



# NEWSLETTER

**Mission Statement:** The Association for Women in Science, Inc. (AWIS) is a non-profit organization dedicated to the achievement of equity and full participation of women in all areas of science and technology.

## LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow AWIS-SD Members and Friends,

2012 was an exciting year for the San Diego Chapter of the Association for Women in Science! Did you know that we awarded seven academic scholarships and eight science fair awards, and organized five community outreach programs, eleven career development events, our annual Open House, our biennial Scholarship Gala, and six other social events? This Newsletter issue includes several articles describing these, which I think you will enjoy reading.

I want to acknowledge the creativity, inspiration, leadership and participation of the all the volunteer committee members, co-chairs, and others who organized and/or supported our mission through these 2012 events and activities. Thank you to the leadership and members of the Website, Newsletter, Scholarship, Public Relations, Corporate Sponsorship, Outreach, Events, Strategy Sessions, Open House, and Gala Committees, our Executive Board, our bi-weekly email system, our LinkedIn Group, the Book & Movie Club, the Leadership Network, and Coffee Clubs. Thank you also to those who participated and invited friends and associates to join in on the benefits of AWIS-SD in action! As you can see, AWIS-SD offers many opportunities for STEM community outreach involvement, networking, leadership experience, and career and personal growth. We always welcome new individuals, at ANY career stage, to participate and enrich the activities of AWIS-SD.

2013 is sure to be another exciting year. Are you interested in participating in AWIS-SD outreach activities? Well, these opportunities are coming in the next few months – Science Fair project judging for AWIS-SD awards and an awardee dinner, Expo Day at Petco Park, and Exploring Your Horizons. Contact [outreach@awissd.org](mailto:outreach@awissd.org) if you are interested. Follow our bi-weekly emails for announcements of Strategy Sessions and other fun events including Speed Networking and a Science and Tasting of Chocolate event! Mmmm...

Speaking of great upcoming events, please mark your calendars now for our biennial Women in Science and Technology (WIST) Conference, which will be held at the UCSD Faculty Club on May 18, 2013. The WIST Committee is organizing an outstanding

program of speakers and activities for this day-long event. Many of our members, including me, joined AWIS-SD because of this inspiring, educational conference - you won't want to miss it! Watch your AWIS-SD emails for more details and take advantage of the Early Bird discount registration period. Are you or do you know a female student actively engaged in a STEM-related degree program? If so, scholarship applications are now available! See our website ([www.awissd.org](http://www.awissd.org)) for application and eligibility details. Applications are due by February 18, 2013. Awardees will be presented at the WIST Conference.

If you are a new AWIS-SD member – welcome! If you are not an AWIS-SD member, or your membership has lapsed, please consider joining us in 2013 so that you can enjoy members-only benefits such as monthly Coffee Clubs, six Strategy Sessions and one Focus Session per year, admission to our LinkedIn group, free admission to most events, and discounted rates for our WIST Conference and Holiday Social. When you sign up at the AWIS National website ([www.awissd.org](http://www.awissd.org)), remember to include membership in the San Diego Chapter.

I look forward to your continued support and participation during the upcoming year. If you are interested in financially supporting AWIS-SD and our mission, you can easily make tax-deductible contributions on our website, [www.awissd.org](http://www.awissd.org), by clicking the “Donate” button if you are an individual (any amount is welcome!) or the “Sponsor” button if you represent a corporation. Please feel free to contact me at [president@awissd.org](mailto:president@awissd.org) if you have any questions or comments about or suggestions for our chapter. Happy New Year 2013!

Most sincerely,  
*Dody*  
 Dorothy (Dody) Sears

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## 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Open House

By Diane Retallack

Following the large crowd at the 2011 event, the 2012 Open House broke the record with 190 persons in attendance. The Illumina icafe was soon abuzz as members and non-members gathered for the Annual AWIS-SD Open House. Our seasoned photographer Anita Iyer also served as hostess, securing the beautiful Illumina facility for the event.



