

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF KOREAN-AMERICAN WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

MIHYEON(CHRISTY) JEON, PHD 9TH KWISE PRESIDENT



Dear fellow KWiSE members and friends,

Greetings from Atlanta, and happy spring/summer to everyone! It has been a truly rewarding year and a half working closely with our members and friends to further the mission and goals of KWiSE: promoting networking, career development, and international cooperation. Reflecting on 2023, some recent highlights include the Global Cross Mentoring program, science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) Career Talk Concerts covering cutting-edge topics such as AI and climate science/technology, the Distinguished Women in STEM Forum at the US-Korea Conference (UKC), Annual Regional Conferences, and various networking events. In July 2023, I had the opportunity to visit South Korea to attend the 1st World Congress of Korean Scientists and Engineers and the Global Network Forum (GNet Forum) of Korean Women in Science and Technology Associations, where I connected and communicated with global women leaders in STEM. Internally, the 9th administration also placed strong emphasis on standardization and refinement of important KWiSE operations. The year 2024 holds special significance for us as it marks our 20th anniversary since Dr. Gye Won Han, our first and founding president, established KWiSE in San Diego with a small group of Korean women in STEM back in 2004. In this newsletter, we feature a brief summary of our story and beginnings through Dr. Han's eyes, so I hope you do not miss that! We have grown and evolved steadily since then. All of these achievements would not have been possible without the utmost dedication and commitment from our outstanding leaders and volunteers, including the 9th headquarter administration staff, past presidents and administration staff, and local chapter presidents and their staff. I will be forever grateful for their leadership, guidance, support, and friendship, and I look forward to our future journey together. Equally important, I truly appreciate our partnerships and financial support from our sponsors: Korea Foundation for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology (WISET), Korea Foundation of Women's Science & Technology Associations (KOFWST), Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA), and Korea-U.S. Science Cooperation Center (KUSCO). On a personal level, ever since I first learned about KWiSE in 2011 with the inauguration of the Southeast Chapter, I have met many friends and peers through KWiSE who I can depend on and share our common goals and life experiences. Some of my fondest memories include our Friday monthly lunch gatherings (now becoming Saturday bimonthly lunch gatherings), annual conferences, mentoring events, and book club socials. I hope KWiSE will continue to provide a valuable platform for women in STEM, like myself, to meet and enjoy each other's company day-to-day. In the era of digital transformation, the role of women leaders in STEM is becoming increasingly critical. We will continue to walk hand in hand to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion by empowering Korean women in STEM to reach their full potential, strengthening the pipeline of next-generation women leaders in STEM, and pioneering the future with new ways of thinking for our planet and its people. I would like to end with one of my favorite quotes that aligns well with the mission of KWiSE: "A dream you dream alone is only a dream. A dream you dream together is reality." - Yoko Ono" Warm regards,





Annual Supporters 2024



Thank you to our 2024 Annual Supporters















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KWISE #9TH ADMINISTRATION



President Dr. Mihyeon Jeon AtkinsRéalis

Headquarter Officers



Vice President (West)
Dr. Bo Young Park
California State University Fullerton



Vice President (East) Dr. Sung-Sil Moon



IT Director Dr. Hyesung Park Georgia Gwinnett College



Chapter Presidents



LA Chapter Dr. Youbin Kim University of Southern California



SD Chapter
Dr. MinJin Kang
Luxvitae therapeutics



NY/NJ Chapter Dr. Sungeun Choi Queens College, CUNY



TX Chapter (Interim)
Dr. Yangjin Bae
Baylor College
of Medicine



D.C.Chapter Dr. Eunjin Han _{USDA}



NIH Chapter Dr. Youngmi Ji _{NIH}

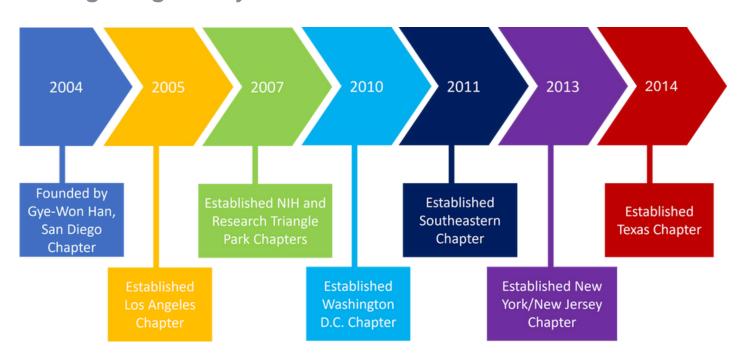


SE Chapter
Dr. Hyesung Park
Georgia Gwinnett College



Happy 20th birthday KWiSE! A heartfelt thank you to all KWiSE members for your ongoing support. We extend special appreciation to past KWiSE headquarters officers, steering committee members, chapter presidents, and chapter administrations for their invaluable contributions. Here's to another two decades of success ahead!

We are growing! History of KWiSE



Past and Current Presidents of KWiSE

Special thanks to those who have served as KWiSE Presidents!

