

KWiSE-KOFWST Women's Forum










Co-chairs: Dr. Hey-Kyoung Lee (KWiSE president) & Dr. Myeong-Hee Yu (KOFWST president)

Friday, August 16, 2019

August 16 Friday, 4:00-6:00 PM, Room: Grand Ballroom G

Forum: The Role of Women in STEM, Education, and Policy for the 4th Industrial Revolution

Chair: Dr. Hey-Kyoung Lee (KWiSE, Johns Hopkins University) and Dr. Myeong-Hee Yu (KOFWST, KIST)

4:00 PM	Title: Introduction Dr. Hey-Kyoung Lee (KWiSE) and Dr. Myeong-Hee Yu (KOFWST)	 
4:10 PM	Title: Inclusive STEM Classroom Dr. Myongsook Oh (WiSET, Hongik University)	
4:25 PM	Title: The Future is Female Dr. Elizabeth Quinlan (University of Maryland)	
4:40 PM	Title: Making money from your intellectual property Junhwan Chang (Chang Law Group, P.C.)	
4:55 PM	Title: More knowing, more doing: Challenges to women scientists in academia Dr. Hee-Jung Chung (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign)	
5:10 PM	Panel Discussion Panelists: Dr. MiHye Kim (Chungbuk National University) Dr. In-Sun Lee (DGFEZ) Dr. Jayoung Kim (Cedars-Sinai Medical Center, UCLA)	Dr. Suk Kyoeng Lee (The Catholic University of Korea)  Dr. Dong-Yun Kim (NLHBI, NIH)  

Objective:

Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering (KWiSE) and Korea Federation of Women's Science & Technology (KOFWST) cordially invite you to the Women's Forum entitled "The Role of Women in STEM, Education, and Policy for the 4th Industrial Revolution." This forum is open to both genders, and its goal is to exchange ideas on how to promote and empower women scientists in the various STEM fields, and to share information on education and policy needed for this process. KWiSE-KOFWST forum will provide an environment for open discussion and nurturing of partnerships and friendships. The forum is designed to be an interactive and engaging event to foster networking and mentoring among the attendees. It will be an excellent opportunity to learn and get inspiration from each other in order to allow women scientists and engineers to engage effectively as leaders and active participants in the 4th Industrial Revolution.

Highlights of presentations:

The forum started by brief introduction of KWiSE by Dr. Hey-Kyoung Lee (KWiSE president) and KOFWST by Dr. Myeong-Hee Yu (KOFWST president). The first speaker was Dr. Myoungsook Oh (WiSET president, Hongik University), who talked about challenges and strategies to provide a more inclusive STEM education. Her main point was focused on how to encourage female in male-dominated STEM education. She explained that we need to avoid male-oriented curriculum, which can alienate female students. One way to achieve this is to put the emphasis on social relevance of engineering solutions, which taps into the innate emphasis women put on social values. In addition, early exposure to STEM disciplines was pointed out as key, as well as putting effort on designing gender inclusive content in class syllabus. Arranging student forum that allows male and female students to exchange their own perspectives on gender issues was pointed out as one idea to promote diversity. The second speaker, Dr. Elizabeth Quinlan (University of Maryland), unfortunately had to cancel her talk due to a family emergency. The third speaker was Attorney Junhwan Chang (Chang Law Group), who talked about how to invest in intellectual property (IP). One of the points brought up was that scientists, especially women scientists, are not well informed of profitability of IP investment. He suggested that starting investment on IP that is close to one's research area is likely a good strategy. The fourth speaker was Dr. Hee-Jung Chung (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign). She provided lists of challenges faced by women in STEM in academia. Promotion gap, disproportionate time spend on various service activities, unconscious biases, and difficulty in balancing work & family were pointed out as major hurdles that negatively impact promotion and career advancement of STEM women faculty in academia. Dr. Chung discussed a few potential solutions to overcome these challenges, which ranged from raising awareness of disproportionate service burden, responding to negative stereotypes in an objective and professional manner, actively promoting one's own research, and gaining help from partner/family that can help maximize work efficiency. The talks were followed by a panel discussion, which were mediated by Dr. MiHye Kim (Chungbuk National University) and Dr. Suk Kyoeng Lee (Catholic University of Korea). Dr. In-Sun Lee (Commissioner of DGFEZ) shared her experience that led to various leadership positions, and how she managed her demanding career by focusing on networking and building relationships that can mutually benefit each other. She also emphasized that women can use their emotions to engage others effectively in group settings. Dr. Dong-Yun Kim (NIH) emphasized effective communication across all fronts as key to success. Dr. Jayoung Kim (Cedar-Sinai Medical Center, UCLA) shared her view how venues such as this forum allows women scientists to gain comfort and support from each other.

Items identified for next “important” research:

Clearly there are challenges at multiple levels that need effective management in order for women in STEM to advance in their career path to be leaders in their fields. This has to happen across multiple fronts ranging from education, mentoring, raising awareness in work places as well as in society. The greatest challenge is figuring out how to break innate negative biases set against women in STEM fields, which would require continuing discussions that can lead to creative solutions.

Photos:

