



AWIS NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE
San Diego

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 & Friends,

One of my goals as AWIS-SD President has been to increase the engagement of our members. We have a number of activities coming up in the next few months to promote this: AWIS-SD Chapter survey for members and non-members, Town Hall, Open House 2015, nominations for 2015 AWIS-SD volunteer awards, and board elections.

AWIS-SD wants your opinion about our Chapter. In October, we will launch the AWIS-SD Chapter survey for members and non-members. We want to learn about your level of engagement with AWIS-SD, as well as some demographic information. The survey includes questions about AWIS-SD events that you have attended recently and what type of programs you want to see in the future. Check your email this month for a link to the 2015 survey. If you do not receive it by the end of October, email Board member Kristina Henthorn (khenthorn@awissd.org), who is taking the lead on the survey. The AWIS-SD Board appreciates your taking the time to complete this survey, which will provide valuable insights regarding our organization from members and the local STEM community.

The next AWIS-SD Town Hall will be held on Monday, September 21, at Hera Hub (4010 Sorrento Valley Blvd, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92121). This semi-annual meeting is an opportunity for all to network with the AWIS-SD board and committee co-chairs and to hear about Chapter activities. In addition, there will be time on the agenda for you to share your ideas with the AWIS-SD leadership team. Members and non-members are welcome to attend the AWIS-SD Town Hall. Please sign up on our website, www.awissd.org.

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Preparations for the AWIS-SD Open House are now underway. This is our annual fall event in which we invite members and the local STEM community to learn about our organization and our many programs. DeeAnn Visk and Danielle John are 2015 Open House committee co-chairs. The date and venue for this year's event has not yet been set; check our website for updates. We welcome members and non-members to attend the 2015 Open House, which will feature tables for volunteer committees, a silent auction benefiting our scholarship program, light refreshments, as well as an award ceremony. The latter is the highlight of the Open House; each year we recognize our

outstanding volunteers, member anniversary certificates, and AWIS-SD/UCSD Extension awards.

Many AWIS-SD members generously volunteer their time for our Chapter, and our board is proud to show our appreciation to these individuals at the Open House. Nominations are now open for the 2015 AWIS-SD 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 15 Oct to president@awissd.org.

Finally, I want to encourage all members to consider stepping up your involvement with the Chapter and run for an AWIS-SD board seat. In November, we will hold elections for 3 positions for the 2016-2017 term: president, treasurer and board member at large. This is a great opportunity to work closely with a group of terrific women on the board, enhance your leadership skills, and help shape the future of our Chapter. We are especially in need for candidates to run for President and Treasurer. Don't be concerned if you aren't currently a board member; both Christina Niemeyer (current Treasurer) and I will remain on the board (as Past-Treasurer and Past-President, respectively) for the next two years, and we will mentor you to success. Please contact me at president@awissd.org if you are ready to throw your hat into the ring.

Most sincerely,

Grace

president@awissd.org

Transitioning from Academia to Industry: What Can Be Gleaned by Attending Conferences in Your Content Area

by DeeAnn Visk

One question often posed by AWIS-SD members is how to transition from academia to industry. One approach to answer this question is to look at what companies are presenting at conferences in your field of study.

At the end of May, the [Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction \(qPCR\) and Digital PCR Congress](#) was held in San Diego. PCR is a well-known molecular biology technique used to amplify specific segments of genetic material. While many AWIS-SD members are probably familiar with this procedure, they may not know how it is applied in the biotech industry. Digital PCR refers to a system that divides the PCR reaction into very tiny droplets, such that there is only one copy of the template per droplet. The reaction then proceeds as normal; the final read-out of the results is done one droplet at a time, with the results either being positive or negative for the template. Hence the term "digital" is used to reference the either "+" or "-" results for each droplet. This technique is very useful in detecting low amounts of the target.

During the conference, several researchers from different companies presented a variety of applications for PCR, e.g., detecting low levels of viruses like cytomegalovirus (CMV) and human immune-deficiency virus (HIV). Additionally, some companies seek to mine data to find differentially expressed genes that correlate to various disease states, such as organ rejection in the transplant field.

In other top developments, genomic data is being used to look at mental health conditions. Traditionally, there have been no blood tests specifically for diagnosis and prognosis of depression. Psychiatrists have only been able to probe the brain during conversations with the patient, albeit with carefully structured questionnaires to guide the talking. Which medication to prescribe is just a best guess, with only follow up conversations and questionnaire-based screening tests to assess the efficacy of the treatment. By examining profiles of genes expressed in patients' blood, a more objective test for diagnosis and efficacy of treatment may one day be developed.

