

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

*Los Angeles / Ventura County*

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## AWIS in the News

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The EmpowHer Institute is a non-profit organization that runs a program providing training skills and early intervention to young girls, so they become independent, self-reliant, and self-confident. In the recent EmpowHer newsletter, they highlighted their visit to UCLA with more than 90 8<sup>th</sup> grade students. The tour was led by three AWiSE members in an effort to help bring awareness to the outreach program, to help recruit future speakers and to promote the collaborations between AWIS and AWiSE community.

We thank Heather Sheldon from EmpowHer Institute, AWiSE volunteers and Allison for organizing such a great event!

<http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs127/1103640951068/archive/1116450157530.html>

# LA/VC AWIS Congrats! Column

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

AWIS LA/VC 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 that 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" ♦

## Congrats!

**Allison Sargoy, UCLA**

Manuscript: Allison Sargoy, Xiaoping Sun, Steven Barnes, & Nicholas C. Brecha "Differential calcium signaling mediated by voltage-gated calcium channels in rat retinal ganglion cells and their unmyelinated axons"  
Published in PLoS ONE

Manuscript: Spring Farrell, Allison Sargoy, Nicholas C. Brecha, & Steven Barnes "Modulation of voltage-gated Ca<sup>2+</sup> channels in rat retinal ganglion cells by gabapentin"  
Published in Visual Neuroscience

**Rebecca J. Anderson, Ph.D.**

Book: Anderson, Rebecca J. Nevirapine and the Quest to End Pediatric AIDS.  
McFarland Publishing.

## Welcome to our new members!

(joined since 12/20/2013)

**Jessica Beach  
Amanda Elson  
Sharon Hoover**

**W**e 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, April 15 at 8 pm (teleconferences are held every third Tuesday of the month). For more information, please email [webadmin@awislavc.org](mailto:webadmin@awislavc.org).



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](mailto:newsletter@awislavc.org)

# Science News and Upcoming Outreach Opportunities

- ✦ Patrick Soon-Shiong, the founder of Abraxis Bioscience (which was ultimately acquired by Celgene) joined Huffington Post.  
<http://www.labusinessjournal.com/news/2014/jan/23/soon-shiong-joins-huffington-publication/>
- ✦ Gary K. Michelson, a retired orthopedic spinal surgeon, has donated \$50 million to USC to fund the USC Michelson Center for Convergent Bioscience.  
<http://news.usc.edu/#!/article/58206/michelson/>
- ✦ Hillary Rodham Clinton delivered the Luskin Lecture for Thought Leadership and accepted UCLA's highest honor, the UCLA medal, in front of a packed Royce Hall.  
<http://newsroom.ucla.edu/portal/ucla/hillary-rodham-clinton-delivers-271616.aspx>
- ✦ Frederick Sanger, father of DNA sequencing, has recently died.  
<http://blogs.nature.com/news/2013/11/frederick-sanger-father-of-dna-sequencing-dead-at-95.html>

## **Call for Committee Members and Volunteers**

Interested in becoming more involved in AWIS LA/VC but not sure where to start or what may be available? Not to worry! There are also non-elected positions you can take advantage of. The committee duties are posted on our website, [www.awislavc.org](http://www.awislavc.org). Click on the link "Become a Volunteer" to indicate your interest in helping the chapter. You can dedicate as much or as little of your time as you would like – we just want you to get involved with your chapter! Our chapter's success is directly tied to member involvement, so help to make AWIS LA/VC a smashing success!

We have several initiatives for those interested in outreach work. Please check out the descriptions, and let us know if you want to get involved.

Outreach science days for 5th to 9th graders - AWIS LA/VC will be presenting hands-on workshops at the following conferences and would love your participation:

### Expanding Your Horizons

**Location:** Los Angeles

**Date:** Saturday, April 5th

**AWIS LA/VC Workshop:** Gummy Fish Genetics

We use gummy fish to demonstrate population genetics in both a healthy and polluted pond. Contact Kathryn Lee at [kgyflores@gmail.com](mailto:kgyflores@gmail.com) if interested in volunteering or learning more.

### Present to a Middle School Classroom

**Location:** Various locations in the Gardena and Inglewood area (see below)

**Date:** Very flexible (see below)

**Topic:** Present about your area of science, how you became interested in science and the different opportunities a career in science may provide

Contact Allison at [asargoy@gmail.com](mailto:asargoy@gmail.com) if interested in volunteering or learning more.

AWIS has partnered with the EmpowHer Institute to help expand the outreach program in Los Angeles. The goal of the AWIS outreach program is to promote the interest amongst students in professional degrees and opportunities provided by a career in science. To achieve this, we would like to arrange a Powerpoint presentation to address students. We ask that the speakers discuss their area of science, and how they became involved in science.

