



Check out the news from AWIS National!

An excerpt from AWIS National website www.awis.org

AWIS Announces Fall Webinar Series

The series focuses on successful job hunting tips and resources

Upcoming seminars include:

- Part 1: "Here are my qualifications for you to overlook" – Tips of writing an effective resume
Date past; slides posted online for members
- Part 2: "Something will come along" – Tips on how to perform a proactive and meaningful job search
Monday, November 2nd, 2-3PM EST
- Part 3: "Teamwork is OK, as long as other people don't get in the way" – Skills that will help you ace the interview
Monday, December 7th, 2-3PM EST

Upcoming Event for the LA/Ventura
County Chapter of AWIS

Diverse (some Non-Traditional) Career Paths with Science Backgrounds

A Panel Discussion Featuring Amgen Executives

Nahed Ahmed, Project Management

Denise Meyer, Sales and Marketing

Alison Moore, Manufacturing

Alex Pearce, Regulatory Affairs

*Please join us as these women share their
experiences as they participate in the panel
discussion*

Thursday, 22 October 2009

5:30 pm to 7:00 pm

(5:30 to 6:30 pm Panel Discussion

6:30 to 7:00 pm Networking and Refreshments)

**Amgen Thousand Oaks
Building 24 Conference Center**

Please note: you do not need to be a current AWIS member to attend this networking event! Please feel free to invite colleagues who might be interested in such an event.

RSVP by sending an email providing your full name and affiliation to webadmin@awislavc.org

Brief biosketches of these distinguished women can be found on page 4. ♦

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AWIS Member Spotlight

Q: What is your current role within AWIS?

A: I actually have quite a few different roles I've taken on since I've joined AWIS LAVC. Officially, I'm on the Communications Committee, namely as webmaster of the webpage. I also take care of sending out emails to the general members as a part of those responsibilities. In addition, I am helping on the Networking and Social Committee, helping to plan fun events for members to meet each other. I also try to help out at our panel discussions as an extra pair of hands to setup or cleanup before and after events.

Q: How did you first hear of AWIS? How long have you been a member?

A: My first interaction with AWIS was actually when I attended the Women in Bioscience (WiB) conference held in San Diego back in 2006. The event, now known as Women in Science and Technology (WiST), really got me excited about making sure that women are equally represented in STEM fields. At the time, there was no chapter in Los Angeles, so I started checking around as to how to form one. There had been multiple attempts in the past, but none seemed to last due to the large amount of geography covered by the LA area. Although I was excited about starting a new chapter, I got distracted by research and put it on the back burner. Late in 2008, I discovered that a chapter had been formed that included Ventura County. I joined and got involved with the chapter around that time.

AWIS Member *Sophia Tsai* shares a bit about herself and her perspective on AWIS

Q: What are your career aspirations?

A: Being a late stage graduate student, you'd think this would be something I've got figured out, but it's something I'm still in the process of shaping. I have some interest in science policy, so I would like to apply for the AAAS Science & Technology Policy Fellowships once I complete my degree. In addition, I would like to continue with x-ray crystallography, but shift the application of that towards bio-based alternative energy such as algae biofuels. Ideally, I would like to work for the government in a national laboratory or the DOE/NIH-type institutions.

Q: What are you looking for from an organization like AWIS?

A: I enjoy interacting with and getting to know different kinds of people, and I find that AWIS gives a comfortable environment to be able to do that. By being a part of AWIS, I have the opportunity to meet women at all levels and backgrounds in science. STEM careers tend to narrow the kinds of people one gets to interact with due to the nature of what we do -- we want to know and be known by peers who understand our work. AWIS does the opposite of this and expands that focus to all women that do work impacting the myriad fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. That kind of diversity can be very stimulating and can form the basis for collaboration across different fields.

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Membership

If you are interested in joining the national AWIS organization or the LA/Ventura Chapter you can join online at: www.awis.org.

