

Meet Our New AWIS Board Members

• Lucie Bruijn

Lucie Bruijn, Ph.D., is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the Ludwig Institute, UCSD, working on mechanisms of motor neuron degeneration in Lou Gherig's disease. She completed her Ph.D. at the University of London, United Kingdom, focusing on the mechanism of degeneration in Alzheimer's disease. She received her B.S. in Pharmacy at Rhodes University, South Africa.

• Emelyn Eldredge

Emelyn Eldredge received her Bachelor's degree in Biochemistry from Mount Holyoke College in 1985 and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Edinburgh in 1989. Her postdoctoral experiences took her to the Mayo Clinic and then the Salk Institute. In 1996 she joined Academic Press as an Acquisitions Editor for biochemistry, molecular biology, cell biology, and immunology. Her first original project at AP was to pursue the book "Alternative Careers in Science: Leaving the Ivory Tower", edited by Cynthia Robbins-Roth and due out this January. An active participant in AWIS events since 1993, Emelyn was on the Speakers Committee for 1995 AWIS conference "Women in Bioscience II: Envisioning the Future" and is currently treasurer of the San Diego chapter.

• Nikou A. Hessami

Nikou A. Hessami, DVM, Ph.D, received her doctorate degree in veterinary medicine from Tehran University and her Ph.D from the University of Nevada, Reno. After a post doctoral training at UCSD, she joined the research faculty in the department of pathology at UCSD School of medicine. She now is technical director at Molecular diagnostic Services Inc. (MDS), a molecular biology and drug testing service contract laboratory for research and biotechnology Institutions.

• Tina Kuus-Reichel

Dr. Tina Kuus-Reichel has worked as a Research Scientist and Project Manager in the San Diego Biotechnology Industry for the past eleven years. Dr. Kuus received a Bachelors of Science degree in Medical Technology from the State University of New York at Buffalo. She

received her Ph.D. in Immunology and Microbiology from the Medical College of Virginia where she studied mechanisms of macrophage activation and tumor cytotoxicity. Her post-doctoral work was done at Scripps Clinic and Research Foundation where she investigated mechanisms of B cell activation. Her current position is Manager of Cell and Molecular Biology at Hybritech/Beckman in San Diego. The focus of her group's research at Hybritech/Beckman is the development of immunodiagnostic tests for the early detection of cancer. She was awarded the honor of "Research Manager of the Year" at Hybritech in 1995. Dr. Kuus held the position of Adjunct Professor of Biological Sciences at CSUSM from 1991 to 1994 where she taught Immunology. Dr. Kuus was on the Publicity Committee for the Women in Bioscience Conference in 1995 and chaired the Facilities Committee for the Women in Bioscience Conference in 1997. She is also a member of the American Association of Immunologists, AAAS and the Southern California Biotech Consortium. She has been involved in career planning and mentoring activities with young women scientists for the past several years.

1996-1997: A Year in Review

Thanks again to our 1996-97 AWIS Board members for a great year!

- Judith Finlay
- Denise Hickey
- Linda Cunningham
- Felicia Eaves

Our Year As AWIS Board Members

Judith Finlay

"Being involved with AWIS is a networking extravaganza! You can meet other women scientists who work at many San Diego Biotech Companies and other Scientific-High Tech institutions so easily. Join and get to know what's going on outside your company or institution."

Denise Hickey

"I have enjoyed serving as a board member for the San Diego Chapter of the Association of Women in Science and am looking forward to staying involved

with the organization by participating in specific projects and serving on committees. The women that are involved in this organization are bright, dynamic and enthusiastic. I expect that we will continue to grow both in numbers and influence over the next couple of years. As the high technology industries of San Diego become more and more important to the region's economy, we will have numerous opportunities to establish ourselves as an important element in that scheme. This was most recently evidenced both by our involvement in the Athena conference and, of course, our very successful "Women in Bioscience" conference. I wish the incoming board continued success and look forward to working with them on strengthening our organization."