Photo by Anita Iyer

As attendees entered the event, they found representatives from all AWIS-SD committees and groups ready to welcome and introduce them to the plethora of activities going on in our chapter. Delicious appetizers split the circle of committee tables, enabling attendees to snack and chat as they made their way through the room. Each committee table also hosted a silent auction item. New to the program this year, the silent auction was held in support of AWIS-SD activities. Many attendees took advantage of the auction for a little early holiday shopping, raising over \$700 to support activities such as our scholarships and K-12 education outreach efforts. A special thanks to all those who either donated auction items or solicited donations for the silent auction!



Photo by Anita Iyer

Following the announcement of high bidders for the silent auction, President Dorothy Sears highlighted AWIS' accomplishments for 2012. Through the presentation, she outlined how each committee contributes to the chapter, as well as the opportunities available to members to develop leadership and networking skills, and to "give back" through outreach activities. Also highlighted was the upcoming 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the San Diego Chapter and the WIST (Women in Science and Technology) Conference in 2013.



Photo by Anita Iyer

As we look forward to more exciting events in 2013, the Open House was also an opportunity to acknowledge the outstanding accomplishments of our member-volunteers in 2012. The following members were recognized for their contributions:

For their efforts in spearheading development and implementation of the online scholarship application, former Scholarship Committee co-chairs **Uromi Goodale** and **Cheryl Okumura** were recognized with the **Achievement in Innovation Award**.

**Monica Brown** and **Nurith Amitai** were presented with the Leadership Service Award for their accomplishments as co-chairs of the Events and Newsletter Committees, respectively.

The dedication of **Julie Bordowitz**, expanding collaborations between the AWIS Outreach Committee and other organizations throughout San Diego County, was acknowledged with the **Achievement in Outreach or Community Service Award**.

The **Rookie of the Year Award** was given to new member **Erna van Niekerk**, who has been quite active in the chapter since joining last fall, stepping up as co-chair of the Scholarship Committee.

The hard work of **Maki Kaneko**, Public Relations Committee member, and **Marianna Tcherpakov**, Events Committee co-chair, were recognized with the **Outstanding Volunteer Award**.

Last but not least, the **President's Award** was bestowed upon **Jenny Chaplin** and **Rachel Soloff**, former AWIS-SD President and Board member, respectively, for their long-term service to the chapter as Board members, co-developers of the AWIS Leadership Network and former co-chairs of the 2009 and 2011 WIST conferences.

Seven long-term members were also acknowledged.

**20 years:**

Judith Finlay  
Donna Perdue

**15 years:**

Christina Niemeyer  
Jane Willoughby

**10 years:**

Nancy Hurtado-Ziola  
Karin Lucas  
Diane Retallack

Congratulations to all!



Photo by Anita Iyer

Many thanks to my co-organizers Barb Davids, Tineke Lauwaet, and Vicki Hurless. The continued growth of the Annual AWIS-SD Open House is a tribute to all the hard work our volunteers have put into making the evening such a great event.

## AWIS Holiday Party 2012: Networking and Nostalgia

By Pat Rarus

On Wednesday evening, December 5, AWIS San Diego held its holiday party in the familiar setting of Wine Steals. This informal, homey restaurant at Liberty Station has served as the venue for the annual event for the last four years.

The setting for the holiday event, in all its rustic charm, was really secondary to the real purpose of the occasion: networking with current contacts and renewing friendships from the past. Both activities were going strong from 5:30p.m. to a little after 9:00p.m. that night.

President Dorothy (Dody) Sears was all aglow as she chatted with many people, including April Cresse, molecular biologist/geneticist, who has been active with AWIS-SD's Outreach Committee for a number of years. Although not currently in the workforce, April wanted to see her old friends and catch up on everyone's news.



Photo by Nurith Amitai

Mary Zervic, a quality specialist at Illumina, was definitely networking and loving it! "Ever since I joined AWIS a few years ago, I have met such great people both in industry and academia," she said. Originally from Wisconsin, Mary left the snow country in 2005 and headed for California without a position awaiting her. "I found one in a couple of months at e-Bioscience," Mary said. She stayed at the company, now owned by gene chip pioneer Affymetrix, before assuming her role at Illumina.

Corine Lau, scientific curator for Biobase and AWIS' treasurer, enjoyed herself thoroughly. Corine has also served as AWIS' Website Committee's Co-Chair. "AWIS provides a lot of networking and leadership opportunities. I'm proud to be a member." Corine also attended last year's holiday party. "This time, it was much easier for me to find," she said with a grin.



