



Explore Encourage Evolve

**SAT. MAY 20, 2017**  
**UCSD Faculty Club**



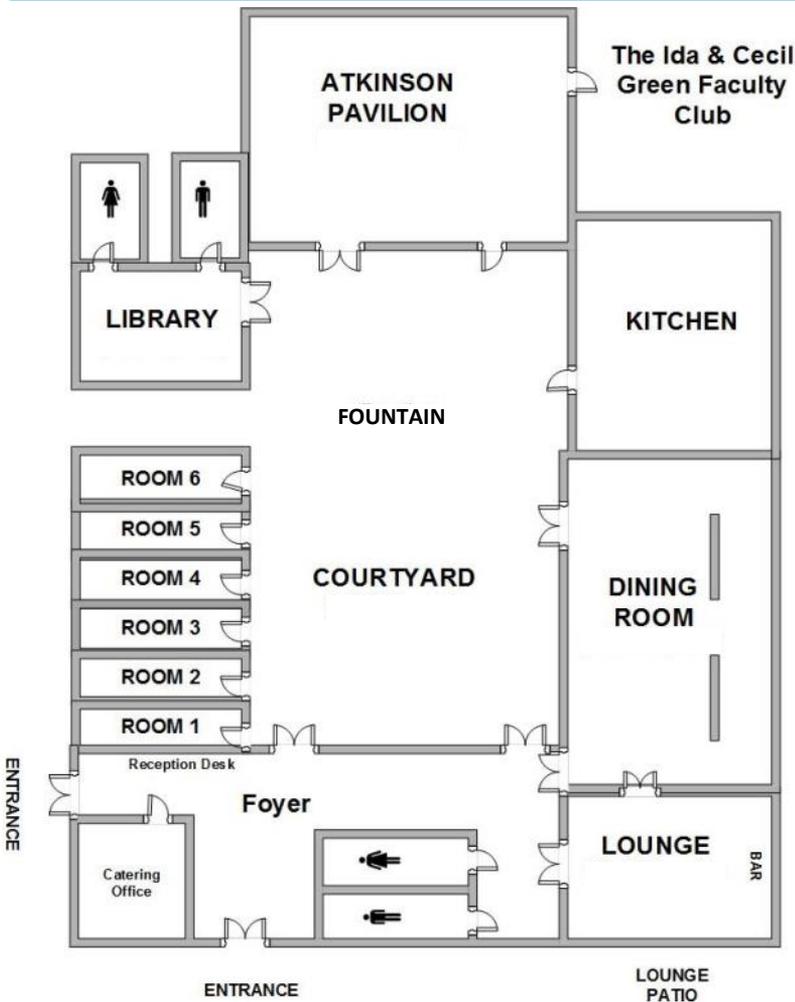
**AWIS**

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

*San Diego*



# UCSD Faculty Club Map



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# Welcome to WIST 2017!

Welcome to the 2017 Women in Science and Technology (WIST) Conference presented by the Association for Women in Science, San Diego Chapter (AWIS-SD). The theme of this year's WIST Conference is "Explore, Encourage, Evolve." We selected this theme to reflect how AWIS-SD supports the goals and interests of all our members and attendees, throughout their careers. AWIS-SD champions women as they explore careers in science, encourages women in mid-career, and facilitates members to evolve into leaders. We encourage you to actively participate in the discussions and networking opportunities at this conference, to share your experiences, dreams, and lessons learned.

AWIS-SD is the largest chapter in the National AWIS family with about 250 members in the San Diego chapter. While the main focus of our group is on women, we welcome all genders, however you identify. Our members work as students, post-doctoral fellows, faculty, directors, attorneys, entrepreneurs, teachers, writers, biologists, chemists, engineers, mathematicians, project managers, law firm partners, community leaders, VPs, and CEOs.

We are a strong chapter because of the commitment, creativity, and supportiveness of our volunteer leaders and members. We proudly further the mission of AWIS in our local community by supporting the career and personal development of women and girls interested science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). AWIS-SD hosts community outreach science programs, educational, mentoring, career development, and social activities. AWIS-SD awards young women participants in the local Greater San Diego Science and Engineering Fair and provides scholarship support for women scientists throughout the county.

