

LA/Ventura AWIS

Volume 1, Issue 1

June 2008

First Meeting of the new LA/Ventura County Chapter of AWIS

Come join us and learn more about the newly forming local chapter and how you can become involved!

Are you looking for...

... a forum to share your enthusiasm about your work in science?

... a place to hear from great guest speakers on a range topics relevant to the scientific/technology professional?

... a way to learn more about careers in science (& the business of science) & technology?

... networking & mentoring opportunities within the scientific community?

The topic for the first meeting is "Challenges for Women in Science". Speakers will include:

- ❖ Jeanine Bussiere, Executive Director, Amgen Preclinical
- ❖ Mary Ellen Cosenza, Executive Director,, Amgen Global Regulatory Affairs and Safety
- ❖ Joan Horvath, CEO of Takeoff/Author
- ❖ Renata Kovalski, Moorpark College Instructor/Independent Recruiter

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AWIS Launches Coaching Program

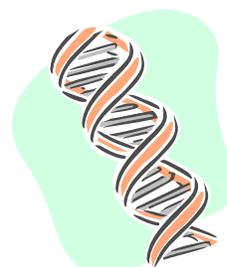
An excerpt from AWIS website: www.awis.org

AWIS's one-of-a-kind program, with individual and group coaching components offered by experienced coaches, is specially designed for women in the fields of science, technology, engineering and math (STEM).

Check out this list of the insightful articles posted at www.awis.org:

- "Career Resiliency", by Judy Feld
- "Don't be a Crisis Magnet", by Judy Feld
- "Energize Your Team Through the Power of Connection", by Marci Moore & Pam Williams
- "Negotiating the Numbers", by Judy Feld
- "The Power of Five Little Words", by Marci Moore & Pam Williams
- "Simple Arithmetic for Stretching Creativity", by Judy Feld
- "Ten Things that Define a Great Career Planning and Development Coach", by Marlanda English, Ph.D.

Any student of human nature knows that from time to time smart people may ignore all kinds of clues – Judith Feld



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- ❖ Sandy Milligan, Executive Director, Amgen, Global Regulatory Affairs and Safety
- ❖ Catherine Stehman-Breen, Vice President, Amgen Bone Therapeutic Area

Join us as we listen to this impressive panel of women discuss the challenges they have experienced in their scientific careers and share their insights on how to successfully navigate these challenges in our own careers. Professional biographic information on some of the panel members can be found on page 2 in the section entitled "Who We Are and How We Got Here."

Prospective members will be able to join the chapter at this meeting and learn more about our upcoming officer elections, and opportunities for committee involvement.

Please note: you do not need to be a current AWIS member to attend! AWIS is a national advocacy organization championing the interests of women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics across all disciplines and employment sectors. By breaking down barriers and creating opportunities, AWIS strives to ensure that women in these fields can achieve their full potential. For more information on the national organization: www.awis.org. For more information on joining the national chapter or the local chapter see the section entitled **Membership**.♦

Who We Are and How We Got Here

Brief Professional Biographies of Panel Members

Sandra Milligan, MD, JD

Sandy Milligan is an Executive Director of Amgen, a biotechnology company located in Thousand Oaks, California. She leads the Global Communication of Benefit: Risk Assessment function in the Regulatory Affairs and Safety department, and is responsible for developing and implementing functional and organizational structure and expertise enabling proactive communication of product benefit versus risk to all customers and patients via a single authoritative source for all regulatory, safety, promotion, corporate, and medical communications.

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Here is a sample of the useful guidance provided by AWIS Career Coach Judy Feld, from her "Don't be a Crisis Magnet" article (Copyright 1999, 2000 by Judith F. Feld--All Rights Reserved). Judy writes:

When I begin working with corporate managers or entrepreneurs, some will tell me they are always in "crisis-mode". It's time to take a general, big-picture look at possible origins of crises...and ways to prevent them.

How do we get to the point of crisis?

