



K **W** *i* **S** **E**

NEWS LETTER

Korean-American
Women *in*
Science and Engineering

Spring 2007 ● No. 3



GREETINGS



Now in its third year of inception, Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering (KWiSE) continued to bring Korean women professionals in science and engineering (S&E) together from all over the United States. By mediating effective networking with peers in various fields, providing mentorship for the Young Generation, and creating exemplary footsteps for the future organization, KWiSE has distinguished itself as a spokesperson and an educator for Korean-American women at the forefront of S&E in the US. We hope to expand benefits for Korean-American women working in S&E and bring about a substantial increase in its number through KWiSE. We will continue to offer our community, as well as KWiSE members, opportunities to participate in the career development seminars and scientific symposiums, and to find mentors.

During the past year (May 2006 ~ April 2007), KWiSE took part in numerous activities and events. Several meetings such as the three career development seminars in San Diego, the 1st LA regional meeting, the KUSCO/KSEA-SD/KWiSE Science Park Symposium 2006, and the 2nd KWiSE meeting at NIH were all held during this period. KWiSE also celebrated its second year anniversary with members and invited guests. Another important achievement this year has been the successful initiation of the KWiSE Database project. The first term of this nationwide database construction project was fully supported by the Korean Federation of Science and Technology (KOFST). In addition, KWiSE volunteered in the KSEA-SD and SC National Math Competitions (NMC), and presented the KWiSE Awards to the top-scoring girl students (9th-11th grade). KWiSE also participated in organizing both national and international conferences including the Women in Life Science (WLS) session at the KSEA-SC Annual Conference, and the WiSE forum at UKC 2006.

We appreciate very much your great contributions to the 2006 KWiSE activities, and look forward to your continued participation and support in coming years.

Best Regards,
Gye Won Han, KWiSE president

KW/SE MEETINGS

1st KWiSE LA Region Meeting

- Los Angeles, CA, April 27, 2006



The 1st KWiSE meeting in Los Angeles was held at the Oxford Palace Hotel with the invited presentation by Dr. Kwang Hwa Chung, a distinguished scientist and President of Korea Research Institute of Standards and Science (KRISS). Dr. Chung has been an example of a successful woman scientist who makes differences in the scientific progress. That night, she spoke under the title "Introduction of KRISS and Government Efforts for Women Scientists and Engineers in Korea". Dr. Chung generously shared her tips on how to stay sought-after and keep up with our male counterparts in the competitive scientific community. A total of 26 people from various local institutes including NASA/JPL, Caltech,

Boeing, USC, UCI and USDA/NRCS participated in the meeting. At the end of the night, numerous donations for KWiSE were made by individuals at KWiSE-LA and the Korean Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA). The Korea-U.S Science Cooperation Center (KUSCO) also donated to enhance the communication between the local chapter of KSEA and KWiSE in the LA area. [by Haejung An, Ph.D.(USC)]

6th Meeting, Career Development Seminar I

- La Jolla, CA, July 8, 2006

The 6th KWiSE meeting took place at The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI). The meeting began with one minute silent tribute in memory of the late Dr. Jaewon Han who was an excellent scientist, as well as a dedicated member of KSEA. During the first part of the meeting, Dr. Haejung An was welcome as the new vice-president, which had been unanimously decided by the KWiSE board of directors (BOD). Subsequently, Dr. Jane Oh, the R&D principal investigator and senior engineer at NASA/JPL, gave a presentation titled “Working on the Government Research Lab”. Dr. Oh introduced her research in “Early Detection Research Network (EDRN) Informatics for Cancer Biomarker Studies” and shared her personal experience as a working mother. During her talk, she emphasized how her “I-can-do-it” mindset brought her to where she was and gave us a take-home message, “be competent and always show more than 100% of what’s expected”. [by So-Hye Cho, Ph.D. (TSRI)]



7th Meeting, KWiSE 2nd Year Anniversary Meeting

- La Jolla, CA, December 9, 2006



The 7th KWiSE meeting was held at TSRI under the theme of “Health and Nutrition”, on the occasion of KWiSE 2nd anniversary. The KWiSE president, Dr. Gye Won Han remarked on the recent KWiSE activities and progresses and reiterated its missions and future plans including Korean Women Scientists’ Database project funded by KOFST. KSEA-SD

Young Generation president Sophia Jeong presented on the Professional Mentor-Mentee Program and asked for advice and support. The first presentation of the Health and Nutrition seminar was delivered by Dr. Chunli Cui, Doctor. During her talk titled “Women's Health and Oriental Medicine”, she first covered the basic concepts of organism as a whole but went on to include more focused case studies in gynecology. She concluded by suggesting some tips for maintaining healthier body and emphasized the importance of living a happy and healthy life in a stressful modern society. Prof. Haejung An, from USC School of Pharmacy, presented next, on “Keeping Good Health by Practicing Good Nutrition”. She familiarized the audience with the components of food, and highlighted the characteristics and importance of carbohydrates, proteins and lipids in our diet. In particular, Prof. An strongly advised avoiding food of high glycemic index and trans-fat contents. At the end of the seminar, Dr. Yeon-Hee Lim was awarded the KOSEN award for her dedicated service for KWiSE throughout the year. [by Ms.Dong-In Koo (TSRI)]

