

# AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

*Chicago*

## Newsletter

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to achieving equity and full participation of women in all areas of science, technology, and engineering.

The Chicago Area Chapter of the Association for Women in Science was founded in 1978 as a local chapter of the national organization.

For membership information, please visit us at:

[www.awis-chicago.org](http://www.awis-chicago.org)

or contact us at:

[info@awis-chicago.org](mailto:info@awis-chicago.org)

## AWIS Chicago Chapter Board Members

**President:**

Joy Ramos, Ph.D.

**Past President:**

Sandy Pearce, Ph.D.

**VP for Finance:**

Ushma Kriplani, 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.

**Newsletter Editor:**

Dimitra Georganopoulou, Ph.D.

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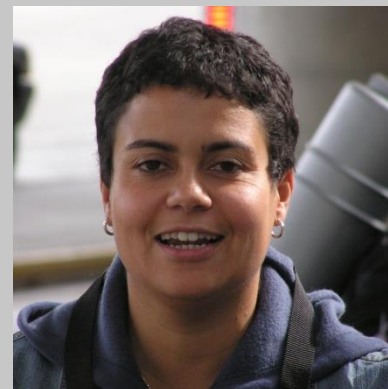
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## 2011 AWIS–Innovator Winer: Kawtar Hafidi

*Congratulations to our 2011 AWIS Chicago Innovator Award winner Kawtar Hafidi!*

A nuclear physicist at Argonne National Laboratory, Kawtar is an example of how women can thrive in fields typically dominated by men. She leads by example and promotes success among her students pursuing careers in the sciences. Our annual award dinner will include a talk by Kawtar about her research and career path, dinner, and time for networking among attendees.



**Where:** Reza's Restaurant, 432 W. Ontario St., Chicago, IL 60654

**When:** Thursday, June 23rd, 6:30 – 8:30 pm

**Cost:** \$25 for members, \$30 for non-members, \$20 for students

**Dinner, soft drinks and dessert provided.**

## Ten Ways to Get Lucky in the Job Search



*Prof. Lombardo presenting essential career skills*

**May** – On May 12, AWIS–Chicago hosted “Ten Ways to Get Lucky in the Job Search” as part of our career development series. The seminar was given by John Lombardo and Phil Clifford from the Medical College of Wisconsin. One of the underlying messages is that job-seekers can create their own “luck” by being prepared to take advantage of opportunities when they present themselves. The speakers provided useful tips for setting measurable and obtainable goals, either within their current positions or when looking for new positions

They also talked about the importance of networking and how to leverage relationships that you may already have. Lastly, they gave several resources for job searches, networking and “expanding you vision” across scientific disciplines. Both speakers were engaging and fun, and fielded lots of questions, from the very general to the very specific.

## Job Opportunities

AWIS–Chicago is proud to announce a partnership with Abbott for job postings and career development. Check the AWIS–Chicago website (<http://www.awis-chicago.org/career-development/job-opportunities>) for the following open positions:

**Scientist I – Biochemist**

**Scientist I – Cell Molecular Biologist**

**Senior scientist II – Biochemist**

**Senior Scientist II – Cell Molecular Biologist**

To post a job with AWIS Chicago, please email [info@awis-chicago.org](mailto:info@awis-chicago.org). There will be a \$50 fee for for-profit organizations to list a job for 3 months, with adjusted pricing available for multiple job postings. Non-profit organizations are exempt from this fee.

## Meet the Women Leaders of Abbott

**March**– AWIS–Chicago chapter, in partnership with Abbott Laboratories, hosted a career networking event on March 17th, 2011 called: Meet the Women Leaders of Abbott. With 160 registrations and over 100 women in attendance, this was one of the most successful events of AWIS–Chicago. The event kicked off outside the Baldwin Auditorium, Northwestern University’s Lurie Cancer Center in downtown Chicago, with buffet dinner and refreshments graciously provided by Abbott, and the opportunity to drop off resumes for Abbott job opportunities, as

well as business cards in order to qualify for a raffle at the end of the event. During registration, women scientists were able to network with other Chicago area scientists and informally discuss with numerous Abbott representatives. An overview of Abbott was then presented by Denise Moyse, Director, Project Management, followed by Laurel Krause–Hooyman, also a Director of Project Management at the company, who shared personal insights on her career path within Abbott. The last speaker was Laura Smith, Director of Talent Acquisition, who spent a considerable amount of time presenting current openings and candidate profiles, as well as the technical ladders and growth opportunities within Abbott. The Abbott women leaders then gamely and candidly answered questions from the audience, with further networking and active discussions after the formal talks between all the speakers and a number of attendees.