Dues are \$65 for AWIS Nat'l and \$20 for the LA/Ventura chapter. Student dues for the local chapter have been *reduced to* \$10. Please be sure to indicate which local chapter you are joining as a percentage of the national dues will be awarded to the chapter. ♦

AWIS Member Spotlight

The AWIS Member Spotlight will be a recurring feature in our quarterly newsletter.

If you know a member who you would like to see featured, please let us know! If you are a member and would like to be featured, please contact us at awis-laventura-county@googlegroups.com ♦



Women *In Science ...* In The News

Just in case you missed it...

3 Americans share the 2009 Nobel medicine prize

Americans Elizabeth H. Blackburn, Carol W. Greider and Jack W. Szostak won the 2009 Nobel Prize in medicine on Monday for discovering a key mechanism in the genetic operations of cells, an insight that has inspired new lines of research into cancer. It was the first time two women have been among the winners of the medicine prize.

Blackburn and Greider discovered the enzyme that builds telomeres — telomerase — and the mechanism by which it adds DNA to the tips of chromosomes to replace genetic material that has eroded away. ♦

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

NEXT MEETING

OCTOBER 22, 2009

PLACE – AMGEN

DIVERSE (SOME NON-TRADITIONAL) CAREER PATHS WITH SCIENCE BACKGROUNDS

QUARTERLY MEETINGS

DECEMBER 2009/ JANUARY 2010

PLACE – LA COUNTY

NETWORKING EVENTS

We will be planning upcoming networking events – contact us if you are interested in helping to organize these events! Go to WWW.AWISLAVC.ORG for announcements and details.

Spring LA/VC AWIS Event 2009

“What Medium Do You Use to Grow Your Science?”

Written by: Laura L Mays Hoopes, Secretary

On Thursday, May 14, AWIS LA/VC had its spring Speaker Event at Caltech, entitled “What Medium Do You Use to Grow Your Science?” We heard that science writers explore topics in science using books, blogs, radio and comics. Greg Critzer, a longtime medical journalist and author, has published in the New York Times, the New Yorker, the LA Times, National Geographic, and others. His best-selling 2003 book was *Fat Land: How Americans Became the Fattest People in the World* (Houghton Mifflin). Asked what he should have known before launching a career in science writing, Greg told the crowd of almost 100 in Baxter Hall Auditorium at Caltech, “That criticism is free information!” Dave Zobel, a writer for Sandra Tsing Loh’s radio segments called “The Loh Down on Science,” was asked, “What are you reading?” He told the audience that he was reading the 2008 Best American Science Writing collection. Jorge Chan who created a comic strip on PhDs called “Piled Higher and Deeper,” publishes online and also has released a number of books with his comics. PHD has been featured in *Science*, *Nature*, and *Chronicle of Higher Education*. Asked what he had in mind to write next, he first said, “Thanks for calling what I do science writing!” Then he added, “It’s all down hill from here—I have four more books planned.” Each writer used humor and anecdotes to tell of his life in science writing, and the audience got a good overview of the field, along with a very entertaining session. ♦

CHECK IT OUT...on the AWIS LA/VC Website

There is now a section called “*Interesting Items*” where non-AWIS items of interest are posted. If members have items they want to contribute, just send an email to webadmin@awislavc.org

Diverse (some Non-traditional) Career Paths with Science Backgrounds Panel Event...Meet the distinguished panel!

Nahed Ahmed is Vice President, Program Management and Strategic Operations at Amgen Inc. She has responsibilities for all aspects related to cross-functional Program Management, Planning, Portfolio and Capacity Management, Alliance Management as well as Commercialization within the Research and Development organization.

Dr. Ahmed was Senior Vice President of Global Productivity, Portfolio, and Project Management (PPPM) for Aventis Pharmaceuticals where she was responsible for overseeing five major global functions: Strategic Planning, Portfolio Management, Project Management, Outsourcing Management, and Process Improvement/Team Effectiveness. Prior to this, she was Vice President of Global Project Management and Productivity for HMR.

