



AWIS NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE
San Diego

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.

Letter from the President



Dear AWIS-SD Members & Friends,

How can you make the most of your AWIS-San Diego membership? Volunteer! Yes, I realize that many of you have a lot on your plate and feel that you cannot take on another commitment. However, I want to persuade you that as a volunteer, your efforts will pay back in numerous ways. You will not only help AWIS-SD towards our mission, but you also benefit yourself.

First, everyone knows how important it is to network, and that you should keep networking no matter your employment status. Many jobs are found through networking, and networking contacts may connect you to a potential hiring manager. On the other hand, networking events (even those sponsored by AWIS-SD) can be intimidating if you don't know anyone there. By joining an AWIS-SD committee, you will get to know your fellow volunteers—not just as superficial acquaintances, but as supportive colleagues. Someone may even work at a company or institution that you are interested in. Another benefit is that you can represent AWIS-SD at external events—and have people come up to you because they want to learn more about our organization.

Second, job postings always say that experience is required—not just technical knowledge but also soft skills such as teamwork, effective communication, leadership etc. Where can you get such experience? By joining an AWIS-SD committee—no experience is required. We provide a supportive environment where you can develop skills that are valued in the working world, e.g., managing projects, organizing events, writing grant proposals, etc. You can demonstrate progression by becoming a committee co-chair and/or join the AWIS-SD Board. Then, if you

are ever asked at a job interview, “Tell me about your experience in leading a team/planning a meeting/communicating with the public, etc?” you can highlight your accomplishments with AWIS-SD.

Third, if you are in transition, looking for a job is quite stressful and isolating. By joining a committee, you become an active link in the AWIS-SD chain of volunteers. No matter your skills and interests, we have a plethora of committees that can use your talents. You can share experiences as you interact with other volunteers. There are also psychological rewards in giving back to the community.

I realize everyone is busy with work, family, friends, etc., and may be concerned about the time commitments required as an AWIS-SD volunteer. However, our chapter offers shorter-term opportunities around a particular event. For example, you could give a science demonstration at an outreach event or review applications on Selection Day for AWIS-SD scholarships.

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A volunteer opportunity with a fixed duration is coming up: help organize the next WIST (Women in Science and Technology) conference, our flagship event. We are in the beginning stages of planning WIST 2015, which will take place on Saturday, May 9 2015 at the UCSD Faculty Club. All members are welcome to volunteer for the WIST 2015 organizing committee. WIST 2015 co-chairs are Linda Manza and Robina Shaheen. To join this committee, please contact wist@awissd.org or attend the AWIS-SD Town Hall meeting, which will serve as the kick-off for the committee.

All AWIS-SD members are encouraged to attend the Town Hall meeting on Monday, September 22 at Hera Hub. You can meet the Board and committee co-chairs, as well as learn about our exciting plans for the fall. Please sign up to attend the AWIS-SD Town Hall on our website, www.awissd.org.

A last note about volunteering—Each year at our fall Open House, AWIS-SD recognizes volunteers for their outstanding service. This year's Open House will be on Tuesday, October 28, at Qualcomm. Nominations are now open for the 2014 volunteer awards in the following categories: Innovation, Rookie of the Year, Outreach/Community Service, Leadership, and Outstanding Volunteer. Please send nominations (we welcome self nominees) for Board consideration by October 10 to president@awissd.org.

Most sincerely,

Grace

president@awissd.org

Student and Professional Leaders Collaborate at Joint Planning Conference for Diversity Focused Engineering and Science Chapters

by Nellie Shaul

On Friday, August 1, Solar Turbines and the San Diego Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement (MESA) Alliance hosted the Joint Planning Conference for Diversity Focused Engineering and Science Chapters. This event brought together student leaders and professionals together to network, collaborate, and exchange ideas for improving math, engineering, and science education. Both Solar Turbines and the San Diego MESA Alliance aim to boost the number of students who pursuing academic and career paths in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields, increase retention in these disciplines, and promote opportunities in STEM professions.

