition.

His first industry position out of academia was as a Computational Scientist in San Diego-based Aurora Biosciences, which specialized in providing fluorescence cell-based assay development and high-throughput screening services and instruments to pharmaceutical companies. Seven months into his position, Aurora was acquired by Boston-based Vertex Pharmaceuticals. Vertex combined its chemical informatics specialization with Aurora's biological expertise to build an extensive drug discovery platform. Within Orr's first two and a half years with Vertex, he was promoted to a Group Leader position. Now as a Senior Director for Scientific Computing, he leads an international team of scientists and software developers in developing custom software for Vertex's research facilities. The software that his team develops is used for a wide variety of applications, including research and screening databases, as well as inventory management and order processing.

Orr's experience in academia and in biotech industry has shown him that, contrary to the impressions of some academics, a person can still do very interesting science in industry. He specifically likes the corporate culture of accountability in setting, achieving, and evaluating goals. He stressed the value of having two-way conversations in informational and job interviews to determine whether or not industry or a specific company would be a good fit for a person, and he reiterated the importance of networking in taking the next step from academia to industry.

Our Mission Statement: AWIS-San Diego is committed to supporting the advancement of women in science and science-related fields by providing opportunities to participate in professional networking, mentoring, and leadership activities.

A Magical Outreach Event at the Fleet

by Elizabeth Jacobs

One of the most significant aspects of being a scientist was not taught to me by any of my school teachers, but by the first scientist I ever met – my dad. In addition to managing an academic research group, writing grants and teaching courses, he always managed to squeeze in a few hours of the week to visit my second-grade classroom with a hands-on science experiment.

Often, after an exhausting hour of excitement and questions which only a group of 9-year olds could generate, he would return to his university teaching obligations and wonder what happened to scientific enthusiasm between grade school and the PhD. Scientists are not strangers to the daily grind of life, desperately dividing the 24 hours in each day between teaching, research, fundraising, meetings, conferences and often family obligations. It is no surprise that many of us lose sight of why we pursued these careers in the first place. For my father, visiting my school classroom was a reminder that science is more than just grants and papers – science is enchanting!

To live by my father's example, I seek out volunteer opportunities which focus on STEM education for elementary and middle school students. I was thrilled to be invited back for the Reuben H. Fleet Science Center's 'Women



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Scientists in Action' camp. This week-long program delivers local female scientists straight from the lab into the classroom, a place many of us last visited at least a decade ago. Each day is filled with hands-on experiments and discussions about women in STEM to some of the most enthusiastic future female leaders from across San Diego County. My goals for this session were to remind the girls how magical science can be, and that women are very much a part of scientific discovery. In a chemistry lesson focused on the magic of Harry Potter, the girls were transported to Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry for potions class.

"Potions lessons took place down in one of the dungeons. It was colder here than up in the main castle, and would have been quite creepy enough with the pickled animals floating in glass jars all around the walls."

From this scene, the young muggle chemists explored the reactivity of acids and bases and learned about molecules which act as pH indicators (amphoteric compounds). In our first experiment, each participant created their own original Marauder's Map.

A Magical Outreach Event at the Fleet, cont.

"He took out his wand, touched the parchment lightly and said, 'I solemnly swear that I am up to no good.' And at once, thin ink lines began to spread like a spider's web from the point that George's wand had touched. They joined each other, they criss-crossed, they fanned into every corner of the parchment..."

Each girl was given a blank map (construction paper) on which they were to write their favorite thing about science using a pot of Basilisk's Venom (ink) and a quill pen (Q-tip). Once dry, each map was sprayed with a Revealing Solution which developed the science-themed message. The magic (and chemistry) can be explained in terms of acids and bases. Reaction of the Basilisk's Venom (baking soda solution) with the Revealing Solution (purple cabbage juice) revealed each message in a green ink. Unlike the *real* Marauder's Map, this irreversible chemical reaction provided a permanent reminder of the wonderful science we can find in our kitchens.

Our second experiment explored the states of matter (solid, liquid, gas) and how to define their properties and distinguish between materials which exhibit characteristics of several states. Students mixed a solution of Troll Essence (dilute PVA with green food coloring) with Wizard's Brew (borax solution) to create gelatinous goo resembling the aptly described troll bogies experienced by Harry and Ron during their first year.