One way is to ignore warning signals. We may receive gentle, subtle clues...or we might get "heavy blow with a blunt instrument" clues. Any student of human nature knows that from time to time smart people may ignore all kinds of clues. Some organizations--large and small--build in the ability and the habits of ignoring warning signals. Instead they rely on crisis management...and in some cases have gotten very good at it. Some individuals follow that same path...by failing to notice the incubation of crises and failing to incorporate alternative scenarios into their decision making. "Problems" may be potentially damaging if they are not solved, but when they escalate into crises they may threaten the existence of the organization (or family unit, if on a personal level). Sometimes people ignore warnings of a problem when these warnings come from outside their organization. Sometimes organizations pay attention to the problems that can be easily identified, and ignore the other problems that may be lurking. The best way to stay out of this situation is to heed those early warnings or clues.♦

Questions about the AWIS Coaching Program?
Contact Pam Williams at 727-393-2341 or
coaching@awiscoaching.org

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Dr. Milligan received her medical training at George Washington University Medical Center, followed by a General Medicine/Psychiatry internship at Letterman Army Medical Hospital in San Francisco, California. While serving in the US Army as a General Medical Officer stationed outside of Washington DC, she received her legal training at Georgetown University Law Center.

Early in her medical/legal career, Dr. Milligan practiced medical malpractice defense litigation and later transitioned to provide corporate and transactional counsel to medical and device companies. Before she started her family, she also volunteered her medical services in Baja, Mexico as a member of the Flying Samaritans.

In 2002, Dr. Milligan joined Amgen in their legal department, supporting the Development and Regulatory Affairs organizations. Last fall, she transitioned to Regulatory Affairs to head up the global labeling organization. This year she has taken on broader responsibility and is charged with developing and implementing a global function responsible for ensuring that timely, correct and consistent communications of the company's products safety and efficacy is delivered to regulatory agencies, patients and prescribers.

Catherine Stehman-Breen, MD, MPH

Catherine Stehman-Breen is a Vice President of Global Development at Amgen, Inc, in Thousand Oaks, CA. She is currently leading Amgen's newest therapeutic area, the Bone TA. This TA is currently completing execution of key clinical studies evaluating the effect of denosumab on fracture and bone mineral density in women with postmenopausal osteoporosis, in addition to preparing for the regulatory filing and strategizing for denosumab's success post launch. Prior to joining the Bone TA, Dr. Stehman-Breen was the Global Development Leader for Aranesp® and EPOGEN®. She received her MD from the University of Chicago, and completed her internal medicine residency, nephrology fellowship, and MPH at the University of Washington. Upon completion of her training, she joined the Nephrology faculty, leading the Clinical Research Training program and working as a Principal Investigator on epidemiologic and clinical trials.

Jeanine Bussiere, PhD

Jeanine Bussiere is an Executive Director of Toxicology in Comparative Biology and Safety Sciences (CBSS) at Amgen Inc. in Thousand Oaks. She is responsible for the application of world class toxicology expertise and strategic partnering to provide comprehensive safety assessments that ensure delivery of therapeutics safely to patients. She sits on project teams, manages other scientists, leads the licensing and partnering efforts within CBSS, and provides guidance and expertise on large molecule safety assessment.

She came to Amgen through the acquisition of Immunex in 2002. At Immunex, she was a Director of Pharmacology and Toxicology. Prior to Amgen and Immunex, she was a Toxicologist at Genentech in South San Francisco. She enjoys her job as a toxicologist as there is always something new to learn.

Dr. Bussiere received her PhD training in Pharmacology and Toxicology from Washington State University in the area of immunotoxicology. She has post doctoral training from Temple University in the area of immunopharmacology and is a board certified toxicologist. Dr. Bussiere is an avid reader and enjoys playing sports. She says "sports really help me learn how to interact in a team environment". She lives in Newbury Park, CA.

Renata Kovalski, MBA

Renata Kovalski is currently an independent consultant and executive talent recruiter in the biopharmaceutical industry. As a consultant, she specializes in cross-functional drug development and strategy implementation in global operations, clinical development, regulatory filings and product launches. She is also an instructor at Moorpark College where she teaches the Biotech Business and Government Regulations course included in the two-year Biotechnology Certificate Program.

For the past 10 years, Ms. Kovalski held positions in a variety of roles at Amgen including Operations and Manufacturing, Clinical Development, and Quality. She was a Global Operations Team Leader responsible for the successful US and EU approval and launch of Kepivance®. As a member of the Product Strategy Team, she worked on commercialization product life cycle strategies for numerous oncology products, managed and reviewed regulatory filings and she managed development partnerships.

