



## ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

### PALO ALTO CHAPTER

<http://www.pa-awis.org/>

<http://www.awis.org/>

March/April 2005

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## From the President

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by Mirella Bucci

Happy Winter!

The winter always brings about the promise of change and this time it's no different. We've begun thinking about our new Board and the positions that will come up for reelection. Laurence and I will continue as Vice President and President and Rachel and Debbie will remain the Treasurer and Member-at-Large. With your approval, Iris Ferber will become the new Secretary.

Our fabulous retention rate should speak more towards our recruiting efforts than to our lack of need. We always need volunteers to continue making the programs and our outreach efforts successful. If you find yourself on the receiving end of an invitation to help, think about how almost flawlessly, food seems to appear and disappear before and after the monthly meetings. This would not be possible without the dedicated volunteers who, by the way, get to decide what's for dinner! Thanks for volunteering in the past and in the future.

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## Women's History Month

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Did you know that March 2005 is Women's History Month? The Department of Physics and Astronomy of the University of Alabama web site is hosting the 4000 Years of Women in Science Home Page:

<http://www.astr.ua.edu/4000WS/4000WS.html>

4,000 years of women in science! Women are, and always have been scientists. This site lists over 125 names from our scientific and technical past. They are all women! This site grew out of the public talks given by Dr. Sethanne Howard, currently with the National Science Foundation. As we learn more, more female scientists are added to this page. This includes inventors, scholars and writers as well as mathematicians and astronomers. Check out this web site and enjoy learning about these women.

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## Book Club for Women Scientists

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by Helen Moore and Nadine Gassner

You might like to know that there is a new monthly book group for women in science. The founders are Helen Moore, Associate Director at the American Institute for Mathematics in Palo Alto and Nadine Gassner, postdoc in Molecular Pharmacology at Stanford. Please contact Helen ([moore@aimath.org](mailto:moore@aimath.org)) or Nadine ([ncgassner@yahoo.com](mailto:ncgassner@yahoo.com)) if you are interested in reading and discussing books related to career growth and developing your leadership potential.

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## Upcoming Programs and Events

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### MARCH

- Mar 17** – Synopsys Technology Championship
- Mar 19** – Women's Health Conference, San Jose
- Mar 22** – Palo Alto AWIS Chapter Meeting, PARC
- Mar 22** – PWA meeting, Palo Alto

### APRIL

- TBD** – Annual AWIS Awards Banquet

For more information on these upcoming events, please see flyers on pages 8 and 9, and Calendar of Events on page 10.

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### CONTENTS

<i>Mentoring</i> .....	2
<i>Events</i> .....	3
<i>Career Opportunities</i> .....	4
<i>Calendar of Events</i> .....	5
<i>Board Information; Mailing Page</i> .....	6

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## Mentoring Program Update

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*by Adina Paytan and Susan Bernhard, co-Chairs*

The third Mentoring Program of the 2004-05 academic year convened on January 19<sup>th</sup>. The featured speaker was Dr. Jacquelyn Chang and the program topic was 'Giving and Receiving Feedback'. Jackie graduated from Stanford in Human Biology, got her MD degree from UCSF and is now in private practice in San Mateo in psychiatry. She is married with 2 kids.

Feedback is such a universal topic that Jackie has been an invited speaker for both East Bay and Palo Alto Chapter meetings. With her help we considered the best ways to receive feedback (especially for protégées) and to give feedback (especially for mentors), and there was a lively discussion among the 52 attendees.

Some pointers for giving feedback include (1) Feedback should be specific and it should be given in person- whether positive or negative. (2) Give positive feedback as soon as a hoped-for result is achieved (3) Negative feedback is most effective if it is given promptly after a failure, and again as a reminder just before the next opportunity to 'do it right'. (4) Feedback should be given privately, and it is a good idea to set up an appointment with ground rules (fixed amount of time, cell phones off) so both people can give full attention. (5) Limit feedback to 1 or 2 most important points (6) Follow-up, so that recipients hear if they're doing better (or not).

When asking for feedback it is important to (1) Frame your request as a specific question (could I get your feedback about the introduction section of my paper? Instead of 'what do you think of my paper?') (2) When receiving feedback try not to take it personally, that is, as personal criticism (3) Ask the feedback-giver to be specific. We all can improve our performance, and we were reminded of how to use non-defensive communication techniques to ask clarifying questions (4) Ask for time to assimilate new ideas or criticism if needed, and (5) make an appointment to follow-up. Feedback is less surprising and more effective if it is given at regular intervals.