1st	Gye Won Han (University of Southern California)
2nd	Sanghee Yoo (Qureator)
3rd	Heajung An (Food and Drug Administration)
4th	Eun-Suk Seo (University of Maryland)
5th	Jane Oh (National Aeronautics and Space Administration)
6th	Hee-Yong Kim (National Institutes of Health)
7th	Heykyoung Lee (Johns Hopkins University)
8th	Jayoung Kim (University of California, Los Angeles)
9th	Mihyeon (Christy) Jeon (AtkinsRéalis)

KWiSE 10th President-Elect



Sungshil Moon, PhD

Dr. Sung-Sil Moon is a highly esteemed senior microbiologist at the National Center for Immunization and Respiratory Diseases (NCIRD) within the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

With over two decades of specialized expertise in virology and vaccinology research, she actively participates in global collaborations, spearheading numerous vaccine development initiatives. Dr. Moon also holds the role of East Vice President at KWiSE, where she plays a pivotal mentoring role, particularly supporting Korean and other minority ethnic groups. Previously, she served as a Southeastern chapter president and has been honored with the 2021 Outstanding Women Scientist Award, theKWiSE Best Mentor Award, and multiple scientific and innovation accolades from the CDC.



20-Year Reflection: KWiSE's Inaugural Momentum

Gye Won Han, PhD
The 1st and Founding President
of KWiSE



Congratulations on the Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering (KWiSE) 20th anniversary! It's my great honor to share the beginning momentum of the KWiSE. As we know, KWiSE (www.kwise.org) was born with a handful of Korean-American women scientists from The Scripps Research Institute (TSRI, currently Scripps Research), UCSD, Sanford Burnham Prebys and La Jolla Institute for Immunology (LJI) in La Jolla, California with the mission: To establish and strengthen the network of Korean- American Women in Science and Engineering-related fields, To facilitate communication and cooperation between our members, To promote their career development and success, and To foster international collaboration between the U.S. and Korea. Our first meeting took place on Oct 21, 2004, in a seminar room at the TSRI. More than twenty local Korean-American women professionals gathered and shared their visions, ideas and knowledge. It was an impressive turnout, with enthusiastic individuals excited to meet new faces in the field. This meeting provided a platform for members to form bonds and get to know each other, fostering collaboration within the community.

KWiSE First Meeting

The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla CA October 21, 2004



In the spring of 2005, KWiSE-San Diego initiated KWiSE Student Awards to the highest-scoring high school girls in the KSEA National Math Competition. Subsequently, additional KWiSE chapters also joined, and this initiative has evolved into a cherished tradition with KSEA. In the same year, KWiSE organized the 2005 Women's Forum and Symposium during the U.S. and Korea Conference (UKC). These collaborative initiatives marked the beginning of a long-standing partnership with KSEA.

Concurrently, the first KWiSE newsletter in Spring 2005 marked a milestone, sharing of insights and updates, further solidifying KWiSE's commitment to fostering connections and empowerment among Korean-American women in science and engineering.



KWiSE Turns 20!

20-Year Reflection: KWiSE's Inaugural Momentum -Continued

The inaugural KWiSE Annual Meeting in November 2005, supported by The Global Network of Korean Scientists & Engineers (KOSEN) and KSEA. Many postdocs and students shared delicious Korean meals together, and participated in career networking.



KWiSE First Annual Meeting

The Scripps Research Institute, La Jolla, CA

November 17, 2005



In 2007, the first East and West Coast meetings of the KWiSE were held as the our proposal was accepted by the Korea-US Science Cooperation Center (KUSCO). Later, these two meetings merged into the "KWiSE West and East Annual Conference." Additionally, the KWiSE Woman Scientist Award was established in the same year to recognize outstanding scientists who also make significant contributions to KWiSE. The first Award was given to Dr. Sooja Kim (Chief, Center for Scientific Review at NIH). Since then, KWiSE Woman Scientist Award has been presented annually.





The following year, in 2008, KWiSE proudly received the Amore Pacific Award – Group Development Award 단체진흥상) at the International Convergence Meeting of the Korean Federation of Women in Science and Technology (KOFwST), hosted at the Hoam Faculty Club in Seoul, Korea.

This prestigious recognition acknowledged KWiSE's significant contribution as a professional network for women scientists and engineers in both the U.S. and Korea, and its ongoing efforts to foster further development of these connections worldwide.



As we honor our 20th anniversary, our dedication to supporting Korean-American women in STEM remains steadfast. We will definitely continue to thrive, innovate, and pave the path for a brighter future for Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering for many more years to come.





Throughout the period spanning May 2023 to April 2024, KWiSE members enthusiastically participated in various activities, fostering robust engagement and interaction within the community. KWiSE headquarters played a pivotal role in orchestrating these member events, ensuring seamless coordination and facilitation. Detailed descriptions of the activities organized by each KWiSE chapter can be found under their respective headings on pages 8-20, along with brief information and flyers provided by KWiSE HQ.

