



RFS Briefings

January 26, 2016

SENS Research Foundation (SRF) Summer Scholars Program **Applications Online Now**, sens.org, Dec. 8, 2015

The SRF Summer Scholars Program offers undergraduate students the opportunity to conduct biomedical research to combat diseases of aging, such as cancer, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's disease. Under the guidance of one or more scientific mentors, each Summer Scholar is responsible for his or her own research project. The Summer Scholars Program emphasizes development of laboratory skills and communication skills. Students participating in the program will develop writing skills via periodic reports throughout the internship and presentation skills via a poster presentation at a SRF-sponsored conference at the end of the Program. Paid positions are available at world-renowned research institutions including Buck Institute for Research on Aging, Harvard University, Sanford Burnham Prebys Medical Discovery Institute, Scripps Research Institute, SRF Research Center, University of Oxford and Wake Forest Institute for Regenerative Medicine. Application deadline: February 1, 2016. [Read More](#)

The 2016 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Laureates,

fondationloreal.com, Jan. 2016

The L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO revealed the five exceptional laureates of the 2016 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards, in the field of Life Sciences. Nominated by more than 2,600 leading scientists, 2016's five laureates were then selected by an independent and international jury of 13 prominent scientists in the international scientific community. This year's President of the Jury is Professor Elizabeth H. Blackburn, 2008 Laureate *L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science*, 2009 joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and the first woman Jury President in the history of the awards. Honored are: Prof. Jennifer Doudna, Prof. Andrea Gamarnik, Prof. Emmanuelle Charpentier, Prof. Hualan Chen, and Prof. Quarraisha Abdool Karim. They will receive their awards at a ceremony to be held on March 24, 2016 in Paris. [Read More](#)

Tales from a Female Wall Street Managing Director, nytimes.com, Jan. 23, 2016

Maureen Sherry's recent NY Times editorial shares personal stories and discloses challenging gender issues of discrimination and harassment facing women working in the financial industry. Ms. Sherry also discusses how policies, such as arbitration and nondisclosure agreements, work against those seeking damages within Wall Street firms and how hiring policies are effected by fear of lawsuits. [Read More](#)

World Economic Forum Leaders will take on the Problem of Gender Inequality, nytimes.org, Jan. 19, 2016

At the annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, a conclave for the world's most powerful leaders and tycoons, just 17.8 percent of the 2,500 attendees are female. However, this year politicians and executives will debate how future skill requirements will affect gender equality, ask whether women should take more leadership roles in science and technology and determine what can be done to end gender biases. Gender inequality will be a frequent topic of discussion in many of the panel sessions. Two of the women leading the initiatives are Theresa Whitmarsh, who as head of the Washington State Investment Board runs one of the biggest state pension funds in the United States; and Elizabeth Nyamayaro, who heads the U.N. Women's HeForShe campaign at the United Nations.

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CalTech Professor Suspended for Gender-based Harassment, sciencemag.org, Jan. 12, 2016

Christian Ott, a theoretical astrophysics professor at CalTech, has been suspended after determining that he engaged in discriminatory and harassing behavior against two of his graduate students. The suspension strips the faculty member of his university salary and bars him from campus for one year. He must also undergo personalized rehabilitative coaching to improve mentoring and demonstrate his rehabilitation before returning to a role of advising students without supervision. [Read More](#)

Evidence Suggests Failure to Give Women Full Credit for Collaborative Work Done with Men, nytimes.com, Jan. 8, 2016

Heather Sarsons, an economist completing her dissertation at Harvard, conducted research on young economists recruited by top universities in the US over the past 40 years. Her research findings include a failure to give women full credit for collaborative work done with men, an important consideration when the probability of earning tenure is at stake. Ms. Sarson's research also showed that female economists who work alone have enjoyed the same career success as their male counterparts. Ms. Sarsons assessed how credit was attributed for work done in different types of research teams. She found that men get about the same degree of credit for research with a co-author, whether it is written with other men, other women, or both. However, when women write with men, their tenure prospects don't improve at all. Women get essentially no credit for the collaborative work with men. Papers written by women in collaboration with both a male and female co-author yield partial credit. It is only when women write with other women that they are given full credit. The differences found are statistically significant. [Read More](#)