Photo by Nurith Amitai

Dominique Lenoir, currently seeking a position in cellular biology, enjoyed the networking as well. A strong supporter of AWIS, she will greet attendees at the registration table at next spring's WIST event.

AWIS is filled with events throughout the year, of course. The holiday party, though, has always been extra-special because of its festive nature and ardent hope for the New Year!



Photos by Nurith Amitai

### **Pink, Purple, or Green: An Acid, Neutral or Base: What Do You Deem?**

By Julie Bordowitz

A group of middle and high school chemistry students crowded around a table decked out in various mini-cups of colors. "Tell me what the difference is between an acid and a base." Inquisitive eyes stared back at our outreach volunteers, as we eagerly await their answers. On Saturday, October 27, 2012, the American Chemical Society, San Diego Section hosted their 25<sup>th</sup> Annual ChemExpo at Balboa Park. ChemExpo is part of the American Chemical Society (ACS) San Diego chapter's annual celebration of Chemistry Week.



Some of our volunteers.

Left to right: Marcy Richardson, Julie Bordowitz, Ally Pasulka, Nellie Shaul

This event is attended by about 1500 middle and high school students, plus parents and teachers. AWIS-SD Outreach presents hands-on experiments designed to "wow" the students with chemistry's diversity and ubiquitous nature. This year, AWIS-SD did a demo on pH, using red cabbage juice as an indicator. We explained the chemistry of pH, acids and bases, using the color change of the cabbage juice as an indicator when the kids tested different liquids. The juice would turn pink in acidic solutions, green/blue in basic solutions, and stay purple in neutral solutions. Each student received a cup of unknown solution and, once they dropped in some indicator, was asked if she or he had an acid, base or neutral solution.



Explaining the chemistry behind the color change.

In addition, we incorporated a dry-ice demo in order to give the kids a concrete environmental example. The demo explained that as we continue to add CO<sub>2</sub> to the atmosphere, some of that CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves into the oceans and other bodies of water. When CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in water, it forms carbonic acid, making the water more acidic. This can be visualized by placing dry ice (solid CO<sub>2</sub>) into water containing a pH indicator. As the CO<sub>2</sub> dissolves in the water, the color of the indicator will change to reflect the increased acidity of the water. This activity engaged the students in very thoughtful discussions, and was a very well-liked part of our table!



The dry ice demo.

The booth was very popular, as evidenced by a constant flow of eager minds. We even had the occasional kindergartner stop in and ask to perform the experiment. Whether younger or older, the students seemed to appreciate the lesson, actively participating in the demo and lending ideas and answers to our questions. We knew the day was well spent when a small group of students left proclaiming: "I'm going to go home and see what kind of colors I can make!" We'd say that was extra credit well earned!

### Exploring Careers in Science and Engineering

By Vicki Hurlless and Nellie Shaul

The AWIS-SD Outreach Committee recently organized the 4<sup>th</sup> annual installment of "Exploring Careers in Science and Engineering: A Day for Undergraduate Women." The event was held in the Donald P. Shiley BioScience Center Gold Auditorium at San Diego State University. This was a great location for a relaxed lunch where young women were able to inquire about careers in science. At the event, women from different fields of science and engineering shared their experiences with undergraduate women and answered questions. The speakers included two engineers, a chemistry professor, a biomedical professor, a computer science professor, two biotech directors, a lecturer in biology, a graduate student in biology, two lawyers, a bioinformatics scientist, a research scientist, and a biotech production manager.

The panelists explained their career paths and their daily work and shared advice and tips during a panel discussion, followed by a question and answer section. During lunch, the professional women sat at different tables to answer specific questions from the undergraduate women. The undergraduates rotated between tables

and were thus able to interact with most of the professional women in an informal and intimate setting.

The undergraduates came from various colleges in San Diego including UCSD, SDSU, and Mesa College. One high school student attended this vital function, too. A lot of helpful information and encouragement was shared, and there were many interesting stories from some very different careers. One of the undergraduates commented that she "was excited to see the diversity of jobs available in the sciences," and was excited and empowered by the event. Another undergraduate asked when we would be organizing another event like this, as she wanted to learn more from these inspiring women.