Other talks at the conference were more technical in nature, describing the process of getting a good PCR assay that will meet the stringent requirements of federal regulation. For example, if you develop a PCR assay to be used in a diagnostic test, the technique must be absolutely reproducible. Again, several speakers offered a range of presentations on how to design these top-notch assays.

The topics presented at this congress provided helpful information for anyone utilizing PCR in an academic setting and hoping to transition into an industry position in which they could apply this skill. For example, one take-home message from the conference was to be extremely accurate and reliable in the design of your assays. Also, it can be advantageous to work in a lab that deals with commercially applicable approaches like looking for viruses in human samples—something to consider when selecting your postdoc or finalizing your choice for your graduate studies.

New Link for AWIS-SD Online Profile

AWIS-SD online profile has a new look! Our profile is now hosted by Guidestar.org at:

<http://www.guidestar.org/organizations/52-1459168/association-women-science-san-diego.aspx>

Guidestar.org does not accept donations to AWIS-SD at this time. If you would like to contribute to AWIS-SD, please use the "Donate" box on our website's homepage (<http://www.awissd.org/>).



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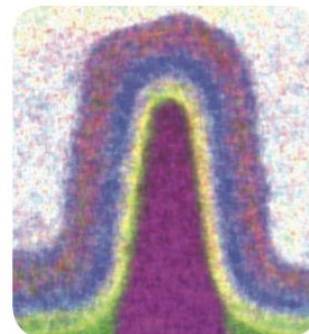
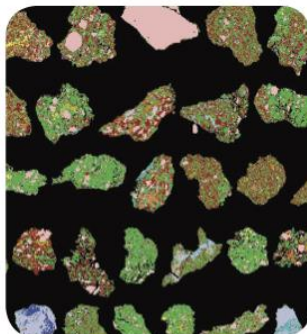
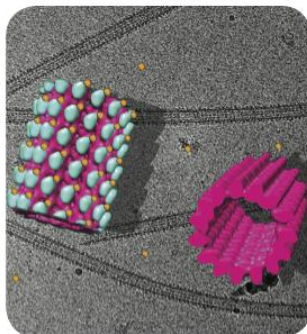
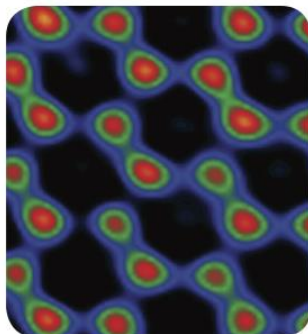


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UC San Diego | Extension



(From left to right) Atomic resolution phase image of graphene. Sample courtesy of N. Alem and A. Zettl, University of California, Berkeley. Images Joerg Jinschek and Emrah Yucelen, FEI, Hector Calderon, IPN, Mexico, and C. Kisielowski, NCEM, USA. Exit wave reconstruction by Joerg Jinschek. **Helical reconstruction of microtubules decorated by an Eg5-metallothionein-gold complex.** Image: Cedric Bouchet-Marquis. **Drill cuttings from a CO₂ injection well.** Image: CO2CRC, Australia. **22 nm PMOS transistor structure.** Image: FEI NanoPort.

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Postdoc Open Mic Night

by Alyson Smith

The Postdoc Open Mic Night series was initiated last year by The Scripps Research Institute Society of Fellows, the University of California San Diego Postdoc Association, the Sanford Burnham Prebys Science Network, the Salk Society of Research Fellows, and the Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology's Postdoc Association. The monthly event features five-minute science talks targeted at a general audience given by postdocs from around San Diego. The speakers are selected based on abstracts submitted online to the organizers. Two guest judges from nearby companies or universities are invited to evaluate the talks.

The second year of this event began on Wednesday, August 12, at the Bella Vista Social Club and Caff . Postdocs, graduate students, and other researchers from around San Diego attended the event. The appetizers and networking began at 6:00 p.m., sponsored by GE Life Sciences. Next, Dr. G za Ambrus-Aikelin, Senior Scientist at Janssen, gave a short talk about career prospects in the life sciences industry aimed at postdocs interested in pursuing a career in this industry. He recommended that postdocs diversify their research skill sets as much as possible, as it is hard to predict what may be useful in the future. Additionally, Ambrus-Aikelin advised against applying to positions without having most of the desired skills listed.

Dr. Stephen Demarest, Senior Research Advisor at Eli Lilly, reiterated Ambrus-Aikelin's advice and shared some of his own work on bispecific antibodies that recognize more than one epitope.



Three five-minute talks by postdocs followed these presentations. The first talk focused on how Opera, an application for high-content drug screening technology, can be used to test drug candidates in the treatment of neurological disorders. The presenter plated neurons differentiated from patient-derived induced pluripotent stem cells onto plates containing hundreds of wells. He added a different compound to each well, and used the Opera system

to take confocal images of each well and measure the electrical activity of the neurons.