UKC 2023: KWiSE-WISET Women in STEM Forum in collaboration with KOFWEST-KWSE







2023 KWiSE Annual Conferences

NY/NJ Chapter



SE Chapter



October 28, 2023 (Saturday) 10 AM - 4 PM Gwinnett County Public Library, Norcross Branch 5735 Buford Hwy, Norcross, GA 30071

NIH Chapter / DC Chapter







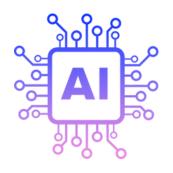
WISET-KWiSE Global Cross Mentoring Program

We proudly announce the successful conclusion of the 3rd Global Cross Mentoring Program (May-November 2023). Over 20 dedicated volunteers from three KWiSE chapters—LA/San Diego, Texas, and SE—served as mentors for Korean women undergraduate and graduate students, as well as early-career professionals in science or engineering fields, in South Korea and the United States. The program garnered an overwhelming response, with over a hundred mentees eagerly participating to benefit from the invaluable guidance and support provided by their mentors. Each chapter hosted more than ten seminars and small group meetings, offering diverse forms of support to mentees from May to November 2023. Additionally, we are thrilled to announce the launch of the 4th Global Cross Mentoring Program in May 2024, featuring mentors from the LA/San Diego and SE chapters.



STEM Career Talk Concerts









KWISE ANGELES CHAPTER

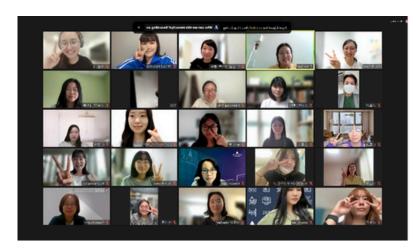
WISET-KWiSE West Global Cross Mentoring

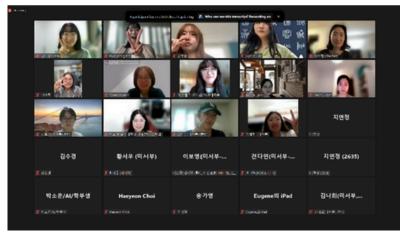
May - November 2023

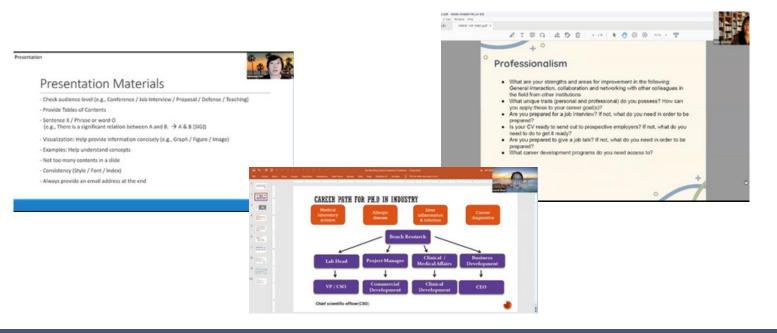
The KWiSE Los Angeles and San Diego Chapters jointly organized an annual mentoring program on the West Coast from May to November 2023. This year, six mentors, namely Drs. Jayoung Kim, Bo Ram Bang, Bo Young Park, Minhee Ko, Sunyoung Park, and Soomi Kweon from the Los Angeles Chapter, along with 56 mentees from the US and South Korea participated in the program. Throughout the program, mentees had the opportunity to learn about studying and working in the US, career prospects in academia and industry, creating a career development plan, networking strategies, research and grant writing, job search and resume writing, conflict management at the workplace, tips for achieving work-life balance, and other useful information that will help in building their careers and expanding their expertise. In June, Drs. Bo Young Park, Sunyoung Park, Jeong-Im Woo, and mentees from South Korea met in-person to get to know each other better. Mentees had a productive time getting answers to their questions by interacting with mentors. During the program, some of the mentees have successfully progressed to their next step careers as graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Most importantly, mentees have developed a network with mentors that will provide them with encouragement and advice based on the mentors' expertise throughout their careers.

Steering Committee Members:

Youbin Kim, PhD, University of Southern California Heesun Choi, PhD Eunje Kim, MS, BNPLAB







KWISE ANGELES CHAPTER

Monthly Meetings

In October, the members gathered to enjoy a delicious dinner. During the gathering, the new members were welcomed and introduced to each other. Everyone had a great time to getting to know each other and asking about how they were doing. After the dinner, we played the White Elephant game and new steering committee members were selected. In November, Caroline Kim introduced a tax-free retirement strategy seminar to the members. The seminar aimed to inform the members about the tax-free plan as a countermeasure for retirement. It was a great opportunity to learn how tax planning could affect net income after retirement. In December, the members had lunch together and had a year-end meeting. We exchanged gifts through the White Elephant game, and Dr. Gye Won Han prepared a gift for everyone. During the meeting, we had time to reflect on the year, discuss their concerns, and plan for the new year. In February, the new steering committee members held a New Year's party. During lunch, the members discussed the plans for KWiSE Los Angeles Chapter in the new year.







