

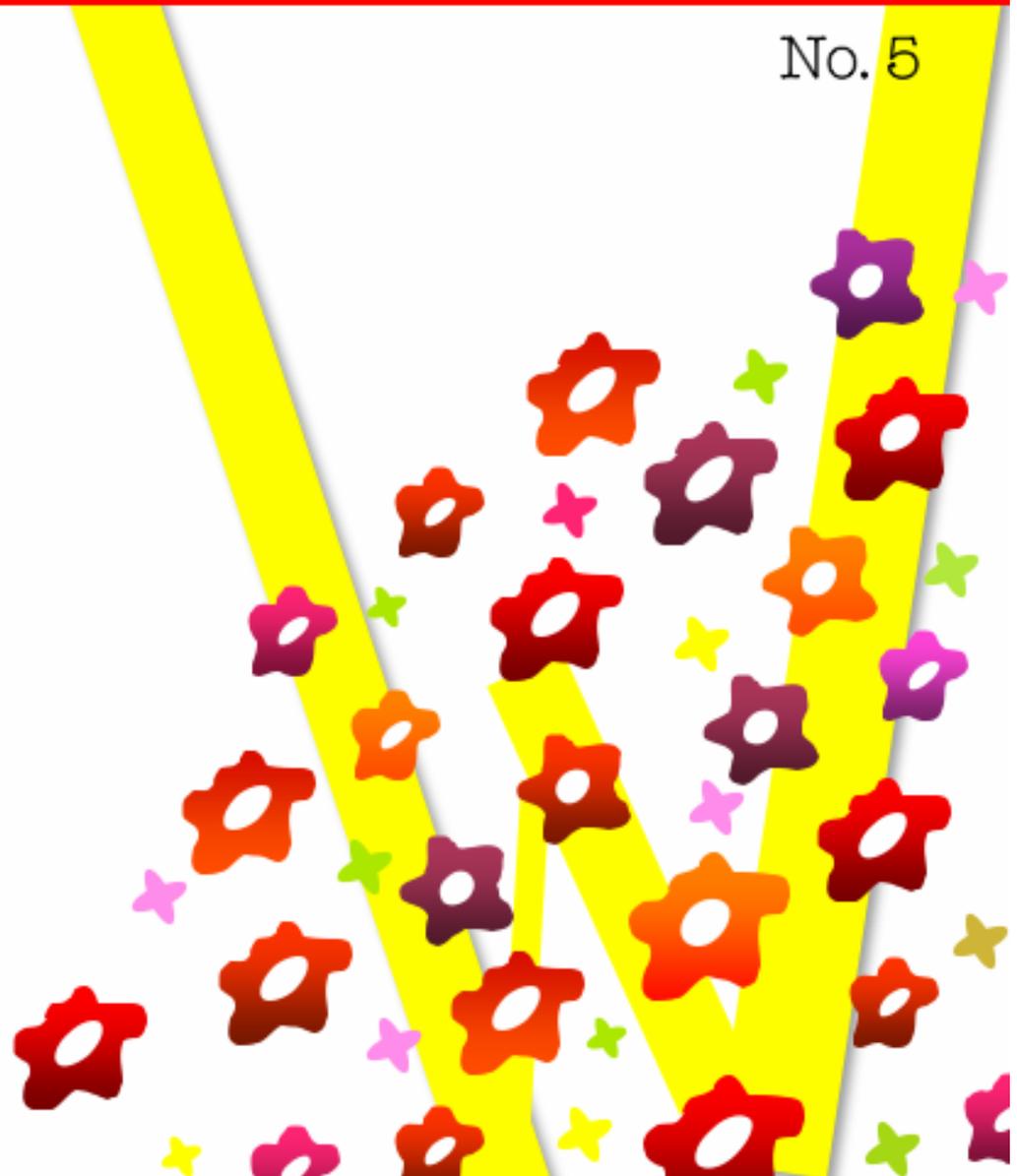
KOREAN-AMERICAN
WOMEN IN
SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

