

East Bay Chapter of the Association for Women in Science

ebAWIS Newsletter Highlights

May 2007

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May Meeting of the East Bay Chapter of the Association for Women in Science

*East Bay Association for Women in Science Presents:***Is Academia the Alternative Career for Ph.D.'s?
(and how to get published in Nature)****Mirella Bucci, Ph.D.**

Associate Editor, Nature Publishing Group

Thursday, May 24TH, 2007**Novartis***4560 Horton St., Room 4.104
Emeryville, CA6:30 pm Light Supper
7:00 pm Meeting BeginsScientists and Science Enthusiasts, Men and Women are Welcome!
Meetings are open to non-AWIS members\Meeting sponsored by Thermo Scientific—Meet Eva Dickerson, Customer Channel Manager of the
Laboratory Equipment Group. Light Supper provided!***NOVARTIS security procedures require check in at the guard station prior to parking. For directions, see p.3.**

Mirella Bucci received a B.S. in Biology and Chemistry at Carnegie Mellon, and a Ph.D. in Molecular Cell Biology at Washington University. She did postdoctoral work at Stanford University. During her postdoc, Mirella contemplated various "alternative" careers. Her past experiences as a graduate student and a postdoctoral mentor of Stanford students, convinced Mirella to move into scientific publishing and reporting. She has been out of academia for over 4 years and currently works for one of the Nature journals, Nature Chemical Biology where she is an Associate Editor in the company's San Francisco office. Since her postdoc, she has also worked as a freelance science writer and as a copywriter at a healthcare advertising agency.

Mirella will describe her career path and the decisions and life factors that went into it (as well as how to get published in Nature!).

The Expanding and Diverse Scientific Workplace

AWIS Networking Breakfast and Panel Discussion held in conjunction with the
AAAS Annual Meeting, February 19, 2007

A successful career is not always a straight path.
Change and challenge is OK, stretch outside your
comfort zone.

Mentors can help, but don't let other people's
roadblocks discourage you.

When is it time to find a new job? "When you're
miserable!"

These bullets were some of the take-home messages from the AWIS panel discussion. We were fortunate that the AAAS meeting was in San Francisco so we could take part in the AWIS programs held in conjunction with the meeting. The speakers all started their careers as bench scientists and transitioned into diverse and fulfilling new roles. Serendipity, self-reflection, communication skills, and the ability to market oneself were vital to these women in their career transitions.

Phoebe LeBoy (President-elect of AWIS National) introduced the keynote speaker, Cynthia Robbins-Roth, Founder of BioVenture Publishing Inc., and BioVenture Consultants. Dr Robbins-Roth shared her career experience with disarming candor and a large dose of humor. Leading by example, Dr. Robbins-Roth conveyed to the audience how important communication is in the biotechnology industry. She has utilized her communication skills to write BioWorld Today, newsletters for everyone from industry execs and to new graduates. Her book "Alternative Careers in Science: Leaving the Ivory Tower" is in a second edition. Her advice for scientists of all levels: be open to serendipity, get over your fear of failure, and remember that "credentials" are not always be required, on the job training is required for some careers. We wish her luck in her next adventure: writing a biotech soap opera. Lookout, Hollywood!

Donna Dean (President of AWIS National) introduced Dr. Doe Sun Na who is President of the Korea Science Foundation. She spoke of the challenges women in

science face in South Korea. After completing a PhD and postdoctoral work in the US, Dr. Na returned to South Korea. Through her leadership, she has helped increase opportunities in science institutes for women and change cultural expectations. Doe proved that by doing good science and utilizing a network of peers, women can break through the gender-specific glass ceiling. As the first female CEO of a STEM organization, Dr Na is an incredible inspiration for women scientists in Korea.

Carol Muller, President of MentorNet, introduced the panel. The panel of 5 included: Grace Colon (Business Development at Gilead), Phyllis Gardner (Professor of Medicine at Stanford), Karen Talmadge (CSO and Founder of Kyphon, Inc), Maureen Whalen (Scientist in Plant Biology at USDA, Albany Labs), and Mary Lou Zoback (USGS Earthquake Scientist Emerita). As we listened to these women talk about their experiences in strategy, academic research, university administration, founding a company, government research, and risk-management solutions, there was no straight and narrow path to the top. By getting really deep knowledge in one field before transitioning to the next, these women were able to make leaps from research into other leadership roles. In fact, these women feel that academia has become the "alternative path" for scientists.