KWiSE-NIH 2nd Meeting

- Rockville, MD, December 16, 2006



The 2nd KWiSE meeting at NIH took place at the Sam Woo restaurant at Rockville, MD. Many women scientists from NIH, including Dr. Sooja Kim, a KWiSE advisory committee, Drs. Hee-Yong Kim and Myung Hee Park, KWiSE councilors, attended and showed their passion for networking and the growth of Korean-American women in the field of science and engineering. During the first part of the meeting, Dr. Gye Won Han presented the annual report of KWiSE activities and future plans. She also acquainted the audience with the recent affiliation between KWiSE and BRIC (Biological Research

Information Center) and then introduced the KWiSE Database project funded by KOFST. As the 2nd part of the meeting, Dr. So-Hye Cho covered the current status of the database project. The size of the database obtained to date, and the statistics categorized by region, education, occupation, and work-place were discussed. The meeting was followed by a discussion on how to bring more people to KWiSE. Drs. Sooja Kim and Hee-Yong Kim pointed out that there were still many possible members in NIH and that it would be essential to recruit them by building an effective communication system within NIH. In accordance with the previous comments, Drs. Hyun-Joo Yoon and Heejong Sung were elected as academic relation officers at NIH and they have since taken charge of building a stronger network among NIH Korean-American women scientists. *[by So-Hye Cho, Ph.D.(TSRI)]*

8th Meeting, Career Development Seminar II

- La Jolla, CA, February 27, 2007

In the 8th KWiSE meeting held at TSRI, Dr. Young Sook Yoo, Director of the Life Science Division at Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST) and a President of Women's Bio Forum (WBF) in Korea, was invited as a presenter. Dr Yoo first introduced the organization, goals and collaborations of KIST and then spoke about activities at WBF. She also offered a glimpse of her own research project which involved bio-analytical system biology



for cell signaling. She ended her talk with a brief outline of history, missions, activities and future plans of WBF. During the general meeting of KWiSE which followed the seminar, Dr. Gye Won Han showed her appreciation to Ms. Youngmi Park and Kyungah Roh for their dedicated effort to bring the 1st term of the Korean Women Scientists' Database project successful. Subsequently, Dr. Yoo and Dr. Han signed and exchanged the Memorandum of Understanding between WBF and KWiSE, and looked forward to a solid alliance between the two organizations. *[by Ms. Dong-In Koo (TSRI)]*

CONFERENCES

Women in Science & Engineering (WiSE) Symposium at UKC 2006 New York

- New York, August 10-12th, 2006

The WiSE symposium at UKC 2006 was organized into two parts: Women in Advanced Materials & Technology [co-chairs: Prof. Kyung-Hwa Yoo (Yonsei Univ.) and Dr. Hye Jin Lee (UC Irvine)] and Women in Bio-Science & Technology [co-chairs: Dr. Myung Hee Park (NIH) and Dr. Young Sook Yoo (KIST)]. In addition to the symposium, KWiSE also organized the WiSE Forum which consists of two parts - a panel presentation by six distinguished Korean women scientists (Dr. Kwang Hwa Chung (KRISS), Prof. Chong S. P.



Sung (University of Connecticut), Prof. Myunghee Cho Paik (Columbia University), Dr. Mimi Kim (Albert Einstein College of Medicine), Dr. Esther Yang (Abbott laboratory), and Dr. Sooja Kim (NIH), followed by a roundtable discussion. KWiSE President, Dr. Gye Won Han (TSRI), and co-chairs, Drs. Sooja Kim (NIH) and Kwang Hwa Chung (KRISS), opened the forum by welcoming the 25 professionals from different scientific disciplines, including academic and government administrators, leaders of corporations, faculty, and researchers. The speakers presented various challenging issues impacting women scientists, ranging from the educational/professional pipeline and unconscious bias, to balancing family and work with the purpose of empowering the current and new generations of talented women to assume a leadership role in science and technology and how they might achieve sustainable professional development. During the roundtable discussion, moderated by Dr. Sooja Kim (NIH), the participants shared their own experiences, failures, successes, and views, and discussed interesting and thought-provoking issues affecting women at various stages of their careers. [by Arianna Kim, Ph.D. (Columbia Univ.)]