"Harry bent down and pulled his wand out of the troll's nose. It was covered in what looked like lumpy grey glue. Urgh! – troll bogies!"

This classic experiment takes advantage of the properties of borax (detergent) and its ability to interact with PVA (school glue) to form a cross-linked structure more closely resembling a solid. Despite performing this demonstration to numerous audiences, the slimy feeling of mixing glue and borax with your hands and the spontaneous formation of matter with a different property never gets old! The girls could take home their Marauder's Maps and troll bogies as a reminder that magic often reveals its true nature through chemistry.

My short time with these girls finished with a short question and answer session focusing on the role of women in all areas of science and my own personal experiences which helped me along the way. I was surprised at the creativity and sophistication of each question and, like my father, have been reminded that what I do every day is incredible. I feel that the future of science is bright and that these girls will undoubtedly play a huge part in the advancement of STEM research and education.

"Mischief managed."



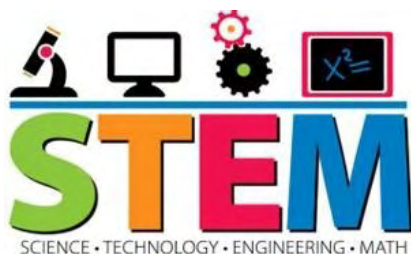
Academia to Industry (A2I) Coffee Club: A Visit with Ewa Lis, Ph.D.

by Juliati Rahajeng

Ewa Lis, PhD, CEO and Founder of Koliber Biosciences, came to AWIS-SD A2I meeting on Friday, June 2, 2017 to share her experience in transitioning to biotech industry. Lis obtained her undergraduate degree in organic chemistry from Cornell University in 2002 and her PhD in genetics and molecular biology from The Scripps Research Institute in 2008. For her PhD dissertation, she used budding yeast as a model organism to identify and characterize novel DNA damage proteins.

Upon receiving her PhD, she worked as a Senior Scientist in Biolight Harvesting leading the R&D group in developing algal fuel. Additionally, she co-authored a proposal that resulted in series A funding by CMEA Ventures. In 2010, she became a Staff Scientist at Life Technologies. She was the R&D lead of a team in the Synthetic Biology Division. Then, in 2011, Lis joined Genomatica as Research Scientist II. At Genomatica, a biotech company of about 100 employees, she was responsible for multiple tasks and one of them was to act as the technical lead on a high risk proof of concept project geared towards improving product yields through engineering of methanol oxidation into microorganisms. Lis really enjoyed working for the company because she did very exciting research, the environment was collaborative, and she knew everybody that worked for the company.

In 2014, Lis had an opportunity to start her own company, Koliber Biosciences. The company provides services to accelerate biological research through the use of machine learning and data science technologies. For example, she worked on developing novel ways to analyze histopathology data or designing proteins with improved properties.



Member News

- Ellen Dunn, co-founder and co-chair of the Back-to-Work Coffee Club, started her new job as Laboratory Analyst at Quadrants Scientific, Inc in April 2017.
- Juliati Rahajeng, co-chair of the Newsletter Committee and Academia to Industry Coffee Club, as well as member of the Scholarship Committee, began working as a Fellow at Cato Research in June 2017.
- Gabriela David-Morrison, member of the Newsletter Committee, started her new position as Biosciences Account Manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific in July 2017.

A Visit with Ewa Lis, cont.

When asked about the differences in working for a big biotech company versus a small/start-up company, Lis said that both have pluses and minuses. When working for a big biotech company, one does not have the freedom to work on the most desired type of research, but he or she does not have to worry about funding. However, it is possible that once a person can prove to the company that his or her idea will bring great profit for the company, management may allow him or her to act upon those ideas. On the contrary, working for a small biotech and/or start-up often requires an employee to have good grant writing skills, just like in academic institutions. However, the employee will be able to perform research based on his or her interests.

Lis recommended that A2I attendees to create a LinkedIn account. She thinks that it is a great way to connect with people working in the same research area and also with recruiters. She suggested that people who are currently looking for a job request informational interviews through their LinkedIn networks. Another piece of advice was to take extra courses to increase knowledge. Lis said that she learned about data science from Coursera, which is both very informative and inexpensive.