The second talk focused on structural studies of dihydrofolate reductase (DHFR), an enzyme important in nucleotide and amino acid synthesis. The presenter utilized a combination of nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and enzyme kinetics to characterize the conformational changes that this enzyme undergoes during product release.

The third talk presented a novel strategy to combat HIV latency, in which the viral genome integrates into the host genome, but is not expressed and cannot be detected by the immune system. This approach uses a CRISPR/Cas9 system coupled to a transcriptional activator with a guide RNA that is targeted to the HIV genome. The system specifically and efficiently activated transcription of the HIV genome in the cells tested.

After the conclusion of the talks, the guest judges deliberated over which talk was most effective in communicating the scientists' research to a general audience, ultimately ranking the talk on HIV latency first. There will be three more Postdoc Open Mic Nights this fall, followed by a final competition for a prize between the top-ranked speakers in December. The organizers are still looking for presenters. More information and the entry form can be found [here](#).

AWIS-SD Strategy Session:

Advance to the Job Offer: Nail the Interview

by April Cresse

AWIS-SD Members gathered this month to hear a panel of speakers give advice about interviewing for positions in both industry and academia. The expert speakers were Sancta Corrao, Senior Recruiter and Talent Acquisition Partner for Illumina's Oncology Business Unit, Pamela Mellon, Ph.D., Distinguished Professor of Reproductive Medicine and Neurosciences and Vice-Chair for Research in the Department of Reproductive Medicine at the University of California, San Diego, and Linda Manza, Ph.D., Independent Consultant in Toxicology and Quality Assurance. The panelists described the interviewing process in their specific areas and each offered thoughtful advice.

Corrao explained that Illumina employs a traditional interviewing process involving both phone and on-site interviews. She looks for people who are authentic, express genuine honesty, and are truly interested in Illumina. Key traits for an Illumina employee are curiosity, inquisitiveness, and a passion for changing the world and people's lives.

Manza recounted a similar procedure for interviewing in the field of toxicology and quality assurance. Generally, one can expect a phone call from the Human Resources Department and then a phone interview with the hiring manager. Manza

emphasized that the phone interview is important and encouraged everyone to prepare for it.

In academia, Mellon explained that the Recruitment Committee ranks the applications received for a specific position, and asks for letters from the candidates' references. The Committee brings in five to eight candidates for two full days of interviews with faculty and students. Each candidate gives a formal seminar and has one-on-one meetings with every Committee Member. On the second day, for junior faculty, the candidate gives a "chalk talk" to describe the aims of his or her research. Mellon looks for articulate candidates who exhibit warmth, generosity, and passion about their own science.

Advice for addressing the difficult questions in an interview included following the STAR method (Situation, Task, Action, Result): recount past positive contributions by briefly summarizing the *situation* you were faced with, explaining the *task* that was needed to address the situation, and then describing what *action* you took and the (positive) *result* of your actions. Corrao suggested compiling four to five examples of challenges and significant contributions. When planning for questions like these, Corrao encouraged the women to think about the qualities or achievements they are praised for by their colleagues. Manza cautioned women to keep answers to behavioral questions short.

Corrao advised giving honest, succinct, confident answers to questions about gaps in one's resume. Mellon added that some women followed their husbands as they relocated for their careers, leading to disruptions in employment. She recommended women be forthright about this, believing that such occurrences won't prevent a woman from getting the job. Manza asks people who have been away from their careers: "What did you do to stay current in your field?"

Later in the session, the attendees assembled into small groups to practice interview questions with the panelists. Sample questions included: "Tell me about a time you faced a challenge and overcame it" and "What makes you a good fit for this organization?" This exercise emphasized the importance of practicing questions with someone who will provide feedback. This helps build one's confidence for the interview. Attention to these questions and advice offered in this session will help a candidate stand out from the crowd, nail the interview, and get the job!

**AWIS-SD Presentation
at the U.S. News STEM Solutions National Leadership
Conference**
by April Cresse

AWIS-SD had the opportunity to give a presentation at the U.S. News STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Solutions National Leadership Conference this

summer. Dorothy (Dody) Sears, Ph.D., presented for our chapter. Sears is Executive Board Past President of AWIS-SD and an Associate Professor at the University of California, San Diego (UCSD) School of Medicine. Sears' lively talk focused on the myriad of ways that AWIS-SD supports women in STEM. The mission of AWIS-SD is to provide women in STEM fields the opportunity to participate in networking, mentoring, and leadership opportunities.

