



## Welcome From the Editor

Greetings, sfAWIS members!

This newsletter has been on hiatus for a while, but we're proud to bring it back to sfAWIS. Look for it to appear quarterly, both on [www.sfawis.com](http://www.sfawis.com) and in print at our events.

sfAWIS Vice-President Reba Howard developed this newsletter back in 2003—and that was only a beginning to the time and effort she has offered sfAWIS over the past five years. In addition to editing the newsletter, Reba also created [sfawis.com](http://sfawis.com) and has served on the board as secretary and more recently as vice-president. She recently left the Bay Area for a postdoctoral position in Austin. We miss her and wish her the best of luck in Texas!

A new member of sfAWIS, I've volunteered to help resurrect the newsletter. I hope this publication will continue to be a resource for women in science in and around San Francisco. In addition to events and resources, I expect to feature articles by

sfAWIS members on a range of topics relevant to all of us. In particular, it would be great to read about the different careers available to women scientists and the paths we take to get there, but any and all contributions are welcome. If you would like to submit an article, please contact [newsletter@sfawis.com](mailto:newsletter@sfawis.com).

We have some great events on tap in the next few months. The next sfAWIS chapter meeting is February 11 and features a presentation by Judy Heyboer, a Human Resources professional and consultant as well as a former Senior Vice-President at Genentech. Join us for a light supper, networking, and an opportunity to hear a discussion about career changes and advice on how to make them. I hope to see you all there!

If you are not yet a member of sfAWIS, please consider joining us in making the Bay Area a great place to be a woman in science. Happy reading!

Elena Strange  
Editor

## What's Next For sfAWIS

Happy New Year and here is to health and happiness in 2009!

2009 brings fresh opportunities for us to contribute our ideas and hear from great speakers. We will continue to have our events every 2nd Wednesday of the month, with our first social networking event January 14th and our speaker event February 11th. We welcome everyone to participate in our events, stay in touch by checking our website, reading and sharing the sfAWIS newsletter and participating in our upcoming elections.

2009 is our election year—help make the next board everything you want it to be. The board and the committees are what make all of our events possible. This year we have several positions that will give you the opportunity to interact with our community and take sfAWIS in a fresh direction.

(Continued on next page.)

### Upcoming Events

January 14 sfAWIS Networking Social 6:30–8:30pm UCSF Pub <a href="http://www.sfawis.com">www.sfawis.com</a>	January 29 paAWIS Chapter Meeting Explorations in Science 7:00–9:00pm PARC Auditorium <a href="http://www.pa-awis.org">www.pa-awis.org</a>	February 11 sfAWIS Chapter Meeting Pragmatic Advice for Your Career 6:30–9:30pm Amgen, Inc. <a href="http://www.sfawis.com">www.sfawis.com</a>	February 28 NCC-AWIS Workshop Brag! The Art of Tooting Your Own Horn Without Blowing It Mills College Oakland, CA
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In 2008, we had expected that our long time board member, Reba Howard, would graduate and soon move away from the Bay Area. Reba was our secretary and newsletter guru and currently serves as our remote Vice President. She is doing her post-doc in Texas. She is a great help as we transition new volunteers into the many roles that she filled at sfAWIS. It was a surprise that we also lost Joleen White when she accepted a position in New Jersey late in 2008. Joleen White had been our Treasurer and President over a long period of time at sfAWIS.

Our events in 2008 (<http://www.sfawis.com/past.html>) included social networking, science, and professional skills monthly. We started 2008 with Lisa Bero, who spoke to us about the importance of validating methods to assess the quality of clinical research and scientific publications. Her presentation at Genentech on Hidden and Not-So-Hidden Biases in Clinical Research was well received and attended. In March, Monica Worline presented on how we can develop our careers using precision questioning. In June, we held our first volunteer networking work session at Genentech. It was a great success, and we look forward to a similar workshop this June. We finished the year with a couple of excellent presentations: one on Science careers with Toby Freedman, and the other by the StemLifeLine CEO and founder, Ana Krtolica, on her life as a scientist and entrepreneur.

Edi Alvarez  
sfAWIS President

## Resources

### UCSF Center for BioEntrepreneurship

The sky's the limit when it comes to career paths for women scientists. In addition to the usual lineup of post-doctoral studies, tenure-track academia positions, and industry, we can also strike out on our own. If you've ever considered pursuing an entrepreneurial career, applying your research and discovery skills to build your own business, read on.

