

AWNings

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

Volume 11, Number 1

SPRING 2007

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2007--A Year of Firsts

With Nancy Pelosi as the first female speaker of the House and with Drew Gilpin Faust the first female President of Harvard University (see page 5 for full story), 2007 has proved to be a year of firsts for women. These are tremendous breakthroughs in politics and academia.

As Nancy Pelosi put it "When my colleagues elect me as speaker on January 4, we will not just break through a glass ceiling, we will break through a marble ceiling. In more than 200 years of history, there was an established pecking order—and I cut in line." This is a sentiment we can all relate to.

Currently at Washington University School of Medicine, there is one female who is an acting department chair (out of 20), there are 6 (out of 92) female division chiefs and 9 (out of 157) endowed professors. According to statistics kept by the AAMC, Washington University School of Medicine has between one third to one half the percentage of division/section chiefs and department chairs as other Universities (6 vs 19% for division/section chiefs and 5 vs 10% for department chairs).

In 115 year history of this medical school, there has *never* been a permanently appointed full time female department chair. Let's hope that in 2007 our institution can follow trends being set by the U.S. legislature and other distinguished Universities to break the marble ceiling and promote women to leadership positions within the Medical School.

From the President's Desk by Ann M. Gronowski, Ph.D.

The last few months have been very busy for the AWN. In December, the AWN hosted the 9th annual women's health symposium. The symposium, which was chaired by Drs Abby Hollander and Teresa Deshields, focused on "The Intersection of Medicine and Psychology in Women". Topics covered included infertility and depression, palliative care and eating disorders. This year we had attendees from Missouri, Illinois, Tennessee and as far away as Louisiana. Planning this symposium is a demanding organizational effort which commences shortly after the end of the current conference. For the preceding year, the Chairs recruited speakers and worked with our CE office to enroll corporate sponsors. We are grateful to Drs. Hollander and Deshields for their efforts. If you are interested in helping with next year's symposia, please contact Dr. Abby Hollander at Hollander@kids.wustl.edu.

On December 14th, the AWN co-hosted a Reception for Women Faculty. This event was also hosted by the Chancellor, Mark Wrighton, the Executive Vice Chancellor, Edward S. Macias, the Women and Gender Studies program, and the Danforth campus's Association of Women Faculty (AWF). Dean Larry Shapiro and Chancellor Mark Wrighton were present and spoke about how far women at Washington University have come, and yet how far we have to go.

On January 11th, the AWN co-hosted a New Year's Reception for Women in Science with the Office of Faculty Affairs (OFA), the Office of Post Graduate Affairs (OPGA), the Association for Women in Science (AWIS), and the Division of Biology and Biomedical Sciences Diversity Programs Office. Both students and faculty were invited and we were very pleased by the large turn-out. Dr. Kelle Moley gave inspiring remarks at the reception affirming that women can be successful in science and medicine, but may need to do it differently than men.

The AWN will continue its busy schedule in the Spring. The annual Spring dinner is scheduled for Tuesday April 10th. Dr. Sandra K. Masur will give a presentation entitled "The XX Files: Improving the visibility of women scientists". See the page 8 for more details. All members are also welcome to attend a private meeting with Dr. Masur on Wednesday April 11th at 8:30 am. See page 6 for details. In addition, there will be a brown bag lunch seminar, Wednesday, May 9, 12-1 pm entitled "Demystifying Promotion: a Panel Discussion". The panelists will include: Dr. Alan Schwartz, Dr. Phil Stahl, and Dr. Diana Gray. I hope you will join us.

Thank you to everyone for your continued support!

Karen O'Malley Wins Postdoc Mentor Award



Karen O'Malley, Ph.D., professor of Anatomy and Neurobiology was awarded the Outstanding Faculty Mentor Award on March 1, 2007 at the 3rd Annual Postdoc Scientific Symposium.

Previous winners of this award are: 2006, Bob Mecham and 2005, Linda Cottler. Dr. O'Malley was nominated by her postdocs Siddharth Kaul, Vikas Kumar and Neeraj Pandey (shown left)

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Kudos

Ingrid B. Borecki, Ph.D., associate professor of genetics, received tenure effective Oct. 6, 2006.