The final Mentoring dinner program will be in May (TBA) and will most likely be a panel discussion focused on 'Transitions'. It will be applicable to finding a postdoctoral position, landing an academic position, finding a first job, and dealing with what's out there issues (finding out about career options). All protégées, mentors and AWIS members are welcome.

Mentoring is recruiting student reps for next year, so if you are a grad student or postdoc who would like to help plan the 2005-06 season, please write to [mentoring\\_awis@yahoo.com](mailto:mentoring_awis@yahoo.com) and let us know. Working behind the scenes is a great opportunity to meet more mentors.

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## What's Out There? Discussion Groups

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*by Susan Bernhard, Adina Paytan, Jenny Nyman and Christine Jessup*

As an extension of the formal Mentoring dinner programs, we have started a few informal discussion groups on the following topics: environmental science, biochemistry/biotech, medicine, chemistry/physics, engineering, biology, and how to choose a postdoc. Our goal is to get interested mentors and protégées together to chat and share their experience. This is an alternative to 1-on-1 mentoring and the brainstorming potential is exciting and immense! Groups will get together once a month during March, April and May. Interested? Please write to sign up for a group at [mentoring\\_awis@yahoo.com](mailto:mentoring_awis@yahoo.com)

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## Harvard President Sparks Debate

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*by Mirella Bucci*

You may have heard about the uproar surrounding a recent speech by Harvard president Lawrence Summers. There is no transcript or record of the speech, but those in attendance may remember it well. Apparently, Summers said that the differences in scores between boys and girls on standardized tests can be attributed to genetic differences between them.

This led to strong reaction from audience members as well as women scientists throughout the country. Summers apologized in a letter that can be viewed at Harvard's web site. In addition, National AWIS, our parent organization released a letter to various publications, including Science magazine, suggesting that the reasons for the test score differences could be due to social factors.

This issue clearly reached women scientists at a personal level. Our own Barrie Greene was quoted in a San Francisco Chronicle article on the topic and many of our chapter members weighed in as well. As for me, I was happy to have the opportunity to discuss a topic that clearly has components of society, discrimination, gender differences and perceptions of women in science.

## \*Events\*

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### Annual AWIS Awards Banquet

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*by NCC-AWIS Chapter Representative*

The 2005 annual awards banquet is currently looking for a new 'home'. It will most likely be held at the end of April. Stay tuned. Plans for the catered, full course Buffet have not been finalized at this time. The Awards program always consists of a series of presentations and short acceptance speeches - AWIS awards scholarships, the Ellen Weaver Award, Judith Pool Award and Distinguished Professional Award. Come share a special evening of companionship and celebration! This is one of the finest parties for women in science. It is always a joyous and uplifting event!

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### Women's Health Conference

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On March 19 (Saturday) in the San Jose Convention Center there will be a women's health conference. Cost is \$75. Register on-line at [www.healthtrust.org](http://www.healthtrust.org) or send an email to [debib@healthtrust.org](mailto:debib@healthtrust.org). There are 16 breakout sessions, free health screenings and topics cover everything from stroke awareness to the art of forgiveness, emotional eating, dare to be 100, the power of hypnotherapy and more. Proceeds from The Health Trust Women's Health Conference go to The Women's Health Fund which supports local programs that improve health care access for women and girls in Santa Clara Valley. Last year the Women's Health Fund granted \$75,000 to five local programs including homeless and battered women's shelters, mental health services for girls in the juvenile justice system and a health education program for Spanish-speaking women and girls.



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### The FDA in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

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The FDA in the 21st Century: Maneuvering the Socioeconomic Tradeoff  
Wednesday, March 23rd, 5:30-8:30 pm  
Hosted by Cooley Godward, LLP  
3175 Hanover Street  
Palo Alto, CA 94304-1130

As everyone knows, the Food and Drug Administration is currently under investigation by Congress for the way it handled the painkiller Vioxx. The agency is being challenged for approving drugs without adequate testing, and it's being questioned about its follow-up, including its process for monitoring drugs once they are on the market. Critics say the FDA regulators need more distance from the drug companies, while those who speak for the drug makers continue to warn that excessive oversight slows the process of getting new drugs to needy patients.