The UCSF Center for BioEntrepreneurship (CBE), launched in 2002, offers programs and classes that supply life scientists with the skills necessary to build commercial value from their inventions. The center hosts a variety of seminars and courses relevant to entrepreneurs in the life sciences. Programs are open to all UCSF students, faculty, and fellows.

CBE offers many courses, including Idea to IPO, a once-a-year course that combines lectures, group projects, and mentoring to prepare aspiring entrepreneurs. During the Winter 2009 semester, Idea to IPO is led by G. Steven Burrill, CEO of the life sciences merchant Bank Burrill & Co. Upcoming courses include Drug Discovery, Corporate Finance Survival Skills, and Intellectual Property for Life Scientists.

CBE also sponsors an ongoing speaker series, Scientist to CEO. Leaders of the life science industry share their insights gained from their wide ranging experiences, from academia to leadership positions in industry.

For more information, visit <http://cbe.ucsf.edu> or contact [cbe@ucsf.edu](mailto:cbe@ucsf.edu).

## Meet sfAWIS

### The Board & Volunteers

sfAWIS is a volunteer-driven organization and will exist only as long as volunteers have the interest and commitment to work, learn, and organize events that add value to our members and our community.

On this page, meet the board members and volunteers who help sfAWIS achieve its missions to provide networking opportunities for women in science, foster career development, and raise public awareness of the scientific and technological skills of women.

The sfAWIS board:

- **Edi Alvarez, President & Treasurer**  
Edi holds a Bachelor of Science degree with honors as well as a Masters of Science and Bachelor of Education degrees. She is a Registered Investment Advisor and has NASD Series 65 license for Independent Investment Advisors. She serves as president and treasurer for sfAWIS.
- **Reba Howard, Vice-President**  
Reba serves as sfAWIS vice-president, and is currently a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Texas at Austin.
- **Melissa Erickson, Secretary**  
Melissa, as our board secretary, ensures sufficient documentation of sfAWIS events and maintains membership records.
- **Mohini Patil, Member-At-Large**  
Mohini is a molecular biologist and holds a

postdoctoral position at Stanford's School of Medicine. As sfAWIS member-at-large, she works with the board president and secretary.

sfAWIS volunteers:

- **Amy Borchard**  
Volunteer Coordinator
- **Preeti Chugha**  
UCSF Event Coordinator
- **Gail Colbern**  
Content
- **Sara Dodson**
- **Melissa Goldesberry**  
Genentech Coordinator
- **Tania Gonzales**  
Content
- **Lingjie Guan**  
Communication
- **Anita Joubel**  
Content
- **Cindy Kosinski**  
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- **Pascale Leroy**  
Event Speaker Coordinator
- **Florence Lorgent**  
E-mail Publicity Coordinator
- **Lisa Marshall**  
Amen Event Coordinator
- **Priya Mitty**  
Communication
- **Rasa Petrauskait**  
Fundraising & Communication
- **Elena Strange**  
Website & Newsletter

- **Xiaomin Su**  
Acteva Coordinator

- **Violet Votin**

## Involvement

### Join us!

Here are just a few ways you can be part of our continuing efforts to bring together Bay Area women scientists for career development, inspiration, scientific and social innovation.

#### 1. Volunteer

Help recruit new members, design programs, manage event sponsorship, and much more. Contact [volunteer@sfawis.com](mailto:volunteer@sfawis.com) for more information.

#### 2. Join the sfAWIS Distribution List

sfAWIS invites members and non-members to join the sfAWIS listserve. You'll receive regular, low-traffic updates on sfAWIS and related events. To join, visit [www.sfawis.com/subscribe.html](http://www.sfawis.com/subscribe.html).

#### 3. Become a member

Women, men, scientists in industry and academia, professionals, teachers, students, and any who wish to support and promote women in science are welcome to join sfAWIS. Visit [www.sfawis.com](http://www.sfawis.com) to learn more.

#### 4. Submit an article

This newsletter appears quarterly, and we would love to hear from women in science throughout the Bay Area. Tell us about your job, your research, your life, and how you got there. Submissions on any topic are welcome! Please email [newsletter@sfawis.com](mailto:newsletter@sfawis.com).

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