



*“Every individual matters. Every individual has a role to play.
Every individual makes a difference.”*

Jane Goodall

GWIS Eta Summer Newsletter 2015

Happy summer everyone!

We would like to welcome all of you to the new GWIS Eta 2015-2016 year and we hope you embark with us in another year of professional development, networking, and friendship. For those of you new to GWIS, our calendar year starts afresh every June and to keep you updated with everything that is going on in your chapter and our plans for the upcoming year, we have prepared our annual summer newsletter. Here you will find information about chapter business, steps for renewing your membership, posts about recent and future events, official National requests and more! As always please feel free to send us feedback at etachaptergwis@gmail.com.

Chapter Business

You might have noticed we now have a brand new logo. We feel that it will give us a fresh and defined personality as we move forward this year. The chapter's logo will be proudly used in all our local and National correspondence, and it will help give a more coordinated look to documents, cards, newsletters, and more. We hope we can use this logo to create t-shirts for future events!



We are also transitioning into our new website www.gwiseta.org. All of the most recent information has been added and we are continuously updating the site. Do let us know what information you would like to see on the new website. If you use social media, visit us on LinkedIn and Twitter. We thank our Vice President Laura Cook and her husband for volunteering their time on these items.

In May we voted on officer leadership for the 2015-2016 Eta Chapter year. Listed below you will find names of those elected. We thank all our members for their vote of confidence and hope that this new calendar year bring us together as we work towards accomplishing the mission of the chapter: to provide professional development opportunities to female scientists.

Jacklynn Fitzgerald, *President*
Laura Cook, *Vice President*
Tiara Perez Morales, *Secretary*
Charlie McCord, *Treasurer*
Elfriede Linsmaier-Bednar, *National Liaison*

Renewals/New members and membership information

We would like to welcome the following renewal/new members to our chapter:

Dr. Mia Dvora, Casey Murphy, Yana Tovpeko, Tanja Florin, Ece Eksi, Laren Riesche, and Dr. Linda Laatsch

We thank you for choosing the Eta Chapter as your hub to connect with the many wonderful female scientists in Chicago. We hope you participate and enjoy the events planned for this year.

If you have participated in our events and would like to join the chapter this year, this is the perfect time! You can join our National Chapter and affiliate to our local chapter by registering online at:

http://www.gwis.org/?how_to_join. On this page you will also find information about prices, and types of National and local membership available for purchase. Your membership is valid for 1 year and you will receive a message from National when it's time to renew. Benefits of your membership include: applying for GWIS fellowship with no fees, participation at our National conferences, involvement in National committees, and more. Additional information can be found at: http://www.gwis.org/?page=membership_benefits.

May General Meeting

At our general meeting we discussed the achievements of the chapter for the year 2014-2015. Our general meeting included annual reports for our chapter, budget, memberships, and information on how to join. We now have 41 members registered and we hope to have many more join this year.

In May we also provided our members and visiting fellows with information about events held throughout the year, and our newest work: the mentorship program. We also had the pleasure to present our 1st annual GWIS Eta Travel Award. Our recipients gave a short talk about their work which will be presented at national conferences. We wish them the best!



Erin Shanker, an MD/PhD student at the University of Illinois will be presenting her work: *Deciphering patterns of promiscuity and specificity in the ComRS quorum sensing pathway in Streptococcus* at the 8th International Conference on Gram-Positive Microorganisms in Italy.



Thao Pham, a PhD student at the University of Illinois presented her work *Protein Kinase C alpha (PKCα) is a novel regulator of FOXC2 and p120-catenin in triple negative and endocrine resistant breast cancer* at the American Association for Cancer Research Annual Meeting in Pennsylvania.

Mentorship Program

This program, which launched in April, consists of member and nonmember female scientists at all stages in their career. Our goal is to provide women with a long-lasting mentorship

relationship that will help them achieve their aspirations. We continue to receive applications for mentors and mentees and our President, Jacklynn Fitzgerald is continuously working to find suitable matches for the program.

We extend our invitation to your friends and colleagues and we hope you can help us spread the word. We are still in need of female scientists in Biology, Physics, Math and Medical Sciences to act as both mentors and mentees. Feel free to share this information with people you believe will benefit from the program. To sign up, please visit our website at <http://www.gwiseta.org/mentorship/>

Events

Our next event is scheduled for **June 22, 2015** at the Goethe Institut (150 N Michigan Ave, Suite #200, Chicago, IL) from 6-8PM. Jacklynn Fitzgerald will be talking about the mentorship program and will provide a short workshop with tips and ways to establish your career goals. This event requires RSVP and you can register at: <http://www.gwiseta.org/events/>. Food and drinks will be provided.

Throughout the summer months, we will be hosting more informal events. More information can be found on our website.

National Chapter news

Our National chapter provides members with a bulletin 3 times a year. As a chapter we take this opportunity to showcase our work and our membership. Therefore, we would like to encourage you to participate in ongoing National activities posted in the newest

submission: "[THIS IS WHAT A SCIENTIST LOOKS LIKE!](#)" and "[WHAT IF?](#)"

If you are interested in participating in "[This is what a scientist looks like!](#)" please provide us with a photo of yourself that highlights your interests, talents, or hobbies. In addition to your photo, please indicate your name, a description of the picture, and a note signifying your approval to print your information. All submissions can be directed to etachaptergwis@gmail.com.

If you are interested in participating in "[What if?](#)" please send us a [question](#) that encourages development of daily activities and promote well-being. Examples from the latest bulletin included: *What if tuned off the phone 30 min a day? What if I set aside \$1/day to donate to charity?*

We would love to receive What if? Questions from our members and your thoughts to these questions! All submissions can be directed to etachaptergwis@gmail.com with a note signifying your approval to print your information.

That's it for June! We hope to see you at our next meeting and stay tuned for more summer events,

Take care!

Yours truly,

Graduate Women in Science (GWIS) Eta Chapter Officers

Jacklynn Fitzgerald, *President*

Laura Cook, *Vice President*

Tiara Perez Morales, *Secretary*

Charlie McCord, *Treasurer*

Elfriede Linsmaier-Bednar, *National Liaison*