KWiSE

News Letter

No. 5

Spring 2009



PRESIDENT'S REMARK



Congratulations on the 2009 KWiSE Newsletter! This is the fifth issue of the newsletter. With each successive newsletter that is released, we are pleased to report that KWiSE membership continues to grow. According to the 2008 KWiSE DB project, we now have a total of 350 KWiSE members' profiles. This project was carried out from April to December of 2008 with a full support from the Korean Federation of Science and Technology (KOFST). The member demographic summary shows 145 members (41%) in the east, 131 (37%) in the west, 45 (13%) in the south, and 29 (8%) in the mid-west region. Most of the members are working in the research laboratories either in academia (195 members, 56%) or industry (41 members, 12%). Within the members, there are 272 doctors (78%), 33 masters (9%) and 45 undergraduate and graduate students (13%). (<http://www.kwise.org/kofst/statistics08.html>)

Announcement of the 2009 KWiSE Database Project: We will continue to carry out the 2009 KWiSE DB project (4th term) from June to December of 2009. We believe that there are still many potential members whom we have not been able to reach. We also hope to get all the existing members' contributions to the success of the project. The DB will continue to play a major role in networking Korean-American women scientists and engineers with information- and resource-sharing. Special thanks to the KWiSE Chapter Presidents - Drs. Sanghee Yoo, Haejung An, Youngjin Park, Hee-Yong Kim - as well as KWiSE DB managers - Dr. Julie Yoo and Ms. Mona Kim - (kwiseDB@gmail.com) for their dedicated efforts on the KWiSE DB projects. Thank you for your interest and participation in the KWiSE activities.

KWiSE Won 2008 Amore Pacific Award

We are very pleased to announce that KWiSE received the 2008 Amore Pacific Award—GROUP DEVELOPMENT AWARD (단체진흥상) from KOFST/Amore Pacific on October 29, 2008, at the International Convergence Meeting of Korean Federation of Women in Science and Technology (KOFWST), held at Hoam Faculty Club, Seoul, Korea. This award was given to KWiSE in recognition for its pivotal role as a professional network for women scientists and engineers in the US as well as in Korea and its endeavor to promote further development of such relationship worldwide. President Gye Won Han and Professor Arianna Kim attended the ceremony, and President Han gave a short presentation on the progress and current challenges of KWiSE during the general session. Drs. Han and Kim also gave invited talks in the scientific session. Dr. Han's talk was titled "High-throughput Approaches from Gene to Structures," while Dr. Kim spoke on "Survival Signaling as Targets for Skin Cancer Chemoprevention." KWiSE appreciates the generous support of KSEA and KUSCO, and especially its own members for the time and effort they have dedicated to developing KWiSE.



2008 KWiSE Woman Scientist Award

KWiSE presented the 2008 KWiSE Woman Scientist Award to Dr. Hee-Yong Kim (NIH/NIAAA) for her outstanding contribution to the advancement in science and engineering disciplines and the establishment of KWiSE. Following the ceremony, Dr. Kim gave an award talk regarding her research as well as providing her advice to women scientists. She eloquently articulated, under any circumstances, to be confident in your ability, grateful, responsible and to never give up anything that is dear to your heart. She also pointed out the importance of building constructive network with one's colleagues. This was held during the WiSE Networking Dinner at the UKC 2008, San Diego, CA, on August 14, 2008.

[Drs. Hee-Yong Kim (left) & Gye Won Han (right)]



KWiSE 2nd West Coast Meeting: Becoming the 21st Century Leaders

- Los Angeles, CA, June 14, 2008

The meeting was opened by Dr. Gye Won Han (KWiSE President) sharing the growth and future plans of KWiSE. After the introduction of participants, and the report of Ms. Mona Kim on the KWiSE Database Project's aim for professional networking, Instructor Karen Watai at Leadership Education for Asian Pacifics, Inc. (LEAP) led a workshop on "The 21st Century Leader: Surviving and Thriving in the 3rd Millennium." The workshop challenged attendees to realize the wide gap and incongruity between the concept of a leader and the cultural behavior of Korean American women at their work, and encouraged audiences to practice the characteristics of a strong leader.