Sears emphasized that the chapter's encouragement and mentoring efforts are targeted toward women with a wide range of experience levels and diverse STEM careers. There are approximately 230 members in AWIS-SD with 60 active volunteers. About half the members are STEM professionals and the other half are students or STEM trainees (postdoctoral fellows). AWIS-SD members are encouraged to participate in one of the many AWIS-San Diego committees. Throughout the year, the Strategy Sessions Committee holds professional development seminars and workshops.

The Outreach Committee organizes many chapter programs to inspire and encourage the younger generation of girls and young women in STEM. The Outreach Committee also hosts career exploration events for high school and college age women. AWIS-SD offers scholarships to women pursuing studies in STEM fields at the community college through graduate level. This year AWIS-SD awarded nearly \$10,000 in scholarships and awards.



Dorothy (Dody) Sears, Ph.D. Photo by Jean Spence

AWIS-SD reaches a diverse and varied group of women. Over 1,400 women receive electronic chapter communications (newsletter and email notifications) and more than 1,000 women attended chapter events each year. Sears noted the two newer groups in the San Diego chapter: the AWIS-SD Leadership Network and the Back to Work Initiative. The Leadership Network is a group of women in upper executive positions in industry and academia who mentor and support each other through monthly meetings. The Back to Work Initiative of AWIS-SD supports women who have taken time

away from their careers for a variety of reasons and are looking to re-enter the workplace. The Back to Work Initiative offers peer support to these women and workshops related to interviewing, resume writing, and job search skills. This group awards scholarships sponsored by UCSD Extension for continuing education in the life sciences, business, and technology.

Every two years, the AWIS-SD chapter holds its flagship event: the Women in Science and Technology (WIST) Conference. WIST is a one-day conference with women keynote speakers from STEM fields and includes professional development talks and inspiring sessions for women at all career levels in STEM. On the alternate years, AWIS-SD hosts the Scholars Celebration, which honors the year's AWIS-SD student scholarship awardees. In addition, prominent women in STEM fields give interesting and inspiring talks at this event. In recognition of the numerous programs that support women in STEM and the success of the chapter, AWIS-SD has been awarded the status of "Star Chapter" by the National AWIS organization each year since inception of this award. In the final remarks of her talk, Sears thanked our corporate and institutional sponsors and encouraged all in the audience to join AWIS and get involved. AWIS-SD is always happy to welcome new members and sponsors. For more information, see www.awissd.org.

STEM Solutions

by Jean Spence

The recent *U.S. News* National Leadership Conference on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) Solutions was held at the Manchester Hyatt on June 30 and July 1 and 2. The conference addressed the need for recruiting more people, especially women and minorities, into science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) careers and the need for qualified educators to teach these students. Keynote speakers U.S. Labor Secretary Thomas Perez, J.D., and STEM Leadership Hall of Fame nominee Shirley Malcom, Ph.D., head of Education and Human Resources Programs at the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), spoke of the need for a "grassroots movement" involving industry leaders, teachers, parents, and students.

The conference was divided into keynote talks followed by breakout sessions in five separate categories. *U.S. News and World Report's* Editor and Chief Content Officer Brian Kelly moderated many of the keynote sessions. There was also an exhibit hall with various STEM programs and resources for teachers. AWIS-SD was well represented with a table in the exhibit hall and by a talk by Past President Dorothy (Dody) Sears, Ph.D.—see the article by April Cresse in this edition of the newsletter.

Of interest to AWIS members is the gender gap in STEM careers. While there is an increase in the number of in jobs in STEM careers, the racial and gender gap is widening. There were sessions on recruiting and retaining women and minorities in the workplace and the need to identify and eliminate bias against women and minorities. The lack of women role models, mentors, and peer support groups was also discussed, along with the importance of such resources in retaining women and minorities in the workplace. The presenters stressed that establishing an inclusive environment is crucial.

The gender gap is particularly extreme in the computer science field, according to Jane Broom Davidson of Microsoft Corporation. Broom Davidson noted that of the 711 students who took a recent Advanced Placement test for computer science, only 180 were girls, 12 were African American, and 25 were Hispanic. Psychologist Wendy M. Williams, Ph.D., a professor at Cornell University, proposed that women may be more interested in other career choices. On a more positive note, Maria Klawe, Ph.D., President of Harvey Mudd College, reported that her current computer science classes were approaching 50% female enrollment. Klawe is a prominent computer scientist and one of the five new U.S. News STEM Leadership Hall of Fame awardees.

One of the current crises in the STEM fields is the disjunction between educational system and the training for STEM employees. Part of this gap is due to the rapid evolution of technology in the workplace, which outpaces the education of the teachers who are attempting to train students to fill STEM positions. In order to assist teachers in preparing students for STEM careers, several companies offer externships to teachers in order to communicate the current skill sets required for working at their particular company.