Volunteer Opportunities

AWIS San Diego has ten (10) committees which are in need of your help and looking for new committee members:

- Membership/Database
- By-Laws
- Education Outreach
- Newsletter
- Main Event
- Bioconference
- Website
- Brunch
- Scholarship
- Science Fair

Below are a description of some of the committees:

• AWIS Membership Committee

Judith Finlay

The San Diego-AWIS membership databases urgently need consolidation and organization into current software. We also have to come up with a plan to meet the local chapters current and future needs for membership information. If you are interested in helping with such tasks please call me at 278-4074 to volunteer. We will form a committee soon and meet monthly to accomplish our tasks. Committee will probably be ongoing to help with emerging needs.

• **By Laws Committee**

Denise Hickey

This is a project I intended to complete (on my own) last spring but have not been able to devote the necessary time to it. We have some "model" by-laws that we may use to guide us in this process. I would like to have a committee of about 3 or 4 people that can get together with me on a Saturday or two and create a first draft by-laws that can then be presented to the board, revised as necessary and presented to the membership for final approval. The time commitment is expected to be only about 6-12 hours spread over two or three meetings, which will preferably be held on a Saturday or Sunday, though I'm open to evening meetings, if necessary. Please call or e-mail me if you are interested in serving on this committee (I'll bring provisions for the meetings!) Denise Hickey 552-1311 (work)ordenise@fitcheven.com

• **AWIS Education Outreach Committee**

Barbara Armstrong

The AWIS Education Outreach Committee has a number of on-going programs that will enable you to make a contribution to AWIS and at the same time develop your leadership, speaking, writing, and problem-solving skills.

The Speakers Bureau sends scientists to science classes and career fairs to talk about their research or offer science career advice. In addition to speakers, the committee also seeks volunteers to design and implement outreach to teachers in order to publicize the speakers bureau as well as establish criteria so we can evaluate the success of this program.

The Hands-on Science committee demonstrates simple, hands-on science experiments to teachers at science educator's conferences and during "science day" activities organized by schools. Volunteers are needed to demonstrate our hands-on experiments and/or to develop new experiments.

The Mentorship program pairs students with scientists. The goal is to expose students to career opportunities in science, demonstrate various research methods, and help students select appropriate classes in order to pursue their goals. Volunteers are needed as

mentors and to design methods to evaluate the first year of the program.

The internship program seeks to provide students with supervised research experience by placing them in local laboratories. This program is currently under development and requires volunteers to identify research opportunities for students.

Science Olympiad coaching of the Roosevelt Jr. High School team is a special project of the AWIS Education committee. Additional volunteers are being sought. Our coaches have already made a significant contribution to the team's performance.

To get involved contact Barbara Armstrong:

Barbara_Armstrong@Sequana.com

AWIS voice mail: 619-687-5580

Voice mail: 619-646-8346

• **Newsletter**

Sharon Cherf

The Newsletter is always looking for articles that pertain to:

- Upcoming Events
- Special People to Recognize
- Local & National News
- Women Issues in the News
- Science Issues in the News
- Education News
- Bioconference News
- Anything that you feel may be helpful or of interest to other AWIS members

Please email (preferred format) to scherf@qualcomm.com or send mail to Sharon Cherf, 6455 Lusk Blvd., Q-243M, San Diego, CA 92121.

Also, the Newsletter welcomes anyone who would like to help out with the publication of our bi-monthly newsletter, submitting articles, or writing an editorial.

If you are interested, please contact Sharon Cherf at scherf@qualcomm.com or 651-1148.

• **Help Wanted! Party Planners Needed!**

Tina Kuus-Reichel

Party Planners are needed to plan and organize the Annual AWIS Gala!! The location this year is the delightful Stephen Birch Aquarium, overlooking the sights and sounds of La Jolla Shores, on April 4, 1998. We need volunteers to

work together on a variety of tasks including selecting the caterer and menu, fund raising, invitations, finding appropriate musical accompaniment, decorations, speaker selection, etc. If you are interested, please contact Tina Kuus-Reichel (tkr@beckman.com) or Isabel Corcos (icorcos@trega.com). This is a real opportunity to learn the basics of event planning and you never know when you'll need to plan an event. Our organizational meeting will be in December.

