

AWNings

The Newsletter of the Academic Women's Network at Washington University School of Medicine

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Fall 2008

2007-2008 AWN Board

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From the President's Desk by Dayna Early, M.D.

As we start the 2008-2009 academic year, we do so not only looking forward with optimism but also with the perspective we have all gained from the tumultuous past year. For many female School of Medicine and Danforth campus faculty, 2007-2008 was a bruising year with respect to the status of female faculty. Two events riveted many of us this past year; the "resignation" of Mary Sansalone, Dean of Engineering and at the time, the first woman dean of the School of Engineering and Applied Sciences, and the bestowing of an honorary degree on Phyllis Schlafly, viewed by essentially everyone but herself as a foe of women everywhere who are trying to achieve equality with men in the work force.

Regardless of your perspective or opinion about these two women and these two issues, if you have an interest in the success of female faculty, these issues got your attention. I remember the week leading up to commencement, when I received no less than 100 emails flying around about how best to protest the honorary degree of Phyllis Schafly, what this meant for women faculty and students at Wash U, and how would we respond to this virtual slap in the face. I envisioned countless women faculty sitting intently at their computers with smoke flying from their fingers as they typed out their opinions about what it all meant and what we should do about it. I learned through these communications, some widely disseminated and some privileged, that there are junior and senior female faculty at Wash U who feel that the environment at Wash U is hostile to women. Conversely, some women are very satisfied with the environment at Wash U and feel that they have thrived. The unifying theme of it all is that Washington University needs to value its entire faculty, irrespective of gender, race or other worldly condition.

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From the President's Desk

by Dayna Early, M.D.

With that, we look to a new year, with new possibilities and new promises from the administration to devote time, money and resources to assure that Wash U attracts and retains quality female faculty, and provides them an environment in which they can thrive. The Chancellor has been working with Diana Gray and Ingrid Borecki on developing concrete plans for an infrastructure that will support female faculty and assure that the theme of equality permeates every School and every Dean's and Department Chair's office on campus. As an organization, we are excited but perhaps still unconvinced whether these promises will translate into real change. Now, looking ahead! AWN and the Becker Medical Library will be celebrating the arrival of the National Library of Medicine exhibit "*Changing the Face of Medicine*", August 5 through September 18. The exhibit aims to help visitors discover the many ways that women have influenced and enhanced the practice of medicine. The individuals featured in the exhibit provide an intriguing glimpse of the broader community of women doctors who are making a difference. The National Library of Medicine is presenting this exhibition honoring the lives and accomplishments of these women in the hope of inspiring a new generation of medical pioneers. Check out the website and make plans to attend the exhibit at

Becker Medical Library.

(<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/exhibition/changingthefaceofmedicine/index.html>)

In conjunction with and leading up to the exhibit, AWN will also display our own exhibit of pioneering women in the spring of 2009. This exhibit has been created over the years principally through the efforts of Karen O'Malley, who intensively? researches every honoree and creates a lasting and flattering tribute to each Pioneering Woman that AWN has honored.

The AWN Board met recently to set our agenda for the upcoming year. Our fall dinner is just around the corner, and we will use this to highlight yet another Pioneering Woman. In addition, we plan to incorporate a brief business meeting to update members on our agenda and upcoming activities. As mentioned above, our other significant focus this year will be assisting Becker Library in preparing for the upcoming National Library of Medicine exhibit. The exhibit will be the theme of our spring dinner, and there will be an opening reception and lecture when the exhibit arrives. Finally, we intend to "keep our finger on the pulse" as the Chancellor's committee on women faculty evolves and moves forward.

Did you know ...

That you are welcome to attend any AWN Board meeting? The meetings are held the **4th Monday of every month** at 3:30pm in the Barnard Health & Cancer Information Center located in the first floor lobby of the CAM, right behind the player piano. The conference room is at the back of the Information Center.

"We still think of a powerful man as a born leader and a powerful woman as an anomaly."

Margaret Atwood

Writer, poet, novelist, literary critic, feminist & activist

Women's Faculty Reception

Thursday, December 18

11:30am -1:00 pm

This reception is a time for the women faculty from both campuses to come together for networking and socializing. You are encouraged to bring a colleague or a trainee along.

