

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Chicago

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

or contact us at:

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.

Mission

Inside...

[Winter 2011 Events](#) [page 2](#)

[Fall 2010 Events](#) [page 3](#)

[Highlights](#) [page 4](#)

[Upcoming Events](#) [page 5](#)

[Why Join / Get Involved](#) [page 6](#)

[Sponsorship](#) [page 7](#)

Meet the Women Leaders of Abbott

March– AWIS–Chicago and Abbott Laboratories have partnered to feature the women leaders of Abbott as they share stories about how Abbott has impacted their careers in science. Employment opportunities at Abbott will also be presented with a resume drop available at the event on Thursday, March 17th (Online req number: 86814BR).



6:30 pm – 7:00 pm	Networking, refreshments will be served
7:00 pm – 8:00 pm	Welcome: Joy Ramos, AWIS–Chicago President Abbott Overview: Abbott Leader Career Progression: Abbott Leader Current Openings/Candidate Profile: Laura Smith, Director, Talent Acquisition (PPG)
8:00 pm – 8:30 pm	Networking & Raffle

Hughes auditorium, Lurie Cancer Center, 303 E. Superior, Chicago, IL 60611

Pete Miller's Networking Event

February– Our winter social networking event last month consisted of socializing, cocktails and appetizers in Evanston. AWIS Chicago hosted over 20 of its members and non–members to Pete Miller's Steak & Seafood restaurant's for an afternoon of networking, informal discussions and card exchanging. Representatives from academia (research institutes and community colleges), industry (large and start-ups) as well as clinical laboratory directors were present, to name a few.



Guests networking at Pete Miller's

Resume/CV Workshop



Hands-on CV workshop

January AWIS Chicago hosted a Resume/CV at University of Chicago to kick off its Career Skills series. Heather Sevenser, the Associate Director of Graduate Services at University of Chicago, Career Advising and Planning Services (CAPS) presented some key points about how to write and organize an effective resume or CV. The attendees put the information to practical use by breaking into small groups and providing feedback and suggestions on each other's resumes.

The workshop wrapped up with one-on-one discussions with Ms. Sevenser, more networking and swapping personal stories and resume tips among the attendees.

Kick-off Networking Event Featuring Dr. Brenda Russell

November– Chicago Chapter of AWIS hosted a Networking Kickoff event at Northwestern University’s Lurie Cancer Center in downtown Chicago. After a light reception, our invited speaker Dr. Brenda Russell, a 2010 iCon awardee, addressed almost 50 participants about the challenges and rewards of her successful career path. After a brief narration of her career and life choices, Dr. Russell opened the floor to questions from the audience that addressed the issues and virtues about work–life



Attendees chat with Dr. Russell after her talk

balance, career jumps, mentoring, networking and self–awareness. This was the first event hosted by the new AWIS–Chicago Board, and the event was spearheaded by the new President Joy Ramos, who introduced the new board and the chapter’s mission, while Dr. Russell was introduced by Paroo Uppal, the VP of programs. Dr Brenda Russell is a Professor of Physiology, Biophysics, Bioengineering and Medicine, and Executive Associate Vice Chancellor for Research, at the University of Illinois at Chicago since 1988. There were a lot of active discussions during the event, with many staying behind after the talk (including the speaker!) to continue sharing experiences and advice with one another. AWIS–Chicago hopes to build on the momentum of its successful networking kickoff event to create other programs of interest to its members and the Chicago community in the near future.

AWIS captivates students at Science Spooktacular



Dr. Belova interacts with students at the Aurora Science Spooktacular event

October– Larissa Belova, a scientist from the University of Chicago and VP for Outreach on AWIS–Chicago Board, and Kalpana Ramakrishnan, a graduate student from UIC participated at “Science Spooktacular, ” an outreach event held at the Illinois Math and Science Academy in suburban Aurora. The Halloween–themed event aimed at showing fourth– and fifth–grade girls possibilities in science, technology, engineering and math and was a huge success. AWIS was invited along with 50 other exhibitors from the Chicago area.

The Naperville and Aurora Area branches of the American Association of University Women and the Office of Science Technology, Engineering and Math, along with Northern Illinois University’s STEM Outreach, sponsored the event.

BioOpportunities Featuring Dr. Carrie Heusner

March 10th – BioOpportunities invited Dr. Heusner to Northwestern University to share first-hand, as an industry expert, her experience following a career in industry. Carrie talked about career opportunities in the pharma industry, preparing for interviews and other aspects of industry careers. Carrie got her Ph.D. in Biochemistry at University of Washington and did a postdoc at UCLA. She is now working in the neuroscience group at Astellas Pharmaceuticals in Skokie. Carrie has also been an active member of AWIS-Chicago as VP for Communications since the summer of 2010. BioOpportunities is a branch of Northwestern University BioProfessionals Career Development Program and supported by NUIN, NBP, IBiS, BME, IGP, Molecular Biosciences and The Graduate School.