Delphine Chen, M.D., instructor of radiology, and Loren S. Michel, M.D., assistant professor of medicine in the Division of Oncology, were among five physician-scientists nationwide to be named Damon Runyon Clinical Investigators by the Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation.

Kathryn M. Diemer, M.D., department of internal medicine, was also featured in the February 12th, 2007 Washington People section of the Record for her approach to bon care.

Roberta Faccio, Ph.D., assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, has received a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the Arthritis Foundation for research titled "Role of PLC-Gamma2 in inflammatory Arthritis"

Victoria J. Fraser, M.D., the J. William Campbell Professor of Medicine, has received a five-year, \$1,999,986 grant from the National Center for Infectious Diseases for the "Washington University & BJC Epicenter for Prevention of Health Care-associated Infection."

Christina Gurnett, M.D., Ph.D., instructor in neurology, has received a one-year, \$50,000 grant from the American Epilepsy Society for research titled "Determination of Seizure Susceptibility Gene Common to Mendelian and Complex Epilepsy."

Phyllis I. Hanson, Ph.D., was promoted to associate professor of cell biology and physiology, (promotion effective Jan. 1, tenure effective March 3, 2006).

Ellen Li, M.D., Ph.D., professor of medicine, has received a five-year, \$539,310 grant from the National Institute of Diabetes and Digestive and Kidney Diseases for "Trans-NDDK Short-term Training for Medical Students".

Audrey McAlinden, Ph.D., research assistant professor of orthopaedic surgery, has received a two-year, \$150,000 grant from the Arthritis Foundation for research titled "Regulation of the COL2A1 Alternative Splicing Switch During Chondrogenesis".

Kathleen B. McDermott, Ph.D., was promoted to associate professor of psychology.

Elaine Majerus, M.D., Ph.D., assistant professor of medicine, has received a one-year, \$60,000 grant from the Edward Mallinckrodt Jr. Foundation for research titled "Study of Characterization of ADAMTS13 and Its Interaction with Endothelial Cells."

Dr. Roberta Sengemann, M.D., was promoted, effective July 1, 2006, to Associate Professor of Medicine (Dermatology) and Associate Professor of Otolaryngology.

Lourdes R. Ylagan, M.D., assistant professor of pathology and immunology, has received a one-year, \$5,000 grant from the American Society of Cytopathology for research titled "Microarray Gene Expression Profiles of Breast Adenocarcinoma Before and After Treatment with Chemotherapy."

*Do you have a topic for AWNings?
Have You or Someone you Know Received an Award
or Been Promoted Recently? Send ideas to:
Ann M. Gronowski
E-mail: gronowski@wustl.edu*

Book Review

By Ann M. Gronowski

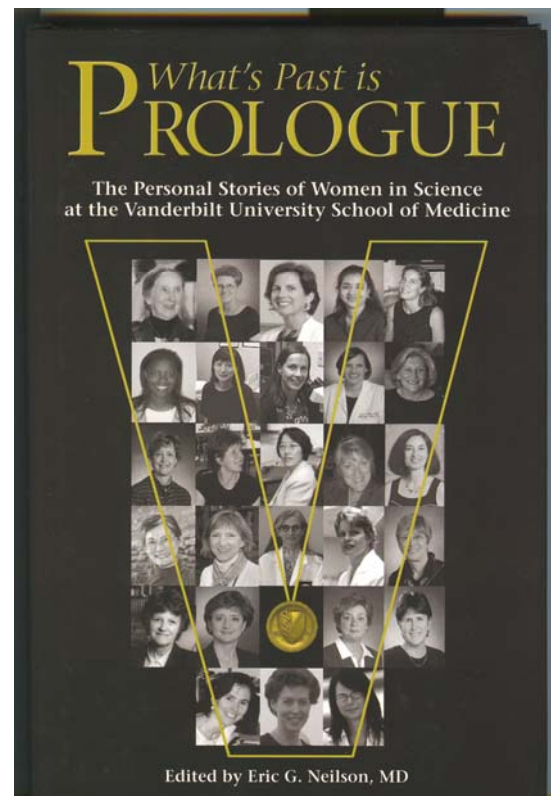
What's Past Is Prologue : The Personal Stories of Women in Science at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine

A new book, edited by Eric G. Neilson, M.D. and published by Hillsboro Press is a text that is of interest to any female in academic science and medicine. The book includes the personal stories from 27 women who are currently or were faculty at the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. The Majority of the women are full professor, but there are profiles for five assistant professors, two associate professors and one instructor.

The book begins with a preface that describes the origins of this text by Eric G. Neilson. As he describes it, a luncheon with about 25 female scientists from the department of medicine generated many questions about how to promote more women entering academic medicine. Many ideas such as mentoring and tenure clock were raised. An idea that apparently generated a lot of enthusiasm was to share the personal experiences of successful women scientists at Vanderbilt who had "found their way". Neilson describes the book as "their anthology of earned wisdom".

The forward was written by Steven G. Gabbe, M.D. Dean of the Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. He summarizes the common themes in the book and concludes with a quote from his own wife, a Professor in Pediatrics who wrote a paper entitled "Reflections on being a spouse in academic medicine". It is a moving forward that shows that Dean Gabbe himself has grasped the realities faced by his own female faculty. A realization that not all Medical School Deans have come to.

This book even includes a Washington University connection with several women who have been on faculty here including Mary Zutter, M.D. and Susan R. Wentz, Ph.D. Dr. Wentz's profile quotes one of her colleagues from Washington University, Ursula Goodenough "(the mother of five and an accomplished scientist, author and leader of national organizations)", as having recently written "Embrace the following mantra: 'Of course, I'm going to have kids and of course I'm going to have a scientific career.'"



The back cover promotes this book as "a must read for young women considering a career in the medical sciences". Perhaps it is. But many stories rang true even for me (a 42 year old Associate Professor). Tina Hartert, M.D., M.P.H. wrote about how it works for her. She identified herself as a "perpetual motion machine", working in her kitchen at night as her children sleep peacefully. I can identify with that. She concludes her profile with the following inspiration:
"Achieving balance is difficult and I don't pretend to have all the answers, but I've found it easier to set priorities. Life goes by too quickly—I would say, pick what you enjoy and spend your time doing it. The things that are most important to me have no monetary value—even in my work, it's the emotional income that keeps me in academic medicine."
 Well said!

MedCenterToday Checklist: Women in Academic Medicine

As a woman in medicine or a mentor, consider this checklist of what women can do to enhance their careers in academic medicine.

✓ **1. Focus on the basics.**

Pursue career milestones within the clinical, research and teaching missions that you and your Chair, Dean, and others identify as leading to advancement.

✓ **2. Increase your visibility.**

Serve on medical school, hospital and professional association committees and task forces that may lead to other opportunities, associations, and interactions.

✓ **3. Learn about academic medicine.**

Participate in faculty or leadership development programs and learn all you can about research administration and the business of practicing academic medicine.

✓ **4. Seek mentors.**

Find positive role models that take an active interest in their professional life.

✓ **5. Collaborate.**

Whether through joint research, professional associations or administrative activities, invest in developing a professional network.

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Harvard University Names First Female President

Harvard University named the first woman president in its 371-year history — Drew Gilpin Faust, a historian who runs a research institute at the university.

Dr. Faust's appointment comes a year after Lawrence H. Summers, a former Treasury secretary, resigned from the post amid fierce faculty discontent. The opposition erupted in part over Dr. Summers' suggestion that "intrinsic aptitude" could help explain why fewer women than men reach the highest ranks of science and math in universities. Dr. Faust's colleagues describe her as a consensus-builder, in contrast to Dr. Summers, who made many enemies on the faculty with his brash and abrasive style and his drive to overhaul a culture on the campus that some thought had become complacent.

