



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:

Nancy Hopkins Named Xconomy's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award Winner,
xconomy.com, July 24, 2018

Nancy Hopkins, professor emerita at MIT, is being honored with Xconomy's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her career in genetics and cancer biology research. An RFS Founding Board Member, she is also lauded for her groundbreaking work advocating for women in science in both academia and industry. Hopkins cautions that efforts to monitor gender inequity is "a process that you have to keep doing until women are really seen as equal." [Read more.](#)

Rosalind Franklin and the Damage of Gender Harassment, sciencemag.org, August 1, 2018

"Taken for Granted," a monthly column by the scientific workforce expert Beryl Lief Benderly, focused on Rosalind Franklin for its August publication. Prompted by the recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report addressing the prevalence of sexual harassment in university science, Benderly identified Franklin as the victim of "gender harassment." [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

Karla Shepard Rubinger
Executive Director
Rosalind Franklin Society
140 Huguenot Street
New Rochelle, New York 10801
914 740-2153 (direct)
914 740-2101 (fax)
www.rosalindfranklinsociety.org

RFS Briefings

August 10, 2018

These Are the 10 Best Cities for STEM Workers, livability.com, June 12, 2018

With the high demand for STEM professions, and its projected growth, an analysis of more than 2,000 cities was conducted to identify the top 10 best cities in the U.S. for STEM workers. Albuquerque, NM was found to have the most STEM jobs. Of special note, Davis, CA was also selected, where the University of California-Davis is recognized for its commitment to increasing the number of women in STEM-related jobs. STEM-related initiatives include the Advance Program, a mentoring opportunity between faculty and students designed to support the participation of women in science and engineering fields, and the Campos Initiative, which promotes diversity by prioritizing Latina STEM scholars. [Read more.](#)

Common Excuses for Not Appointing Women to Boards – And What To Do About Them, mckinsey.com, June 25, 2018

A study based in the U.K. examining the relative scarcity of high-ranking women in its largest companies shed light on some of the reasons for not including more women on their boards, and the findings are consistent with attitudes in global C-suites as well. For example, board chairs and CEOs said “Most women don’t want the hassle or pressure of sitting on a board, or “We have one woman on the board.” Though women hold 25% of board positions at FTSE 350 companies, their representation is much lower in the U.S. In contrast, a McKinsey study of the 50 S&P 500 companies with the highest percentage of women on their boards show at least 33% of board seats occupied by women, reflecting a 24% jump since 2005. The analysis of study findings offers a more positive outlook about how to approach this gender gap. [Read more.](#)

Career of the Year Barbie Dolls: 2018 Career Dolls, Barbie.matel.com, 2018

Barbie has collaborated with Tynker to create a platform to introduce the next generation of girls to coding through a programming course. A range of programming concepts are applied to 6 careers, including robotics engineer and astronaut: animation, music composition, storytelling, game design, and art. [Read more.](#)

Salk Institute's Janelle Ayres wins Blavatnik National Award for Young Scientists, salk.edu, June 27, 2018

Dr. Ayres was selected from among 298 exceptional faculty-rank researchers, 42 years or younger, nominated by 146 institutions across 42 states to receive the \$250,000 Blavatnik award. One of three winners, she is lauded for her pioneering research in the life sciences category, the others being physics and chemistry. Focused on the study of how bacteria interact with humans, her goal is to develop effective treatments for infectious and non-infectious diseases, including pathologies associated with cancer and aging. The Blavatnik National Awards for Young Scientists is one of the world's largest unrestricted prizes for early career scientists. [Read more.](#)

\$1M Award for Salk Scientist Janelle Ayres, Who Befriends our Microbial Enemies, sandiegouniontribune.com, July 17, 2018

Janelle Ayres, recipient of the Blavatnik National Award for Young Scientists (above), was also awarded a grant from the W.K. Keck Foundation to study alternative ways to cope with dangerous bacterial and viral infections including sepsis and influenza. An associate professor at Salk's NOMIS Center for Immunology and Microbial Pathogenesis, her cutting-edge research studies how people retain health during infections. Using an unconventional approach, Ayres looks for evidence of cooperation or tolerance between people and infections. She is well-regarded as a young woman in the male-dominated field of science, and applauds the Salk Institute for encouraging its scientists to "take risks and try difference ways of thinking about problems." [Read more.](#)

FASEB 2019 Excellence in Science Award Recipient is Barbara B. Kahn, MD, washingtonupdate.faseb.org, June 28, 2018

