

# Newsletter

## NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY NC-WST

### Mission Statement

The mission of Women in Science is to support and promote the career development of women scientists in Egypt by increasing the representation, participation, and leadership of women in scientific disciplines and by promoting the leadership skills, visibility, and academic policies required for success in the sciences. NC-WST serves to provide guidance and recommendation, facilitate communication and networking and to provide support to all women students and trainees in science in order to build a supportive community of women scientists that will nurture the professional development of current and future women in science.

NC-WST also maintains contact with other associations, initiatives and international projects of women in science and engineering world-wide.

### NC-WST Recent News

NC-WST is delighted to bring you the first edition of the *NC-WST newsletter!*. NC-WST is governed by a National Committee, but all members belong to different branches of science and media. An important function of NC-WST is to improve communication among women scientists and engineers, coordination of different set of activities, providing guidance and recommendations needed at a national level. You are cordially invited to feed ideas and information in to NC-WST website and to the regular newsletter which is circulated via e-mail and mail. (Postal services are used for researchers who do not have access to e-mail or doesn't preferred it as first way of communication)



# ARTICLES OF INTEREST



2

## It's a Woman's World

By Alison George

**For far too long, not enough women have risen up the ranks in science. But at last, companies and universities are recognising an asset they simply can't do without, says Alison George.** «In today's competitive world, companies and organisations can't afford to miss out on the best talent. «If we can get a disproportionate share of the most talented people in the world, we have a chance of holding a competitive edge,» Browne said in a speech he made in Berlin, Germany. Girls are outstripping boys at school in many countries, and more go to university than men. However, when it comes to positions of power, women are failing to get professorships or a seat on the board. But ...

«The big question is what to do about it. The answer is blindingly obvious: make the workplace more family-friendly.»

«...it's no surprise that women don't apply for jobs when they will be in the minority in a male-dominated workplace. «Environment has a lot to do with it,» says Valian. Women can look ahead and see what's likely to be happening to them, she says. «Retention of women depends on whether they can see women further along, thriving in scientific careers.»

To see the full text of this highly recommended article, request it for free by writing to [ow@sti.sci.eg](mailto:ow@sti.sci.eg) or use the contact data below.

### What Impact, If Any, Has Feminism Had on Science?

By Evelyn Fox Keller, Dept of History and Philosophy of Science, MIT

«The social change that feminism brought about provided new angles, new ways of seeing the world, even ordinary things; it opened up new cognitive spaces. And scientists jumped.»

«...gender matters for women in science not because of what they bring with their bodies, and often not even for what they bring with their socialization, but for what the cultures of science bring to community perceptions of both women and gender - and it turns, because of what such perceptions bring to the communal values of particular scientific disciplines.»

«Have the women themselves changed the doing of science? Have they by their own example brought a new legitimization of traditionally feminine values into the practice of science? Thus posed, my guess would be: probably not. With a few possible exceptions, I do not believe that women scientists have either sought to or succeeded in introducing stereotypic feminine values into the lab...» «...women scientists are under particular pressure to shed whatever traditional values they may have absorbed qua women - if for no other reason, then merely to prove their legitimacy»

as scientists. But if we were to rephrase the question and ask, has their presence helped to restore equity in the symbolic realm in which gender has operated for so many eons? I would answer with an unequivocal yes. Especially, I would argue that the commonplace presence of women in positions of leadership and authority in science has helped erode the meaning of traditional gender labels in the very domain in which they worked, and for everyone working in that domain

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## Events

**4th IUPAP International Conference on Women in Physics  
Stellenbosch, South Africa, April 5 - 8, 2011**  
(click [here](#) for more information or visit the [conference website](#))

**Rosalind Franklin Fellowship (Tenure-Track Positions)  
Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences,  
University of Groningen, The Netherlands  
Application Deadline January 7, 2011**

**IIASA Young Scientists Summer Program  
2011 (Graduate Students)  
Program Dates: June 1 – September 1, 2011  
Application Deadline: January 17, 2011**

## Opportunities

**M. Hildred Blewett Scholarship** The M. Hildred Blewett Scholarship for Women in Physics consists of an award of up to \$45,000 to enable women to return to physics research careers after having had to interrupt those careers for family reasons. Details at:

<http://www.aps.org/programs/women/scholarships/blewett/index.cfm>

**Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship** The Department of Energy Computational Science Graduate Fellowship (DOE CSGF) program provides outstanding benefits and

opportunities to students pursuing doctoral degrees in fields of study that utilize high performance computing to solve complex problems in science and engineering. The fellowship includes a 12-week research experience at one of 17 DOE laboratory sites. The DOE CSGF program is open to senior undergraduates or students in their first or second year of graduate study. Benefits include a \$36,000 yearly stipend, payment of all tuition and fees, yearly conferences, \$5,000 academic allowance in the first year, \$1,000 academic allowance each renewed year and a 12-week research practicum. Application materials and additional information can be found at [www.krellinst.org/csgf/](http://www.krellinst.org/csgf/).