She continued to be recognized in Who's Who in Frontier Science and Technology, Personalities of America, Who is Who Registry of Executives and Professionals, and YWCA TWIN (Tribute to Women in Industry). She was selected in 2004 as a foreign member of the Beijing Municipal Governments, consulting for 5 years and awarded Honorary Professorship at Peking Union Medical College. Dr. Ahmed received her Bachelor of Science degree in Chemistry, her Master of Science degree from Cairo University in Egypt and earned a Ph.D. in Biochemistry from the University of Tennessee School of Medicine and was a Postdoctoral Fellow at NCI.

Denise Meyer is the Global Commercial Leader for Nplate at Amgen Inc. She has responsibilities for commercialization of Nplate across all indications and regions and leads the Global Commercial Team (GCT). In this role she heads up the development and execution of Global Commercial Plans that cover our launched indication (ITP) and all lifecycle opportunities.

Prior to Amgen, Denise Meyer was Global Marketing Therapeutic Area Lead for Eli Lilly and Company's oncology pipeline, which had more than 40 molecules across pre-clinical and clinical development. For 5½ years she led their Global New Product Planning group and her team successfully transitioned several pipeline products and respective Brand Plans to the Global Oncology Platform Team for launch commercialization.

Denise Meyer was with the Grey Healthcare Group in New York City as the Vice President of Scientific Services. She also held clinical faculty appointments at two colleges of pharmacy, and was the Oncology Care Center Pharmacy Manager and Investigational Drug Clinical Coordinator at Mount Sinai Medical Center in New York. Denise Meyer received her Bachelor of Science in Pharmacy in 1985 and Doctor of Pharmacy in 1992 from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan. She did her Specialty Residency in Hematology/Oncology and a Fellowship in Drug Metabolism from the University of Florida from 1991 to 1994. Her interests outside of work include dogs (English Springer Rescue America), travel, wine, cooking, and reading.

Alison Moore is Vice President of Corporate Manufacturing at Amgen Inc. She is responsible for Supply Chain, Contract Manufacturing and Manufacturing Technologies.

Prior to this she was Site Head of the Amgen manufacturing facility in Fremont, California where she was responsible for the general management of a GMP-licensed biotechnology production facility, capable of manufacturing both bulk drug substance and drug product.

Previously, Alison served as Director of CMC Regulatory Affairs at Genentech, and from 1996 to 2005, Alison performed several roles in Amgen's Process Development group in Thousand Oaks, California. Alison holds a Ph.D. in Cell Biology from Manchester University, England and a B.Sc. in Pharmacology with Honors from Manchester University, England. She served as a Postdoctoral Research Fellow at the Medical University of Lübeck, Germany and at Genentech, Inc.

Alex Pearce is an Executive Director within Global Regulatory Affairs and Safety at Amgen Inc. and leads the Regulatory Affairs Medical Sciences (RAMS) team. The RAMS team has responsibility for providing strategic regulatory guidance and support for approximately 25-30 molecules in the preclinical and Phase 1 stages of development across the Amgen portfolio. In addition RAMS provides consults for teams prior to preclinical phases.

Prior to joining Amgen, Alex was with Pfizer at corporate headquarters in Manhattan for 5 years with global regulatory responsibility for a number of marketed products, including Lipitor, which is the largest selling pharmaceutical in the world with peak annual sales of over \$13 billion, Norvasc, Fragmin, Accupril and Macugen. She joined Pfizer as part of the merger with Warner Lambert / Parke-Davis. Alex first joined Parke-Davis in 1995 and was located in various regions around the world including Ann Arbor MI, Freiburg Germany and Sydney Australia. ♦

A Brief Report from the AWIS LA/VC Networking Events – we were there, but where were you? Join us next time!



Full Moon Hike at Coldwater Canyon Park

Those who were able to participate in the hike on August 6th know that the hike on was a fun-filled evening for all!