You will meet our seven 2017 Scholarship awardees during the program today. If you are not already a member, I encourage you to join AWIS-SD, participate in our activities, and join one of our eight volunteer committees. You can learn more about AWIS-SD membership, activities, leadership, and volunteering opportunities at [www.awissd.org](http://www.awissd.org).

Enjoy the 14th WIST Symposium with inspirational speakers, workshops, and networking to assist you to Explore, Encourage, and Evolve. A sincere thanks to all the outstanding volunteers, speakers, and sponsors who have made WIST 2017 possible.

## **Welcome to WIST 2017.**

DeeAnn Visk  
President, AWIS San Diego Chapter  
Co-Chair 2017 WIST Planning Committee

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Thank you to all of the volunteers who made this event possible.

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# WIST 2017 Morning Schedule

7:30 AM	<b>Registration and Continental Breakfast, Dining Room</b>		
8:30 AM	<b>Welcome Remarks</b> DeeAnn Visk, AWIS San Diego President <i>Dining Room</i>		
8:40 AM	<b>Morning Keynote Speaker:</b> Gillian Wilson, Ph.D. <b><i>The Expanding Universe, Dark Matter and Dark Energy: The Three Greatest Discoveries in Cosmology</i></b> <i>Dining Room</i>		
9:40 AM	<b>Break</b>		
10:00 AM	<b>Workshop A</b>		
	<u><b>Explore</b></u> <i>Non-bench Careers Panel</i>  Alessandra Blasina Miriam Cohen Shannon Muir  <i>Dining Room</i>	<u><b>Encourage</b></u> <i>How my Favorite Cartoon Became my Career</i>  Katherine Djernes Pappano  <i>Atkinson Pavilion</i>	<u><b>Evolve</b></u> <i>From Scientist to CSO: The Case for Business and Social Identity</i>  Catherine Schnabel  <i>Lounge</i>
11:00 AM	<b>Break</b>		
11:20 AM	<b>Workshop B</b>		
	<u><b>Explore</b></u> <i>Acing Your Job Search</i>  Masha Evpak Madhushree Ghosh Megan Humphreys Molly Wood  <i>Dining Room</i>	<u><b>Encourage</b></u> <i>Direct Your Direction</i>  Christine Federovitch  <i>Atkinson Pavilion</i>	<u><b>Evolve</b></u> <i>Journey from Bench Scientist to the C-Suite to Entrepreneur</i>  Sabrina Johnson  <i>Lounge</i>



# Morning Keynote Presentation

## ***The Expanding Universe, Dark Matter and Dark Energy: The Three Greatest Discoveries in Cosmology***

Gillian Wilson, Ph.D.

Professor, Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of California Riverside

8:40-9:40 AM, *Dining Room*



Dr. Wilson is the Interim Deputy Director of the University of California Observatories. Originally from Scotland, Dr. Wilson has been a professor of physics and astronomy at UC Riverside since 2007, specializing in galaxy evolution and cosmology. She leads the international “SpARCS” and “GCLASS” cluster surveys and is a regular user of the University of California Observatories and NASA’s Hubble & Spitzer Space Telescopes. She teaches a popular course for UCR undergraduates called “History of the Universe.”

# Afternoon Keynote Presentation

## *Insights into Industry*

Homa Akbarian, Ph.D.

Head, R&D, Acclarent Inc., a Johnson & Johnson Company

1:30-2:30 PM, *Dining Room*



Dr. Akbarian is the R&D Leader for Acclarent Inc., a Johnson & Johnson Company, which develops innovative technology to meet the needs of ear, nose and throat patients. Dr. Akbarian is a member of the Cardiovascular and Specialty R&D Leadership team. With 21 years of cross-sector and cross-industry experience, Dr. Akbarian promises to offer insights into industry positions. Previously, Dr. Akbarian worked at the Clorox Company prior to joining Johnson & Johnson ten years ago. Dr. Akbarian provides input to R&D strategic and long-range business plans by creating and leading several innovative products to address unmet patient needs and to stoke the innovation pipeline for better healthcare outcomes for patients.