It was an honor to begin the afternoon session with a welcoming remark by Director Jong-Hyun Rhie (KUSCO). Five speakers presented various aspects on how women in science and engineering fields can develop career skills to be a prominent leader: Dr. Jane Oh (NASA) about 4-dimensional assessments of one's own character, and 8-dimensional behaviors of managing co-workers and employees to create a successful team; Dr. Sue and Jay Chung (Tayco Engineering) about their wisdom and 'secret' to "It's a Wonderful Life," with emphasis on harmony between husbands and wives and being a success-oriented peacemaker at a workplace; Dr. Min Hui Kang (USC, CHLA) about establishing a strong mentor-mentee relationship in addition to various tools to become a successful mentor; Dr. Myung Hee Choi (General Atomics) about her personal struggles in balancing career ambition and familial duties; lastly, Dr. Haekyung Lee (iTherx, Inc.) about challenges and rewards in working for a biotech, and the pros and cons between industry and academic careers. [by Ms. Sophia Jeong]



Women in Science & Engineering (WiSE) Forum at UKC 2008: Mentorship

- San Diego, CA, August 16, 2008

KWiSE held the 2008 WiSE forum on August 16, 3-6pm, during the UKC 2008. The theme of the WiSE forum was “Step Forward in Science and Engineering for a Better World by Achieving Excellence through Mentorship.” Seven speakers from around the world gave excellent speeches.

After a welcoming remark by Dr. Gye Won Han (TSRI, KWiSE President), Dr. Sooja Kim (NIH) introduced Dr. Teresa Davis from the Department of Pediatrics at the Baylor College of Medicine. Dr. Davis described how mentorship can fill the large void of women as leaders in the medical field. In the second presentation, Dr. Joanne Kwak-Kim of the Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science/The Chicago Medical School emphasized that mentoring for students was essential. The third presentation was given by Dr. Roberta Gottlieb from the BioScience Center, San Diego State University, in which she shared some of her personal wisdom from her experience with the main point that a person should always think of oneself while working hard. The next talk, “Benefits of Effective Mentoring - A Case at the Defense Contract Management Agency,” was presented by Dr. Moonja Kim from the Defense Contract Management Agency. Dr. Kim talked about her own experience of having excellent mentors throughout her career and the benefits of effective mentoring.

Afterwards, the forum held three talks from Korea: Dr. Kong-Joo Lee from Ewha Woman’s University with a presentation titled “The Past, Present and Future of Korean Women in Science and Technology,”; Dr. Heisook Lee, also from Ewha Woman’s University, with a presentation titled “Extending Social Role and Enhancing Women’s Leadership in Science and Engineering by Participating in Girls’ Science Education Programs,”; and Dr. Jiyoung Kim of Kyung Hee University about “Activities of Women’s Science and Technology Associations in Korea.” Lastly, Dr. Sooja Kim held a short panel discussion on the topics and cases that were considered in the presentations. The forum was wrapped up with a photo and networking session. [by Ms. Mona Kim]



KWiSE 2nd East Coast Symposium - KWiSE-NIH 4th Meeting: Science & Career Forum

- Bethesda, MD, June 21, 2008



The fourth science and career forum of KWiSE-NIH at NIAAA, NIH was well received by 42 attendants. The forum provided various programs such as scientific sessions, career advice panel discussion with young investigators, technological mini-talks, and a round table discussion with senior investigators.