KUSCO/KSEA-SD/KWiSE Science Park Symposium

- La Jolla, CA, November 11, 2006



The Science Park Symposium co-hosted by KUSCO, KSEA-SD, and KWiSE was held in the Keck Amphitheater in TSRI. By the efforts of the 19 organising committee members, the symposium was arranged into five main sessions for 20 distinguished speakers. The topics covered Structural & Molecular Biology, Cell Biology,

Neuroscience, and Chemistry & Chemical Biology, and included company presentations from LG life science from Korea and SoftMax in San Diego. Over 100 participants enjoyed the daylong symposium that closed with a wonderful banquet and KSEA-SD subchapter meeting. A surprise acapella performance by a group of UCSD students during the banquet made the evening even more enjoyable and provided a pleasant environ for everyone in the Beckmann building. [by Dae Hee Kim, Ph.D. (TSRI)]

KSEA-SC Annual Conference - WLS session

- Pasadena, CA, February 19, 2007

KWiSE participated on the 17th Annual Technology Conference at South-Western Region organized by KSEA-SC Chapter in February this year. Dr. Gye Won Han, KWiSE president, and Dr. Haejung An, vice-president, co-chaired the Women in Life Science (WLS) session, as one of parallel technical sessions. Drs. Eunbyul Sou (USC), Jean-Pyo Lee (Burnham Institute), Youngleem Kim (Children's Hospital in LA), and Susie Park (USC) presented their recent research work during the session. KWiSE welcome 12 women scientists at Southern California who enrolled for the KWiSE membership at the conference. (by Gye Won Han, Ph.D. (TSRI))

[Photo description : Dr. Esther Yang (Abbott Lab.) giving an invited speech at Bio Venture forum]



COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KSEA-SD/SC, National Math & Science Contests (NMSC)

KWiSE presented KWiSE awards in the KSEA NMSC held on April 21st, 2007.

The KWiSE-SD NMC awardees are:

- Jenny Byun (Rancho Bernardo High Sch., 9th)
- Jae Rho (Torrey Pines High Sch., 10th)

KSEA-SC NMC awardees are:

- Yoon Hyung Lee (Crescenta Valley High Sch., 9th)
- Euna Park (Arcadia High Sch., 10th)
- Ashley Ahn (Fairmont Preparatory Academy, 11th)

[Photo description : From left, Dr. So-Hye Cho, Dr. Yeon Hee Lim, Jae Rho, Jenny Byun and Dr. Gye Won Han after presenting the KWiSE Award at the KSEA-SD NMSC]



KSEA-SD, Career Mentor Program

KWiSE members support the Professional Mentorship Program, which is organized by the KSEA-YG, UCSD (<http://ksea-yg.ucsd.edu/>). The Professional Mentorship Program is also supported by the KSEA members.

If you are interested in becoming a professional mentor, please submit your application to the professional liaison for the program, Sophia Jeong or Joanne Lee during a KSEA event or email to sophiajeong@gmail.com or ksea.yg@gmail.com for more information or applications.

MEMBER NEWS

- Dr. *Myung-Shin Jeon*, a research scientist at the La Jolla Institute of Allergy and Immunology, has left to Korea to start a research professor position at the Catholic University of Korea, Dermato-Immunology Department in Oct. 2006.
- Dr. *Yang Mi Lim*, a postdoctoral fellow at TSRI, Immunology, left to Korea to start a position at the Green Cross in Oct. 2006.
- Dr. *Ji Young Suk*, a postdoctoral fellow at TSRI, Chemistry, has left to Merck in Boston to start a position as a scientist.
- Dr. *Sohye Kang*, a postdoctoral fellow at TSRI, Molecular & Experimental Medicine, has left to Amgen in Thousand Oaks near LA to start a position as a scientist.

Congratulations

KWiSE congratulates:

- Dr. *Sohyun Ahn* (NIH) for winning the 2006 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE) in July, 2006.
- Dr. *Jean-Pyo Lee* (Burnham Institute) on her publication in *Nature Medicine* in March, 2007 (*Nature Medicine*, 2007, 13, 439).
- Dr. *Yeon-Hee Lim* (TSRI) for winning the competition for the cover of the TSRI 2006 Scientific Report in January, 2007.
- Dr. *So-Hye Cho* (TRSI) for having been selected for the Faculty for the Future award in April, 2007. The Faculty for the Future program supports women scientists and is run by the Schlumberger Foundation.

FUTURE EVENTS

WiSE Forum at the UKC2007 at Washington D.C.

KWiSE will organize a WiSE Forum at the U.S.-Korea Conference, August 9, 2007, 3-6 pm, Washington D.C. The title of the WiSE forum is "Facing Challenges in Science and Engineering". Sixteen women scientists and engineers from US and Korea are invited, and their experience and challenges as a being women scientist and engineer will be discussed. We will also discuss how they have overcome those challenges. The forum will start at 3pm with the short presentations from the invited speakers. After the presentation, panel discussion will follow till 6pm (http://www.ksea.org/ukc2007/call_wise.html).

Following the forum, the WiSE networking dinner, supported by KSEA and KUSCO, will be also organized by KWiSE. We look forward to seeing you many of us there.



THANKS TO

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KUSCO the Korea-U.S. Science Cooperation Center



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