KSEA Math & Science Competition

April 6, 2024

The KWiSE LA Chapter attended the National Math & Science Competition (NMSC) 2024, which took place on April 6th at Harvey Mudd College in Claremont. Dr. Youbin Kim represented the KWiSE LA Chapter and presented awards to three outstanding female students who achieved excellent grades in the math competition. These KWiSE Awards aim to encourage girls' efforts, help them advance in the STEM field, and promote KWiSE to the general public.







Steering Committee Members:

Dr. MinJin Kang (Luxvitae therapeutics)

Dr. Soo young Kim (Neurophth therapeutics)

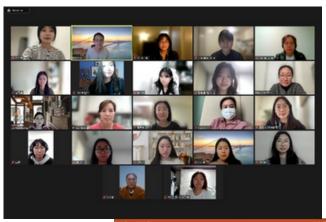
Dr. Yunyi Kang (Calidi biotherapeutics)

Dr. Soo jin Park (Qualcomm)

KWiSE-WISET West Mentoring Program

May - November, 2023

The KWiSE-WISET West Mentoring program began in May 2023, a collaboration between the San Diego (SD) and Los Angeles (LA) chapters. The program convened once a month in a Zoom setting. Each month, a different specialized mentor shares their experiences, career challenges, and offers insight on managing their work and life balance. On June 8th, Dr. Haekyung Shin, the SD chapter mentor, presented on career plan development, receiving numerous questions from mentees. Her presentation focused on successfully establishing a career in the Biomedical/ Bioengineering field. Another topic was covered by Dr. Insook Jang, who provided insight from the perspective of a postgraduate preparing for post phD programs. Her speech was particularly helpful for graduate students interested in applying for post doc positions. The last mentor presenter from the SD chapter was Dr. MinSon Baek, who discussed conflict management in academia/ industry. Dr. Baek addressed not only scientific conflicts but also personal conflict and offered professional management strategies.



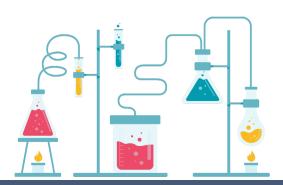




Tips from a Postdoc's Perspective

KWISE-WISET GLOBAL CROSS MENTORING PROGRAM 07-13-2023 INSOOK JANG

The November in groving and participated with cassfellyingful experience over the course of six months.





KWISE SAN CHAPTER

DIEGO

Christmas gathering

December 9, 2023

The San Diego (SD) chapter finally had an off-site gathering after the long COVID 19 pandemics. Dr. Eunha Hoh graciously opened her beautiful house for the KWISE Christmas gathering as well as organizing a potluck. A total of 25 members joined the party, enjoying home-made Korean dishes followed by a White elephant gift exchange event. The most exciting topic for this gathering was the election of a new KWiSE SD-chapter leadership. Dr. Lee Haekyung, the current SD chapter president, announced the new KWiSE SD chapter leadership, who will serve for the next two years. The new leadership members are as follows: President: Dr. MinJin Kang, Vice president: Dr. Soo Young Kim, General Director/Secretary1: Yunyi Kang Treasurer/Secretary2: Dr. Soo jin Park

All members expressed their appreciation to Dr. Haekyung Lee for her service as the KWiSE-SD chapter President for the last two years and to Ms. Eunyung Sung for her devotion as treasurer.

The party was adjoined with Dr. Haekyung Lee's closing remarks, welcoming the new leadership for the continued success of KWiSE and wishing all members a merry Christmas and a happy new year 2024.













KWISE SAN DIEGO CHAPTER

Hiking Group

Since December 2023, the KWiSE San Diego (SD) Chapter has been organizing a hiking group. There are currently 12 people are participating and hiking twice a month. So far, we have visited Torrey Pines Natural Reserve, Miramar Lake, San Marcos Copper Creek Loop, La Orilla Trail, and Santa Fe Valley Trail. In the future, we plan to explore Anza Borrego Desert State Park and Diamond Lake Valley Wildflower Trail. During the hikes, members engage in discussions about their careers, work, and future plans. Senior members who are mentoring junior members, provide valuable advice. Therefore, this small group offers an excellent opportunity for enjoying outdoor functions, discussing science, and advancing career development.









Here are some details about each hike: • Torrey Pines Natural Reserve: This hike offers stunning views of the Pacific Ocean and the Torrey Pines State Natural Reserve. The trail is approximately 3 miles long with an elevation gain of about 300 feet. • Miramar Lake: This hike is at Miramar Lake and offers views of the lake and the surrounding mountains. The trail is about 5 miles long and has an elevation gain of about 500 feet. • San Marcos Copper Creek Loop: This hike is in the San Marcos Foothills and offers views of the creek and the surrounding hills. The trail is approximately 6 miles long with an elevation gain of about 800 feet. • La Orilla Trail: This hike is in the San Elijo Lagoon Ecological Reserve and offers views of the lagoon, wetlands, and coastal sage scrub. The trail is easy to moderate and is a great option for a casual hike or bird watching. It is about 2.7 miles long with an elevation gain of about 147 feet. • Santa Fe Valley Trail: This hike is in the Santa Fe Valley and offers views of the valley and the surrounding mountains. The trail is approximately 4 miles long and has an elevation gain of about 393 feet. We are excited to continue exploring the beautiful trails in San Diego County. If you are interested in joining our hiking group, please contact us https://www.kwise.org/San-Diego/.

NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Steering Committee Members:

Sungeun Choi, PhD, RD: Associate Professor, Queens College, CUNY, NY Minsun Shin, EdD: Associate Professor, Montclair State University, NJ Jung Lee, PhD: Professor, Stockton University, NJ Yun H. Choe, JD, PhD: Patent Agent, ArentFox Schiff LLP Soyoung Lee, PhD: Associate Professor, Montclair State University Erin Kang, PhD: Assistant Professor, Montclair State University HeaYeon Lee, PhD: Founder/CEO of Mara Nanotech Inc. Yeon Bai, PhD, RD: Professor, Montclair State University

2023 New York Innovative Science & Technology (NYIST) Summer Camp

The New York Innovative Science & Technology (NYIST) Summer Camp 2023 took place from August 21-26, 2023. The NYIST summer camp was jointly hosted by the KWiSE NY/NJ Chapter and the KSEA New York Metro Chapter and was sponsored by Mara Nanotech, the Korea Institute of Advanced Nanotechnology, and the Consulate General of New York. The summer camp provided students in grades 7-12 with a hands-on program about nanobiohealth systems education and how nano-bio sensors can be applied in the medical diagnosis field.







KWiSE 2 **NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY CHAPTER**

KWiSE-KOWIN joint seminar

On October 12, 2023, the 2023 KWiSE NY/NJ Chapter and KOWIN (Korean Women's International Network) NY Chapter held a joint seminar on the theme "Growing Global." The program commenced with greetings and opening remarks from the presidents of KWiSE, Dr. HeaYeon Lee, and KOWIN, Eun-Ju Ryu, and was moderated by Dr. Jong Min Lee.

The seminar featured a special guest presentation by Euy Whan Kim, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York, as well as four speakers: Dr. Hyojin Kim from the New Jersey Institute of Technology, Dr. Heakyung Kwon, a psychoanalyst and creative arts therapist, Dr. Janice H. Logan, a lawyer at Morgan Laws, and Yuna Yang from the Yuna Yang Collection.

This in-person seminar was well received and provided valuable insights on various topics related to highpsychoanalytic

consideration of emotional regulation, patent law, and global fashion, captivating the audience's attention. performance building design,





The KWiSE-KOWIN Joint Seminar



"Growing Global"

Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering (KWiSE)

The KWiSE-NY/NJ chapter appreciates women leaders of scholars and engineers in a wide range of basic and applied science fields. We are primarily based in New York Metropolitan and New Jersey area.

Korean Women's International Network (KOWIN)

KOWIN NY chapter is a global network of women of Korean descent who are leaders in their respective fields. We equip and enable women to find success in their fields, be a positive influence and inspiration in their communities, and serve as role models to the next generation.

Our Speakers







Hyojin Kim



HeaKyung Kwon DA, LP, NCPsyA Psychanalyst and Creative Arts



Janice H. Logan Partner Attorney



Founder Yuna Yang

Thursday October 12, 2023

(6:00 PM - 9:00 PM

Morgan Lewis LLP

101 Park Avenue, NY

Yuna Yang

Program

Welcome Reception 6:00 pm - 6:30 pm

Opening Remark and Introduction 6:30 pm - 6:50 pm

6:50 pm - 7:15 pm Special Guest: Consul General Euy Whan Kim 7:15 pm - 7:40 pm Dr. Hyojin Kim (Title: Measurement Science for High

Performance Building Design)

7:40 pm - 8:05 pm Dr. HeaKyung Kwon (Title: Science of Emotional

Regulation)

Dr. Janice H. Logan (Title: Career in Patent Law as a 8:05 pm - 8:30 pm

8:30 pm - 8:55 pm Yuna Yang (Title: Requirements & Virtues of Global

Fashion Leader)

8:55 pm - 9:00 pm Closing Remark

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NEW YORK / NEW JERSEY CHAPTER

Membership meetings

KWiSE NY/NJ chapter hosted two membership meetings in 2023 to promote networking and foster a sense of community: May 25th via Zoom and June 25th in person. During these meetings, members had the opportunity to share their experiences through presentations and informal discussions, which left them feeling more connected and inspired.





Announcement: New NY/NJ Chapter Executive Committee

We are pleased to share the exciting news about our newly formed executive committee, starting in 2024.