“The MESA Joint Planning Conference is a great opportunity for industries such as Solar Turbines to view the great work students in under-represented engineering/STEM organizations offer both in their respective campuses and their exhibited leadership potential,” said Naomie Baptiste, Field Operations Engineer at Solar Turbines.



The 2014-2015 San Diego Region Joint Planning Conference for the San Diego region took place at Solar Turbine's Kearny Mesa location. Solar Turbines is headquartered in San Diego, with its products playing an important role in the development of oil, natural gas, and power generation projects around the world. Forty professionals from various industries and student leaders from San Diego State University, Cuyamaca College, San Diego City College, and Southwestern College attended the conference.

The following student and professional organizations were represented:

- American Medical Student Organization (AMSA)
- Association for Women in Science (AWIS)
- Mexican American Engineers and Scientists (MAES)
- National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE)
- Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers (SHPE)
- Society of Women Engineers (SWE)
- Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE)

Leaders and industry professionals collaborated to improve the above organizations' effectiveness and communication, to promote leadership development, and provide valuable networking experience. Solar Turbines' VP of Oil & Gas Ennodio Ramos, Director of Turbo-machinery Dan Campion, Director of Product Development Mike Fitzpatrick, Principal Design Engineer Wayne Shaw, Design Engineer Jasmine Sadler, and HR Recruiter Cecil Shelton provided key contributions.

SHPE professionals and San Diego MESA Alliance staff acted out skits that addressed issues of ethics, diversity, inclusion, and authority. In addition, an alumni panel of former student leaders fielded questions about the following topics: empowering others; responsibilities of officers; conflict resolution; using your adviser; and balance[ing] school, work, position, and personal life.

“Attending the Joint Planning Conference was a great learning experience since we were presented with different aspects of leadership as well as issues that come with leadership from professionals in our fields of study,” said

Southwestern College Mechanical Engineering major and SHPE Public Relations Officer Alexandra Arambula.

In the final student evaluations, 100% of respondents reported that they were prepared for their positions as organization/professional leaders in STEM as a result of the conference. They would also recommend the conference to other officers and professionals.

Confessions of a Monarch Lover

by DeeAnn Visk

I love butterflies, especially Monarchs. Growing up the rural Midwest, I first discovered milkweed in the fall when the pods dried and burst open with incredibly soft, downy parachutes to spread the dark brown seeds. Later, my father explained that Monarch butterflies lived off the leaves of this plant. In fact, it is the only plant Monarch caterpillars can eat.

Being an experimental biologist even in my early years, I tasted the sticky white sap that oozed out when a leaf was broken. YUCK! It may look like milk, but it was extremely bitter.

Despite this unwelcome surprise in my childhood, my affection for butterflies persisted. So attending the AWIS-SD Butterfly Farms Family Event on Saturday, July 12, was pure joy for me.

The Butterfly Farm, located in Vista, offers educational opportunities for groups. With a \$5 suggested donation per person, the event was reasonably priced for most families. The morning began with a talk by the owners of the farm about the development of butterflies, pitched at just the right level for the children present.



*Listening the talk about butterfly habitat and development
Photo credit: DeeAnn Visk*

Next we toured the vivarium, filled with lots of butterflies in various stages of development.

Lunch was taken at the shaded picnic tables, with delicious potluck food brought by participants.



*Monarch caterpillar noshes on tropical milkweed.
Photo credit: DeeAnn Visk*

In the end, I purchased a tropical milkweed plant, with two Monarch caterpillars thrown in for free. As they sat at the front of my door, it was fun to watch them develop. In addition to the caterpillars from the Butterfly Farm, I also witnessed a Monarch lay her eggs on one of the milkweed leaves once it was installed in my front yard. Within a few weeks, the plant had been stripped of leaves by the Monarch caterpillars.

But now it is re-growing—and I saved lots of seeds from the pods for next year.

Thank you to the Events Committee for planning such a wonderful family outing.



