

❖awis newsletter❖

San Diego Chapter

September/October 1994

*AWIS San Diego
is an Endorsing
Organization of
CalBioSummit '94*

CalBioSummit '94 Tackles Industry Issues

Panels of national experts on health care reform, FDA operations, state/national legislation, and business issues will present and discuss key points to an expected audience of 700 attendees at the Sheraton Grande Torrey Pines in La Jolla on Wednesday, October 5.

A day-long event hosted by BIOCUM, the San Diego Biocommerce Association, CalBioSummit '94 is co-chaired by Mary L. Walker, president of BIOCUM and partner in the law firm Brobeck, Phleger & Harrison. Walker was a speaker at last year's Women in Bioscience Conference.

Walker will moderate an issues agenda roundtable featuring, among other, Julie Meier Wright, Secretary of the California Trade and Commerce Agency.

Other topics include a health care reform panel, and an FDA panel during which a study on FDA efficiency — conducted by CONNECT, UCSD's program in entrepreneurship and technology — will be discussed.

AWIS San Diego is an endorsing organization of CalBioSummit '94.

For additional information or to register for the conference, call BIOCUM executive assistant Karen Gerry at 699-0241.

Stamp of Approval

The AAAS is seeking support for its campaign to create a commemorative postage stamp to honor the organization's 150th anniversary in 1998. Letters of support and suggestions for a theme and design can be sent to the AAAS Commemorative Stamp Committee, Office of Communications, Room 801, 1333 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20005; phone 202-326-6440.

Alliance Formed to Aid Local Science Education

A consortium of businesses, universities, research organizations and county school districts has been formed to enhance science and math programs in San Diego-area schools.

Call the San Diego Science Alliance, the consortium will create a network of business leaders, scientists and educators dedicated to increasing science literacy and education in grades kindergarten through 12.

Some 130 representatives of area high-tech and bio-tech/biomedical companies, research institutions and trade association attended the alliance's first meeting in August.

While there are existing programs linking the professional community with schools, there is no countrywide organization that coordinates these programs or lets teachers know what resources are available to them. The Science Alliance will serve as an umbrella organization to accomplish that.

One of the first project being undertaken by the new organization is the creation of a resource directory. AWIS San Diego is one of the professional organizations that will be listed.

If you are interested in additional information on the San Diego Science Alliance, contact Gwen Rosenberg at Alliance Pharmaceutical 558-4375.

Women in Bioscience II: Committee Forming

AWIS San Diego plans to organize a second Women in Bioscience: Opportunities in the Nineties conference for the spring of 1995.

If you are interested in participating in the planning of this event, please fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire.

*Take a moment
to fill in the
questionnaire on
Women in
Bioscience II
and the AWIS
Internet
Workshop*

Fewer Scientists Seeking Govt. Research Support?

Are fewer young researchers pursuing careers in the biological sciences? Or are they simply choosing careers in industry that do not require federal supporter? A new report from a committee of the National Research Council has found that during the past decade, the number of life scientists younger than 37 years of age applying for research grants from the NIH has plummeted more than 50 percent.

About 700 fewer young scientists are conducting NIH-supported research today than were during the mid-1980s. The reasons for this decline are not yet known, however, the pattern is so striking that the Research Council is developing plans for a new study to determine its cause.

The report, *The Funding of Young Investigators in the Biological and Biomedical Sciences*, is available from the National Academy Press, 2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20418; phone 800-624-6242. Cost is \$24.00 (prepaid) plus shipping charges of \$4.00 for the first copy and \$.50 for each additional copy.

Internet Demonstration

As part of its fall membership program, AWIS and GWIS plan to co-sponsor a workshop on the use of the Internet.

Because of the wide range of skill levels among our members (from novice to advanced expert), your input is needed so that organizers can structure the meeting to best meet our members' needs.

If you are interested in attending this program, please take a moment to fill out and return the enclosed questionnaire.

Eva Engvall Honored for Development of ELISA

Eva Engvall, a senior staff scientist at the La Jolla Cancer Research Foundation, recently received an award for scientific achievement from the Edmund and Mary Shea Family Foundation for her invention of the enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay (ELISA). The \$25,000 prize was presented to her at a special ceremony on July 7 chaired by George E. Palade, a 1974 Nobel laureate in physiology or medicine.

The idea behind ELISA was to conjugate, or attach, enzymes to antibodies so as to enhance antibody detectability. At the time, the most common immunological assay, radioimmunoassay (RIA), used radioactive markers. ELISAs had several advantages over RIAs — they were not only safer but also cheaper and more stable.

Engvall worked on development of the ELISA test as part of her doctorate in immunology in the early 1970s in the laboratory of Peter Perlmann at the University of Stockholm, Sweden.

Her seminal paper on the development of the technique appeared in 1972 the *Journal of Immunology*. By 1987, it had been referenced in more than 1,500 subsequent articles.

Engvall, who works with cellular matrix proteins, still uses the assay in her research.

AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS San Diego Newsletter is published bimonthly and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on chapter activities, career development, and issues related to women in science.

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The Newsletter is free to AWIS members.

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Deadline for next newsletter is September 10.