Dr. Kahn, one of the few physician-scientists to receive the FASEB 2019 Excellence Award (an unrestricted research grant of \$10,000), has made groundbreaking contributions to understanding the pathogenesis of obesity and type 2 diabetes and in turn the "translation of research from the lab to patients' bedsides." Having joined the faculty at Harvard Medical School in 1986, and now holding the George R. Minot endowed Chair in Medicine, Dr. Kahn is also recognized for her longstanding dedication to mentorship, impacting the careers of a large number of junior faculty and trainees, including nearly 100 postdocs and students in her lab. [Read more.](#)

Michelson Medical Research Foundation and the Human Vaccines Project 2018 Prize Recipients, michelsonmedical.org, June 29, 2018

Targeting cutting edge researchers under age 35, the Michelson Medical Research Foundation and the Human Vaccines Project selected the award's first recipients from a global completion. Two of the three winners of this \$150,000 prize were women: Dr. Patricia Illing, a research fellow at Montash University who was the first to identify spliced peptides during a viral infection, and Dr. Laura MacKay, a laboratory head and

senior lecturer at the Peter Doherty Institute for Infection and Immunity who is studying a recently described subset of immune cells called tissue resident memory. Information about the 2019 Michelson Prize application will be made available in fall 2018. [Read more.](#)

Francisco J. Ayala, Famed Biologist, Resigns After Sexual Harassment Inquiry,
mobile.nyt.com, June 29, 2018

Following months of investigation into allegations of sexual harassment, Dr. Ayala – one of the world’s most eminent evolutionary biologists and a leading benefactor of the University of California-Irvine – has resigned. Though Dr. Ayala explained his behavior as “the good manners of a European gentleman,” the lawyer representing 3 of the 4 complainants argues that there is “a marked difference between gentlemanly behavior and sexual harassment in the workplace.” At issue, she said, were “inappropriate comments and other kinds of behavior” such as unwanted touching. The university had failed to address earlier complaints against Dr. Ayala, reportedly because he had donated millions of dollars to the university. [Read more.](#)

2019 Lurie Prize in Biomedical Sciences Nomination Deadline: September 14, 2018, 1:00 PM EDT, July 2018

The Foundation for the National Institutes of Health (FNIH) will present its seventh annual Lurie Prize in Biomedical Sciences recognizing outstanding achievements by promising young scientists in the field. The \$100,000 prize to be awarded on Wednesday, May 22, 2019 is made possible by a generous gift from Ann Lurie, a philanthropist. [Read more.](#)

Research Charity Launches \$330M Initiative to Fund High-Risk Life Sciences Projects, statenews.com, July 9, 2018

The Wellcome Trust, one of the world’s largest biomedical research charities, is establishing the Leap Fund as an independently run branch designed to seek out and fund “outside-the-box” science. The intent is to help researchers test the status quo in the life sciences. In essence, it will promote scientific progress that takes a “leap” rather than follows the more traditional “slow, incremental” path, including the work of teams in the fields of biology, engineering, physics, and computer science. Wellcome’s director, Dr. Jeremy Farrar, recognizes that while most funded projects will not ultimately revolutionize medicine or science, he believes that a success rate of 10 to 20 percent would be “tremendous.” [Read more.](#)

Women Making Science Videos on You Tube Face Hostile Comments,
nytimes.com, July 13, 2018

Though STEM topics are popular on You Tube, as evidenced by millions of viewers, most channels are hosted by men. A paper published in the journal *Public Understanding of Science* reported that this platform is “a tough environment for women.” The comment space for women seems to be more explosive – both positive and negative – but a higher proportion of disparaging comments is evident, including those related to their appearances. Though You Tube commented that “hateful or abusive” comments are not tolerated and are removed when flagged, the authors argue

that to improve how scientific information is conveyed to the public, more research is needed to address gender, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and physical ability. [Read more.](#)

Competing Scientists Plus a High-Stakes University Lab Equals Murder,

nytimes.com, July 18, 2018

Give Me Your Hand by Megan Abbott, a new novel, tells the story of Kit Owens, a postdoctoral scientist working in the competitive field of academic research. It examines women's friendships and rivalries in the context of Kit's predicament when her boss, also a woman, lands a significant grant to study a virulent form of PMS. Only two spots are open and Kit finds herself in competition with an old high school friend and rival, Diane. The story is complicated by the fact that Diane not only has contributed in the past to Kit's determination to succeed as a scientist but has provided Kit with a secret that she has never been able to reveal. What makes this book remarkable, according to the reviewer, is the author's "expert dissection of women's friendships and rivalries" portrayed here in a setting where women are defined by a male-dominated field. [Read more.](#)