*Carrie Heusner
VP for Communications
Senior scientist, Astellas Pharma*

Scientists of the month

Click [here](#) for more details

March – Louise Giam. Louise Giam is a PhD candidate in Dr. Chad Mirkin's group at Northwestern University and has been a big influence on AWIS staff writer Eunji Chung-Yoo

February – Kawtar Hafidi. Physicist Kawtar Hafidi is not only a leading researcher at Argonne National Laboratory, but also a role model for women in science

January – Francesca McInerney. Francesca is currently an Assistant Professor of the Department of Earth and Planetary Sciences at Northwestern University; her research investigates the response of plants to changes in climate in the geologic past.

November– Sacha Patera. Sacha Patera is the Associate Director at the Office of Corporate Relations at Northwestern University. Dr. Patera connects corporate funding with scientific needs, focusing primarily on linking faculty members in the areas of physical and life sciences, technology, engineering and math to companies involved in pharmaceutical, biotechnology, technology and engineering efforts.

October –Jacklyn Naughton. Mrs. Naughton is a dedicated science teacher at Niles North High School where she has encouraged students to engage in research for the last twenty years.

September – Jameela Jafri. Ms. Jafri is a dedicated science educator who has brought the natural world to the inner city through her work at Project Exploration, and is currently working to understand science education in Syria (funded by a Fulbright Scholarship).

In the News: March is Women's History month

During Women's History Month, we reflect on the extraordinary accomplishments of women and honor their role in shaping the course of our Nation's history. Click [here](#) for President Obama's Proclamation mentioning the underrepresentation of women in STEM fields.

AWIS Innovator Award 2011 – Nominations open!

May – AWIS is looking for nominations for our 5th Annual Innovator Award.

Criteria include:

- female scientist with innovative contributions to the field of science
 - geographically located within the Greater Chicago area
 - demonstrated service and support of women in science
- (AWIS memberships not required)

Award winner will be determined by the AWIS board and will be the keynote speaker at the AWIS Chicago dinner in May 2011. Please send your nomination to info@awis-chicago.org. Deadline is April 8th, 2011.

CPS Science Fair Judge Volunteers Needed

March – AWIS is looking for volunteers for the Chicago Public School Science Fair to be held on March 25th at the Museum of Science and Industry from 8am–12 noon. If YOU are interested please send an email to joyramos@gmail.com by March 21st.

Career Panel at Loyola University

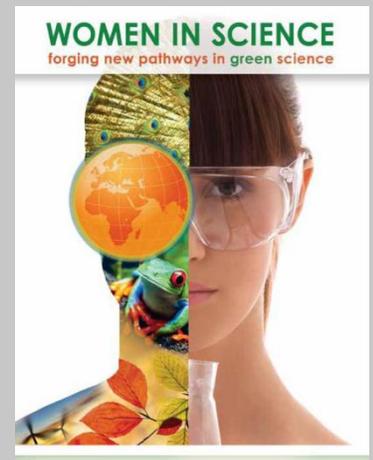
April – Loyola University (Maywood campus) is looking for speakers for a career panel to be held on April 21st from 5:30–6:45pm. If you are interested please contact: Alyson Lokken, alokken@lumc.edu by April 8th, 2011.

Watch out for more details:

- Career Skills Series:
 - Ten Ways to Get Lucky in The Job Search
 - Personal Finance Management
- Work–Life Balance Workshop

Science Booklet and L’Oréal–UNESCO Fellowships Info

October – [Science](#) and the [L’Oréal Foundation](#) have teamed up once again to bring you the latest Women in Science booklet focusing on 16 women in five different areas of biology research. The essays about these scientists give you an idea of the differences and similarities between their jobs as well as some insight into their personal triumphs and struggles as they have built successful and meaningful careers. Please find the booklet [here](#) and for more information on the UNESCO–L’ORÉAL For Women in Science International Fellowships, please click [here](#). Young women researchers in the Life Sciences can apply for one of the 15 annual Fellowships, in support of research abroad, are worth up to \$40,000 each over a two–year period.



Booklet by Science L’Oréal available.

Why Join?

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:

http://www.awis-chicago.org/mailman/listinfo/listserv_awis-chicago.org

Contact Keng Jin Lee at membership@awis-chicago.org or click [here](#) to join.

Did you know?

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 2010, 39 years later and we'll be celebrating 40 years in 2011!

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 new 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.

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)
- **VP for Programs / Sponsorship:**
Paroo Uppal (programs@awis-Chicago.org)

AWIS

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

Chicago