The committee plans to continue this annual event, with the hope that more undergraduates will hear these amazing stories next year. One of the panelists who attended the event said that she "was really impressed with the AWIS panel turnout and the food and venue. Great event!" Another panelist added: "Thank you for organizing this – it was fun!" In summary, the undergraduate career panel was a wonderful lunch with women established in science helping young women explore careers in science.

### December Strategy Session: Get a Life: Escape Your Routine

By Kaumudi Joshi

In keeping with the holiday spirit, December's Strategy Session was about learning to break out of a rut by injecting novelty into our lives. The speakers, Margo Streets and Kaumudi Joshi, presented their ideas on how to recognize signs of burnout and remedy it. The event was held at Jones Day and sponsored by Keck Graduate Institute.

In the first half of the discussion, Streets talked about the benefits of routines and habits in our everyday lives. Routines allow us to be consistent and efficient workers and prevent stress arising from unpredictability. Without discipline and routines, Streets explained, we would be unable to achieve most of our successes in our professional and personal lives. However, routines are a double-edged sword. When you rely on them too much, they can sap you of creativity and opportunities for new experiences. We should be vigilant for signs of burnout such as feeling unmotivated or disillusioned, or changes in our sleep and appetite. Streets delved further into how we can develop new, healthier habits to replace the ones that are holding us back. An activity can take from a few days to almost a year to become habitual and instinctive.

Joshi started the second part of the session by talking about the benefits of breaking repetitive patterns. One such benefit is boosting creativity. Organized and focused thinking is usually detrimental to insightful, out-of-the-box ideas, which are treated as distractions. The trick is to engage in hobbies and recreational activities to allow these ideas to develop and take hold. Hobbies have been shown to have many benefits including relieving stress, building relationships and fostering community. Throughout the seminar, there were three group discussions where the audience separated into small groups and discussed their experiences. First, they identified the beneficial routines in their lives that were helpful and enjoyable. Next, they pointed out the habits that were holding them back so they could focus on changing them. Lastly, the audience went through a comprehensive list of ideas for activities around San Diego prepared by the speakers and identified the ones most suited to their tastes.

These ranged from cultural activities such as art and fine dining to community activities such as volunteering. The goal was to overcome one of the most common objections to trying something new – lack of information. These conversations gave the participants plenty of choices to explore.

From the discussions throughout the evening, several themes emerged. The most common bad habit was repetitive checking of e-mail and social media. This routine is counter-productive, as it fails to increase the efficiency of communication. Most audience members admitted that healthy activities such as eating well and exercising suffered the most due to bad routines. And lastly, there are several stumbling blocks to changing your routine, such as lack of resources and a general fear of trying something new. However, by banding together as a community through organizations such as AWIS, we can join our efforts to lead balanced and well-rounded lives.

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### AWIS-SD Member Profile: Atreyee Bhattacharya

By Nurith Amitai

I did not expect to find myself pondering dust from outer space and baked chicken curry in the course of writing the same article. But the eclectic pursuits of Atreyee Bhattacharya, a local science writer, cover all of these and many more.

Born in Kharagpur, a city in the West Bengal region of India, Atreyee always had a passion for writing. She contributed to local newspapers, working on issues related to schools and students. However, she found that the topics she was asked to cover for the mainstream news media did not fit her interests. She would have preferred to work on stories about science, health, or medicine, creating National Geographic-style articles. Her enthusiasm for nature and science was encouraged by her father, a geoscientist. She found herself drawn to earth science, climate research, and oceanography. Convinced that in order to write about scientific topics, she should thoroughly understand the underlying science, she pursued studies in geology and applied geosciences.

Her studies brought her to the USA in 2005, where she enrolled in a doctoral program in Earth and Planetary Science at Harvard University. In 2009, she followed her research to San Diego as a visiting student at the Scripps Institution of Oceanography (SIO). Atreyee's dissertation focused on reconstructing changes in climate and ocean chemistry in Earth's past, using patterns of dust delivery to assess levels of drought over the decades and millennia. She was able to decipher these patterns using different isotopes of helium. Helium-4 is by far the most abundant isotope of helium on this planet, and small pockets of helium get trapped in dust particles blowing from deserts over Earth's history. Helium-3 is extremely rare on Earth, but is plentiful in extraterrestrial dust. Because the flux of cosmic dust onto Earth has been constant over time, helium-3 can provide a baseline measure establishing the timeframe against which fluctuations in helium-4 (and thus Earth dust and historical climate patterns) can be evaluated. Aside from being fascinating, finding out how desert dust is related to climate changes has clear practical significance in an age of threatening climate change, extreme weather events, and devastating droughts.