Location: **EPNEC**
Great Room B

Sponsored by:

Chancellor Mark S. Wrighton

Provost Edward S. Macias

Mary Ann Dzuback - Director, Women, Gender and Sexuality Studies

Academic Women's Network (AWN)

Association of Women Faculty (AWF)

RSVP to jilledwards@wustl.edu by December 4, 2008

Kudos

Carolyn Baum, Ph.D., the Elias Michael Director of the Program in Occupational Therapy and professor of occupational therapy and of neurology, received an honorary doctorate from the University of Haifa in Israel June 4 in recognition of her extensive scientific achievements in occupational therapy and translational research; for advancing the field of occupational therapy to the forefront of rehabilitative medicine; for fostering young researchers and for integrating researchers from Israel and the University of Haifa into the international academic arena.

Tammie L.S. Benzinger, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of radiology, was named the 2008 American Roentgen Ray Society/Elio Bracco scholar. She plans to use the scholarship to build collaborations between WUSTL and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign that will bridge multiple clinical and basic research disciplines to apply MRI to better understand the microstructural environment of the central nervous system.

Tamara Hershey, Ph.D., Assistant Professor of Psychiatry, Neurology and Radiology, recently received 2 5-year NIH R01 awards. One is titled "Mapping Mood in the Subthalamic Nucleus in PD" (NINDS; \$1,289,065 total direct costs) and the other, a competitive renewal, is titled "Glycemic Control, Brain Structure and Cognition in Youth with T1DM" (NIDDK; \$1,075,000 total direct costs).

Indira U. Mysorekar, Ph.D., was appointed Assistant Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology in July 2008. Last year, Indira was the first WUSM researcher to receive the prestigious five-year, \$950,000 K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award, for her grant entitled "Mechanisms of epithelial renewal in normal and diseased urinary bladder".

Susan B. Racette, Ph.D., assistant professor of physical therapy and of medicine, was highlighted in the July 17, 2008 issue of The Record for her research on dieting and weight loss.
<http://record.wustl.edu/news/page/normal/11983.html>

*Do you have a topic for AWNings?
Send ideas to: Ann M. Gronowski;
gronowski@wustl.edu*

Women in Medicine Exhibit Coming Next Fall

A new exhibit titled "*Changing the Face of Medicine: Celebrating America's Women Physicians*" will be coming to Washington University next fall. The exhibit honors the lives and accomplishments of women physicians, including at least four from Washington University, in the hope of inspiring a new generation of medical pioneers.

The interactive, multimedia exhibit will be on loan from the National Medical Library and will be on display at the Becker Medical Library August 5 – September 19, 2009. The exhibit will be free and open to the public. It is co-sponsored here by the Becker Library and AWN. Additional events focused on the exhibit will be held for the general public and the University community, including lectures and panel discussions.

The exhibit was developed by the Exhibition Program of the History of Medicine Division of the National Library of Medicine in collaboration with the American Library Association Public Programs Office. The national traveling exhibition has been made possible by the National Library of Medicine and the National Institutes of Health Office of Research on Women's Health. The American Medical Women's Association provided additional support.

Watch AWNings for full details about the exhibit and all associated events.

For more information about the exhibit visit:
<http://www.nlm.nih.gov/changingthefaceofmedicine/>

New AWN Membership Category for Fellows

Last spring, the AWN Board and a majority of members voted in favor of extending AWN's benefits to postdoctoral and medical fellows at WUSM. The amendment created an Associate Member category for fellows with reduced yearly fees (\$20) and all privileges of full membership with the exception of voting. This change was motivated by the belief that while fellows are transitioning from student to faculty roles they may benefit from the mentoring and networking inherent in AWN activities. Ultimately, it is hoped that this support will encourage the development of energized and informed female faculty colleagues.

Membership Form

<http://awn.wustl.edu/>

New member

Faculty \$35 (or \$150/5 years)

Renewal

Postdoc/Fellow \$20

Name: _____ **Degree:** _____

Title: _____

Department: _____

Campus Box: _____

Phone: _____ **FAX:** _____

E-mail: _____

Submit Membership Form and a check payable to "Academic Women's Network" to the AWN Treasurer, Lisa Moscoso, at Box 8116

11th Annual Symposium of Contemporary Women's Health Issues

"Women and Aging: What is Preventable and What is Inevitable?"

