ROSALIND FRANKLIN SOCIETY

Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to include another issue of RFS Briefings with some timely and encouraging updates on women in science.

Of note in particular:

Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Rosalind Franklin's pioneering work on **BBC radio** program *In our Time*. Read more.

Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science, vilcek.org, February 1, 2018
"What attracts me to the brain is its incredible complexity and beauty," says Vilcek Creative Promise Prizewinner Polina Anikeeva, who was born in the former Soviet Union, earned her Ph.D. in materials science and engineering at MIT and now runs her own bioelectronics lab in the same department focused on the development of materials and devices that enable recording and manipulation of signaling processes within the nervous system. The Vilcek Foundation recognizes her for "fashioning ingenious solutions to long-standing challenges in biomedical engineering" including the design of therapeutic devices for conditions and diseases. "As a country, the US is built on immigrants. This prize is not only an affirmation of my life's calling but also a reminder of the contributions of the people who help make this country what it is today," she says. Read more.

See below for more news about women in science

Please continue to share important news and opportunities with us so that we may share it with you, and others who are committed to supporting the careers of exceptional women in science.

With regards,

Karla Shepard Rubinger
Executive Director
Rosalind Franklin Society

RFS Briefings

February 2018

Keystone Symposia Conference on Bone Biology in Snowbird, Utah, keystonesymposia.org, February 27, 2018
Keystone Symposia, a member of RFS' Council of Academic Institutions, is hosting a conference on Novel Aspects of Bone Biology from June 13-16 in Snowbird, Utah. The three-day conference will showcase the many advances made in these two aspects of skeleton biology and how these developments have enriched our understanding of the pathogenesis of multiple degenerative diseases affecting the bone marrow, energy metabolism or the brain. Read more.

Editas Medicine Names Jessica Hopfield, Ph.D., to Board of Directors, ir.editasmedicine.com, February 16, 2018
Editas Medicine, Inc., a leading genome editing company, announced the appointment of Jessica Hopfield, Ph.D., to its Board of Directors, effective immediately. Dr. Hopfield is a scientist and business leader with more than two decades of experience in the medical and healthcare fields and will also serve on the Audit Committee of the Board. "I am honored to join Editas Medicine's Board of Directors," said Dr. Hopfield. "Editas is on the forefront of a new era in medicine, and I look forward to working with the team and helping guide the Company in the coming years." Read more.

One Million Genomes: From Discovery to Health, keystonesymposia.org, February 14, 2018
Join Keystone Symposia for a conference on One Million Genomes: From Discovery to Health, which will take place June 4-8, 2018 in Germany. The conference will bring together scientists and leaders from healthcare and industry to discuss how to maximize the value of the investment in large-scale genome sequencing, highlight challenges and potential solutions for germ-line and somatic sequencing programs, and make recommendations for optimizing their impact on global health. Dr. Teri Manolio, a member of the Council of Academic Institutions, is one of the scientific organizers for the event. Registration is now open. Read more.

Anne Treisman, Who Studied How We Perceive, Dies at 82, nytimes.com, February 13, 2018
Dr. Anne Treisman, whose insights into how we perceive the world around us provided some of the core theories for the field of cognitive psychology, died on February 9,

2018. She considered a fundamental question - how does the brain make sense of the bombardment of input it is receiving and focus attention on a particular object or activity? - and, what she determined is called the feature integration theory of attention. Testing her ideas with countless experiments, her work showed not only how we perceive, but also how we can sometimes misperceive. The Association for Psychological Science called Dr. Treisman "one of the world's most influential cognitive psychologists." Read more.

***Science* & PINS Prize for Neuromodulation, sciencemag.org**, February 13, 2018
The *Science* & PINS Prize for Neuromodulation is a highly competitive prize, which honors scientists for their excellent contributions to neuromodulation research, and awarded annually for outstanding research as described in a 1,500-word essay. The winner is awarded U.S. $25,000 and his/her essay is published in *Science*. The application deadline is March 15, 2018. Read more.

17 Top Female Scientists Who Have Changed the World, globalcitizen.com, February 10, 2018
In honor of International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global Citizen recognized 17 top female scientists who have changed the world. There is 21-year-old scientist and senior at the MIT Tiera Guninn who is helping build a rocket for NASA. And, Elizabeth Blackwell who was the first woman to graduate in medical school in the United States and became an activist for poor women's health. The list also includes Jane Goodall, the most famous primate scientist in history, as well as Mae C. Jemison, the first African-American female astronaut who, in 1992, became the first black woman in space. These STEM superstars span decades and expertise in various fields but share a common thread – their work continues to inspire women of all ages to pursue their passions and explore their intellectual curiosity. Read more.