*President Joy Ramos addresses AWIS members at Abbott event*

## Special Award Judging at the CPS Science Fair

**March** – On March 25th, 2011, an enthusiastic group of AWIS–Chicago members were Special Awards judges at the 61st Chicago Public School Science Fair held at the Museum of Science and Industry. There were many excellent students this year and the top 4 students who showed the most potential in science and engineering were each given \$50 and a Special Award certificate from AWIS Chicago. Runners–up were also provided certificates of recognition from our chapter. This is an annual commitment by AWIS Chicago, to help increase interest and participation of females in STEM careers. We look forward to seeing you there next year!



*AWIS Chicago members judge at the CPS Science Fair at the Museum of Science and Industry*

## Congratulations, Prof. Ramille Shah!

*April*- Congratulations to our board member Ramille Shah, on the birth of her new baby girl, Sofia! New mother Ramille is also an Assistant Professor of Materials, Science and Engineering at Northwestern University since 2009. Her group focuses on developing new strategies for creating novel and practical biomaterials for the repair and regeneration of tissues damaged by disease or traumatic injury. In particular, they focus on the development of bioactive scaffolds having varying mechanical and biological properties sufficient for the regeneration or augmentation of musculoskeletal tissues such as cartilage, bone, meniscus, tendon, and ligament. After graduating from McCormick School of Engineering at NU in 2000, she went on to graduate school at MIT, where her research in Myron Spector's laboratory involved cartilage tissue engineering. This was followed in 2006 by a post-doctoral position at NU again in Prof. Stupp's lab on regenerative medicine.



Ramille Shah  
Assistant Professor of Materials  
Science and Engineering, NU

## Scientists of the Month

Click [here](#) for more details

**June 2011 Scientist of the Month: Margrit Urbanek** For her doctorate thesis, Margrit studied growth hormone receptor expression in human placentas with Dr. Stephen Liebhaber. After receiving her doctoral degree in Molecular Biology from the University of Pennsylvania in 1993, Margrit looked for a post-doctoral position that would allow her to unite her interests in genetics and Native American ancestry. At the National Institutes of Health (NIH), she worked on one project that focused on the population substructure of Native American populations of the American Southwest. Dr. Urbanek secured tenure track positions at Northwestern University's Chicago campus in 2001.

**May 2011 Scientist of the Month: Julie Kim.** Julie received a Microbiology degree from the University of Toronto in 1990. She then went on to receive a Ph.D in Cellular and Molecular Biology from Laval University where she studied with Dr. Patricia Quinn and Dr. Michel Fortier. Her PhD research introduced her to reproductive biology, but she implemented her microbiology background to study how infectious agents affect the bovine endometrium. After graduate school, Julie moved to the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) to train with Dr. Asgi Fazleabas from 1995-1998. In 1998, Julie joined the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at UIC as a Research Assistant Professor and continued to research decidualization of the endometrium but with a focus on the progesterone receptor. Currently, Julie is an Assistant Professor at Northwestern University in the Obstetrics and Gynecology Department.

**April 2011 Scientist of the Month: Lisa Gilbert-Hill.** It has been a life-long passion for science led Lisa to major in biology and dabble in pharmacy courses at Xavier University of Louisiana. Lisa finished her bachelor's degree in biology at Governors State University in University Park, Illinois, in Chicago's south suburbs. With advice from her advisors at Governors State, Lisa decided to pursue a Master's degree in Analytical Chemistry. Her master's project with Dr. Karen D'Arcy focused on chelating agents used to remove contaminants from well water.

## In the news

*May* – Discover magazine reported last month how women are now catching up to men in the upper ranks of science. In 2009, five of the 13 Nobel Laureates were women and in that same year, women earned more than half of the doctorates awarded in the US. But women remain underrepresented in their fields and are still finding it difficult to gain equal treatment. Discover's Sheril Kirshenbaum recently sat down with four leading female scientists to ask them about how the research community can begin to "bridge the gap" and make the most of the women working in science. For more click [here](#).

