

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Los Angeles / Ventura County

Volume 9, Issue 1

January, 2015

AWIS LA/VC New Website

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AWIS LA/VC website has a new look! Check our new website at <http://www.awislavc.org/>.

The new, modernized design enables fast access to all the information our members might need. We want to acknowledge Erin Denny for updating the website!



Winter Planning Session - Saturday, January 24th: 4-6pm

We invite you to join us for our winter planning session. Come and offer your ideas for the LA/VC chapter or just listen in to find out about our upcoming events!

Address: 631 Wilshire Blvd, Santa Monica, CA 90401

RSVP: <http://tinyurl.com/Winter-Planning-Session2015>

LA/VC AWIS Congrats! Column

Welcome to our new members!

(joined since Feb 2014)

Desiree Van Haute
Priyanka Sivadas
Nargess Hassanzadeh-Kiabi
Catharine Krebs
Courtney Yaeger
Aram Pazouki
Dora Lau
Zlatka Stojanova
Rebecca Anderson
Katherine Djernes
Jack Mills
Andrea Cornford
Stefania Ninniri
Amanda Elson

We conduct regular telephone conferences to plan upcoming events, both professional and networking. If you would like to be part of the planning committee, join us on our next call on Tuesday, February 17 at 8 pm (teleconferences are held every third Tuesday of the month). For more information, please email webadmin@awislavc.org.

Congrats!

Mary Ellen Cosenza, Ph.D., M.S., DABT, RAC, ATS, Amgen
Accepted as a Fellow to the Academy of Toxicological Sciences in October

Helen Vuong, UCLA
Successfully completed her oral qualifying exam as part of The PhD degree program in the Department of Molecular, Cellular, and Integrative Physiology

Allison Sargoy, Ph.D.
New position: Licensing Associate, Business Development, Amgen

Tracy Blois, Ph.D.
New position: Licensing Sr. Manager, Business Development, Amgen

Lorena Griparic, Ph.D.
New position: Manager, Medical Affairs, Baxter Healthcare

Published paper Boissan M, Montagnac G, Shen Q, Griparic L et al: "Nucleoside diphosphate kinases fuel dynamin superfamily proteins with GTP for membrane remodeling" in *Science*



The AWIS Congrats Column is now taking submissions...Want to recognize yourself or another LA/VC AWIS Member? Just click below to send an email to: newsletter@awislavc.org

Science News and Upcoming Events

- ✚ UCLA launches revolutionary "big-data" research institute.
<http://www.redorbit.com/news/health/1113302057/ucla-launches-revolutionary-big-data-research-institute/>
- ✚ UCLA receives \$2.5 million donation from alumnus Mukund Padmanabhan for semiconductor lab.
<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/releases/ucla-receives-2-5-million-donation-from-alumnus-mukund-padmanabhan-for-semiconductor-lab>
- ✚ Caltech again ranked world's top research campus by British magazine.
<http://www.latimes.com/local/education/la-me-ln-caltech-ranking-20141001-story.html>
- ✚ Actavis to Acquire Allergan to Create Top 10 Global Growth Pharmaceutical Company with \$23 Billion in Revenue
<http://agn.client.shareholder.com/releasedetail.cfm?ReleaseID=883356>
- ✚ FDA Approves Amgen's BLINCYTO™ (Blinatumomab) Immunotherapy for the Treatment of Relapsed or Refractory B-Cell Precursor Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia.
http://www.amgen.com/media/media_pr_detail.jsp?releaseID=1994704
- ✚ Japanese firm Otsuka to buy Avanir Pharmaceuticals for \$3.5 billion.
<http://www.latimes.com/business/la-fi-otsuka-avanir-deal-20141203-story.html>
- ✚ San Diego Slips to 3rd in latest biotech ranking in real estate services, Los Angeles in 6th place.
<http://timesofsandiego.com/business/2014/06/25/san-diego-slips-third-latest-biotech-ranking/>
- ✚ Scientist Who Had Claimed Stem Cell Breakthrough Resigns From Japanese Research Institute
<http://www.nytimes.com/2014/12/20/world/asia/scientist-who-had-claimed-stem-cell-breakthrough-resigns-from-japanese-research-institute.html>

Winter Planning Session Saturday, January 24th - 4pm

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AWIS UCLA Coffee Club has been reinstated. It's a great afternoon pick-me up of caffeine and camaraderie. The coffee club will be organized on the **second Thursday of each month**, with the following quarterly agenda, as communicated by Helen Vuong:

1st Month: general meeting, upcoming events, volunteer opportunities and catch up with members

2nd Month: special guest speaker, possible collaboration with career center, or find faculty / local speaker (topics can include: after PhD, law, public policy, financial planning, crowdfunding)

3rd Month: book club, discussion questions, review.



Recent Events

From Molecule to Market: An evening of networking and learning

By Priyanka Sivadas

On 5th November, AWIS (LA/Ventura county), in collaboration with HBA (Healthcare Businesswomen's Association), AWIN (Amgen Women's Interactive Network), and SWAC (Amgen's Senior Women Advisory Council), organized the first in a three-part panel series titled "From Molecule to Market: An Educational Panel Series About Careers in Drug Development". The event was held at the Amgen facility in Thousand Oaks, CA. The three-part panel series is scheduled to feature leading industry experts' offering career advice from the various stages of pharmaceutical development process, from early discovery and process development to clinical research, regulatory and marketing. The event focused on early stages of drug development process: discovery research, toxicology and early process development.



The program included an hour long networking session followed by a panel discussion and an interactive Q&A. The event was attended by professionals from academia and industry and graduate students, who were brimming with excitement and eager to learn from one another's experiences and get further insight on the drug development process. The event also proved to be an incredible platform for leading industry experts and women who have paved exceptionally successful careers in the pharmaceutical industry to provide extremely valuable guidance and perspective on career development.

The panel experts included Cindy Afshari, the executive director of Toxicology at Amgen; Ingrid Joseph, the senior director of pharmacology and bio imaging at Agensys; Jennifer Lafontaine, the director of cancer platform chemistry at Pfizer; and Karen Miller, director of early process development at Amgen. The panel discussion was moderated by Mary Ellen Cosenza, the executive director of US regulatory at



Amgen. The discussion dealt with early phase drug development and how the panelists in their diverse roles contribute successfully to the process. It also covered a wide array of pertinent topics such as the measures taken to maximize R&D productivity, the value of a good mentor in career development, discussion of the value, if any, of undertaking a post-doctoral fellowship and the nature of evolution needed to adapt from a scientific track position to a managerial role.

The event was a great success; it not only provided an opportunity to learn about the early stages of drug development but also proved to be an invaluable opportunity to network and connect. It left everyone eagerly looking forward to the remaining two events in the three-part panel series, tentatively slated for late Spring and Fall 2015, respectively.

HOLIDAY PARTY

By Lorena Griparic

Early to mid December is the traditional time for the LA/VC AWIS Holiday party. This year was no exception; approximately a dozen of AWIS members, along with significant others, gathered on December 13, [at their](#) Sonoma Wine Garden, located in [the](#) Santa Monica Place mall. This hip place with a great atmosphere provided a great opportunity to catch up and exchange ideas. After good food and drinks, the gathering culminated in a white elephant gift exchange.

WE WISH ALL THE LA/VC AWIS MEMBERS A PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR!



Benefit for Members: Interested in expanding your professional network? Need a job?

LA/VC AWIS Chapter members can begin taking immediate advantage of the networking opportunities provided by this organization by getting "LinkedIn". This is also a forum used for job postings. Note, this opportunity is for members only. 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" ♦

Editor: Lorena Griparic