While Atreyee loved her research, writing always remained her ultimate goal. Although she encountered some pressure to stay in academia, she also received a lot of support from many directions in her determination to become a journalist. Throughout her studies,

Atreyee kept her pen busy, writing for the Harvard Medical School newsletter and *explorations now*, SIO's online research and event publication, along with numerous other media outlets both within and outside her research institutions. After completing her Ph.D. earlier this year, she worked as a science writer for the *Earth and Planetary Science Times*, a communications specialist for SIO, and a news publications contractor for the American Geophysical Union. Atreyee's writing has been published in a wide range of print and online media, including *EARTH* magazine, *Science 2.0*, and the *Discover* magazine blog. Last but not least, she writes for this very newsletter, having joined the AWIS-SD Newsletter Committee in March 2012. If you like the newsletter's new Science News Ticker feature, you can thank Atreyee – it is her brainchild!

Atreyee's authorial exploits extend to the realm of fiction, and she maintains an online collection of her short stories. She is also an enthusiastic photographer. Both of these talents feature prominently on her food blog, *Food...Thought For!* Her recipes are invariably accompanied by fanciful stories and appetizing photographs. She also moderates the Facebook Cooking Club, and considers food journalism one of her favorite endeavors. Indeed, she admits that she would be perfectly happy if she could transition into writing about food full-time.

As if that were not enough to keep her busy, Atreyee also dedicates herself to science outreach and teaching. She serves as an interpretation volunteer and scientist-on-call for the Birch Aquarium, where she has helped out at the tide pool exhibit and instructed visiting school classes. At SIO, she has taught groups from San Diego Science Alliance's BE WiSE (Better Education for Women in Science and Engineering) program. She moderates the Facebook group Science Is Fun, and participates in Nifty Fifty, a program that sends scientists into classrooms to speak about their research and careers. Her central concern is to convince students that science is not a monolith, and that there is not just one single path of "being a scientist". Instead, she wants the students to understand science as a way of thinking, one that can lead them into a wide variety of careers.

You might think that, with all of these commitments, Atreyee has no spare time left for additional hobbies. Far from it! Some of her other pastimes include swimming, knitting, learning new languages, and long-distance walking. The latter recently culminated in her joining the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer, a two-day fundraising walk covering a marathon-and-a-half. And yet, somehow she still finds time almost every evening to wind down at 9 pm with an independent movie, yet another of her many interests. Maybe she just has a few extra hours in her day?

The last few weeks have added another exciting chapter to Atreyee's story. She has just accepted a full-time job as a scientific communications and policy expert at the global climate change division of the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory, a Department of Energy government research laboratory. In her new position, Atreyee hopes to establish a new magazine and educate the public and policy makers about scientific issues relevant to the planet. Congratulations, Atreyee, and best of luck on your newest mission!

You can check out some of Atreyee's creations here:

food blog: <http://food-thought-for.blogspot.com/>

photographs: [http://www.flickr.com/photos/a\\_girl\\_with\\_a\\_view/](http://www.flickr.com/photos/a_girl_with_a_view/)