Concluding remarks addressed the need to inspire youth to choose STEM careers by emphasizing the prestige and high salaries of STEM positions. Collaboration of business, government, and educators is required to solve the shortage of STEM workers in our country.

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AWIS-SD Leadership Network

by Linda Manza

The AWIS-SD Leadership Network (ALN) is a group within AWIS' San Diego Chapter aimed at members in senior leadership roles in academia and industry. ALN activities are varied and focus on the specific needs of this peer group. All events are planned by ALN members on a rotating basis and have included presentations by guest speakers, book reviews, and informal discussions over a glass of wine.

Most recently, we hosted a roundtable discussion led by AWIS-SD member and former President Jenny Chaplin, Development Director at Pfizer, on the topic of what steps we take to reach the next level of our careers. We learned that some members take well-planned steps towards a pre-determined career goal. Others follow a more opportunistic approach towards career advancement, sometimes leading their careers in an exciting, new direction. By the end of the evening, we left with insights and the challenge to reach the next level in our careers.

More about ALN can be found at <http://www.awissd.org/index.php/all-events/member-events/leadership-network>. This link includes the application to be considered for the ALN.

Announcement of New Coffee Club

by Joanna Redfern

New Coffee Club for Women in Transition from Academia to Industry

My name is Joanna Redfern, and I joined AWIS-SD this past March. My family and I relocated to San Diego in the past year, and I have been looking to transition into a job in industry since January of this year. After spending lots of time in the past eight months networking, applying for jobs, and interviewing, I am eager to connect with other women at a similar place in their careers.

My question for AWIS-SD members is: Are you an academic scientist interested in moving to a position in industry? Would you like to meet up with other women at the same place in their career to share your experiences over coffee and doughnuts (or bagels)? If you are, please send me a message and let me know what days of the week and times are good for meeting up. You can contact me at joannalredfern@gmail.com.

Science News Ticker

- Over the past 12 months, the San Diego-based semiconductor company Qualcomm has hosted approximately 60 girls, teaching them programming and prototyping projects in special camps, providing mentoring by a female engineer, and offering STEM-related field trips — with researchers from UC Berkeley documenting the effects of the experience.
- The Moxie Foundation, a San Diego-based private grantmaking foundation focused on fostering innovation and entrepreneurship, presented San Diego State University (SDSU) with \$5.1 million in August 2015 to significantly expand the Zahn Innovation Center, a commercial and social incubator launched in 2012 with a \$500,000 gift from the foundation, which supports SDSU innovators and aspiring entrepreneurs—students, faculty and staff from any major or department on campus—in transforming their ideas into companies. The center's new name will be the Zahn Innovation Platform, or ZIP.
- The Salk Institute for Biological Studies looks to undergo a significant restructure of its management team. Salk Institute President William Brody has announced his retirement at the end of 2015, concluding six years of leadership. In addition, Marsha A. Chandler, the Salk Institute's current Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, will be stepping down from her positions on August 31, 2015, after serving at the Salk since 2007.
- The La Jolla Institute for Allergy and Immunology (LIAI), a private, nonprofit center focused study of the immune system and related diseases, will become an affiliate of the University of California San Diego (UCSD). UCSD will provide \$36 million to the LIAI over a 12-year period, mostly to help recruit and retain top faculty members. All of LIAI's faculty will become adjunct professors at UCSD. The deal is intended to raise the public profile of the LIAI, improve its financial stability, and give its scientists greater access to UCSD's research facilities and clinical programs, while significantly increasing UCSD's presence in a field of research whose importance and prominence has skyrocketed in past years.
- Pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly will greatly expand its research center in La Jolla, strengthening its already deep collaborations with UCSD and the region's biomedical institutes. Eli Lilly's workforce is scheduled to grow from 200 to 330, mostly through the addition of scientists who work on autoimmune disorders and other diseases. The research center will also take over a building that is being vacated by Qualcomm,

expanding (and nearly doubling) its research space to 300,000 square feet.