• **WANTED: Bioconference Chairperson for 1999**

Shirley Johnson & Ann Lee
AWIS Members

The Women in Bioscience Conference is a highly acclaimed one-day conference that is presented every other year by AWIS-San Diego and is designed to accomplish the following goals: (1) to promote networking among women in bioscience at all levels; (2) to introduce women to the many career opportunities that exist in bioscience; and (3) to showcase positive role models and highlight the achievements of women scientists in the San Diego area.

This year, "Women in Bioscience III: Making Connections" was co-presented by CONNECT, BIOCOM/san diego, and the Salk Institute, and was made possible by the financial contributions of 33 corporate sponsors. The conference day was proclaimed "Women in Bioscience Day" by the mayor of San Diego. Over 350 science professionals and students attended the event, which featured two keynote speakers and five workshop sessions (20 workshops total) on topics including academic and industrial research, management, business development, patent and intellectual property issues, family and career, education, and career development.

As co-chairs for the 1997 conference, we had the wonderful opportunity to meet and work with over 30 women scientists and students who enthusiastically volunteered their time and energy on the Speakers, Fundraising, Facilities, Publications, and Publicity committees. In addition, we all gained valuable exposure to the many facets of the San Diego biotechnology community by interacting with numerous people and

institutions involved in bioscience education and industry.

We encourage everyone to consider volunteering for the next Women in Bioscience conference as co-chairs, committee heads, or committee members. Many of us have found that leadership and active involvement in the planning and organization of this conference have given us the great opportunity to make an impact on providing science education, career opportunities, and networking for women in bioscience.

Ann A. Lee, Ph.D., Advanced Tissue Sciences, Inc.
Shirley Johnson, Ph.D., Gen-Probe, Inc."

Grants for Breast Cancer Education/Screening

The San Diego Affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation is offering grants of up to \$20,000 for innovative projects in the areas of breast health/education/screening/treatment or targeting services not otherwise available to medically underserved women in San Diego County.

The application process is simple and straight forward. For a copy of guidelines or for more information, please contact Carol McAvoy, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, San Diego Chapter, 7770 Regents Road, Suite #113-404, San Diego 92122; email celmac@aol.com.

Deadline for 1997 applications is November 7 (grant recipients will be notified by December 12).

For more information call 972-855-1600.

LAST CHANCE

Last chance to get your tickets for the Helios Dance Theater performance at San Diego State University on November 21. The Helios Dance Theater is a Los Angeles based, all-women modern dance troupe that performs "gorgeous and innovative works investigating the varied textures of women's lives".

If you did not receive a flyer, contact Emelyn Eldredge (eeldredge@acad.com) for ticket information. A Networking Social Hour will precede the 8 PM performance.

Latina Scientists/High Tech Workers Wanted

Central Elementary has a program for 4th and 5th grade Latinas. Organizers of the program would like Latina Scientists/Engineers and other Latinas who work in high tech fields to come talk to the girls about their careers. If you would like to volunteer please call Judith Finlay 278-4074.

"Women In Bioscience" T-Shirts Available!

We still have some of the lovely t-shirts made for the "Women in Bioscience Conference" last Spring. They have a teal conference logo on the back and a small AWIS logo on the front. Twenty-one (21) large and a few extra large shirts are still available. The cost for a shirt is \$10.00 each. Please send a check to "AWIS/San Diego Chapter, P.O. Box 178096, San Diego, CA 92177-8096 and specify your shirt size.

AWIS Represented at SPIE Conference

AWIS was represented on a panel at the recent SPIE (International Society for Optical Engineers) conference in San Diego, July 27 - August 1.

AWIS member, Prof. Karen Kavanagh from UCSD, Dept. of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was part of a panel that SPIE convened on the subject of Careers for Women in Optical Science and Technology. In addition to Karen, the panel consisted of Dr. Marjorie Meinel, Jet Propulsion Labs, and Dr. Jean Bennett, China Lake Naval Research Station, both distinguished scientists in the fields of optical engineering.

