AWIS Chicago Chapter
Board Members

President:
Joy Ramos, Ph.D.

Past President:
Sandy Pearce, Ph.D.

VP for Programs/Sponsorship:
Paroo Uppal, MSc, MBA

VP for Membership:
Keng Jin Lee, Ph.D.

VPs for Communications:
Michelle Merrigan, Ph.D.
and Carrie Heusner, Ph.D.

VPs for Outreach:
Larissa Belova, Ph.D.
and Ramille Shah, Ph.D.

VP for Finance:
OPEN

Newsletter Editor:
Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D.
Project Exploration’s Fifth Annual Luncheon & Workshop!

December 2011 Re–energizing! Positive! Enjoyable! Helpful! Very informative! So welcoming! These are some of the ways that participants described Project Exploration’s fifth annual Women in Science Luncheon & Workshop on Friday, December 2 at the Garfield Park Conservatory. This annual event is an opportunity for a dynamic group of professional women scientists and science undergrad/graduate students to gather together, share their enthusiasm for working with youth, and discuss techniques for ensuring a successful outreach experience. This year’s event was supported by the Pearson Foundation and included representation from Chicago’s Association of Women in Science (AWIS).

The highlight of the luncheon was a presentation by Hope Jernigan, Project Exploration student and a sophomore at Perspectives Charter School’s Rodney D. Joslin campus. Hope shared her personal experiences and reflections on working with scientists through Project Exploration’s programs. More info can be found here [http://www.projectexploration.org/blog/?cat=230](http://www.projectexploration.org/blog/?cat=230).

Careers in Health–Related Research

December 2011 Over 30 participants, members and non–members added this AWIS–Chicago event to their holiday calendar and came to hear the NorthShore pediatrician Madeleine Shalowitz, MD, and research scientist Alice Wyrwicz, PhD. Participants were pleased to hear not only the challenges and choices each made in developing their careers as women in science and research, but also a lot of anecdotal stories tying their professional and personal experiences, from a woman’s lens. Attendees also had the pleasure to interact with and hear an introduction by Dr. Leo Selker, President of the NorthShore University HealthSystem Research Institute, about the history and work at the Institute. A representative from Human Resources was also available during the Q&A part of the event and answered questions related to the infrastructure of the Institute as well as careers and life at NorthShore University HealthSystem? More info on the event can be found here: [http://www.awis–chicago.org/events/chicago–events](http://www.awis–chicago.org/events/chicago–events).
January Would you like to participate in outreach activities to promote science for girls and other underrepresented groups? AWIS has partnered with Project Exploration to provide training for AWIS members. Project Exploration will share their methodology and examples to demonstrate how to give an excellent outreach presentation in any field. After this training, you will be eligible to participate in Project Exploration’s programs. **AWIS Facilitator:** Paroo Uppal

Project Exploration is a nonprofit science education organization that works to ensure communities traditionally overlooked by science—particularly minority youth and girls—have access to personalized experiences with science and scientists. If you are interested in attending, please email Jameela Jafri at jjafri@projectexploration.org today.

**WORK–LIFE SATISFACTION WORKSHOP**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>When:</th>
<th>Saturday, January 28th 10 am to 1 pm (lunch included)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Where:</td>
<td>Gray Room, Lurie Cancer Center, Northwestern University 303 E. Superior St. Chicago, IL</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cost:</td>
<td>$5 for members $10 for students $15 for non–members</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Examine how your current choices affect your work–life balance  
* Identify changes that will have the biggest impact on personal and professional satisfaction  
* See your personal challenges and opportunities from a fresh perspective  
* Recognize the critical importance of recovering from stressors to stay motivated  
* As an added bonus, your participation will assist AWIS in advocating on your behalf for improved workplace policies and practices.

Our VP of Programs: Paroo Uppal

Paroo is currently the Sr. Director, New Therapies Marketing for Baxter Healthcare. She has been at Baxter for 20 years overall and has always worked on the business aspect of scientific products. She typically looks for new scientific advances or medical therapies that her company could help bring to patients around the world, by helping to identify new ideas and evaluate them in terms of their ability to meet an unmet medical need.

Paroo holds a Bachelor’s degree in Ceramic Engineering with a concentration in Biomedical Engineering from the University of Illinois, Urbana, IL. She also holds a Masters degree in Biomedical Engineering from Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD, and a Masters in Business Administration from Northwestern University. Paroo has been instrumental with the outreach of AWIS–Chicago and the collaboration with the Project Exploration initiative. A mother of three, Paroo remains relentless in her outreach efforts for Baxter and AWIS–Chicago. Thank you Paroo!

Abbott becomes a silver sponsor for AWIS–Chicago

It is with great pleasure that we announce that Abbott, well known health care company devoted to discovering new medicines, new technologies and new ways to manage health, announced recently that it will be a silver sponsor for AWIS–Chicago for the year 2012. With the continuing efforts and support of our past president, Sandy Pearce, Abbott and AWIS–Chicago have enjoyed a fruitful collaboration over the years. This is evidenced further by the Job opportunities that are advertised on our site. For more information on Jobs by Abbott, please click go here


Scientists of the month

Click http://www.awis–chicago.org/community for more details

December 2011 Scientist of the Month: Elsa Rodriguez. Elsa is currently the Girls Programs Coordinator at the Chicago non–profit Project Exploration (PE). She brings professional scientists and middle school girls together in the south–side of Chicago during the after–school program Sisters4Science and runs a number of summer programs, including the nationally recognized All Girls Expedition and Junior Paleontologists programs. Elsa majored in geology at Dartmouth College. Elsa returned to Chicago, ready to work full time on helping students achieve their goals. She promptly joined City Year, a non–profit that partners 18–24 year olds with urban students.