- The National Institutes of Health (NIH) are conferring \$52 million to UCSD to accelerate efforts to turn scientific discoveries into new drugs and therapies. The NIH grant is among the largest in UCSD history and comes five years after a \$37.2 million NIH grant aimed at advancing UCSD's efforts in translational medicine. The new award will underwrite a variety of research and training programs at the Altman Clinical and Translational Research Institute, a \$269 million center that's under construction at the university's health sciences campus in La Jolla. Some of the drugs and therapies developed there will be tested at the Jacobs Medical Center, a \$859 million complex being built about 100 yards away.
- Pfenex, a San Diego-based biotech firm, has won a federal contract (worth up to \$140 million) to develop a vaccine against anthrax, a deadly bacterium that can be used as a biological weapon. Plans for the development of the vaccine will not require the growth of anthrax, but will employ a highly immunogenic recombinant protein grown in safer bacteria such as *E. coli*.
- Isis, a Carlsbad-based biopharmaceutical company focused on drugs targeting RNA, has entered into a strategic partnership with pharma giant AstraZeneca, that includes an up-front payment of \$65 million by AstraZeneca to Isis. Using their anti-sense RNA technology, Isis will find and develop drugs to treat cardiovascular, metabolic, and kidney diseases. AstraZeneca brings expertise in kidney therapeutics to the partnership.
- A San Diego biotech company using a [unique approach to fight brain cancer](#), Tocagen, received Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Fast Track designation for its lead products, Toca 511 and Toca FC, for the treatment of recurrent high grade glioma. This treatment provides hope for patients stricken with this aggressive cancer. The Fast Track program's goal is to get new drugs that treat serious conditions and fill an unmet medical need to patients earlier by offering closer guidance throughout the drug development process from the FDA, as well as more efficient review and approval procedures.
- A legal battle is unfolding between the University of Southern California (USC) and UCSD regarding control over the Alzheimer's Disease Cooperative Study (ADCS), a prestigious nationwide study of Alzheimer's disease (AD). UCSD has held the contract for the study since it began in 1991. Dr. Paul Aisen, who became director of the \$100 million study in 2007, left UCSD in

June of 2015 to lead the Alzheimer's Therapeutic Research Institute, founded by USC in San Diego. He attempted to bring the cooperative study with him, prompting UCSD to sue to retain the study and charging that Aised, aided and abetted by USC, illegally seized control of data and computer systems that belong to UCSD before his transition. USC countersued in July, claiming that UCSD illegally interfered with Aisen after he joined USC, threatening him with arrest and seeking to destroy his academic reputation. Aisen and USC also argue that since many others responsible for the cooperative study's data had also left for USC, UCSD no longer has the technical expertise to administer the program. UCSD has so far won a series of partial victories in the conflict, as in the latest ruling from July 24, a preliminary injunction giving UCSD control of the study. The National Institute of Aging, which awards the study contract, has also stated that UCSD holds the contract. However, in a setback for UCSD, pharmaceutical giant Eli Lilly recently announced that it would shift up to \$76 million in funding for a study that forms part of the ADCS to USC. The A4 study is a public-private partnership, funded by Lilly, the NIH, and philanthropic groups, and will test one of Lilly's AD drugs, solenuzumab, in older people who have some evidence of AD, but have yet to show symptoms.

Member News

DeeAnn Visk published her first commissioned article in *Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology News (GEN)*, a leading biotech trade periodical. The subject matter was molecular diagnostics; you can read the piece at: <http://www.genengnews.com/gen-articles/molecular-pathology-s-contextual-cues/5555>

Former Outreach Committee Co-Chair (2011-2012) **Samantha Stout** defended her Ph.D. in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of California San Diego on August 26. The title of her dissertation was "A Diagnostic Exam for the Non-invasive Identification of the Artist's Palette of Pigments." She will be moving to Florence, Italy to begin her next phase of life with her husband, Italian pianist and composer Antonio Artese.

Miriam Cohen, Assistant Project Scientist in the Department of Cellular and Molecular Medicine at UCSD, published an [invited review](#) in the journal *Biomolecules*. This is the first piece that she has published as the sole author. In it, she highlights several interesting aspects of glycan-mediated interactions that are common to cells, bacteria and viruses.

Upcoming Events

BACK TO WORK COFFEE CLUB

Friday, September 11, 2015
12:30 pm
UCSD Extension
University City Center, Room 312
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.

Feel free to bring a lunch if you like.

Please [RSVP](#) to let us know you are coming.

AWIS HAPPY HOUR

Tuesday, September 15, 2015
5:30 pm
Bella Vista Social Club and Caffe
2880 Torrey Pines Scenic Dr, La Jolla, CA 92037

Join us for a relaxed evening of socializing and networking at Bella Vista Caffe. Delicious appetizers will be served.

Bring friends and business cards!

Free for AWIS-SD members, \$10 for non-members.

See you there!

Please register [here](#).

AWIS-SD TOWN HALL

Monday, September 21, 2015
6:15 - 8:00 pm
Hera Hub
4010 Sorrento Valley Blvd, Suite 400, San Diego, CA 92121

All AWIS-SD members are invited to attend the AWIS-SD Town Hall.