Out of Prison, the 'Father of Gene Therapy' Faces a Harsh reality: A Tarnished Legacy and an Ankle Monitor,

statnewa.com, July 23, 2018

Dr. W. French Anderson, now on parole at age 81, was convicted in July 2006 of sexually molesting the daughter of the woman who ran Anderson's lab, a child he had mentored academically and in karate. Though Anderson claimed in the interview by Sharon Begley that he was innocent of the crime, he showed "remarkably little bitterness" according to the author. He was convinced that he would be freed on appeal and return to his USC lab, where he published 99 scientific papers in the decade prior to his conviction. Never released, he maintained a respected role during his years in prison and rehabilitation, from immersing himself in scientific readings, the study of law with a hope of supporting his legal appeals, and tutoring inmates who could not read. With little hope of returning to science, his wife's kitchen remains his lab and his hope for the future. [Read more.](#)

What Do We Do With the Science of Monstrous Men?,

slate.com, July 31, 2018

Daniel Engber examines whether "a man's monstrosity" can or should be separated from his science, referring to the case of Dr. W. French Anderson. He argues that Sharon Begley, in reporting on her interview with Anderson (above), fails to adequately address the horrifying details of this case and abusive acts against a young girl. Others, including Anderson's colleagues, have also used his "genius and strange temperament" to explain away the accusation that he raped a child. While maintaining his innocence in the face of a detailed tape recording by the girl describing her abuse and Anderson's confession to her about how "evil" he had been, Anderson explained to anyone who would listen that he was "the target of a vast conspiracy," according to the author. The real subject of Anderson's story, according Engber, is this: "[Anderson] is not scientist who ended up in prison; he's a child-molester who ended up in science." [Read more.](#)

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Nancy Hopkins, professor emerita at MIT, is being honored with Xconomy's 2018 Lifetime Achievement Award in recognition of her career in genetics and cancer biology research. An RFS Founding Board Member, she is also lauded for her groundbreaking work advocating for women in science in both academia and industry. In the early 1990s, she unknowingly started a movement for more gender diversity that would impact MIT and other university across the country. Wanting more lab space to allow her research group to study a new of field of zebrafish genetics, she use a tape measure to document the fact that male professors in more junior positions than hers had labs equal in size to hers and that fellow male senior professors had labs four times as large as hers. Hopkins cautions that efforts to monitor gender inequity is "a process that you have to keep doing until women are really seen as equal." [Read more.](#)

Academic Writes 270 Wikipedia Pages in a Year to get Female Scientists Noticed,
theguardian.com, July 24, 2018

Jess Wade, a postdoctoral researcher in the field of plastic electronics at Imperial College London's Blackett Laboratory, is determined to give visibility to every woman in science who has achieved something impressive. Her platform for these inspirational stories is Wikipedia and her goal is to engage women in science. Despite the many initiatives to get girls into science, none are evidence-based and none work, according to Wade. In addition to her Wikipedia entries, she has purchased and distributed up to 70 copies of the book *Inferior*, which scientifically examines claims of sex differences and gender stereotypes, and she regularly nominates other women for prizes. Ultimately, she hopes to "make science a better place for everyone working in it, which happens when we recognize the contributions of these awesome women." [Read more.](#)

More Women Are Said to Have Complained About Pimco's Former Risk Chief,
barrons.com, July 25, 2018

The Wall Street Journal reported that Bill de Leon, head of risk management at Pimco – the world's most powerful bond shop – left his position following an internal investigation into allegations that he inappropriately touched a colleague. Months earlier, he apologized for allegedly verbally abusing two women. As industries from entertainment to politics have faced the abuse of power by their mostly male leaders, this situation illustrates that the field of finance is coming into the fore. [Read more.](#)

ClassPass Raises \$85 Million in Latest Funding Round. Bloomberg.com, July 25, 2018

ClassPass, a woman-owned fitness subscription service, with Paya Kadakia as founder and CEO, has raised \$85 million for this New York-based startup. Since its launch in 2013, ClassPass launched in 10 new U.S. cities last fall and plans to expand into 20 new countries and another 10 domestic cities by the end of 2019. ClassPass, part of the annual \$80 billion global fitness and health club industry, offers a range of classes including yoga, Pilates, and cycling, among others. [Read more.](#)

GlaxoSmithKline is acquiring a \$300 Million Stake in 23andMe, fortune.com, July 25, 2018

GlaxoSmithKline is acquiring a \$300 Million stake in 23andMe, Inc., the genetic-testing company co-founded by Susan Wojcicki, CEO, in 2006. Based on a 4-year collaboration deal, the two organizations will tap genetic data to find new drug targets and better select patient for clinical trials. Hal Barron, a former executive at Genentech, a biotech firm, will lead a new strategy focusing on the immune system, genetics, and investment in advanced technologies. With a low probability for success among potential drugs, this initiative could be “transformational” in making the process more efficient, according to Emma Walmsley, CEO at GlaxoSmithKline. The two companies could also work on programs initiated by 23andMe in the areas of immunology, cancer heart disease skin disorders, and liver disease. [Read more.](#)