*Adult Monarch butterfly with denuded tropical milkweed stalks in the foreground.
Photo credit: DeeAnn Visk*

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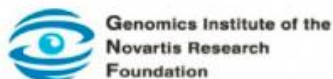
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AWIS-SD Strategy Session on How to Build Effective Mentoring Relationships

by Hanne Hoffman

Jaymee Davis and Leslie Roberts organized the interactive June Strategy Session on mentoring at Hera Hub in Sorrento Mesa on August 4.

Jaymee started the session with members sharing good news, including newly published papers, and with the announcement of the departure from San Diego by a valued AWIS San Diego board member. The upcoming events included a meeting of the Back to Work Coffee Club, and the September Focus Session and Happy Hour, which will offer networking opportunities.

Roberts introduced the evening's speaker, Paula Doss from the University of California San Diego. Thanks to Doss' extensive experience creating and managing mentoring programs, she was well suited to give advice on the roles as mentor and mentee. As an example, Doss talked about a program she had managed aimed at matching new employees with established personnel at the workplace. This mentoring program not only helped the recruits become familiar with the "does and don'ts" of their new place of employment, but it also allowed for a faster and smoother integration. In addition, this program showed that new employees who were mentored by someone in a higher position significantly decreased the time to promotion!

The session attendees were then divided into smaller groups to discuss the qualities of their mentors. Each group shared what they found to be the most important characteristics of their mentors. These included being knowledgeable, encouraging, a good listener, and truthful; sharing life skills; and making their mentees feel empowered. In addition to these skills, a good mentor will also help you find the right connections, get positions on boards, etc. However, one group recounted an experience of a mentor being too "pushy" and ambitious.

If you need a mentor, you can identify him or her through networking. Once you have a mentor, how do you get the most out of the relationship? When you set up a meeting with your mentor, you want to arrive prepared. Have questions ready. If you are unsure how to get started, ask your mentor to talk about his or her experience handling a particular phase in their career, e.g., the transition from postdoc to faculty. How did he or she do it and what would they have done differently? Other topics can be goal setting and sharing ideas. When your mentor encourages you to take a class, go to an event, etc., do it! Next time you meet, you will have plenty to talk about. Once the discussion gets started, a stimulating exchange of ideas often occurs that will inspire both parties.

How often should mentors and mentees meet? This will depend on circumstances. Sometimes frequent, bi-monthly meetings are a good option, whereas other times, once a month or quarterly is enough. In some cases, an email update might also be all that is required to keep you both on track.

So what's in it for you? As a mentor, you will become a better listener, and you will experience the satisfaction of helping other people succeed. Mentees, expect to increase your self-confidence, get support for your career goals, and get promoted sooner. What are you waiting for? Good luck, mentors and mentees!

Special Town Hall Meeting

Come join the AWIS-SD board members and committee chairs for a special town hall meeting on Monday, September 22, 2014 at Hera Hub! Proposed agenda topics include:

- Meet and Greet with board members and committee chairs
- Hear about planned fall events, including our popular Open House with silent auction
- Kick-Off for WIST 2015 Conference Organizing Committee. Members can sign up for the WIST 2015 Committee at the Town Hall! Committee co-chairs are Linda Manza and Robina Shaheen.
- Learn about volunteer opportunities
- Committee updates

We hope to see you there! Please register online [here](#).

Science News Ticker

AstraZeneca announced positive top-line results for three pivotal phase III clinical trials conducted by Ardea Biosciences in San Diego, CA. The trials investigated the potential of lesinurad, a selective uric acid re-absorption inhibitor, as a combination therapy for the treatment of patients with symptomatic gout. Results from these trials will be submitted to a scientific meeting later in 2014. AstraZeneca acquired Ardea Biosciences in 2012. ●●● Otonomy, a biopharmaceutical company dedicated to providing targeted medicine for the ear, announced the pricing of its initial public offering of 6,250,000 shares of common stock at \$16.00 per share. The shares began trading on the NASDAQ Global Select Market on August 13, 2014. ●●● ViaCyte received FDA permission to proceed with a phase 1 and 2 combination trial designed to look at the safety and early signs of efficacy of stem-cell based diabetes therapy. ViaCyte also entered into a Rights Agreement with Janssen Research and Development and received \$20 million to advance clinical development of VC-01, their experimental product. VC-01 is derived from human embryonic stem cells and is matured into cells that regulate blood sugar levels. ●●● OneRoof