# Workshop A

## Track I: Explore

### *Non-Bench Careers*

10:00-11:00 AM, *Dining Room*

*Do you love science, but think you may thrive in a career outside the lab?*

*Three distinguished panelists share their experience in transitioning to non-bench jobs.*



**Dr. Alessandra Blasina** received her PhD from the University of Sassari in Italy. In 1992, she came to San Diego for her postdoctoral training at the University of California San Diego (UCSD). In January 1996 she joined The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI) as a Research Associate. In May 2000, she transitioned from academia to industry accepting a Principal Scientist position at Pfizer, La Jolla: she joined the Pharmacology group in the Oncology Research Unit, where she was the Biology/Pharmacology team leader for multiple small-molecule drug discovery programs. From 2012 to 2014, Alessandra worked at Shire Pharmaceuticals as a Senior Scientist in the Research Process Development Group. In October 2014, she accepted a position as Principal Investigator at COI Pharmaceuticals, a small biotech company. At COI, Alessandra was responsible for a program in the Biologics group, to develop antibody therapeutics for the treatment of drug-resistant colorectal cancer. While working for COI, Alessandra became interested in transitioning to regulatory affairs, and she recently accepted a position as Regulatory Affairs Associate at Agility Clinical, Inc.



**Dr. Miriam Cohen** received her BA in Biology and MS in Molecular Biology from the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology in 1995 and 1998, respectively. She obtained her PhD in Molecular Cell Biology from the Weizmann Institute of Science in 2005. In 2005, she went for postdoctoral training at the Glycobiology Research and Training Center at the University of California San Diego. She was promoted to Assistant Project Scientist position in 2010. In July 2016, she accepted a position as Medical Writer at

Arbor Scientia. Dr. Cohen is an active member the Outreach Committee and the Corporate Sponsorship Committee of AWIS San Diego.



**Dr. Shannon Muir** is a Senior Program Associate at California Council of Science and Technology (CCST), where she staffs the Federally Funded Laboratory Affiliates program, supports fundraising efforts, and develops strategies for internal and external CCST projects. Shannon was a CCST Science Policy Fellow in 2015, and she served as a consultant for the California Senate Committee on Health. During her fellowship, she analyzed legislation related to a wide variety of topics including electronic cigarettes, internet prescribing, health insurance, aging and long term care. Prior to the fellowship, Shannon earned her PhD in Biomedical Sciences from UC San Diego studying pediatric cancer genetics. During her time at UC San Diego, she served as the Legislative Liaison for Local & State Affairs for the UC San Diego Graduate Student Association, and as the Chair of the Graduate and Professional Student Committee on the UC Student Association Board of Directors. She also represented graduate students on the UC Academic Senate Committee on Research Policy. For her work, she was awarded the UC Student Association's Advocate of the Year Award in 2012. Shannon holds an MS in Pharmacology from Tulane University School of Medicine, and a BS in Psychobiology from UCLA.

# Workshop A

## **Track II: Encourage**

### ***How my Favorite Cartoon Became my Career:***

### ***Combined Technologies for Environmental Remediation***

10:00-11:00 AM, Atkinson Pavilion

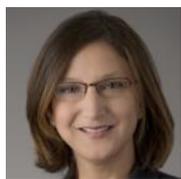


**Dr. Katherine Djernes Pappano** earned her PhD at the University of California, Riverside where she developed nature-inspired catalysts to oxidize simple hydrocarbons into synthetically useful molecules. After her graduate studies, Dr. Pappano decided to forgo synthesis and use her oxidation expertise to destroy molecules instead. She joined the Research and Development team at Regenesys where she develops new technologies to remediate contaminated soil and groundwater. Dr. Pappano incorporates chemistry, biology, and geology into her typical work day to remove contaminants from complex underground environments. She considers herself a chemist who evolved into an environmental scientist, and she enjoys how her work allows her to look at chemical systems from a very broad point of view. When Dr. Pappano isn't developing technologies to clean up environmental messes, she enjoys volunteering with Stand Up for Kids, an organization dedicated to ending the cycle of youth homelessness. Dr. Pappano is the director of the STEM program with Stand Up for Kids, and she teaches science, technology, engineering, and math to homeless and at risk junior high and high school students. When she began teaching, few of her students thought they were good at STEM disciplines. Since that time, Dr. Pappano has watched her students grow into confident scientists and engineers, and her students never cease to inspire her with their persistence and creativity.