Cynthia Vernold, a Ph.D. candidate at Optical Sciences Center, U. of Arizona, Dr. Suzie Laurich-McIntyre, U. of Washington and representing WEPAN - Women in Engineering Program Advocates Network, and Tina Whittfield, representing WITI - Women in Technology International. It was moderated by Prof. Malgorzata

Kujawinska, Warsaw Univ. of Technology, and Dr. Joan Lurie, Datron/Transco Inc.

The aim of the panel was to attempt to understand, first, why there is such an underrepresentation of women in science and particularly in engineering, and second, was there anything SPIE could do to increase the participation by women in its society. Females represent only 6.2% of SPIE's 13,579 members.

In brief, there were no simple answers to either of these questions at the conclusion of the two hour session. The importance of networking and mentoring opportunities were mentioned by more than one person including Prof. Kavanagh's introduction of AWIS.

There was a mixed opinion by panel members and the audience, both as to whether a glass ceiling exists for women in science. One woman from England was "shocked" that such a panel like this was deemed necessary in the "land of the free", USA. Jean Bennett and Marjorie Meinel each described their long careers - two more examples of women whose careers in science beginning in the 40's proceeded primarily because of their intense enjoyment of the work, initially in the absence of official recognition or positions. Bennett did not believe there was a glass ceiling in her field. Others like the representative from WEPAN and WITI came with detailed statistics about the reduction in numbers of women going into engineering at universities and the gender gap in salaries, promotions, etc. in industry. Practical suggestions for SPIE included the importance of providing day care at a conference for parents attending, reduced membership fees for women, and mentoring opportunities.

AWIS Calendar 1997-98

Month	Activity	Date	Coordinator
September	NASA Report Presenter: Sue Lowery, USD	9/30	All AWIS Board Members
October	Happy Hour at Hops	10/17	Lucie Bruijn
November	Helios Dance Theatre	11/21	Emelyn Eldredge
December	None		
January	Intellectual Property Brown, Martin, Haller and McClain	Late January	Lucie Bruijn
February	• Whale Watching • Brunch	TBD TBD	Nikou Hessami Lucie Bruijn
March	KPBS Pledge Drive	TBD	Emelyn Eldredge
April	• Annual Gala - Stephen Birch Aquarium • Science Fair	4/4/98 TBD	Tina Kuus-Reichel Jennifer Royce
May	California Native Plants Conservation Talk	TBD	Lucie Bruijn
June	Presidio Archeology Project	TBD	Nikou Hessami
For More Information	Call: AWIS Voice Mail 619-687-5580	Visit: AWIS Web Site http://www.ljcds.pvt.k12.ca.us/awis/	

AWIS Committees:	Contact:
Membership/Database	Judith Finlay, jafinlay@aol.com
By-Laws	Denise Hickey, denise@FITCHVEN.COM
Education Outreach	Barbara Armstrong, barbara_armstrong@sequana.com
Brunch	Lucie Bruijn, lbruijn@ucsd.edu
Science Fair	Jennifer Royce, jroyce@scripps.edu
Main Event	Tina Kuus-Reichel, tkr@beckman.com
Newsletter	Sharon Cherf, scherf@qualcomm.com
Scholarship	Nikou Hessami, nikou@mds-usa.com
Bioconference	Shirley Johnson, shirleyj@gen-probe.com Ann Lee, aalee@worldnet.att.net
Website	Barbara Armstrong, barbara_armstrong@sequana.com

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Nikou Hessami	nikou@mds-usa.com
Tina Kuus-Reichel	tkr@beckman.com

- Become an active AWIS member!
- Get involved!
- We've got many committees to choose from that always need a hand!
 - Attend an AWIS Activity!
 - Attend an AWIS Board Meeting!
 - Looking forward to meeting you!

About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS Newsletter is published bimonthly and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on chapter activities, career developments, and issues related to women in science. The newsletter is free to AWIS members. Subscription rate for non-members is \$20 a year.

Editor Sharon Cherf
Co-Editors Barbara Armstrong
Lynne Friedmann

Send news items and suggestions to Sharon Cherf via email: scherf@qualcomm.com OR 6455 Lusk Blvd, Q-243M, San Diego, CA 92121. If you would like your article to be included in the next issue, please send your items in by November 24, 1997. For AWIS membership information call the AWIS voice mail line at 619-687-5580.