Energy, a San Diego based solar-energy company, raised \$58 million to install more than 2,000 residential solar systems in California, Hawaii, Massachusetts, and New York. OneRoof allows customers to obtain solar-energy through power-purchase agreements and similar leases. This enables households to save money on reduced energy bills without borrowing or spending money on solar equipment upfront. The funding came from an undisclosed third party. OneRoof will use the new equity within a year. ••• Per a new study conducted by the news and information company Thomson Reuters, San Diego is home to 48 of the world's most influential scientists and engineers. The figure was determined by analyzing how often scientists were cited by other researchers worldwide. The San Diego-La Jolla area was ranked sixth nationally in the number of top scholars across the country, ahead of Los Angeles and San Francisco. Forty-five of the 48 scientists on the list work in the Torrey Pines Mesa.

Member News

Marcy Richardson, AWIS-SD Member-at-Large, is stepping down from the Board to relocate to Bath, Maine in September. Marcy will continue to participate with AWIS-SD and will be looking for a new job in either teaching or research in the spring. Marcy can be reached at Marcy.E.Richardson@gmail.com.

Roberta Alexander started a new job as a Director, Clinical Research at Proove Biosciences in Irvine, CA. Despite the long commute from San Diego, Roberta is excited about her new position.

DeeAnn Visk has a new job as a scientist at ChemDiv, a local contract research organization specializing in high throughput screening of potential drug candidates. She is thrilled to be working at the bench, learning automation for the application of a high throughput screen.

Melanie Nelson is releasing an e-book on September 10 titled *Navigating the Path to Industry: A Hiring Manager's Advice for Academics Looking for a Job in Industry*. Melanie used her 10+ years of experience as a hiring manager in industry to write the book. For more information on the book, click [here](#). It will also be available on Kobo, BN, and iBooks.

Robina Shaheen and her team published new findings on the transport of sulfate to the stratosphere where it reflects solar radiation – an opposite effect to green house warming. The story is highlighted on the cover page of the August 19, 2014 issue of *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*. The table of contents of the issue, along with additional information, can be found [here](#).

Upcoming Events

SPECIAL TOWN HALL MEETING

Monday, September 22, 2014
6:15 pm – 8:00 pm
Hera Hub
9710 Scranton Road, San Diego, CA 92121

All AWIS-SD members are encouraged to attend this open town hall meeting at Hera Hub. Please register [here](#).

BACK TO WORK COFFEE CLUB

Wednesday, September 24, 2014
11:30 am – 1:30 pm
UCSD Extension Room 301
6256 Greenwich Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

A Coffee Club for women interested in transitioning back to the work place especially after an absence. Join us to share your experiences and challenges, for support and encouragement and to help develop programs that will assist women in going back to work. Please RSVP to backtoworkinitiative@awissd.org to let us know you are coming.

HAPPY HOUR AT EUREKA!

Tuesday, September 30, 2014
05:30pm – 08:00 pm
Eureka!
4353 La Jolla Village Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

Join us for a relaxed evening of socializing and networking at Eureka! located in the UTC mall. Delicious appetizers, including truffle fries, bruschetta, corn dogs, and nachos will be served. Bring friends and business cards!

Free for AWIS-SD members, \$15 for non-members

Information: <http://www.eurekarestaurantgroup.com/>

STRATEGY SESSION: Build On Your Idea

Monday, October 6, 2014
6:00 pm – 8:00 pm
Hera Hub
9710 Scranton Road, San Diego, CA 92121

Additional Details TBD. Networking – 6:00 pm, Workshop – 6:30 - 8:00 pm. Light refreshments will be served. Remember to bring your business cards! Pre-registration is essential! Please register [here](#).