January 2012 Scientist of the Month: Tracy Gluckman. Tracy has been a Clinical Veterinarian and Research Assistant Professor in the Department of Pathology at Northwestern University since 2008. Tracy received a Master’s degree in Veterinary Science at the University of Wisconsin–Madison before starting veterinary school at the UW–Madison, School of Veterinary Medicine. She finished her internship in Small Animal Medicine and Surgery at Kansas State University, College of Veterinarian Medicine before heading to The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine for a residency program in Laboratory Animal Medicine. After completing the board certification examination in Laboratory Animal Medicine, Tracy relocated to Chicago to accept her first position as a clinical veterinarian at Northwestern University.
Mission Statement
The specific objectives and goals of the association are to:

• Provide opportunity to meet and network with colleagues in the area
• Develop professional skills in development workshops and panel discussions
• Have fun with other like-minded women scientists in various social events
• Promote equal employment opportunities for women in science
• Recognize the achievements of women in science
• Cooperate with national, state, and local organizations that share common objectives with AWIS Chicago

Sign up for our free listserv at:

Contact Keng Jin Lee at membership@awis–chicago.org or click

Suggest an event

The last board was very active during the last two years of service, with seminars, panel discussions, presentations and award ceremonies (http://www.awis–chicago.org/events/past–events). If you have an idea for an event please send your suggestions to the VPs for outreach Larissa Belova and Ramille Shah at outreach@awis–chicago.org.

Nominate a Scientist of the Month

The AWIS Chicago “Scientist of the Month” is an area scientist who promotes the advancement of women in the fields of science, technology and engineering (STEM). Nominate a scientist (man or woman) from any STEM field in the Chicago area who has made an impact on your education, career, or the scientific community as a whole. Send nominations to Michelle Merrigan and Carrie Heusner at communications@awis–chicago.org.
Yearly National Dues

- **Student, Post-doctoral Fellow in training or Retiree:** $25
- **Regular Member:** $65
- **Sustaining Member:** $150
- **Patron:** $500
- **Benefactor:** $1000

Chicago Chapter Yearly Dues

- **All members:** $10
- **Not included in National Dues**

Benefits of becoming an AWIS Chicago member:

- Discounted registration to chapter events (FREE or approximately 1/2 the price of general registration)
- Monthly AWIS Chicago emails detailing AWIS and other Chicago area science events
- **Members-only** invitations to networking events
- Broad variety of social, career development and outreach programming designed to engage the local community
- Access to local leaders in STEM research, industry and alternative careers

Benefits of becoming a National AWIS member:

- Members-only career development webinars and coaching sessions developed with STEM professionals in mind.
- Access to the quarterly AWIS Magazine featuring columns and articles written by scientists
- Full usage of the AWIS website, including discussion features, access to job listings and nationwide member directories
- Bi-monthly Washington Wire e-newsletter

Contact info for Members

- **President:** Joy Ramos (joy.ramos@awis-chicago.org)
- **VP for Membership:** Keng Jin Lee (membership@awis-chicago.org) or click [here](#) to join.
**Gold Sponsor ($5000 or Greater)**

- 10 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on the front page of our website (with link to company website) for one calendar year
- Logo on all advertisements for events for one calendar year
- ½ page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Presence at our annual AWIS dinner
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

**Silver Sponsor ($3000)**

- 6 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on advertisements for 3 events in one calendar year
- ¼ page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

**Bronze Sponsor ($1000)**

- 2 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on advertisements for 1 event in one calendar year
- 1/8 page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company science outreach initiatives

**Friend of AWIS (< $1000)**

- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- Name mentioned in our newsletter

**Contact info for Sponsors**

- **President**: Joy Ramos ([joy.ramos@awis-chicago.org](mailto:joy.ramos@awis-chicago.org))
- **VP for Programs/Sponsorship**: Paroo Uppal ([programs@awis-Chicago.org](mailto:programs@awis-Chicago.org))
## Benefits and Savings for Members

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Non-member</th>
<th>AWIS Chicago member</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Career development webinars ($200+)</td>
<td>No access</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Award-winning AWIS magazine</td>
<td>No access</td>
<td>FREE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fall Kickoff</td>
<td>$15</td>
<td>$10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Career Skills: Resume/CV, Job search</td>
<td>$10, $10</td>
<td>$5, $5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovator Award</td>
<td>$30</td>
<td>$25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WIB entrepreneurship event</td>
<td>$35</td>
<td>$15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other benefits (discounted price for Donna Jean’s Mentoring Handbook, etc.)</td>
<td>&gt;$33</td>
<td>&gt;$26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total costs</td>
<td>~&gt;$333</td>
<td>$86</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Savings vs non-members</td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;$247</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Annual registration fee (national + chapter)</td>
<td></td>
<td>$75 (regular), $35 (student)</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total savings per year</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td>&gt;$172/year</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Access to AWIS members’ network</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td><strong>PRICELESS</strong></td>
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### Silver Sponsor

![Silver Sponsor Abbott](image)