short stories: <http://a-writers-dream.blogspot.com/>

## Science News Ticker

Takeda Pharmaceuticals has acquired Envoy Therapeutics, an early stage biopharmaceutical company focusing on CNS diseases. Takeda expects to add 20 biotech jobs at its La Jolla location as Envoy moves its scientific staff, drug discovery technologies and pipeline to San Diego County from Florida ••• The U.S. and Mexico signed a water management agreement that establishes numerous policies for both sides, including defining rights to Lake Mead water, repairing the earthquake-damaged irrigation network in the Mexicali Valley, and guaranteeing flows for fish and wildlife in the Mexican delta. The pact is designed to bring more stability to water supplies from the Colorado River and to help rejuvenate the delta wetlands just south of the border ••• UCSD Medical Center was designated a comprehensive stroke center, a title reserved for hospitals that exceed standard stroke care by offering advanced treatment 24 hours a day for people who suffer the rarest and most severe forms of stroke, conduct research on stroke, and handle at least 60 of the specialized cases each year. UCSD Medical Center is one of seven hospitals nationwide to receive the designation ••• Scripps Institution of Oceanography will partner with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the California Department of Water Resources to create four sophisticated weather stations along the California coast to provide earlier and more accurate warnings of so-called “pineapple express” storms – potentially damaging storms caused by subtropical moisture from near the Hawaiian islands traveling to California and combining with precipitation from the Gulf of Alaska ••• San Diego-based Victory Pharma has agreed to pay \$11.4 million under a deferred prosecution agreement to resolve allegations of kickback and false claims violations. Victory Pharma will avoid criminal and civil liability for claims that it paid kickbacks to doctors to induce them to write prescriptions for its products Naprelan, Xodol, Fexmid and Dolgic ••• Rescue Social Change Group, a San Diego firm dedicated to producing science-based anti-smoking campaigns, has been awarded a \$152 million contract with the Food and Drug Administration’s Center for Tobacco Products. The money comes from the Tobacco Control Act of 2009, which allows the government to collect millions from tobacco companies for public health promotion programs ••• UC San Diego Health System and Tri-City Medical Center in Oceanside will begin using “2net”, a hub device produced by San Diego-based wireless technology company Qualcomm Inc., to remotely monitor the biometric data of their patients.

## Upcoming Events

### Dessert and Networking Reception Hosted by AWIS National

January 11, 2013, 07:00pm - 09:00pm, The San Diego Marriott Marquis and Marina Hotel; Point Loma Room, Level 1, 333 West Harbor Drive, San Diego, CA 92101

The AWIS Governing Board will be meeting in San Diego January 11-13, 2013. They are excited about the opportunity to network with members from our San Diego Chapter. To that end, AWIS will host a reception at the Joint Mathematics Meetings to showcase AWIS and we are all invited to attend. Enjoy conversations with your colleagues, meet the leadership of AWIS National, and learn about the various programs AWIS is focusing on to advance the STEM workplace and the impact of these initiatives on your professional career.

Free registration is requested at <http://bit.ly/JointMath> so they know how many desserts to order. There will also be a cash bar.

Contact: [president@awissd.org](mailto:president@awissd.org)

This event is open to everyone.

<http://sdawis.org/events/create-event/icalrepeat.detail/2013/01/11/314/-/dessert-a-networking-reception-hosted-by-awis-national>

### Coffee Club – Working Moms

January 25, 2013, 07:45 am - 08:45 am, Nobel Park - 7414 Toscana Dr, San Diego, CA 92122. We will meet at the parking lot in front of the playground.

If you are a working mom, please join us for our morning walk. We will make our way to a local cafe while sharing our experiences with juggling a career and being a mom. After you register, we will forward additional details regarding our meeting location.

Contact: Jennifer Cho & Corine Lau

<http://sdawis.org/events/create-event/icalrepeat.detail/2013/01/25/315/-/coffee-club-working-moms>

### Strategy Session: Enhance Your Productivity: Resolve to Make the Most of Your Time at Work

February 4, 2013, 06:00pm - 08:00pm, JONES DAY, 12265 El Camino Real, third floor, San Diego, CA 92130

Additional Details TBD.

Networking – 6:00 pm, Workshop – 6:30 - 8:00 pm  
Light refreshments will be served.  
Remember to bring your business cards!

Preregistration is essential!

Contact: [StrategySessions@awissd.org](mailto:StrategySessions@awissd.org)

This is an AWIS San Diego MEMBERS ONLY event.

If you are not currently an AWIS San Diego member and would like to attend this event, please join or renew your membership online ([www.awis.org](http://www.awis.org)). Remember to select San Diego as your chapter. We would love to have you join us!