This is an AWIS San Diego MEMBERS ONLY event. If you are not currently an AWIS San Diego member and would like to attend this event, please join or renew your membership online (www.awis.org). Remember to select San Diego as your chapter. We would love to have you join us!

AWIS SAN DIEGO ANNUAL OPEN HOUSE 2014

Tuesday, October 28, 2014

5:30 – 8:00 pm

Qualcomm Building S

5535 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121

The AWIS-SD Open House is a great opportunity for networking, recognizing our outstanding volunteers, and learning more about the benefits of being a member of the AWIS family and what AWIS can do for you!

This free event is open to both AWIS members and non-members, so bring a friend. Light refreshments will be served.

Registration is required. Please register [here](#).

If any of you would like to donate an item for the silent auction, please email openhouse@awissd.org with the item's general information, a picture, and the item's worth.

We thank Qualcomm for generously donating their space to host this event.

Local Events of Interest

Qualcomm Women in Science and Engineering: QWISE 8TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

Monday, September 15, 2014

5:00 pm – 8:30 pm

Irwin Jacobs Auditorium (N auditorium and lobby)

5775 Morehouse Drive, San Diego, CA 92121

AWIS-SD will have a table during this networking event from 5:00 – 6:30 pm. For more details on the event and to register, click [here](#).

Women in Bio-Southern California: YOU LEANED IN, NOW WHAT?

Wednesday, September 17, 2014

5:30 – 8:15 pm

Corporate Alliance of San Diego

9171 Towne Centre Drive #180, San Diego, CA 92122

It is not up for debate that you are dedicated and involved, but it is worth asking yourself “How am I doing with respect to my long-term goals?” and taking some time to focus on you. We want to give women tangible, tactical advice on how to achieve their own definition of success. We've convened local experts who are passionate about what they do to provide their hard-earned insight and best advice in four impactful areas of professional and personal success.

You will have the opportunity to participate in personal, round table discussions with each speaker and our concluding panel discussion topics will be determined by you! Do you have question or topic you'd really like the panelists to discuss? Simply email your suggestion to southerncalifornia@womeninbio.org with the subject line: “You Leaned In Question/Topic” (any submission discussed will be kept anonymous.) We will also conduct live polling during the event to get your take on recurring questions posed by the media and business leaders about work/life balance, equity, and success. Join us and together we'll take the conversation forward!

To register, pay, and learn more information about speakers, click [here](#).

UCSD Extension: CONTINUING EDUCATION CENTER SHOWCASE

September 18, 2014

4:30 – 8:00pm

University City Center

6256 Greenwich Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

The Continuing Education & Career Showcase is a no-cost event, open to the public! Whether you're looking to advance your career, gain a new skill set, or transition into a new field, we have the resources to help you succeed.

4:30 - 5:30: Networking Reception; enjoy delicious refreshments by Bristol Farms

5:30 - 8:00: Choose from 15 free workshops such as Healthcare Master's Degree Programs in Clinical Research, Leadership, or Health Policy and Law

Visit our [website](#) for more information.

**UCSD Extension:
SCIENCE WRITING I**

Oct 1 – Dec 3, 2014

This course will benefit both those seeking to make a career transition to science writing as well as to those with no intention of leaving the bench but who wish to be more effective writers. For those exploring alternative careers, this course is an introduction to science journalism with a focus on writing techniques and strategies to engage the general reader. Also covered are opportunities for science writing, constraints that shape science coverage, ethical issues governing science reporting, and the cultural place of science in society. For scientists wishing to hone communication skills, lay-level explanations of science are often the key to effectively explaining the broader implications and applications of scientific discoveries to key audiences such as colleagues, collaborators in other disciplines, funding agency and foundation officers, donors, institution leaders, corporate partners, students, legislators, your family and friends, journalists, and the public. Learn the tools and techniques to reach all these audiences effectively. The course is taught by Lynne Friedmann, AWIS Fellow, who brings a wealth of experience from her successful career as a freelance science writer and science communications consultant.