The symposium started with a welcoming remark by Dr. Hee-Yong Kim (KWiSE-NIH Chapter President) and the introduction of Dr. Barbara Larsen at DuPont. Dr. Larsen gave a plenary lecture on current major projects at DuPont as well as topics such as becoming a senior scientist, obstacles as a woman scientist, and advantages and disadvantages of working in academia versus industry. She concluded her speech with a remark, “No Such Thing as a Superwoman,” emphasizing the importance of seeking help when needed. During the scientific session chaired by Dr. Min-Jung Lee (NCI), Dr. Hyeseon Cho (NIAID) described the role of Heterotrimeric G protein signaling in cell division. In addition, Dr. Mi Hye Song (NIDDK) lectured about proteins involved in centrosome formation, while Dr. Eun Young Choi (NCI) illustrated the role of Del-1 for leukocyte infiltrating regulation in lung. The first panel discussion on advice for job search was chaired by Dr. Sohyoung Kim (NCI). Three enthusiastic panels, Drs. Cheol Yong Choi (Sungkyunkwan Univ.), Jaehwa Choi (George Washington Univ.), and Sean Bong Lee (NIDDK), gave the attendants strategies for successful job interviews in different environments such as Korea vs. US, and government vs. academia. Also, they emphasized the importance of publications and seeking advice from senior scientists.

The afternoon session, chaired by Dr. Dong-Mi Shin (NIAID), commenced with Dr. Tae-Young Roh (NHLBI)’s talk about “the Next-generation” Solexa technology in large-scale sequencing. In the final session chaired by Dr. Hye-Jung Chung (NCI), Drs. Sooja Kim (CSR), Myung Hee Park (NIDCR), Mira Jung (Georgetown Univ.), and Hee-Yong Kim (NIAAA) gave their advices on living as women scientists. Moreover, they urged young women scientists to become role models themselves. [by Dr. Hee-Yong Kim.(NIH/NIAAA)]

KWiSE 4th Year Anniversary Meeting: Visa Options for Foreign Workers

- La Jolla, CA, November 15, 2008

KWiSE 4th Year annual meeting started with a welcoming address by Dr. Sanghee Yoo (KWiSE-SD Chapter President). Afterwards, Dr. Gye Won Han (KWiSE President) narrated the history of KWiSE with the great news of Amore Pacific Award, and Dr. Jin Young Kim gave an update of 2008 KWiSE budget. Dr. Sanghee Yoo also presented appreciation awards to Dr. Gye Won Han, Dr. Jin Young Kim, and Ms. Dong-In Koo, in recognition of their exceptional efforts, dedication and contribution to KWiSE over the years.



The highlight of the meeting was a talk on “Visa Options for Foreign Workers” by Ms. In Soon Song, J.D., Esq. KWiSE presented a special appreciation award to her for the extremely informative seminar about the pros and cons of the various options for legal resident status that are available to foreigners, more specifically for Korean scientists and engineers, including Optional Practical Training (OPT), different types of visas (J, H, O and E), and permanent residency. [by Ms. Eun Kyung Joanne Lee]

KSEA-SD/KWiSE Science Park Symposium

- La Jolla, CA, December 6, 2008

The symposium at TSRI was co-organized by the KSEA-SD and the KWiSE, and co-chaired by Drs. Youngwhan Kwon (KSEA-SD President), Gye Won Han (KWiSE President), and



Sanghee Yoo (KWiSE-SD Chapter President). There were four concurrent sessions: Structural Biology, Immunology/Chemical Genetics, Drug discovery, and Neuroscience/Stem Cell/Vascular session, with about 70 participants.

In the first Structural Biology session chaired by Dr. Sung-Hun Bae (TSRI), speakers provided in-depth insight on X-ray crystallography and Nuclear Magnetic Resonance (NMR) Spectroscopy: Dr. Gye Won Han on the overview of the highly automated structure determination process conducted at the Joint Center for Structural Genomics and other structural genomics centers; Dr. Chul Won Lee on the background and application of NMR spectroscopy to the studies of molecular interaction using p53 and CBP/p300 interaction model; and Dr. Young-Tae Lee for a systematic comparison of X-ray crystallography to NMR spectroscopy.