Town Halls offer an opportunity to increase awareness of the professional activities and opportunities offered by AWIS, increase member engagement, share accomplishments and upcoming activities, and receive member feedback regarding our chapter and programs.

Further details [TBD](#).

2015 NATIONAL SUMMIT ON INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP: A Roadmap for Inclusion

Tuesday, September 22, 2015
10:00 am-2:00 pm
Oakland Marriott City Center
1001 Broadway, Oakland, CA 94607

In partnership with the University of California and the California Life Sciences Association, the Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is pleased to invite you to join us in Oakland, CA on September 22, 2015 for the National Summit on Entrepreneurship and Innovation.

Building upon our inaugural Summit, which was held in partnership with The Ohio State University, this meeting will focus on how we, as a society, can develop inclusive, fiscally-responsive systems to drive research excellence, feed long-term economic growth, and fuel innovative solutions to global challenges facing all our citizens. Janet Napolitano, President of the University of California, will serve as the keynote speaker.

Networking Reception: 2 pm - 3 pm

Registration: \$50 AWIS members, \$125 general registration

Keynote Speaker: Janet Napolitano, President of the University of California

A NATIONAL DIALOGUE ON GENDER AT THE NEXUS OF INNOVATION AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

A full day of sessions, keynote address from Janet Napolitano, President of the University of California, plus networking reception provide a forum for the exchange of advanced knowledge on gender at the nexus of innovation and entrepreneurship.

Expert speakers: The National Summit will engage panelists and participants in evidence-based and thought-provoking discussions.

Networking: Connect with experienced innovation professionals who represent the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) community from corporate, academic, and government agencies.

Registration is open at www.innovation-summit.org

To learn more, click [here](#).



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STRATEGY SESSION: Advance Your Goals Through Negotiation

Monday, October 5, 2015

6:00 - 8:00 pm

Hera Hub

4010 Sorrento Valley Blvd, Suite 400, 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).

If you register and later discover that you are unable to attend, please notify us by sending an email to StrategySessions@awissd.org.

AWIS-SD OPEN HOUSE

Wednesday, October 28, 2015

5:30 - 8:30 pm

Additional Details TBD.

Local Events of Interest**UC San Diego Extension: UCSDnEXT**

September 10-12, 2015

Thursday & Friday: 8:00 am-8:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am-12:00 pm

UC San Diego Extension

University City Center

6256 Greenwich Drive, San Diego, CA 92122

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Click [here](#) for details, workshop schedule, and pre-registration.

Refreshments will be served.

BIOSIMILARS SEMINAR

Thursday, September 17, 2015

6:00-8:30 pm

The Scintillon Institute for Biomedical and Bioenergy Research

6868 Nancy Ridge Drive, San Diego, CA 92121

An event from the American Chemical Society (ACS)

Vicki G. Norton, J.D., Ph.D.

Partner, Duane Morris LLP

and

Diane Retallack, Ph.D.

Director, Upstream Processing and Intellectual Property, Pfenex Inc.

6-7 pm: Social Hour, Refreshments

7-8:30 pm: Presentations

[Please register](#) by Monday, September 14, 2015

Sponsored by Harbor Consulting IP Services, Inc.

For more info, please click here: [The San Diego Chemist](#)

HERA VENTURE SUMMIT

Saturday, September 19, 2015

8:30 am-7:00 pm

Mother Rosalie Hill Hall, School of Leadership and Education Sciences

University of San Diego

5998 Alcalá Park, San Diego, CA 92110-2492

We are excited to be supporting Hera Venture Summit!

What: This intensive one-day event is aimed at building bridges between female FOUNDERS and female FUNDERS, which will include keynote presentations by industry leaders, panel discussions, interactive investor table, and hands-on breakout sessions

focused on equipping women the basics of angel investing and female entrepreneurs the tools to access capital.

When: Saturday, September 19th 9am-7pm

Where: University of San Diego

Who: Angel Investors & Entrepreneurs & those who want to learn about investing in women owned companies

[Register today](#) using promo code: AWIS40off to receive \$40 off!

#HeraVentureSummit #HVS2015

Event brought to you by: Hera Hub, Hera Labs and Hera Fund.

See <http://www.heraventuresummit.com/> for schedule, details, and registration.

SCIENCE WRITING I

October 7 – December 9, 2015

UCSD Extension

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 science communicators. For those exploring alternative careers, this course is an introduction to science writing 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 effectively reach all those audiences.

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. Visit [UCSD Extension](#) to enroll. You can also contact Lynne at LFriedmann@nasw.org with questions about the course.