## **Track III: Evolve**

### ***From Scientist to CSO: The Case for Business and Social Identity***

10:00-11:00 AM, Lounge



**Dr. Catherine Schnabel** has been committed to pursuing cutting edge science that will lead to better outcomes and healthcare for patients throughout her professional life. Driven by innovation, her experience was developed within industry leading biotechnology companies such as Genentech, Genoptix and Amylin Pharmaceuticals, researching first-in-class therapies and technologies. Currently she serves as the Chief Scientific Officer of Biotheranostics Inc. Towards the goal of personalizing cancer treatment and precision medicine, Biotheranostics provides advanced diagnostics that help individualize treatment choices based on the particular biology and molecular background of patients. As a molecular biologist and an author of many patents and publications, her leadership and strategic vision at Biotheranostics were critical to translating biomarkers to products that change lives every day for cancer patients and are utilized by thousands of oncologists in the US. Dr. Schnabel has over 16 years of experience as a biomedical researcher and an industry scientist. Dr. Schnabel received her PhD training in molecular and cellular biology at the Center for Advanced Biotechnology and Medicine, and was a postdoctoral fellow of the NIH and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society at Stanford University. Dr. Schnabel has broad Scientific and Medical Affairs expertise in both the pharmaceutical and diagnostic arenas with knowledge spanning research, product development, commercial, and business development through the launch and lifecycle planning of first-in-class therapies and technologies. She has been nominated for the UCSD Athena Pinnacle Award in the Life Sciences and the Women Who Mean Business Award from the San Diego Business Journal.

# Workshop B

## Track I: Explore

### *Acing Your Job Search*

11:20 AM-12:20 PM, Dining Room

*How do you get your dream job? What are HR and hiring managers looking for in resumes and interviews? These panelists will share with you the secrets of acing your job search.*



**Masha Evpak** is a confidence coach who helps millennials understand how awesome they already are so they can believe they can reach their goals. She has been waging a battle against the mental health problems rampant in academia since she realized how stressed out her fellow grad students and scientists are. She tackles these issues through one-on-one coaching, in-person workshops, and online as The Genetics Gal (@thegeneticsgal). Masha is the founder of BoldAdulting.com (@BoldAdulting), where she helps amazing people courageously tackle what life throws at them, even when they're afraid they have no idea what they're doing.



**Dr. Madhushree Ghosh** heads the Alliance Management and Strategic Accounts teams at Thermo Fisher Scientific's Clinical Sequencing Division focusing on NGS oncology activities, as Senior Director. Prior to Thermo Fisher, Madhu was the Vice-President of the Research Services business unit at AltheaDx. She has held multiple leadership positions as Head of North America R&D at QIAGEN, and Head of Product Development at Enigma Diagnostics. Madhu holds a PhD in biochemistry from University of Maryland, College Park, and a postdoctoral fellowship from Johns Hopkins University. She was also trained in Global Conflict Management and Negotiations as part of her Executive MBA certification from Thunderbird University. Madhu is a frequent invited speaker at colleges and universities on the role of women in science.



**Megan Humphreys** received her BA and BS in Psychology and Political Science from the University of Pittsburgh in 2007. In 2009, she obtained her MA in Public Relations and International Relations from the Syracuse University. Megan started her career working for The World Health Organization (WHO) as External Relations from May until August 2008 in Geneva, Switzerland. Then, Megan worked as Account Supervisor for Hill and Knowlton Strategies in Washington DC in 2009. She provided public affairs and media relation support to clients focusing on domestic energy space. Three years later, she accepted a position as Senior Account Supervisor at Meredith Xcelerated Marketing, before becoming a Senior Advisor at Powell Communications in 2013. She went on to become the Vice President of McBee Strategic Consulting from 2014 until 2016. Currently, she is the Director of Brand Management and Marketing Communications at Pfenex Inc., in San Diego and is a contributor to various publications including the Daily Beast. In her free time, Megan teaches indoor cycling and pilates.