The Immunology/Chemical Genetics session chaired by Dr. Kwangmi Kim (TSRI) consisted of topics on recent progresses in mucosal and T-cell immunology combined with chemical genetics approach. Dr. Inkyu Hwang (TSRI) described a systematic chemical genetics approach to explore mechanisms for a T-cell receptor-mediated integrin activation. Next, Dr. Seung-Woo Lee (LIAI) presented recent advances in mucosal immunology, focusing on intestinal immune homeostasis and the role of T-cell responses. Finally, Dr. Jongdae Lee (UCSD) explained the epithelial barrier function in intestinal inflammation with data providing a role of STAT3 polymorphism in the pathogenesis of IBD.

The Drug Discovery session chaired by Dr. Sanghee Yoo (Vertex Pharm.) began with Professor Sang Won Kang (Ewha Womans Univ.) introducing therapeutic target identification/validation for vascular disease using 2-D fluorescence differential gel electrophoresis and mass spectrometry in balloon-injured rat carotid arteries. Then, Dr Byung Doo Song (Fabrus) talked about the high-throughput antibody production of combinatorial libraries of functionally active antibody fragments followed by the screening the libraries against targets of interest using cell-based assays. Dr. Bumsup Lee (Takeda) lastly presented an overview of the current trends for drug development of metabolic diseases.

The Neuroscience/Stem Cell/Vascular Biology session, chaired by Dr Chang Sung Kim (Burnham Research Inst.), introduced three scientists at Burnham Research Institute; Dr. Sungyoung Lee talked about VEGF-mediated endothelial cell signaling by either paracrine or autocrine effects; Dr. Rena Baek explained AAV-mediated gene therapy in a mouse model of GM1 Gangliosidosis; Professor Jung-Joon Sung (Seoul National Univ. and Visiting Professor) lectured on pathogenic mechanism and therapeutic implication of Amyotrophic Lateral Sclerosis (ALS). [by Ms. Chaim Diana Jeong]

KWiSE-RTP 2nd Meeting: 2008 Year-End Meeting

- Cary, NC, December 5, 2008

The KWiSE-RTP (Research Triangle Park) successfully conducted its year-end meeting on Friday December 5, gathering 13 women from diverse fields. This gave opportunities for local Korean American Women professionals to share their visions, ideas and knowledge, and to encourage and support each other.

Professor Youngmi Jung of Duke University talked about how to balance work and family life, and how to build a productive relationship with advisors and managers. Drs. Esther Kim and Jiyoung Park served as panelists to further comment on their experiences at work. [by Dr. Youngjin Park (SAS)]



COMMUNITY OUTREACH



KWiSE-SD, KWiSE-LA and KWiSE-RTP presented KWiSE AWARDS to the top scoring high school girls at the 2009 KSEA National Math & Science competition (KSEA NMSC) on April 18, 2009. Congratulations to the recipients!

[Photo description: Julie Ko, Eun Bin Go, Jisun Lee & Dr. Sora Cho (KWiSE-LA) (top left to right); Jaena Han, Yejin Byun, Dr. Sanghee Yoo (KWiSE-SD); Yon-Soo Lee, Drs. Youngjin Park & Sung Woo Kim, Yon-Soo Lee, & Jongmin La (KWiSE-RTP) (bottom left to right)]