President

Sungeun Choi, PhD, RD: Associate

Professor, Queens College, CUNY, NY

Vice President

Minsun Shin, EdD: Associate Professor,
Montclair State University, NJ

Jung Lee, PhD: Professor, Stockton

Communication University, NJ

Membership
Director

Yun H. Choe, JD, PhD: Patent Agent,
ArentFox Schiff LLP

Seven Director

Yun H. Choe, JD, PhD: Patent Agent,
ArentFox Schiff LLP

Soyoung Lee, PhD: Associate Professor,

Montclair State University

General Director Erin Kang, PhD: Assistant Professor,

Montclair State University

HeaYeon Lee, PhD: Founder/CEO of Treasure

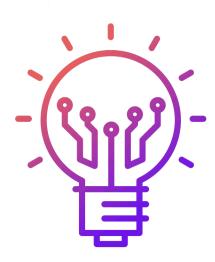
Mara Nanotech Inc.

Yeon Bai, PhD, RD: Professor, Montclair

State University

Advisor

Advisor





WASHINGTON D.C. CHAPTER

DC Chapter Steering Committee Members:

Eunjin Han, PhD, United States Department of Agriculture Sooyoung Cho, PhD, Edward Jones

Membership Drive and Networking event of KWiSE DC Chapter

KWiSE DC Chapter organized a networking event to encourage networking among KWiSE members from greater Washington D.C. and share each other's research for potential mentoring and collaboration. The event was funded by KSEA (Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association) and held in Hyattsville, MD, on September 2, 2023. The event was started by introducing each participant and their current work and research. The participants were from backgrounds and institutes, including the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the University of Maryland, The World Bank, Johns Hopkins University, and an investment bank. Dr. Eunjin Han, the current president of the KWiSE DC Chapter, gave a short presentation on the activities of the KWiSE Headquarters and DC chapter. The event ended with an open discussion to hear what members expect from KWiSE and the future direction of the KWiSE DC Chapter. The event allowed local KWiSE members to meet in person and recruit new members after a long COVID era.







NIH CHAPTER

NIH Chapter Steering Committee Members: Youngmi Ji (President) Lisa Seonyong Kim (Vice President) Jung Min Han (Vice President, IT Director) Yoon Kyung Kim (Finance Director) Abigail Doyeon Kim (PR Director) Yuji Choi (Digital Media Director) Yujin Lim (General Director)

2023 Joint Annual Symposium with NIH-KSA and DC Chapter: A Collaborative Success

The NIH Chapter's annual symposium this year focused on the unique characteristics of the NIH, co-hosted with NIH-KSA, another Korean community at NIH. Previously, the collaborative efforts of NIH-KSA and KAPAL resulted in the Annual Bioscience and Engineering Symposium (ABES). This year, NIH-KWiSE partnered with NIH-KSA to co-host the annual symposium, adding a distinctive NIH program curated solely by NIH-KWiSE. The symposium took place at Montgomery College at Rockville Campus, Maryland, located at 51 Mannakee St, Rockville, MD 20850, in the Theatre Arts Building (TA) on Saturday, October 28.

Since the inauguration of the new NIH-KWiSE leadership in 2023, numerous events have been organized under the slogan "Inclusion" in collaboration with various Korean community organizations in the DMV (DC-MD-Virginia) area. Among these events, this symposium stands out as the first significant event aimed at fostering cooperation among Korean American groups within NIH, marking it as highly significant. The KWiSE DC Chapter also participated, resulting in a joint symposium between NIH and the DC Chapter. The first NIH-KSA and KWiSE Symposium received high praise from many attendees for its excellent and enriching program. The opening remarks by former NIH Director Dr. Francis Collins were particularly noteworthy.







Open Remark
Former NIH Director,
Francis Collins
(NIH Distinguished
Investigator,
NHGRI/NIH)

The theme of the conference was "Global Collaboration in Life Science," with a program that emphasized NIH clinical research and support alongside biomedical science. Speakers from Korea facilitated global collaboration efforts through various sessions and networking opportunities.





NIH CHAPTER

2023 Joint Annual Symposium with NIH-KSA and DC Chapter: A Collaborative Success- Continued

The symposium focused on fundamental research and early discovery in life science, presenting many exciting findings and reports that could serve as a platform for new insights in the field. There were also career development presentations to share experiences and tips for those interested in future opportunities. Continuing from the first day, there were informative sessions on SBIR grant opportunities as well as additional clinical research grant opportunities.

the all-day symposium activities. This initiative significantly contributed to overcoming the career development limitations faced by scientists with children.

NIH-KWiSE organized a one-day child-care program alongside



The joint annual conference proposed by NIH-KWiSE provided a successful example of collaboration and is expected to extend to future joint-network events to enhance mutual US-Korea collaboration for the growth and promotion of Korean-American scientists in the life sciences field. Impacts & Effects were 1) Initiation of Global Collaboration: The event marked the beginning of collaborative efforts between Korea and the US in life science research. 2) Promotion of Inclusion: By involving different organizations, including industry, academic, and government institutions, the joint conference promoted a sense of inclusion. 3) Support for Career Development: The child-care program proved to be a platform that opens up more opportunities for both male and female scientists to grow their networking for future career development. The NIH Chapter will continue to seek collaborative efforts to promote women's development, leadership, and health through various networking and mentoring events. We welcome anyone interested in the NIH to join our chapter. Our ultimate goal is "INCLUSION" = "TOGETHER" = "COLLABORATION". We invite all genders, generations, and professions to participate in this networking event, believing that DIVERSITY fosters empowerment. Everyone is welcome!