Join leading experts from the drug, tool, and medical device fields to discuss the Future of the FDA and hear how the inherent tradeoff between efficiency for affordable access and safety for societal protection can impact both the FDA and your company. Don't miss this opportunity to learn the keys to actively managing successful development with the institution.

Please contact the PWHA office at 415.243.2117 for more information, or [www.pwha.org](http://www.pwha.org).

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### APS Networking Event: March Networking Breakfast

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CSWP and the Forum on Industrial and Applied Physics (FIAP) will sponsor a networking breakfast from 7:30-9:30 am on Tuesday, March 22, 2005 at the APS meeting at the Westin Hotel in Los Angeles.

Laura Smoliar of Lightwave Electronics, Mountain View, CA will be the speaker. This is a wonderful opportunity to network and hear an outstanding speaker! Both men and women are welcome to attend. Registration information can be found at:

<http://www.aps.org/educ/cswp/index.cfm>

Cost: \$20. Complimentary registration for physics students, thanks to FIAP generosity, however you must pre-register as only limited walk-ins can be accepted.

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## Promote our Future Scientists!

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Your help is needed for about five hours on Thursday, March 17th, to help judge the science projects of approximately 900 students from 6-12th grades. The Sixth Synopsys Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship will be at the San Jose McEnery Convention Center. This is the 45th regional science fair, and winners of this fair continue on to further competition at the California State Science Fair, the Discovery Young Scientist Challenge, and the Intel International Science and Engineering Fair.

We need women scientist representation there! In addition to selecting the winning projects, judges will be encouraging and sharing their experience with all the students. This interaction is a critical and integral part of the Championship. You can register as a judge and get more info on judging and agenda at:

<http://www.science-fair.org/judges>

If you wish to be on a judging team with friends or colleagues, please indicate your preferences as you register. Further details, including the "Judging Guide", can be obtained at our website. If you know of colleagues, friends, or fellow members of professional societies who would make good judges, please forward this message to them. If you have any questions, please email <2judging@earthlink.net>.

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## Young Scientist Award

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Our chapter is sponsoring a Young Scientist award at the March Synopsys Silicon Valley Science and Technology Championship. We will select a female high school student to receive a \$100 prize, a Certificate of Achievement, and a book on female scientists. If you would like to be a member of the judging team for this special award, please contact Outreach Chair, Katy Korsmeyer, at <kuokaty@scientist.com>.

## \*Career Opportunities\*

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### Bioanalytical Chemist

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Lab Support, a division of On Assignment, is dedicated to your success. All of our Staffing Consultants have lab experience, so they speak your language and can match you with the best opportunities available with leading scientific companies.

#### Job Description:

Seeking a Bioanalytical Chemist to participate in the discovery of new chemical entities for development into therapeutic agents. The position will involve the development of LC/MS or LC/MS/MS based assays for the quantification of small molecule drug candidates in matrices from in vitro and in vivo studies. The successful candidate will be responsible for analyzing and interpreting bioanalytical and metabolic data, providing qualitative analysis and structural elucidation of drugs and metabolites.

#### Position Qualifications:

PhD in Analytical, Pharmaceutical, Organic Chemistry or related field. Strong background in advanced concepts, theories, and applications of mass spectroscopy. Experience in setting up high throughput methodologies and automation as well as ability to perform analysis on samples derived from cassette dosing will be desirable. Participation in successful drug discovery/development at a Pharmaceutical company or pharmaceutical research organization. Hands on LC/MS proficiency. Strong written communication skills and the ability to contribute to a multidisciplinary research team are essential.

If you have any questions, please contact Heather via email at [sanbruno@labsupport.com](mailto:sanbruno@labsupport.com) or at 650-635-1210.

Association for Women In Science

Palo Alto Chapter

## **"Development of Human Embryonic Stem Cell Therapies for the Treatment of Human Degenerative Diseases"**

**Jane S. Lebkowski, Ph.D.  
Senior Vice President of Regenerative Medicine  
Geron Corporation, Menlo Park CA**

Dr. Lebkowski will give an industry perspective on the exciting topic of current progress in innovative applications of stem cells. Her talk will include significant achievements that Geron has made in preclinical stem cell research and subsequent product development.