**National Institutes of Health-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program** Scholarships in the National Institutes of Health-Oxford-Cambridge Scholars Program are offered to exceptionally promising students who wish to pursue accelerated Ph.D or M.D./Ph.D training at the cutting edge of biomedical research in collaborative projects between labs of the National Institutes of Health and Oxford University or Cambridge University. These scholarships fully fund PhD. training expenses, including tuition, college fees, stipend, health insurance and travel. Scholars can receive full funding for combined M.D./PhD. training in coordination with one of the 42 top U.S. medical schools that have NIH-funded Medical Scientist Training Programs. Details at: <http://oxcam.gpp.nih.gov/>

**The National Science Foundation's Graduate Research Fellowship Program** This fellowship program provides students with three years of financial support including a \$30,000 annual stipend and \$10,500 cost-of-education allowance. For research-based graduate studies in the Chemistry, Computer and Information Science and Engineering, Engineering, Geosciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Physics and Astronomy, Psychology, and Social Sciences fields are eligible to apply. For additional program information, go to: <https://www.fastlane.nsf.gov/grfp/>

# INTERNATIONAL WINDOW

**Egypt is well represented internationally through participation in Euro-Mediterranean women in science project, SHERA**

Academy of Scientific Research & Technology, Alexandria university and Arab African Research Center are the Egyptian partners in an international research-running-project entitled: Euro-Mediterranean research cooperation on gender and science: SHE

The overall objective of this project is enhancing research cooperation on gender and science between the European Union and the Mediterranean countries.

Research cooperation is aimed at better understand the roots of gender inequality in science in the area, taking into account cultural diversities and traditions, and analyse how the Mediterranean countries are addressing this issue. It will deal with gender equality from a twofold perspective: the representation of women in scientific research and technological development and the integration of the gender dimension in research policy. The project will provide state of the art description, data collection and relevant comparative analysis on gender and science in all the Mediterranean countries, focusing on three key themes: statistics on women in science, gender equality policies and research on gender inequalities in science careers. These results will be made accessible to the research community and policy makers via an online database, publishable reports and workshops. With the overall purpose of enhancing networking and steering policy-making on gender and science in the years to come, the project will finally develop recommendations for policy-makers aimed at enhancing the presence of women in scientific research and technological development at all levels and ensuring a better integration of the gender dimension in research policy.

The Mediterranean countries included in the proposal are the Mediterranean Partner

Countries (MPCs), i.e. the Mediterranean countries included in the list of International Cooperation

Partner Countries: Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestinian administered areas, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia.

**International project: GRITS Collaborative Project!**

GRITS is a National Science Foundation funded project based in the College of Basic and Applied Sciences of Middle Tennessee State University. GRITS is delighted to be the home for the GRITS Collaborative Project for the state of Tennessee. The GRITS (Girls Raised In Tennessee Science) Collaborative Project collectively pulls resources together to build a stronger community across Tennessee in support of girls and women in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). The founding program, GRITS, was established through a National Science Foundation dissemination grant supporting research on gender in science and engineering. The GRITS Collaborative Project wants Tennessee to be the premier state in the nation for women with STEM degrees and STEM careers. It is expected to become the norm and tradition for girls and women in the south, and especially in Tennessee, to pursue science, technology, engineering and mathematics education and careers.

The GRITS Collaborative Project will:

- serve all 95 counties in Tennessee.
- bring together programs, resources, and organizations that are committed to supporting and encouraging more Tennessee girls to enter the STEM education pipeline and to successfully complete STEM degree programs.
- strengthen and unify efforts to provide for a broader and more meaningful impact of services across Tennessee. The diversity of collaborative partners across Tennessee will enable us to utilize a wealth of resources and networks that support girls and women in STEM.

Provide a focused effort on STEM for girls and women in Tennessee, enhancing economic, employment, and career opportunities for girls and women in STEM.

# LINKS

Third World Organisation for Women in Science (TWOWS)  
Association for Women in Science and Engineering, UK (AWISE)  
Association for Women in Science, USA (AWIS)  
Committee on Women in Science and Engineering, USA (CWSE)  
African Gender Institute (AGI)  
The Grace Hopper Celebration of Women in Computing  
Women's Engineering Society, UK  
Society of Women Engineers, Sweden  
Association for Women in Mathematics (AWM)  
Royal Society of South Africa  
Academy of Science of South Africa  
The National Research Foundation's Women-in-Research (NRF W-i-R)  
NRF Women-in-Research Database  
International Organizations

Women in Science Library  
4000 Years of Women in Science  
Groups Relating to Women in Science & Engineering  
MentorNet - The E-mentoring Network for Women in Science and Engineering  
Women in the Engineering Industry  
Women and Computing  
Women of NASA  
Vacancies at The University of Cape Town

## Contact us

If you are interested in plugging in to the Women In Science feel free to contact the head of the committee.

If you would like to have a list of publications that relates to gender and gender equality in research, please write to [ow@sti.sci.eg](mailto:ow@sti.sci.eg)

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