NIH CHAPTER

2023 Joint Annual Symposium with NIH-KSA and DC Chapter: A Collaborative Success- Continued



KUDOS to: Organizing Committee and more to Childcare team – Lisa Kim (NIH-KWiSE), Abigail Kim (NIH-KWiSE), and Yoon Kim (NIH-KWiSE)



NIH CHAPTER

Congratulations to NIH's newest members of the National Academy of Sciences!

What fantastic news to kick off our AANHPI month, May! Let's celebrate June Kwon-Chung (NIH Distinguished Investigator, NIAID) as she represents Korean-American heritage and ascends into the National Academy of Sciences! She is the first Korean NIH Distinguished Investigator at NIH and still running the laboratory. Congratulations to her on this

remarkable achievement!



Kyung J. Kwon-Chung, Ph.D. NIH Distinguished Investigator Molecular Microbiology Section, Clinical Laboratory of Immunology and Microbiology NIAID/DIR (https://irp.nih.gov/pi/kyung-kwon-chung)

HE NIH RECORD

May 4, 1976

Page 7



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Dr. Kwon-Chung of NIAID Reclassifies Fungus Causing Cryptococcal Meningitis

Multiple discoveries within the past few months by Dr. Kyung Joo Kwon-Chung, a microbiologist in the Laboratory of Clinical Investigation, National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, have led to a new classification and to the establishment of a new genus with two species for the sexual state of the fungus Cryptococcus neoformans, the organism which causes cryptococcus.

Cryptococcal meningitis is almost always fatal if untreated, and even with treatment it maintains about a 25 percent fatality rate, one of the highest for the deep fungal infections.

Reports Recent Discoveries

Dr. Kwon-Chung reported her findings, which make possible broad new genetic and epidemiologic investigations of this infectious agent, at a symposium on pathogenic fungi on May 3 during the 76th Annual Meeting of the American Society for Microbiology in Atlantic City.

The chain of discoveries by the NIAID scientist began in late 1975, when she demonstrated a sexual reproductive cycle for C. neofor-

Dr. Kolobow Patents, Assigns to Gov't

mans, previously considered to reproduce only asexually as a budding single celled yeast.

By so doing, she was able to remove *C. neoformans* from the so-called "waste-basket" category of Fungi Imperfecti, and place it taxonomically with the Basidiomycetes, the classification of highly evolved fungi which includes mushrooms, as well as the smuts and rusts, which are among the major causes of disease in plants.

Demonstrates Mating Types

Dr. Kwon-Chung then demonstrated that the sexual cycle involved two mating types, known as "a" (dlpha) and "a," permitting a recombination of genes and providing a mechanism for previously impossible genetic studies, to determine such factors as virulence and drug resistance.

As customary with such basic



Dr. Kwon-Chung's findings, reported yesterday, may indicate that plants or plant materials are a reservoir for the agent causing cryptococcal meninaitis.

closely associated for the past 20 years.

In the distinction between mating of the two antigenic groups however, Dr. Kwon-Chung also noted that serotypes A and D are constantly found in pigeon habitats, while types B and C have never been isolated from these sources.

Spores Differ

Further studies by the NIAII

KWISE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

Steering Committee Members:

Hyesung Park, PhD: Associate Professor, Georgia Gwinnett College Mikyong Shin, DrPH: Epidemiologist

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Jungreem Taylor Woo, PhD: Biologist, CDC

KWiSE-WISET East Global Cross World of Opportunities

Mentoring Program

May- November, 2023

The Southeastern Chapter was pleased to host the annual Eastern Region Mentoring Program, an initiative that has seen a year-onyear increase in participation. This program has notably facilitated dynamic exchanges between mentees in Korea and the United States, enriching the mentoring experience. Participants of the mentoring program had the opportunity to engage in a series of seminars focused on critical professional development areas. These areas included elevator pitch, resume crafting, job searching strategies, and other vital skills necessary for career advancement and expertise expansion. Feedback collected through a comprehensive survey revealed exceptionally high levels of satisfaction among the mentees. They praised various aspects of the program, notably the practical relevance of the educational content provided, the motivational and insightful advice drawn from the mentors' own career experiences, and the mentors' committed and inspiring approach to both life and mentorship. Mentees particularly valued the personalized attention and constructive feedback from their mentors, highlighting the significant impact on their career development in the U.S. This positive acknowledgment serves as a testament to the valuable education and support provided by the mentoring program, underscoring its success in fostering the professional growth of its participants.