The Big Business of Being Gwyneth Paltrow, nytimes.com, July 25, 2018

Goop, a newsletter launched in 2008 by the former actress Gwyneth Paltrow and incorporated in 2013, has emerged into a “wellspring of both totally legitimate wellness tips and completely bonkers magical thinking” As of June 2018, there were 2.4 million unique monthly visitors to the site, according to Goop data. The presentation of Goop Health Wellness Summits, podcasts, Goop pop-up stores, and a magazine have expanded her mission. Goop has not been without its problems, however, with inquiries by the Council of Better Business Bureaus and TruthInAdvertising.org regarding possible deceptive marketing claims. With a lawyer to vet all claims and a new editor to run the magazine along with additional staff including a full-time fact checker, “the most controversial brand in the wellness industry” endures. [Read more.](#)

45 Gilliam Fellowships Support Students and Advisors Committed to Increasing Diversity in Science, hhmi.org, July 26, 2018

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, a member of the Rosalind Franklin Society’s Council of Academic Institutions, has awarded the Gilliam Fellowships for Advanced Study to 45 doctoral student-advisor pairs to support the development of their scientific leadership and commitment to advancing diversity and inclusion in the sciences. The annual award, totaling \$50,000, includes a stipend, a training allowance, and an institutional allowance for up to three years. A notable number of women were among the fellows selected. [Read more.](#)

Trump Finally Picks a Science Advisor – And People Are Delighted, the atlantic.com, August 1, 2018

Kelvin Droegmeier, an expert meteorologist, has been nominated to lead the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP). Unfilled since President Trump took office, the directorship is the closest to a Cabinet-level position in science that exists. Droegmeier, who is well-respected in his field, has “impeccable” scientific credentials which will be useful given that the country has just faced its costliest year of extreme weather events totaling \$306 billion. His political experience is also notable. He sat on the National Science Board under both Bush and Obama, for example. The challenge in the Trump administration, according to the author of this article, is that while many OSTP directors

have acted as a science director to the president though not a formally mandated part of the role, Trump may not seek such advice from Droegeimer. [Read more.](#)

Rosalind Franklin and the Damage of Gender Harassment, sciencemag.org, August 1, 2018

“Taken for Granted,” a monthly column by the scientific workforce expert Beryl Lieff Benderly, focused on Rosalind Franklin for its August publication. Prompted by the recent National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM) report addressing the prevalence of sexual harassment in university science, Benderly identified Franklin as the victim of “gender harassment.” According to the Report, this is the most prevalent form of sexual harassment in academic science, by far. Described as “disrespecting, demeaning, and deprecating women and their work abilities, and accomplishments simply because they are women,” gender harassment epitomized Franklin’s failure to receive credit from James Watson and Francis Crick for the celebrated Photo 51 which revealed the helical structure of DNA, according to Benderly. The column offers a compelling backstory to this omission and underscores that such gender harassment is pervasive today. [Read more.](#)

Women in Technology Announces 19th Annual Leadership Award Winners.

Businesswire.com, August 3, 2018

Eleven women were celebrated at the women in Technology (WIT) 19th Annual Leadership Awards ceremony on May 17, 2018 in Virginia. Among the winners was RFS Board Member, Lynnette Madsen, National Science Foundation. WIT is recognized as the premier organization contributing to the success of professional women in the technology community in the Washington, DC area. WIT’s president, Trish Barber, remarked that “Wit is able to inspire a conversation about what female leadership looks like and the impact women are having on their organizations.” [Read more.](#)

A Scientist is Leveling the Playing Field, One Load of Laundry at a Time, acsh.org, March 8, 2018

Dr. Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard, a leader in the field of developmental biology and a 1995 Nobel Laureate, plays a unique role in promoting women in science beyond her significant scientific achievements. In 2004, she started a foundation in her name to “level the playing field” for women in science by helping them create a work-life balance. German female graduate students or postdoctoral fellows with one or more children may apply for a year-long grant to provide financial assistance for either household chores, purchase of appliances such as a dishwasher or washing machine, and/or additional childcare. [Read more.](#)

RCSA Names 24 Cottrell Scholars for 2018, rescorp.org, February 12, 2018

Research Corporation for Science Advancement (RCSA) has named 24 top early career academic scientists for 2018, each receiving a \$100,000 award for teaching. Selection is based on a stringent peer-review process based on innovative research proposals and education programs. This year, women received a quarter of the chemistry, physics, and astronomy awards. [Read more.](#)