Prior to that, she was a Project Manager in the Office of Program and Change Management responsible for Amgen's first corporate-wide effort to improve efficiencies and align functions with corporate strategic goals while preserving core culture. Additionally, she was an R&D Project Manager in the oncology therapeutic area responsible for numerous NDA/BLA/IND regulatory submissions, development partnership and CRO management. Ms. Kovalski initially joined Amgen as a Quality Assurance Associate in the Neupogen® manufacturing facility. She has an MBA from Pepperdine University and a B.A. from University of California, Santa Barbara.

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Questions about these women and how they obtained their career goals?

Join us at the first meeting of the LA/Ventura County Chapter of AWIS on Tuesday, July 15th.

Call for officers, members of the board, and committee involvement

As a result of the hard work, determination and dedication of Maria Aiello, Mary Ellen Cosenza and the start-up committee, the LA/Ventura County AWIS chapter now has national recognition! Soon we anticipate acceptance of our proposed constitution and by-laws.

Now, we need you! If you are interested in becoming involved in the chapter, please think about running for office, for a seat on the board or becoming involved in one of our committees. Details regarding the election process will be posted online at: www.awislavc.org following the 1st quarterly meeting. Elections will be held at the last meeting of the 2008. ♦

Membership

If you are interested in joining the national AWIS organization or the new LA/Ventura Chapter you can pick up a membership form at the first chapter meeting or join online at: www.awis.org.

Dues are \$65 for AWIS Nat'l and \$20 for the LA/Ventura chapter. Please be sure to indicate which local chapter you are joining as a percentage of the national dues will be awarded to the chapter. ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

FIRST MEETING

JULY 15, 2008 AT 05:30 PM

AMGEN CAMPUS, THOUSAND OAKS

BUILDING 24, CONFERENCE CENTER AUDITORIUM

TOPIC: "CHALLENGES FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE"

NEXT MEETING

DECEMBER 2008

PLACE - TBD

Questions? Ideas for future meetings/newsletter?
Contact us:
awis-laventura-county@googlegroups.com

Joan Horvath, MS

Joan Horvath founded management consultancy Takeoff Technologies in 2000. Takeoff assists companies with locating and using technology, and in particular helps entertainment and media companies understand science. Before starting Takeoff, she had a 16-year career as a "rocket scientist" at the California Institute of Technology's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, a NASA center for the exploration of the solar system. At JPL she played key roles on various spacecraft, particularly the Magellan spacecraft to Venus and the TOPEX/Poseidon earth orbiting spacecraft that measured the El Nino phenomenon accurately for the first time. She teaches in the Graduate Industrial Design program at Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, and has taught graduate and undergraduate classes for the University of Phoenix. She is also a writer, and has many technical papers and nonfiction popular articles to her credit. She is a coauthor of the book *Saturn: A New View*, from Harry Abrams Publishers (2006) and author of *What Scientists Actually Do* (Stargazer Publishing, 2008).

Ms. Horvath holds a BS in Aeronautics and Astronautics from MIT, and an MS in Mechanical, Aerospace, and Nuclear Engineering from UCLA. She lives in Pasadena, California, with her astronomer husband, and tries to find time to hike, bicycle, and figure skate.

Mary Ellen Cosenza, PhD

Mary Ellen Cosenza is an Executive Director of Global Regulatory Affairs and Safety at Amgen, in Thousand Oaks, California. She leads the Regulatory Affairs Medical Sciences function and is responsible for innovative global regulatory strategy for early development to enable successful execution of clinical trials and facilitate efficient decision making. She also leads the Inflammation Therapeutic area in the Regulatory Affairs and Safety department, and is responsible for Global Regulatory Writing. She has almost 25 years of experience in the pharmaceutical industry in Toxicology, Compliance and Regulatory Affairs.

Dr. Cosenza received her PhD from the St. John's University, New York. She recently received her MS in Regulatory Affairs from University of Southern California, Los Angeles.

Dr. Cosenza enjoyed science even as a child. She loved biology and had lots of pets and got her first working microscope at the age of 10. She was also an avid reader and just generally curious about the world. She was inspired by her father who was a chemist and many science teachers throughout her secondary school years. Now as a very successful woman in the field of science, she feels very strongly about balancing a scientific career with a family. ♦