August, 2023

In August 2023, the Southeastern Chapter organized a seminar entitled "World of Opportunities." This event was a significant part of the collaborative efforts under the KWISE-WISET Global Cross Mentoring initiative and the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) membership campaign. We were honored to welcome Dr. Mi Ja Kim, Ph.D., RN, FRCN, FAAN, as our keynote speaker. Dr. Kim, a distinguished Professor and Dean Emerita at the College of Nursing, University of Illinois at Chicago, delivered an enlightening presentation on the "Successful Leadership of Korean Women Scientists and Engineers." She insightfully explored topics such as Leadership Beyond Disciplinary Boundaries, the POWER of Positional Leadership, and Timeless Leadership Principles, offering an inspiring and pragmatically valuable message to all our attendees.

The seminar further enriched participants' experience through a series of round-table mentoring sessions, facilitating meaningful discussions and the exchange of ideas among Korean women scientists and engineers. These sessions underscored our commitment to fostering professional growth and leadership development within our community.





KWISE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

KWiSE SE Chapter Conference

October 23, 2023



2023 KWiSE Annual Conference Southeastern Chapter

October 28, 2023 (Saturday) 10 AM - 4 PM Gwinnett County Public Library, Norcross Branch 5735 Buford Hwy, Norcross, GA 30071 A noteworthy aspect of this year's conference was the inclusion of a student researcher's presentation on biosensor applications, highlighting the KWiSE-Southeastern chapter's commitment to integrating the next generation into scientific discourse and research. This blend of professional insights and emerging research underscored the conference's multidisciplinary approach and its emphasis on fostering innovation and inclusivity within the scientific community.

At the conference, Dr. Mihyeon Jeon, President of KWiSE, shared insights into the organization's expansion and its efforts to empower women in STEM. She discussed the implementation of cross-mentoring programs and forums designed to create a supportive network for women scientists. Dr. Jeon's remarks underscored the pivotal role of KWiSE in building a nurturing environment that encourages the growth and development of women in the scientific community.

The KWiSE-Southeastern chapter remains dedicated to promoting the

participation of both experienced professionals and students, we aim to contribute to the development of a diverse and dynamic scientific community.

The KWiSE-Southeastern chapter hosted a conference in Sustainable Transformation." This gathering brought together experts to discuss the latest in environmental and mental health. The conference was highlighted by a keynote presentation from Dr. Yang Liu of Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University. Dr. Liu shared insights into environmental health, emphasizing the need for innovative surveillance methods to enhance sustainability. In addition to the keynote presentation, the conference featured sessions that spanned a broad spectrum of topics. in understanding and treating non-small cell lung cancer, while another focused on the mental health challenges faced by Asian international students in the U.S., offering insights into improving their support systems.





KWISE SOUTHEASTERN CHAPTER

2024 New Year Networking Event

The Southeastern chapter held a New Year Event. At this event, Dr. Mihyeon Jeon, President of KWiSE Headquarters, shared the history and achievements from the past year, discussing the future direction and networking. This event was hosted by the 2022-2024 steering committee (Dr. Hyesung Park, Dr. Mi-Kyong Shin, and Dr. Jung Rim Woo).



News from Chapter Members

Congratulations, Dr. Mihyeon (Christy) Jeon!



Dr. Mihyeon Jeon was once again name one of "100 Most Influential Women in Engineering" by Engineering Georgia in 2024. She was also listed in Marquis Who's Who in 2024.

The Consul General of the Republic of Korea hosted dinner in Atlanta

On May 9, 2024, Sangpyo Suh, the Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta, hosted a dinner for KWiSE SE chapter steering committee members with Jonghee Choi, a Consul of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta at the residence of the Consul General. During the event, the KWiSE SE chapter members shared the goals of KWiSE, the chapter's activities, and future plans. Consul General Suh expressed hopes for the continuous growth of KWiSE.





GOLD LEVEL SPONSORS





SILVER LEVEL SPONSORS











KWiSE (Korean-American Women in Science and Engineering) is a non- profit organization of Korean-American women professionals in science and engineering. We offer members opportunities for networking, career development, and mentoring for members and provide opportunities for collaborations. We promote international cooperation, especially between the United States and Korea.

Why KWiSE?

Most Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics (STEM) fields have seen growth in women over the years; however, there are still persistent challenges. • While the ratio of women in Biological Sciences and Mathematics is close to 50%, there is a considerably lower proportion of women in higher-level positions. This is called the "leaky pipeline" or the "glass ceiling" problem. • In Physical Sciences, Computer/Information Technology, and Engineering, the ratio of women is only about a quarter, which indicates a severe problem of recruitment into those fields of study. • The proportion of Asian-Americans in leadership positions in STEM- related academia, government, and industry jobs are disproportionally low compared to other races. This is called the "bamboo ceiling" problem. In particular, Asian American Women show the lowest percentage in promotion in all STEM-related jobs. KWiSE aims to help address & solve these issues. Together, we can make a difference!

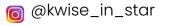


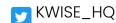


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