<http://sdawis.org/events/create-event/icalrepeat.detail/2013/02/04/271/-/strategy-session-enhance-your-productivity-resolve-to-make-the-most-of-your-time-at-work>

## Local Events of Interest

### Is the Human Mind Unique?

February 15, 2013, 01:00pm - 05:30pm, De Hoffmann Auditorium at the Salk Institute for Biological Studies, 10010 North Torrey Pines Road, La Jolla, CA 92037

A public symposium hosted by the UCSD/Salk Center for Academic Research & Training in Anthropogeny (CARTA). Scientists from

many different fields will discuss cognitive abilities often regarded as unique to humans including humor, morality, symbolism, creativity, and preoccupation with the minds of others.

Admission is free and open to the public; however, registration is required. To register, go to:

<http://carta.anthropogeny.org/events/is-human-mind-unique>

A live webcast will also be offered for those who would live to view the proceedings remotely. Look for details on the event page.

### Member News

AWIS-SD Board Member and intellectual property attorney, **Tamera Weisser**, has been named to the partnership of Jones Day, effective Jan. 1, 2013. Weisser's practice includes patent portfolio development, management and enforcement in biotechnology, including immunology, biochemistry, molecular biology, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, genetics, cell biology, stem cell therapy, gene therapy and medical devices. She is one of nine attorneys being promoted in the firm's California offices, and one of forty-five attorneys promoted globally. "The promotion of these new partners reflects Jones Day's ongoing commitment to developing and advancing lawyers throughout the world who have achieved the highest levels of professional accomplishment and who are devoted to advancing and protecting the interests of our clients and the institutional values of our firm," said Stephen J. Brogan, managing partner of the firm. Jones Day is a global law firm with over 2400 attorneys practicing in the major centers of business and finance throughout the world.

*(This announcement is based on two Jones Day press releases.)*

### About the AWIS Newsletter

The AWIS-SD Newsletter is published six times per year and provides AWIS members and supporters with information on Chapter activities, career development, and issues related to women in science.

Newsletter staff for January/February issue:

Nurith Amitai, Atreyee Bhattacharya, Afshawn Chakamian, Priya Choudry, Caitlin Ides, Alka Malhotra, Molly Moloney, Elizabeth Onan, Pat Rarus, Shweta Sharma, and DeeAnn Visk.

We welcome **Afshawn Chakamian** as a new co-chair of the newsletter committee. We further welcome **Priya Choudry** and **Elizabeth Onan** to the newsletter committee.

**Tiffany Hernandez** and **Emily Plummer** are stepping down from the newsletter committee. We sincerely appreciate their contributions as committee members.

### Contribute to the Newsletter

If you are an AWIS-SD member, we encourage you to contribute to the newsletter. Please send articles, photographs, and member news as MS Word attachments to [newsletter@awissd.org](mailto:newsletter@awissd.org). News articles should not exceed 250 words, event summaries should not exceed 500 words, and feature articles (special-interest stories and profiles) should not exceed 1000 words. The submission deadline for the next issue is **February 10, 2012**.

### AWIS-San Diego Sponsors

AWIS-SD thanks our corporate sponsors for their generous support. Donations from corporate sponsors help us fund scholarship awards, monthly events and Strategy Sessions, community outreach efforts, the Newsletter and the website.

For more information about how your company can support AWIS-SD, send e-mail to [fundAWISSd@gmail.com](mailto:fundAWISSd@gmail.com).

#### PREMIER

GenProbe, Inc.  
Life Technologies

#### CONTRIBUTING

BioLegend, Inc.  
Keck Graduate Institute  
Morrison & Foerster  
Rady School of Management, UC San Diego  
Synthetic Genomics, Inc.

#### FRIEND

Ardea Biosciences  
FEI Company  
General Atomics Sciences Education Foundation  
Jones Day  
Kyowa Hakko Kirin California, Inc.  
Lynne Friedmann

#### GALA

San Diego State University



**IMPORTANT CONTACTS****AWIS Board**

	<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>E-mail</u></b>
President	Dorothy Sears	<a href="mailto:President@awissd.org">President@awissd.org</a>
Secretary	Monica Brown	<a href="mailto:Secretary@awissd.org">Secretary@awissd.org</a>
Treasurer	Corine Lau	<a href="mailto:Treasurer@awissd.org">Treasurer@awissd.org</a>
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