*April* – Sally Rockey is NIH's Deputy Director for Extramural Research, blogged about a report that show small differences in the success rates or funding rates between women and men for most research programs. Looking specifically at the R01 program, women had small and what appear to be persistently lower funding rates than men (26% vs. 28%), presumably because men submit more applications per person than women. However a bright spot is that women and men awardees both received the same percentage of requested direct costs (87.5%) and women actually received larger awards than men. For more click [here](#).

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## Happy 40th Anniversary, AWIS!

AWIS was founded in 1971 at the annual meeting of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, after a series of champagne brunches organized by the informal women's caucus. AWIS focused on advocacy for women in science across all scientific and technical disciplines and at all educational levels. AWIS was founded to sue the NIH and demand that they place women on their review panels. They sued, and they won. It is now 2011, and we are celebrating 40 years in 2011!

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## 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 VP for Programs/Sponsorships Paroo Uppal at [programs@awis-chicago.org](mailto:programs@awis-chicago.org).

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## 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](mailto:communications@awis-chicago.org).

# Why Join?

## Benefits of becoming an AWIS Chicago member:

- Access to local leaders in STEM research, industry and alternative careers
- Discounted registration to chapter events (approximately 1/2 the price of general registration)
- Opportunity to participate in career development workshops, panel discussions, social networking gatherings, and outreach activities designed to engage the local community

## Benefits of becoming a National AWIS member:

- Members-only career development webinars and coaching sessions developed for STEM professionals
- Access to the quarterly AWIS Magazine featuring columns and articles on careers, featured profiles, and STEM issues written by scientists
- Access to MentorNet, the e-Mentoring Network for Diversity in Engineering and Science
- Full usage of the AWIS website, including discussion features, access to job listings and nationwide member directories
- Bi-monthly Washington Wire e-newsletter

## 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)

## Contact info for Members

- President :  
Joy Ramos ([joy.ramos@awis-chicago.org](mailto:joy.ramos@awis-chicago.org))
- VP for Membership:  
Keng Jin Lee ([membership@awis-chicago.org](mailto: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 the link to a company's website) for one calendar year
- Logo on all advertisements for events for one calendar year
- 1/2 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's science outreach initiatives

## Silver Sponsor (\$3000)

- 6 sponsored AWIS memberships
- Logo on advertisements for 3 events in one calendar year
- 1/4 page advertisement in both installments of our newsletter
- Listing on the sponsorship page of our website
- AWIS involvement in company's 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's 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))

## Women and Entrepreneurship: How Corporate and Academic Women Can Participate In the Entrepreneurial Process

*July 14<sup>th</sup>* – Come join us for a co-sponsored event by WIB and AWIS Chicago chapters. Please join us for dinner, networking, and a presentation by Amy Millman, President of Springboard Enterprises. Amy will share her insights on how women in the life sciences can thrive as entrepreneurs. Venture-catalyst Springboard Enterprises is the premier platform where entrepreneurs, investors, and industry experts meet to build great women-led businesses. Since January, 2000, Springboard has helped over 400 women-led companies raise more than \$5 billion in equity financing, including 8 Initial Public Offerings, and legions of high value Merging&Acquisitions. For more info and registration click [here](#).

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### AWIS Midwest Chapter meetup on August 20th

*August 20<sup>th</sup>* Eight Midwest AWIS chapters, their members and their families will converge to Chicago in August for a casual lunch, filled with fun, networking and exchanging ideas. We might also catch a glimpse of the Air and Water show that weekend, away from all the crowds.

**Where:** Waterfront Café (Berger Park), 6219 N. Sheridan Rd, Chicago, IL 60660  
(off the Granville Red line L stop)

**When:** Saturday, August 20, 2011 from 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM (CT)

**Cost:** \$3/person fee will be collected at the door to cover venue reservation fees

**Casual lunch:** Visit the Cafe's [website](#) for more information about menu options.

Please register on our website or at [awismidwestmeetup2011.eventbrite.com](http://awismidwestmeetup2011.eventbrite.com) by August 1st, 2011, to help us keep track of head count.

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