To enroll, please go here:

<http://extension.ucsd.edu/studyarea/index.cfm?vCourse=WCWP-40105>

You can also contact Lynne at LFriedmann@nasw.org with questions about the course.

**CARTA (Center for Academic Research and Training in Anthropogeny):
DOMESTICATION AND HUMAN EVOLUTION**

Friday, October 10, 2014

1:00 – 5:30 pm

De Hoffman Auditorium, Salk Institute

10010 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037

Co-Chairs are Robert Kluender (UC San Diego) and Terrence William Deacon (UC Berkeley)

The domestication of other species has played an undeniably central role in the evolution of modern humans, and in our planetary dominance and success. In view of this fact, researchers have over the years investigated the genetic underpinnings and the anatomical, neural, physiological and behavioral consequences of domestication across a number of animal species – but largely independently of each other. Recently, a convergence of views has led to the notion that the study of animal domestication may tell us something not only about our relationship with domesticated species since

perhaps at least the Pleistocene, but also about our own evolution as a species in the more distant past. Specifically, it has been suggested that a number of the unique anatomical, neural, developmental, social, cognitive and communicative traits that define our species may be attributable to selection for lack of aggression and to a process of self-domestication. This symposium brings together researchers from a variety of research backgrounds to examine these concepts and to elucidate further the possible role of domestication in human evolution.

REGISTRATION

Admission is free and open to the public; however, registration is required. To register, go to:

<http://carta.anthropogeny.org/events/domestication-and-human-evolution>

LIVE WEBCAST

Note that the entire symposium will once again be viewable online via a live webcast. A link to the live webcast will be posted on the event page on the day of the event. You will need to log in to your CARTA account in order to access the live webcast.

About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS-SD 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.

Newsletter staff for September/October Issue:

Nurith Amitai, Afshawn Chakamian, Andria Del Tredici, Pat Rarus, Robina Shaheen, and DeeAnn Visk

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 October 10, 2014

About the Authors

Nellie Shaul is finishing her Ph.D. in oceanography at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography at UCSD, where she focused on analytical environmental chemistry and investigated persistent organic pollutants in the marine environment. She is the new Co-Chair of the AWIS Outreach Committee.



DeeAnn Visk, Ph.D., is a freelance science writer, editor, and blogger. She loves working at the bench in molecular biology, genetics, and microscopy. DeeAnn lives in the San Diego, California area with her husband, progeny, and two spoiled hens.

The remaining author bios were not available at press time.

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Important Contacts

<u>AWIS Board</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
President	Grace Nakayama	president@awissd.org
Secretary	Monica Brown	secretary@awissd.org
Treasurer	Christina Niemeyer	treasurer@awissd.org
Members at Large	Amy Duncan	aduncan@awissd.org
	Linda Manza	lmanza@awissd.org
	Marcy Richardson	mrichardson@awissd.org
Past President	Dorothy Sears	pastpresident@awissd.org
Past Treasurer	Corine Lau	clau@awissd.org

To contact the Board, visit the following website: <http://sdawis.org/about-awis-san-diego/board-members-awis>

Committee Contacts

<u>Committee</u>	<u>Chair(s)</u>	<u>E-mail</u>
AWIS-SD Leadership Network	Jenny Chaplin	leadnet@awissd.org
	Dorothy Sears	
	Rachel Soloff	
Back to Work Initiative	April Cresse	backtoworkinitiative@awissd.org
	Ellen Dunn	
	Maha Gebara-Lamb	
Corporate Sponsorship	Supriya Gaitonde	corporatesponsorship@awissd.org
	Kathy Ogilvie	
Events	Barbara Davids	events@awissd.org
	Sonia Feau	
Mid-Career Coffee Club	Christina Niemeyer	coffeclub@awissd.org
Mentorship	Linda Manza	mentor@awissd.org
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	Afshawn Chakamian	
	DeeAnn Visk	
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	Diana Morales-Hernandez	
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	Robina Shaheen	