Dr. Summers turned to Dr. Faust two years

ago to help calm the furor over his remarks about women in math, engineering and science. He asked her to oversee two committees he created to come up with new ways to recruit, retain and promote women in those fields at Harvard.

Dr. Faust has run the Radcliffe Institute since 2001. Prior to that post, she taught American history for more than two decades at the University of Pennsylvania, where she had also attended graduate school.

Faust's appointment marks the first time that half of the eight Ivy League schools will be run by women. Among the other three, the University of Pennsylvania is led by Amy Gutmann. Shirley Tilghman leads New Jersey's Princeton University and Ruth Simmons is president of Brown University in Providence, Rhode Island.

AWN Brown Bag Lunch Seminar

"Demystifying Promotion: a Panel Discussion"

Panelists:

Dr. Diana L. Gray, Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology
and Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs
Dr. Alan L. Schwartz, Professor of Pediatrics
Dr. Phil D. Stahl, Professor of Cell Biology

Wednesday, May 9th, 12:00-1:00 pm
Holden Auditorium
Farrell Learning and Teaching Center
Everyone is welcome

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE!

You are invited to

A Joint Meeting with the Association for Women Faculty (AWF)

Friday, April 6th, 3:00-5:00 pm
Room 500, Farrell Learning and Teaching Center

The AWF is AWN's sister organization on the Danforth campus. The AWN and AWF share the same goals of advancing the careers of women at Washington University and achieving parity for women faculty. This meeting is intended to explore ways in which our two organizations can work together to achieve our common goals. Please join us.

A Private Meeting with Dr. Sandra K. Masur

As an AWN member you are invited to a private meeting with our guest speaker Dr. Sandra K. Masur. She will be delivering our key note address at the Spring dinner April 10th (see page 8 for details). The personal meeting for AWN members will be Wednesday April 11th at 8:30 am in 9109 of the McDonnell Pediatrics Building. Please take advantage of this unique opportunity.

Did you know ...

That you are welcome to attend any AWN Board meeting? The meetings are held the 3rd Wednesday of every month at 7:00 am in Room 10-107 10th floor of the McDonnell Pediatrics Building.

"No one can make you feel inferior without your consent."

Eleanor Roosevelt 1884-1962

AWN Spring Membership Drive

Please renew your membership AND encourage a friend to become a member.

AWN Membership Application Form

<http://awn.wustl.edu>

<input type="radio"/> New member	<input type="radio"/> Renewal	Today's Date _____
Name: _____		Degree: _____
Title: _____		
Department: _____		
Campus Box: _____		
Phone: _____		Fax: _____
E-mail Address: _____		
Clinical Interests: _____		

Research Interests: _____		

I am interested in the following activities/committees:

- Fall and Spring Dinners
- Brown Bag Seminars
- Women's Health Symposium
- AWNings Editorial Board
- Membership/Visibility Committee
- Website

I could provide information for a Brown Bag Lunch seminar on:

Please submit Membership Application Form and a personal check for \$25 (or \$100/5 years) payable to "Academic Women's Network" to the AWN Treasurer, Dayna Early, at Box 8124. If you have questions about your membership email Dayna Early at DEARLY@WUSTL.EDU

*AWN Spring Dinner**Dr. Sandra K. Masur**Professor of Ophthalmology and Associate Dean, Faculty Development
Mount Sinai School of Medicine, NY**"The XX Files: Improving the visibility of women scientists"**Tuesday April 10**6:00 pm**The King Center**(7th floor of the library)*

****A special thanks to the Office of Faculty Affairs and
the Department of Ophthalmology and Vision Sciences for co-sponsoring Dr. Masur****

The student achievement awards, faculty mentor awards, and pioneering women award will also be granted. You are encouraged to bring a colleague or a trainee to network and enjoy the company of your women colleagues!

To attend, please email Dayna Early at DEARLY@wustl.edu and send a check payable to AWN for \$25 to Dayna Early at Box 8124. (Note that if you reserve a place, you are responsible for payment even if you do not attend). **You do not need to be an AWN member to attend.**



Academic Women's Network
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