Applying for an industrial postdoc position is one way to gain experience in drug discovery. Many companies, such as Pfizer and GNF are constantly looking for postdocs, which in general last between 2-3 years. Regarding resumes, she emphasized the importance of tailoring one's resume to the job description. Finally, in addition to LinkedIn and Biospace, she recommended looking for job advertisements at Indeed.com.

Upcoming AWIS-SD Events

- **Academia to Industry Coffee Club**
Friday, September 1, 2017, 4:30-5:30 pm
Bella Vista Café (Sanford Consortium)
2880 Torrey Pines Scenic Dr, Torrey Pines, CA 92037
Guest speaker Dr. Helen Mao will talk about her experience transitioning from academia to industry.
- **Meet the AWIS-SD Board!**
Tuesday, September 19, 2017, 6:15-8:00 PM
Hera Hub
4010 Sorrento Valley Blvd #400, San Diego, CA 92121
This town hall meeting will provide information on local STEM activities that the AWIS-SD Board and Committees organize all year round. Whether you are new to AWIS-SD, thinking about volunteering for AWIS-SD, or just want to voice your opinion about AWIS-SD programming, stop by and chat! Snacks will be provided.

See more AWIS-SD events [here](#).

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¹Lichtenberg FR. NBER Working Paper No. 18235. Pharmaceutical innovation and longevity growth in 30 developing and high-income countries, 2000-2009. Available at <http://www.nber.org/papers/w18235>. Accessed May 2014.



About the Authors



Pat Rarus is a long-term contributor of the Newsletter committee. As the owner-founder of Marcom Consulting Group, Pat has assisted clients with marketing communications projects. The goal: increase visibility, market share and ultimately sales for profit-making companies. Increase visibility and donors for non-profits. Pat specializes in writing and editing a wide variety of online and print marketing materials: Website copy, including SEO, press releases, blogs, social media, biographies, marketing plans, speeches, ad/brochure copy, taglines/slogans, PowerPoint presentations and much more.



Joanna Redfern studied molecular evolution of Ocotillo plants and their relatives during her doctoral studies at the University of New Mexico (UNM). As a post-doc at UNM, she employed next-generation sequencing of soil samples to search for novel ligase enzymes with potential applications in biofuels. Presently, she teaches Introductory Biology at both Miramar and Cuyamaca Colleges. Joanna also started the AWIS-SD Academia 2 Industry Coffee Club in January 2016.



Gabriela David-Morrison received her PhD in Developmental Biology in 2016 from Baylor College of Medicine, where she studied the mechanisms of neuronal development. She moved to San Diego two months after graduation and became a scientific editor for BioScience Writers and a member of the Newsletter Committee. She is currently a Biosciences Account Manager at Thermo Fisher Scientific, where she applies her technical background to provide solutions and services for the promotion of biomedical research. She is passionate about advancing scientific research and gender and racial equality, and she enjoys dancing and exploring San Diego's hiking trails and beaches.



Elizabeth Jacobs is a postdoctoral research associate at The Scripps Research Institute, where she develops antibody-drug conjugates of Duocarmycin SA in collaboration with Bristol-Myers Squibb. She received her Bachelor's degree through the College Scholars Program at The University of Tennessee in 2009 and completed her PhD at The University of East Anglia in 2014. She has been an AWIS member since 2015 and serves as the San Diego Chapter Outreach Committee Social Media Manager and Public Relations Committee Co-chair. She would like to use her experience in research to promote positive change in early STEM education.



Juliati Rahajeng received her PhD in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from the University of Nebraska, Medical Center in 2011. She joined UCSD School of Medicine as a postdoctoral researcher one month after her graduation. Juliati has been a member of AWIS-SD for the past 3 years. She is currently an active member of the Scholarship and the Newsletter committees. She was also a member of the AWIS-SD Open House 2015 committee.

Not pictured

Alyson Smith

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 MS Word attachments to 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 [Oct 10, 2017](#)

Important Contacts

AWIS Board	Name	E-mail
President	DeeAnn Visk	president@awissd.org
Secretary	Nellie Shaul	secretary@awissd.org
Treasurer	Lori Yang	treasurer@awissd.org
Members at Large	Kirsten Kirchsteiger	-
	Kristina Bompiani-Myers	kmeyers@awissd.org
	Alex Clark	aclark@awissd.org
Members at Large	Leslie Crews-Robertson	-
	Past Treasurer	Christina Niemeyer

To contact the board, visit the following website: <http://www.awissd.org/>

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 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

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