**Molly Wood** has 20 years HR experience, with a Bachelor's degree in Communication and certification in HR Management. Molly started her career in HR at a book distribution company, and has since worked as a talent acquisition specialist in the industries of staffing, manufacturing, and software development. Molly has extensive experience working with hiring managers to select talent, and is currently working as an HR Business Partner with a software development company, TriTech Software systems.

# Workshop B

## Track II: Encourage

### *Direct Your Direction*

11:20 AM-12:20 PM, *Atkinson Pavilion*



**Dr. Christine Federovitch** has extensive experience in laboratory diagnostics and companion diagnostics across a breadth of platforms used in oncology patient selection and stratification for both diagnostic and prognostic use. Dr. Federovitch is currently Director, Operations at Navigate BioPharma. Navigate BioPharma is a specialty diagnostics laboratory specializing in oncology biomarker testing and companion diagnostics. She has a strong passion for diagnostics and driving teams to achieve world-class performance. Previously, Dr. Federovitch was Associate Director, Program and Alliance Management at Illumina, Inc. and was Associate Director, Program and Study Management, at Genoptix, a Novartis Company. Dr. Federovitch has attained US Regulatory Affairs Certification (R.A.C.) in addition to her PhD in Biology from UCSD and her BS in Biochemistry from the University of Nevada, Reno. A longtime member of AWIS-SD, Dr. Federovitch is active in mentoring young women in the San Diego area.

People are always saying that you should take control of your career and that you will create your own destiny. It sounds great until you realize that it is difficult to find real world tools and techniques to use and enable you to get the career you desire. For example, the value of networking and having a strong network is obvious, but the discussions on how to build, cultivate, and leverage your network are typically absent. I will provide frameworks and tools to help you tackle some common challenges and illustrate how I applied these to my own career. The focus will be on how to make progress every day to get you closer to your dream career. After attending this session, you should leave with a clear sense of what you can begin doing today and how you can positively and actively direct your career path.

## Track III: Evolve

### *Journey from Bench Scientist to the C-Suite to Entrepreneur*

11:20 AM-12:20 PM, *Lounge*



**Sabrina Martucci Johnson** is a life sciences executive with a record of achievement in capital formation, business development and commercial leadership. Her 20+ year career include: \$170M equity raises, a business development deal sheet comprised of in-license, out-license, and M&A, and executing numerous successful product launches. Sabrina's unique background spans finance, global marketing, product development and bench research. Sabrina is committed to advancing innovations in women's

health. In 2015 she founded DARE Bioscience to bring novel technologies that clearly address unmet needs so that the latest concepts in women's health make it to market. Sabrina also currently serves as CFO/CAO of Calibr – California Institute for Biomedical Research, a non-profit organization focused on translational research through partnerships with experts in academia and industry. In the community, Sabrina is a champion of education and women leadership. She serves as the President on the YWCA of San Diego County, and on the Athena Board of Directors, Tulane University School of Science & Engineering Board of Advisors among others. Sabrina has an MIM from the American Graduate School of International Management (Thunderbird), a MSc. in Biochemical Engineering from the University of London (UCL), and a BSc. in Biomedical Engineering from Tulane University.

# Workshop C

## Track I: Explore

### *How to Create a Workplace Where Women Thrive... and Why You Must!*

3:10-4:10 PM, Atkinson Pavilion



**Will Marré** advocates for women in leadership. An inspirational speaker, he offers concrete advice for women throughout their careers. He founded the Smart Power Institute, which focuses on research-based tools, behavioral skills, and leadership practices to empower women in vocations. Mr. Marré's insights into the strengths of women in leadership are a valuable tool to aid in understanding how to advocate for yourself and make sure your voice is heard. With over 25 years of experience creating breakthroughs at the world's top organizations including Johnson & Johnson, GE, Nike, and Gap, Mr. Marré promises to present compelling insights into women and work relationships. Mr. Marré leads the way forward to a new level of group intelligence which is realized when men and women learn to value and leverage each other's strengths. Mr. Marré is also the founder and force behind one of the Smart Power Institute's premier programs, The Smart Power Academy. The Academy is a revolutionary program that trains women leaders in how to use Smart Power to magnify their impact. Will has collaborated with an accomplished team of women leaders developing a unique process designed to vastly improve women's effectiveness and opportunities.

## Track II: Encourage

### *The Alphabet Soup of Advancement: IQ, EQ and PHD*

3:10-4:10 PM, Lounge



**Dr. Melissa Rewolinski** received her BS in Chemistry and her PhD in Synthetic Organic Chemistry from Rice University in Houston, Texas. For her postdoctoral training, Melissa worked in the Medicinal Chemistry group at Upjohn/Pharmacia & Upjohn in Kalamazoo, Michigan. Upon completion of her postdoc, in early 1998, she came to San Diego to join Agouron Pharmaceuticals in the Chemical Development department. Melissa took on roles of greater responsibility within Chemical Development over the years, as Agouron was purchased by Warner Lambert and again later purchased by Pfizer. In early 2006, Melissa left Pfizer La Jolla to join a small biotech company, Amira Pharmaceuticals, as the Development leader under the Chief Medical Officer. In this role, Melissa was responsible for all aspects of Development (Clinical, Nonclinical, Manufacturing, etc.) for the Amira portfolio. After a little more than 2 years with Amira, Melissa moved on to help start the R&D team at Intercept Pharmaceuticals where she has now spent over 9 years. Melissa's current position is Senior Vice President of R&D Operations. In her free time, Melissa exercises, plays beach volleyball and watches her two sons play baseball.

# Workshop C

## Track III: Evolve

### *P(I)ay it Forward: Former AWIS-SD Presidents*

3:10-4:10 PM, Dining Room

*Three outstanding past presidents of AWIS-SD will discuss their career paths, and how serving as president contributed to success in academia, industry, or at a non-profit.*



**Jenny Chaplin** is Director, Project Management at Pfizer, supporting oncology development projects. Her current responsibilities include the development of multiple assets from candidate selection through proof of concept (Phase 2). Jenny is also responsible for alliance management of an external collaboration. She was previously at Vical where, as Director, Project Planning and Management, she led the advancement of vaccines in all stages of development, including Phase 3. Before moving from the bench, Jenny led enzyme discovery and development projects for the pharmaceutical and chemical industries in San Diego and in her earlier career, in Johannesburg. Jenny served as President of AWIS San Diego in 2008-2009, Secretary in 2006-2007, and co-chaired two WIST conferences, in addition to other leadership positions in AWIS-SD. She is founding member of the AWIS Leadership Network. She was educated at University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, South Africa.



**Dr. Dorothy Sears**, Associate Professor of Medicine and Family Medicine & Public Health at UC San Diego, earned a B.S. at the University of Southern California and a Ph.D. in Molecular Biology & Genetics at The Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine. Dr. Sears has been conducting obesity and obesity-related disease research since 1995. She is an internationally recognized expert in these fields which include type 2 diabetes, cardiovascular disease, and breast cancer. Her scope of study spans molecular to population levels. Dr. Sears aims to identify genes, metabolites, biochemical pathways and behaviors that are regulators and/or biomarkers of cardiometabolic disease risk and which can be used as therapeutic targets or diagnostic tools. She is PI of the Basic Science Project component of a newly funded American Heart Association Go Red for Women Cardiovascular Research Center. Dr. Sears is a member of the UCSD School of Medicine Admissions Committee and served as Chair for 3 years. Dr. Sears is President of the American Diabetes Association's local Community Leadership Board. She is passionate about mentoring and supporting women in STEM-related fields. She is co-founder of the UCSD Women in Health Sciences Committee and has held several AWIS-SD Executive Board positions (2010-2015).