Swinging at the Lindygroove

LA/VC Members gathered on June 4th for some swing dancing at the Lindygroove in Pasadena. Apparently they were all too busy dancing to take time out for a photo. 😊

Photograph 51

Written by: April Shiflett

On May 1st, several members of AWIS LA/VC attended our May social event, a viewing of the play *Photograph 51* shown at the Fountain Theatre in Hollywood. This play was written by Anna Ziegler, and was awarded the 2008 STAGE (Scientists, Technologists, and Artists Generating Exploration) award in the International Script Competition. It follows the story of Rosalind Franklin during her work at King's College in London on the structure of DNA. Rosalind Franklin would die without ever knowing that her work contributed to the results of Watson and Crick, who would be awarded the Nobel Prize for deducing the structure of DNA. She remains an enigmatic figure in science, and this play did an admirable job of portraying her as a person, bestowing on her a human side that is not often discussed when her science is examined. The members of AWIS who attended (Jenny Gordon, April Shiflett, and Sophia Tsai) were able to meet the actress who portrayed Rosalind Franklin, Aria Alpert, at the end of the evening. We were able to discuss how much has changed for women in the field of science, and what further changes we would like to see. As members of AWIS, we are working hard to further the opportunities of women, and this play was a nice reminder of how far we have advanced. ♦

Summer LA/VC AWIS Event

“Incubating Ideas: Venturing into the World of Biotech Startups”

Written by: Jennifer Gordon, Vice President

On Thursday, June 18th AWIS joined with the UCLA Society of Postdoctoral Scholars to host “Incubating ideas: Venturing into the world of biotech startups”. As part of our career development seminars, AWIS members had the opportunity to interact with scientists currently working with biotech startups.

Our guest panelists included Dr. Christian Behrenbruch, member of the Board of Managers at Momentum Biosciences LLC, a Los Angeles-based “angel” and business advisory group, Dr. Marisa Co, President and CEO of Seredigm Corp and a board member of Medical Care Corporation, and Dr. Brian Varnum, Chief Scientific Officer at Tarrot, a business unit of Cedars-Sinai Medical Center.

After spending some quality time networking with our speakers, members got a chance to hear a very candid discussion on being a successful entrepreneur, marketing yourself and your ideas, and what the future holds for the biotech industry in Los Angeles. We discussed the strengths of academia and industry working together, and how those relationships could be improved to support ideas as they move from the bench to the market.

The panel was happy to answer questions from the audience, and stayed after the talk to encourage and advise AWIS members interested in further exploring a possible career as a bioentrepreneur! ♦

*An Interview with AWIS Member Sophia Tsai
continued from pg 2*

Q: What is the most interesting non-science book or article you have read recently and why?

A: One of the books I'm in the middle of reading right now is called *Into Thin Air* by John Krakauer. It's an amazing first-person account of what's known as the "Everest Disaster" in 1996. One of my passions outside of science is rock climbing. It provides a sense of accomplishment when you reach the top of a cliff. Despite my experience in climbing outdoors, I know that I will never have the physical endurance to climb a mountain like Everest. A book like *Into Thin Air* allows me to live vicariously through the author's eyes and imagine what it's like to be at 29,028 feet above sea level. It doesn't hurt that Krakauer is an amazing storyteller, well known for another book, *Into the Wild*, which was made into a movie a few years ago. It's interesting how a story can fascinate you, even when you know the outcome. The journey becomes just as important as the destination. ♦

Unable to attend networking events, but interested in expanding your professional network?

LAVC AWIS Chapter members can begin taking immediate advantage of the networking opportunities provided by this organization by getting “LinkedIn”. Note, this opportunity is for members only. If you still need to join, see page 2 for details.

It is easy! Just follow these simple steps:

1. Join the LA/Ventura County of AWIS
2. Go to <http://www.linkedin.com/>
3. Sign in to your account or if you are new to Linked In, create your account
4. Search for the group “LAVC AWIS”
5. Select “Join this group” ♦

Interested in becoming more involved in the chapter? Do you have an idea for a networking event? Is there a great speaker you would like to hear? If yes, please let us know!

Send an email to awis-laventura-county@googlegroups.com