The speakers offered positive perspectives for women thinking about careers in industry. They agreed that women's sensitivity and intuition can be a huge benefit to industry where teamwork and communication is key. All agreed on the need for a solid network, and that it is worthwhile to develop relationships with good mentors, who may be either men or women.

I know that I was uplifted, and a little bit awed, after hearing these inspiring stories

by Ashley Foulds, reprinted with permission.

Upcoming Meeting

When: Thursday, July 26, 2007

Where: University of California, Berkeley
Details to follow.

Christina Galitsky, LBNL Inventor will be speaking on her experiences helping women in Darfur and regarding water quality in India and China. She was named one of MIT Review's 35 top Inventors under 35 in 2006.

Directions to Novartis 4560 Horton St., Building 4.104, Emeryville

From San Francisco: Take 101 North/I-80 East towards San Francisco. Continue on I-80 across the Bay Bridge. I-80 then joins I-580 (left lanes). Immediately move to the far right lanes and take the Ashby Avenue exit, which is the next exit past Powell Street. Exit at Ashby Avenue and proceed under the railroad overcrossing, then turn right on 7th Street at the stoplight. Turn right on Folger Avenue and follow the road as it turns left and becomes Hollis Street. Continue on Hollis, across Powell Street, and turn right on 53rd Street. The Novartis entrance is the third driveway on the left.

From Oakland: Take I-880 North. Continue past Oakland to the I-980 interchange towards Walnut Creek. Proceed to I-580 West to San Francisco then to I-80 East. Keep to the right and proceed towards Berkeley on I-80 East/I-580 West. Exit at Powell Street and turn right on Powell at the stoplight. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the stoplight at Hollis, turn right and then right again on 53rd Street. The Novartis entrance is the third driveway on the left.

From Highway 80 Westbound, and/or Highway 24, 80 Eastbound: Exit at Powell Street and make a left on Powell at the stoplight. Continue on Powell over the overpass until Hollis Street. At the stoplight at Hollis, turn right and then right again on 53rd Street. Novartis entrance is the third driveway on the left.

From Walnut Creek: Take Highway 80 East toward Berkeley from Highway 24 Westbound, Exit Powell Street and turn right on Powell at the stoplight. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the stoplight at Hollis, turn right and then right again on 53rd Street. The Novartis entrance is the third driveway on the left.

From the South Bay: Take I-880 North. Take I-980 exit towards Highway 24/Walnut Creek. Take the I-580 exit towards San Francisco/Hayward. Take the I-580 West exit on left towards San Francisco. Merge onto I-580 West. Turn slight right at the intersection of I-80 West Ramp to stay on I-580 West. Take the Powell Street exit towards Emeryville and turn right on Powell at the stoplight. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the stoplight at Hollis, turn right and then right again on 53rd Street. Novartis entrance is the third driveway on the left.

Parking: Check in at the guard shack, which you will see immediately after turning off 53rd Street into the Novartis entrance. State that you are attending the AWIS meeting. They will direct you to parking. Our meeting takes place in Building 4, the large brick façade building with purple and yellow stucco located across 53rd Street from visitor parking.

Enter at the doors nearest the big yellow stucco ball. We meet in Building 4 (5300 Chiron Way), Room 104.

Please sign in at the front desk.

East Bay AWIS 2007 Board Members

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Jennifer Barrientos	jenniferbarrientos@yahoo.com

2007-2008 AWIS Meeting Schedule (4th Thursdays):

2007	Topic
May 24	Mirella Bucci, Associate Editor, Natu
July 26	Christina Galitsky, Scientist, LBNL Inventor, Lawrence Berkeley National Lab (Held at UCB)
September 27	Mina Bissell, Distinguished Scientist Lawrence Berkeley National Lab
November 29	Martha Booz, E-business Web Manager, Bio-Rad Laboratories
2008	Topic
January 24	Networking
March 27	To be determined
May 22	To be determined
July 24	To be determined
Sept 25	To be determined
Nov (TBD)	To be determined

A message to you from Mara Jeffress, Vice President:

I have noticed that many of my colleagues are unaware of ebAWIS meetings and benefits. In 2007, I would like to improve our visibility through increased advertising and website updates. The board has been working on the website, but we still need help getting the word out and distributing fliers announcing our chapter meetings. If you can post fliers at your place of work or study, please contact Mara at [mara\(dot\)jeffress@gmail.com](mailto:mara(dot)jeffress@gmail.com).

East Bay AWIS wishes to thank
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