Professor Jackie Ying, executive director of the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology, has been awarded the 2015 Mustafa Prize Top Scientific Achievement Award, asianscientists.com, Dec. 30, 2015

Professor Jackie Ying has won the inaugural Mustafa Prize Top Scientific Achievement Award for her contributions to and achievements in advanced nanostructured materials and systems, nanostructured biomaterials and miniaturized biosystems. Prof. Ying's research includes new materials and systems with unique functionalities and

size-dependent properties that tackle major challenges in medicine, chemistry and energy. These inventions have been applied towards drug delivery, cell and tissue engineering, biosensing and diagnostics, catalysis and pharmaceuticals synthesis, battery and fuel cell systems, including development of glucose-sensitive nanoparticles that can auto-regulate the release of insulin depending on the blood glucose levels. This drug delivery system bypasses the need for blood glucose monitoring by finger pricks, and allows insulin to be delivered orally or by nasal passage, instead of through injection. This technology would greatly benefit the diabetic patients by helping to prevent hyperglycemic and hypoglycemic conditions and associated organ damage.

The Mustafa Prize is granted to research that has improved human life and made tangible and cutting-edge innovations on the boundaries of science or has presented new scientific methodology. Besides the Top Scientific Achievement category, the Mustafa Prize also recognizes achievements in the Life Science and Medical Sciences, Nano Science and Nanotechnologies, and Information and Communication Science and Technologies categories. Each laureate receives \$500,000 in prize money and a medal. [Read More](#)

The call for nominations for the 2016 Marion Spencer Fay Award will open on February 17, 2016, drexel.edu,

The national Marion Spencer Fay Award, now in its 52nd year, is given annually to an outstanding woman physician or scientist who has made an exceptionally significant contribution to health care as a practitioner, medical educator, administrator or research scientist and who exhibits significant future potential. The 2015 Award was presented to Katherine Knight, PhD, professor and chair of the Department of

Microbiology & Immunology and co-founders of the Infectious Disease and Immunology Institute at Loyola University. The deadline for nominations is March 24, 2016. For more information, contact Janine Barber: Janine.barber@drexelmed.edu [Read More](#)

NIH Unveils FY2016-2020 Strategic Plan, nih.gov, Dec. 16, 2015

The National Institutes of Health (NIH) released the *NIH-Wide Strategic Plan, Fiscal Years 2016–2020: Turning Discovery into Health*. Developed after hearing from hundreds of stakeholders and scientific advisers, and in collaboration with leadership and staff of NIH's Institutes, Centers, and Offices (ICOs), the plan is designed to complement the ICOs' individual strategic plans that are aligned with their congressionally mandated missions.

The plan focuses on four essential, interdependent objectives that will help guide NIH's priorities over the next five years as it pursues its mission of seeking fundamental knowledge about the nature and behavior of living systems and applying that knowledge to enhance health, lengthen life, and reduce illness and disability. [Read More](#)

NY Times Interview: Evelyn Witkin and the Road to DNA

Enlightenment, nytimes.com, Dec. 14, 2015

Evelyn M. Witkin, professor emerita at Rutgers University and recent award recipient of the Laker Basic Medical Research Award for her work on DNA repair and mutagenesis, talks with Claudia Dreifus about her career. Interview highlights include making a significant discovery on her first day at Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories and balancing work and family. [Read More](#)

Doris Duke Announces Grants to 10 Medical Schools to Establish Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists, ddcf.org, Dec. 3, 2015

The Doris Duke Charitable Foundation announced grants totaling \$5.4 million to 10 medical schools to establish a Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists within each of their institutions. Each school will receive \$540,000 over five years to provide stronger institutional support and supplemental funds for early-career physician scientists to maintain productivity during periods of excessive extraprofessional demands. DDCF launched the Fund to Retain Clinical Scientists (the Fund) to build upon a growing momentum in the medical research field toward supporting young physician scientists through phases of intense, extraprofessional career obstacles. Studies have revealed that up to 44 percent of young physicians with full-time faculty appointments at academic medical schools leave their posts within 10 years.

Furthermore, while women enter academic medical centers at about the same rate as men, they make up only 19 percent of faculty at the full professor level. The causes of this disparity are varied and complex, but one contributing factor is the load of transitory but significant outside responsibilities such as childcare, elder care or family illness that may arise and preclude the career growth of many young faculty members, particularly women. [Read More](#)