MEMBER NEWS

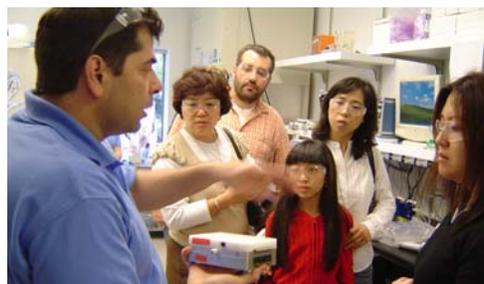
- Dr. Seung Hee Han at SIO returned to Korea in August, 2008 for her faculty position at GIST.
- Dr. So-Hye Cho (former KWiSE Executive Director) at TSRI left to KIST, Korea in February, 2009.
- Dr. Jiyoung Suk at Merck in Boston started a new position at Vertex Pharm. in San Diego from April, 2009.
- Dr. Hana Kim at Rockefeller Univ. has moved to SNU as a research faculty in May, 2009.
- Dr. Jin Young Kim (former KWiSE-HQ Treasurer) at TSRI returned to KBSI in OChang, Korea in June, 2009.

CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

- *KWiSE-SD*



Luncheon with a new faculty at Burnham on February 18, 2009: Korean women researchers and Dr. Sunyoung Lee, a new and the first Korean faculty at Burnham got together for luncheon. Dr. Lee's research focus is on understanding the biology of the vascular endothelial growth factor (VEGF), VEGF receptors and their interactions with extracellular matrix. Drs. Rena Baek, Yeun Su Choo, Seung-Hee Lee, Eun-Gyung Cho, Hyo Jin Lee and Sunyoung Lee (from left on the picture) joined the meeting for a lively discussion on several issues such as research, funding, and motherhood. Dr. Lee shared her experience in career development and thoughts on the recent trends in academic job market.



Vertex open house on March 21, 2009: KWiSE-SD President, Dr. Sanghee Yoo, invited members of KWiSE to attend the Vertex Pharmaceuticals Open House for tours of Vertex's biology, chemistry, and engineering departments. Dr. Yoo, who has been at Vertex for the past 10 years, shared her experience working at a biotech company with Drs. Rena Baek, Gye Won Han, Euijung Jo, and Julie Yoo.

Wine tasting on April 26, 2009: Janet Yoo, Joanna Kim, Naomi Lee from KSEA-YG at UCSD joined Drs. Sanghee Yoo and Julie Yoo for the first wine tasting social at San Diego Wine co. With various wines and breads, they enjoyed a productive discussion on how to integrate future women in science & engineering from KSEA-YG into KWiSE.

FUTURE EVENTS

3rd KWiSE East & West Coast Meetings

KWiSE will hold the two meetings (3rd East and West Coast Meetings) simultaneously on June 27, 2009. The 3rd East Coast Meeting will be held at the VIP room at Han Gang, Annandale, VA with the theme of 'Key Factors for Women's Career Advancement in Science and Engineering,' followed by career forum. The 3rd West Coast Meeting will be held at The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA, with the theme of 'How to Deliver a Clear Message.' This meeting will include leadership training and career forum.

WiSE Forum at the UKC2009

KWiSE will organize the WiSE networking dinner on July 16 (6:30 pm, Thursday), and WiSE Forum on July 18 (3~6 pm, Saturday) at 2009 U.S.-Korea Conference at Raleigh. The title of the forum is '**Moving ahead in women's career**' (<http://ukc.ksea.org/ukc2009/programs.asp>). We look forward to seeing many of you there.

THANKS TO

We thank KSEA, KUSCO, KOFST, KOSEN, Samsung Electronics, and LG Electronics for their financial support for KWiSE activities including the publication of this Newsletter. We also appreciate the local sponsors and personal donations from KWiSE members. Finally, thank you all for your supports and participation.



Publisher: Dr. Gye Won Han (gyewon@scripps.edu)

Editor-in-Chief: Dr. Jung-Joo Hwang

Editors: Drs. Haejung An, Hee-Yong Kim, Youngjin Park, Sanghee Yoo, Rena Baek,
Ms. Dong-In Koo, Sophia Jeong, Mona Kim, Joanne Lee, Diana Jeong and Liz Kim

The Cover Art: Dr. Yeon-Hee Lim

<http://www.kwise.org>