**Grace Nakayama**, PhD PMP is a long-time member and active volunteer with AWIS-San Diego. Through her involvement with the chapter, she has gained valuable leadership experience. Over the years, Grace stepped up to take on increasing levels of responsibility, including: Strategy Sessions Committee Member and Co-chair, WIST 2013 Co-chair, as well as six years on the Board as Member at Large, President and Past-President. In addition, she participates in the AWIS-SD Leadership Network and Outreach events. Grace received the chapter's Outstanding Volunteer award in 2009 and was a finalist for an Athena Pinnacle Award in Education in 2016. Grace has over 20 years' experience in biotech and pharmaceutical industries, spanning all stages of research and development. She currently works in Program Management at Intercept Pharmaceuticals. She earned a BS in Applied Chemistry at Harvey Mudd College and PhD in Chemistry at UC Berkeley. Grace holds a PMP (Project Management Professional) credential and earned a certificate in Biotech Project Management through UCSD Extension/UW Extension.

# 2017 AWIS-SD Scholars

## About the AWIS San Diego Chapter Scholarship Program

The AWIS-SD Scholarship Program strives to encourage and reward aspiring women scientists pursuing their degrees at San Diego colleges and universities in science, technology, engineering, mathematics (STEM), and other science-related fields.

Community college, undergraduate, and graduate women in San Diego County are awarded these scholarships, enabling them to pursue degrees, conduct research projects, or assist with additional educational expenses. The fields of study for past and current scholarship recipients include: Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Computer Science, Engineering, Materials Science, Mathematics, and Experimental Psychology. Each recipient receives a \$1000 Scholarship Award.

Since 1996, AWIS-SD chapter has awarded over 60 scholarships thanks to the generosity of our corporate sponsors. Past AWIS-SD scholarship recipients have continued their education and enjoyed success in their chosen careers.

In 2017, 100 applications were received, and we are delighted to present AWIS-SD scholarships to seven deserving and exceptional women scholars. We wish them well in their future endeavors.

## 2017 AWIS San Diego Chapter Scholarship Awardees



**Shereen Ghosh** is a graduate student at the University of California, San Diego where she is pursuing her PhD in the laboratory of Dr. Joseph Gleeson, studying pediatric neurodegenerative disease. She was one of the highest ranked PhD graduate students of her class. Her thesis project is focused on treating a novel pediatric neurodegenerative disease in which she has identified a familial mutation. She has also identified a prospective cure and is currently testing these reagents. Shereen previously worked at Pfizer while

concurrently pursuing a Master's degree in the lab of Dr. Fred Gage at the Salk Institute, which culminated in a publication in the journal *Development*. Shereen has also been involved with high school outreach and teaching assistantships as a result of her passion for teaching and science advocacy.



**Arian Reyes** is pursuing a degree in Computer Engineering at San Diego City College. She is actively involved in research programs and workshops that allow her to take charge of her career such as the INSPIRE engineering program at UCI, HACKJUNTOS at Qualcomm, and the Adelante Training program at Northrop Grumman. She is currently the Vice President of the Society of Hispanic Professional Engineers and is engaged in STEM-related minority outreach as well as community service. She plans to transfer to UCLA in the fall to continue her education in Computer Engineering.

**Chrestina Mansoor** is currently pursuing a degree in Civil Engineering at San Diego State University. The destruction that she witnessed first-hand during the Iraqi War has inspired her to contribute to developing safer infrastructure. Supplementing her education, Chrestina has participated on several engineering research projects such as the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet Inspection and the Wind Turbine Project. Chrestina is part of the SDSU MESA program and has been nominated by staff to represent the organization at an annual Statewide Leadership Conference.

# 2017 AWIS-SD Scholars

## 2017 AWIS San Diego Chapter Scholarship Awardees



**Viridiana Apodaca** is pursuing a degree at San Diego City College and is part of the MESA (Mathematics, Engineering, and Science Achievement) program. She was selected for the NASA Community College Aerospace Scholars program where she gained experience at a NASA-led workshop to design and engineer a rover. She has overcome gender stereotypes and desires to help other women in similar situations. She plans to transfer to UCSB in the fall and ultimately obtain a Master's degree in Chemical Engineering.



**Rani Shiao** is currently pursuing a dual bachelor's degree in Molecular Biology and Earth Science and aspires to attain a PhD. She has extensive research experience and as a result, has supporting authorship in two scientific publications. She currently volunteers in the lab of Dr. Mark Tuszynski and the UCSD Center for Neural Repair, where she will be starting a Master's thesis focused on the effects of serotonergic inputs on neuropathic pain following spinal cord injury. Rani also concurrently volunteers in the Norris Lab at the Scripps Institute of Oceanography where she studies the evolution of ocean ecosystems following climate change. Outside of the laboratory, Rani is a member of the Collaboration for Neuroscience society, which fosters community engagement with scientific research through outreach and volunteering opportunities.