If provided a gmail email, AWIS will send you a Google docs calendar invite to view the dates and times for each school listed:

Environmental Charter Middle School - Gardena (ECMS-G)

Environmental Charter Middle School - Inglewood (ECMS-I)

Kipp Academy of Opportunity - Los Angeles (KAO -near Inglewood)

Inglewood Charter Middle Academy - Inglewood (IICMA)

# The EmpowHer Institute Outreach

By Heather Sheldon

*EmpowHer Institute's mission is to empower girls and women by helping them gain the skills necessary through education, training and entrepreneurship to seek fulfilling and productive lives.*

Each December EmpowHer Institute hosts a field-trip for our 8th grade students to attend Debbie Allen's Dance Company show "Hot Chocolate Nutcracker" at UCLA's Royce Hall. Following the incredible performance - which was the first live stage performance for many of our girls - AWIS joined forces with AWiSE (Advancing Women in Science and Engineering) who recruited three volunteers to graciously tour our girls around UCLA's campus. The EmpowHer students had an opportunity to hear about interesting facts and history of many buildings on campus, to see the sculpture garden, dorms and science buildings (hopefully next time we will have a chance to go in!). The volunteers provided humor, patience (after all, 90 8th grade students requires it!) and knowledge that truly enhanced our experience on UCLA's campus.



At EmpowHer Institute we make sure girls know their self-worth, know that they can go to college, and help girls use both natural and learned skills to make responsible decisions. Our programs teach self-reliance,

self-confidence, personal responsibility, and financial literacy as well as the responsibility for giving to others.

Through our partnership with AWIS we hope to expand our STEM projects and expose our girls to the endless possibilities that pursuing an interest in science can lead them. One of our favorite sayings is, "if they can't see it, they can't be it." AWIS provides the visual of what it *looks like* to be in science. We are beyond grateful and thrilled to continue fostering the relationship with AWIS and look forward to a prosperous partnership for both organizations!

*"If these young ladies can understand early that their circumstances don't determine their destiny, they will be on a path they can be proud of."*

*~Betty LaMarr, founder and Executive Director, EmpowHer Institute*

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News from our sponsor Keck Graduate Institute of Applied Life Sciences (KGI)...



## **Industrial Strength Bio Seminar Series Spring 2014\***

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### **January**

- 22 – ISBSS talk by Frank Ong, Associate Medical Director, Illumina
- 28 – ISBSS talk by Warren Haussler, CEO, Keck-Craig
- 30 – Career Services Boot Camp: *How to Prepare for the Advisory Council meeting*
- 31 – ISBSS talk by Bruce Bigelow, Editor, *Xconomy*

### **February**

- 3 – Point-counterpoint Sud Patwardhan & Alan Rothfeld
- 6 – Advisory Council meeting
- 7 – CRA Focus Friday
- 10 – ISBSS talk by KGI alum Tom Lester of BioMarin
- 19 – ISBSS talk by Tom Lobl, Emerging Technology Strategist, Al Mann Foundation
- 21 – Bioprocessing Focus Friday
- 25 – ISBSS talk with cancer researcher Leslie Bernstein, City of Hope
- 28 – Rare Disease Day

### **March**

- 4 – ISBSS talk by Rich Barnett, Program Director, Discovery, Allergan
- 6 – ISBSS talk by Evangeline Gonzalez, Chief Commercial Officer, Advanced Cell Diagnostics
- 25 – ISBSS talk by Don Ellis, Financial Analyst & Company Founder
- 27 – ISBSS talk by Sanket Agrawal, Executive Director, Strategy, Amgen

### **April**

- 3 – ISBSS talk by Steve Berezin, Sales Executive, Ahlstrom
- 8 – Tentative: ISBSS talk by Rafael Carburaru, Vice President R&D, Boston Scientific Neuromodulation

*\*Dates, speakers, times, topics, venues, etc. always subject to change*

## Recent Events

# "The Power of Photography: National Geographic Over 125 Years"

By Lorena Griparic

On January 11, a good number of scientists attended the event at the Annenberg Space for Photography, Century City. Approximately 15 AWIS members, their respective others, as well as junior participants gathered at the venue nestled among the Century City high rises. The elegant space housed an amazing selection of arts generated by masters of the craft throughout the years. It was indeed fascinating to watch the photographs of human faces, events, nature, building and spaces from different parts of the world, which all share the same theme: to tell the truth, to tell something more about the subject, but also about the artists him/herself. We spent a pleasant afternoon surrounded by art and people with similar interests. It would have been even more perfect, if the coffee shop housed in the same building had been open on Sunday to socialize after the exhibition.



For more information on the exhibit, please visit:

<http://www.annenberg.spaceforphotography.org/exhibition/power-photography-national-geographic-125-years>

Editors: Lorena Griparic and Jessica Christenson