Dr. Lebkowski received her Ph.D. in Biochemistry from Princeton University in 1982. Following a postdoctoral fellowship at the Department of Genetics at Stanford University, she joined Applied Immune Sciences (AIS) in 1986, where she was Vice President of Research and Development. Following the acquisition of AIS by Rhone Poulenc Rorer (RPR), Dr. Lebkowski remained at RPR (currently Sanofi-Aventis) as Vice President of Discovery Research. During her RPR tenure, she coordinated preclinical investigations of gene therapy approaches for the treatment of cancer, cardiovascular disease, and nervous system disorders, as well as directed the vector development, formulation, and delivery programs. In 1998, Dr. Lebkowski joined Geron as Senior Director of Cell and Gene Therapies, and now heads the human embryonic stem cell program.

<b>DATE:</b>	<b>Tuesday, March 22, 2005</b>
<b>LOCATION:</b>	<b>PARC Auditorium 3333 Coyote Hill Road, Palo Alto</b>
<b>RSVP:</b>	RSVP online <a href="http://www.acteva.com/go/pa-awis">http://www.acteva.com/go/pa-awis</a>

#### Schedule

7:00-7:30 pm	Networking and light supper
7:30-7:45 pm	Announcements
7:45-8:45 pm	Program
8:45-9:00 pm	Discussion

***Welcome!! This Meeting is free. You do not need to be a Member to attend.***

***All scientists, students, and their friends are welcome—men too!***

***We kindly request a \$5 donation to cover the cost of food.***

#### **Directions** from the North:

Take Hwy 280 SOUTH, exit at Page Mill Rd and at the bottom of the ramp turn LEFT and head towards Palo Alto. Turn RIGHT onto Coyote Hill Road. PARC (formerly Xerox PARC) is on the left, just past the crest of the hill. Enter main door and look for signs to the Auditorium.

#### **Directions** from the South:

Take Hwy 280 NORTH, exit at Page Mill Road, turn RIGHT at the bottom of the off ramp and head up hill towards Palo Alto. Turn RIGHT onto Coyote Hill Road. PARC is on the left, (follow directions above).

**Alternate directions:** Take Hwy 101, exit at Oregon Expressway heading west towards Stanford. As you cross El Camino, Oregon is renamed Page Mill Road. Follow Page Mill Road WEST, cross Foothill Expressway, and take a LEFT on Coyote Hill Road. PARC is on the left, (follow directions above to Auditorium).

**Local directions** (from Stanford): Take Foothill SOUTH towards Los Altos, and turn RIGHT at Page Mill Road heading WEST. Turn LEFT onto Coyote Hill Road. PARC is on the left, (follow directions above).

See also <http://www.parc.com/company/directions.html> for map & directions

**CALENDAR of EVENTS**

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**ebAWIS Chapter Meeting:**

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<http://www.ebawis.org/ebevents.htm>

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**Palo Alto Chapter Meeting:**

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**Tuesday, March 22, 2005**

Development of Human Embryonic  
Stem Cell Therapies for the Treatment  
of Human Degenerative Diseases  
Jane Lebkowski

7:00pm  
PARC Auditorium  
3333 Coyote Hill Road, Palo Alto

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**BioScience Forum**

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[www.bioE2E.org](http://www.bioE2E.org)

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**sfAWIS Chapter Meeting:**

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<http://www.sfawis.com/>

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**WILS**

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Women Leaders in Science  
Seminar Series

Parnassus HSW 300  
UCSF

For details, please visit:  
<http://itsa.ucsf.edu/~wils/WILS.html>

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**Institute for Women and  
Technology**

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[www.iwt.org](http://www.iwt.org)

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**Sacramento AWIS Chapter  
Meeting**

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[www.nccawis.org/chapters/sacvalley/  
sacvalleyhp.html](http://www.nccawis.org/chapters/sacvalley/sacvalleyhp.html)

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**Professional Business  
Women of California**

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[www.pbwc.org](http://www.pbwc.org)

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**Healthcare  
Businesswoman's  
Association**

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[www.hbanet.org/chapters/sanfran.asp](http://www.hbanet.org/chapters/sanfran.asp)

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**Women Chemist's  
Committee**

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[www.calacs.org](http://www.calacs.org)

**ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN  
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PALO ALTO CHAPTER**

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Chapter dues \$25.00 per year. Student/unemployed \$10.00. Membership in National AWIS required. Pick up an application at a chapter meeting or visit the web site!



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ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE  
PALO ALTO CHAPTER

**FIRST CLASS**

**DATED MATERIAL**