**Chidinma Okonkwo** is a 4th year student at UCSD majoring in Biochemistry/Chemistry. Chidinma's life experience and her natural curiosity led her to be interested in biomedical research with an emphasis on infectious disease. She is a scholar in the NIGMS-funded Initiative for Maximizing Student Development (IMSD) program at UCSD and she is an outstanding participant in the IMSD program. Since June 2016, Chidinma has been working in Dr. Partho Ghosh's biochemistry research lab. She has been involved in a project examining the importance of protein structures of a bacterial protein and its molecular interactions in order to fully understand what approaches are needed to prevent bacterial infection. Chidinma is expected to graduate with her BS degree in June 2017 and will continue her graduate studies in biochemistry.



**Kathryn Shaw** is enrolled in the Psychology Master's program at CSU-San Marcos with the goal of ultimately earning a doctorate in quantitative psychology. Her early research experience examined the immune functioning of young adult survivors of child abuse as well as projects focused on adolescent caregivers. Kathryn has also worked at a suicide hotline, crisis treatment facility for adults with developmental and intellectual disabilities, and as a teaching assistant at CSUSM. Her thesis project is focused on the potential causes of phantom vibration syndrome, drawing from clinical knowledge of hallucinations and multiple advanced statistical techniques.

## 2017 Honorable Mention Applicants

<b>Luz Robelido</b>	<i>San Diego City College, Physics</i>
<b>Mariah Moschetti</b>	<i>UCSD, Engineering</i>
<b>Lorrie Yates</b>	<i>CSU-San Marcos, Psychological Science</i>
<b>Karli Chudeau</b>	<i>CSU-San Marcos, Psychological Science</i>
<b>Annie Rathore</b>	<i>Salk, Biological Science</i>
<b>Ruichen Sun</b>	<i>UCSD, Biology</i>









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Today, continual changes in the workforce make professional development more important than ever. For over 50 years, UC San Diego Extension has been serving the lifelong learning and skill development needs of individuals, organizations and the community. With over 100 certificate programs and 4,500 courses, look no further than Extension to provide the quality training you are looking for to help achieve your career goals.

Explore programs in:

- Arts & Humanities
- Business & Leadership
- Data Analysis & Mathematics
- Digital Arts & Photography
- Education
- Environment & Sustainability
- Healthcare
- Languages
- Law
- Occupational Safety & Health
- Sciences
- Technology
- Writing

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UC San Diego | Extension

[extension.ucsd.edu](http://extension.ucsd.edu)



We envision women in STEM achieving their full potential in workforce and community

**We are AWIS-SD**

### Outreach and Education Activities

- Local Science Fairs
- Project Competitions
- Career Day
- Scholarships
- Science Fair Awards
- Mentoring

**A**dvance Careers of Women  
**W**iden Networks in San Diego  
**I**nspire Involvement in Science  
**S**trengthen Leadership Skills  
**S**upport Career Transitions  
**D**evelop Transferable Skills

### Gain Transferable Skills

- Networking
- Leadership
- Public Speaking
- Writing and Editing
- Fund Raising/Management
- Website Development
- Project Planning

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

Find us on    

Coffee Clubs

Scholars Celebration

Strategy Sessions

Women In Science & Technology Conference

Open House

Back to Work Initiative

Leadership Network

Happy Hours



**AWIS San Diego Chapter**  
**PO Box 178096, San Diego, CA 92177**

#### 2017 AWIS-SD Board Members

President: DeeAnn Visk Secretary: Nellie Shaul Treasurer: Lori Yang Past-Treasurer: Christina Niemeyer  
 Members at Large: Kristin Bompiani-Myers, Alex Clark, Leslie Crews Robertson, Kerstin Kirchsteiger



**AWIS**

ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

*San Diego*

**AWIS  
Star Chapter**

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!**

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