Friday, December 5, 2008

8:00 am to 4:30 pm

Eric P. Newman Education Center

Co-chaired by Abby Hollander, M.D. and Teresa Deshields, PhD.

Topics include bone health, arthritis, sexual issues, urinary incontinence, cancer screening, dermatologic conditions, vision changes, neurologic disorders of aging, evaluation of elderly drivers, and home health and hospice services.

Anyone in the Washington University School of Medicine community who would like to attend all or part of the program **free of charge** may do so, but lunch, the syllabus, and CME credit will not be available to those attending free of charge. Brochures with registration forms will be mailed to all AWN members by mid-October. Those who plan to attend for no credit, please register so that attendance can be accurately assessed. Anyone who needs additional brochures for colleagues or trainees please contact Cathy Sweeney in the CME office sweeneyc@wustl.edu

For more information, contact Abby Hollander hollander@kids.wustl.edu or Teresa Deshields tld2593@bjc.org .

September is “Women in Medicine Month”

Each September the AMA commemorates Women in Medicine Month to celebrate the growing number and influence of women physicians in the profession and their communities.

“**Building Bridges through Mentoring**,” the theme of this year’s celebration, highlights the ways women physicians are shaping the future of medicine by extending a hand to medical students and colleagues as a mentor.

As part of September is Women in Medicine Month, the Women Physicians Congress (WPC) is honoring those physicians selected to receive recognition for their mentoring efforts through the AMA-WPC Physician Recognition Program. This program is designed to acknowledge those physicians who contribute in small, often unsung ways to the success of women physicians. It is a way for physicians to say thanks to individuals who steered them into the specialty they love, helped them find work/life balance, guided them through a professional society or unknowingly served as a role model. In the month of September, a listing of physicians being honored will be posted on the AMA-WPC Physician Mentor Recognition Program <http://www.ama-assn.org/ama/pub/category/17930.html>

In recognition of this, several events are planned for September 2008 at WUSM (shown below).

Guest Lecture by Dr. Melissa Gilliam

Section Chief for Family Planning and Contraceptive Research and Director of the Fellowship in Family Planning in the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology at the University of Chicago

**Wednesday, September 10th, 2008,
7:00 am
Clopton Auditorium**

At noon, Dr Gilliam will be available in a more informal setting, to discuss her pathway to success and to answer questions. The focus will be on issues of particular interest to women in medicine and science careers. Open to all interested WUSM faculty, students and trainees.

Location: **Holden Auditorium in FLTC**

Bring your lunch, and soft drinks will be supplied.

Sponsored by the Office of Faculty Affairs and the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology

Spotlight on Women in Medicine and Science

**Friday, September 26th 2008
9:00 am-1:00 pm**

A morning of presentations from featured WUSM faculty and fellows, focusing on their successes and the unique challenges they have faced as women in medicine and science.

Location: **Holden Auditorium in FLTC**
A light lunch and refreshments will be provided

All medical & graduate students, residents, fellows and faculty are encouraged to attend.

Sponsored by the Office of Faculty Affairs and the Pediatric Department’s Office of Faculty Development

RSVP to Kimberly Vaninger vaningerk@wustl.edu

Networking Opportunity! **AWN Fall Dinner**

Thursday, October 16, 6:00 p.m.

We will have a short business meeting and a summary of AWN events and initiatives to bring everyone up-to-date.

Location: King Center
(6th floor of the Bernard Becker Library).

You are encouraged to bring a colleague or a trainee along.

If you would like to attend, please send a check for \$35 per attendee, to Lisa Moscoso, at Box 8116.

It's Time to Clean Your Closets!

Join the annual AWN **clothing drive** for
"Dress For Success"

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

We can use interview-appropriate: suits, blouses, blazers, slacks, shoes, belts, conservative jewelry, scarves, handbags, and briefcases. They should be in good condition, items you yourself would wear to an interview.

Help a woman transitioning from welfare on her way to a successful work life!

Bring the items to the AWN Fall dinner
Thursday October 16.



Academic Women's Network
At WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL of MEDICINE
Campus Box 8118
<http://awn.wustl.edu>