Charts of the Week: Advancing Women and Girls in Science, brookings.edu, February 9, 2018
Three years ago, the United Nations proclaimed February 11 the International Day of Women and Girls in Science as part of a larger effort toward closing the gender gaps, a global issue. Despite more women pursuing careers in STEM fields, they still face a number of challenges. In their study of gender disparities in education and employment, Ana Maria Munoz-Boudet and Ana Revenga, two experts from the World Bank, found that in 2013 only four countries in Europe produced a pool of STEM graduates that were at least 15 percent female. In the United States, despite women earning more degrees than men overall, they account for only 35 percent of the undergraduate degrees issued in STEM fields. Read more.

What your keystrokes reveal about your gender, sciencemag.org, February 9, 2018
Did you know that computer models can predict with 95.6% accuracy whether a man or woman is typing according to a new study? Computer engineers installed keystroke-logging software onto the personal computers of 75 volunteers (36 men, 39 women) which monitored their daily computer use for 10 months. They calculated the relative helpfulness of different typing features for determining gender, such as the time

between two specific keystrokes or the amount of time a key is pressed down during a single keystroke, using a program that they created called “ISqueezeU.” Read more.

NSF requires institutions to report sexual harassment findings, sciencemag.org, February 8, 2018
The National Science Foundation (NSF) in Alexandria, Virginia, announced a new set of measures to combat sexual harassment by people working on the projects it funds. The steps may include suspending or eliminating research grants after an institution finds that a grantee committed harassment. Institutions will be required to tell the agency about the findings as well as report placing grantees accused of harassment on administrative leave while an investigation is underway. “We’re doing this to show in a defined way that NSF doesn’t tolerate sexual harassment or any form of harassment at grantee institutions or field sites or anywhere science is done,” says NSF Director France Córdova. Read more.

In ‘Brotopia,’ Silicon Valley Disrupts Everything but the Boys’ Club, nytimes.com, February 7, 2018
Emily Chang’s book “Brotopia: Breaking Up the Boys’ Club of Silicon Valley” depicts how “nerds become bros” and use their newfound wealth and power as players in Silicon Valley to make up for lost experiences. However, Emily points out that the current male-dominated technology industry wasn’t always that way – women have played an influential role throughout the years (and centuries). In fact, more than 170 years ago, a woman mathematician wrote the first computer program. This book reinforces the increasing authority Silicon Valley holds in our present lives and how women must play an active role in what comes next. “If robots are going to run the world, or at the very least play a hugely critical role in our future, men shouldn’t be programming them alone,” she writes. “The scarcity of women in an industry that is so forcefully reshaping our culture simply cannot be allowed to stand.” Read more.

Oxford University admits more women than men for first time, amp.theguardian.com, January 26, 2018
Last year, for the first time in its more than 1,000-year history, the University of Oxford offered more undergraduate places to British women than men. Forty-four years ago, Oxford University was the first of the university’s male colleges to admit women and this recent shift in undergraduate admissions is the latest of several changes made in recent years. Ten of Oxford’s 38 colleges have women as their principals or heads and the university appointed its first woman as vice-chancellor in 2016. “While it’s too early to call this a trend based on one year’s numbers, it is a welcome sign of progress for female applicants to Oxford,” a spokesperson for Oxford said about this past years increase in women students. Read more.

Australian of the Year is pioneer physicist Michelle Simmons, bbc.com, January 25, 2018
Professor Michelle Simmons received Australia’s most prestigious civic honor, Australian Of the Year, which is awarded each year to a person considered a national role model. In 2012, Michelle, a quantum physics professor, led a team that created the

world's first transistor made from only a single atom and helped put Australia at the center of "the space race of the computing era", the National Australia Day Council said. Read more.

2017 Eppendorf & Science Prize – Meet the Winners, Eppendorf.com, January 23, 2018
Viviana Gradinaru, Ph.D., was named a finalist in the 2017 Eppendorf & Science Prize for Neurobiology, which acknowledges the important role of neurobiology in advancing our understanding of the functioning of the brain and the nervous system. Her research group in the Biology and Biological Engineering Division at Caltech are developing technologies for neuroscience and using them to probe circuits underlying locomotion, reward, and sleep. The winner of the 2017 Eppendorf & Science Prize was a male. Read more.

Aperiomics CEO Dr. Crystal Icenhour Presented Deep Sequencing for Pathogen Identification at Precision Medicine World Conference, aperiomics.com, January 19, 2018
An expert in infectious disease diagnostics and a speaker at the Precision World Conference in January, Dr. Crystal Icenhour presented to attendees how Aperiomics is the leading industry in identifying infectious diseases using shotgun metagenomics sequencing. She and her team have cut an extraordinary amount of time in which patients suffer from infectious diseases. Dr. Icenhour holds two patents, has authored numerous research articles and has spoken at a number of conferences. Read more.