ACCELERATING PRECISION MEDICINE: From Genomics to Metabolomics to Clinical Care

Monday, October 12, 2015

5:30 pm-8:00 pm

The Sanford Consortium for Regenerative Medicine
2880 Torrey Pines Scenic Drive, La Jolla, CA 92037

Precision medicine is rapidly evolving from a concept to a reality. Collecting and utilizing a diverse set of data about an individual allows us to create personalized treatment and prevention strategies. This data may include their genomic profile, metabolomic profile, proteomics, lifestyle, and more. In precision medicine, the design of clinical trials can be more efficient, and individually targeted treatments more effective. Upfront, however, it presents challenges in interpreting the data produced, and requires new clinical trial designs. This program features speakers with major scientific contributions from world leaders in genomics organizations, including J. Craig Venter Institute, Human Longevity, Inc., and Metabolon, Inc. They will discuss their work developing tools and strategies to accelerate the implementation of precision medicine. Amalio Telenti will address directions in genomics and the role of genomics in delivering precision medicine, and Steve Watkins will introduce metabolomics. Nicholas Schork will discuss the design and implementation of trials to assess the utility of precision medicine.

For the best rate (\$30) [register](#) by September 20 (or volunteer for an even greater discount).

Save the Date: UCSD Bioengineering Breakfast with Industry

Tuesday, November 19, 2015

7:00-9:30 am

Price Center East Ballroom

University of California San Diego

911 Lyman Lane, La Jolla, CA 92093

The UC San Diego Bioengineering Graduate Society (BEGS) is proud to host the 21st Annual Breakfast with Industry (BWI). This is an excellent networking opportunity for industry representatives from local companies interested in interacting with our Bioengineering graduate students and faculty in a more intimate setting. This year we welcome Kevin Sayer, CEO & President of Dexcom as our keynote speaker. To register, and for more information, please visit us at <http://www.jacobsschool.ucsd.edu/events/bwi/>. Hope to see you there!

About the Authors



April Cresse, Ph.D., is the current Secretary for the Association for Women in Science San Diego (AWIS-SD). She also serves AWIS-SD as Co-Chair of the Back to Work Initiative. April earned her B.A. in Biology from UC San Diego and her Ph.D. in Biology from Purdue University. For

her graduate work, April conducted genetic and molecular studies on the Robertson's *Mutator* Transposable Element System of maize. She can be reached at:

secretary@awissd.org.



Linda Manza received a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology from the University of Arizona, a M.S. in Toxicology from San Diego State University, Graduate School of Public Health, and a B.A. in Biological Sciences and Chemistry from the University of California Santa Barbara. Linda works as an independent consultant in

toxicology and quality assurance. Linda is currently serving as Co-Chair of the AWIS-SD Newsletter Committee and is a member of the National AWIS Chapters Committee.



Joanna Redfern received her Ph.D. in Biology from the University of New Mexico studying molecular evolution in plants. Her post-doctoral project examined the metagenomics and metatranscriptomics of desert soil samples. Since relocating to San Diego last year, Joanna is transitioning into industry job from academia.

Currently, she is teaching Biology at Cuyamaca College, sharing her passion for biology with students. Joanna loves to swim, camp with her family, and enjoy the outdoors (especially the beach!).



Alyson Smith is a graduate student at The Scripps Research Institute in the laboratory of Dr. Velia Fowler, where she studies the role of the actin-myosin cytoskeleton in platelet development and membrane structure. She is a member of AWIS-SD and the Network for Women in

Science at TSRI. She enjoys writing and recently started a blog highlighting research done by female biologists. Outside the lab, Alyson enjoys reading, hiking, and baking with her husband.



Jean Spence, Ph.D., earned her doctoral degree from the University of Utah followed by postdoctoral work at UCSD and Harvard Medical School. She is currently developing a bioinformatic methods for discovering the codes embedded in the untranslated regions of mRNA. She is also a freelance writer and editor for the AWIS newsletter. In her spare time, she enjoys nature by hiking and bird watching.



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, two kids, and two spoiled hens.

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 July/August Issue:

Nurith Amitai, Linda Manza, Madhuvanthi Ramaiah, Pat Rarus, Jean Spence, 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, 2015

I Saw It on LinkedIn

Barbara Preston shared:

Start up Teams with Women More Successful than All-Male Counterparts.

[Read more...](#)

Join this discussion and many other conversations, or start your own topic by joining the [AWIS-SD LinkedIn Group](#)

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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Important Contacts

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Secretary	April Cresse	secretary@awissd.org
Treasurer	Christina Niemeyer	treasurer@awissd.org
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	Kristina Henthorn	khenthorn@awissd.org
	Supriya Gaitonde	sgaitonde@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://www.awissd.org/index.php/about/board>

Committee Contacts

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