



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:

**RFS Board Member Newly Elected Member of the National Academy of Sciences**, nasaonline.org, May 1, 2018

The National Academy of Sciences announced the election of 84 new members and 21 foreign associates in recognition of their distinguished and continuing achievements in original research. RFS Board member Clare M. Waterman, distinguished investigator and director, Laboratory of Cell and Tissue Morphodynamics, Cell Biology and Physiology Center, NHLIB/ NIH, is included in the new members. [Read more.](#)

**Women's voices are being drowned out in science**, inews.co.uk, April 24, 2018

A study at Cambridge University found women in science, when compared with their male counterparts, are not offered equal opportunities to present their research. Dr. Heather Ford, a research fellow in the Department of Earth Sciences, said, "We need the majority groups to think about representation, otherwise minority voices will continue to be drowned out." And, sadly, this is not the first time that gender inequality has been highlighted in the world of science. More than 50 years ago, chemist Rosalind Franklin, inspiration for the Rosalind Franklin Society, failed to even be acknowledged from the winner's podium by colleagues James Watson and Francis Crick for the Nobel Prize despite her central contribution to the discovery of the structure of DNA. [Read more.](#)

**Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists**, sciencemag.com, April 25, 2018

In an effort to entice the best and brightest to continue their chosen fields of research, Science/AAAS and SciLifeLab, a coordinated effort of four universities, have joined forces to create the Science & SciLifeLab Prize for Young Scientists. The prize is awarded annually to one young scientist for outstanding life science research that was the basis for being awarded a doctoral degree in the previous two years. The topic of the entrant's thesis research must be in one of the following categories: Cell and

Molecular Biology, Genomics and Proteomics, Ecology and Environment, Translational Medicine. The application deadline is July 15, 2018. [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 Shepard Rubinger  
Executive Director  
*Rosalind Franklin Society*

**RFS Briefings**

May 9, 2018

**Who Runs Mutual Funds? Very Few Women**, nytimes.com, May 4, 2018

Women continue to be outnumbered in the investing business but that could change if mutual fund investors favored companies with more female managers. In fact, according to Morningstar, less than 10 percent of U.S. portfolio managers at mutual funds and exchange-traded funds are women. "We've been looking at this for years," said Laura Pavlenko Lutton, head of fund research for North America Morningstar. "Women are just stuck at that number." [Read more.](#)

**Astia Angels achieves fourth exit in twelve months**, astia.org, May 3, 2018

Astia Angels, an investment group that exclusively invests in women-led startups has announced its fourth exit, continuing to add to the group's already impressive investment returns. "Our results are not a surprise to us. We knew investing in female entrepreneurs was smart investing, and we knew that few others were doing it," states Astia CEO, Sharon Vosmek. "The performance of Astia Angels and the acquisition of nVision are successes for innovation, female CEOs, and investors." Founded on the principle that gender should not be a factor in the assessment of investment risk, Astia Angels invest across all sectors, stages and geographies with one catch - companies must have at least one woman in leadership and present in the capital table of the company. [Read more.](#)

**Guest Post: Childfree, Childless, and Childcare – They All Attract Bias in the Workplace**, scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org, April 25, 2018

Tasha Mellins-Cohen, director of publishing for the Microbiology Society and a member of the COUNTER Executive Committee and the UKSG Education Committee, shared her experiences with gender bias in the workplace. In 2008, although childfree (by choice), a recruitment consultant told Tasha that she had not been offered a job because “officially . . . the other candidate was a better cultural fit for the organization. Unofficially, they think you are a maternity risk.” Tasha sheds light on a largely overlooked aspect of discrimination that women face around maternity, even if they can’t or choose not have children. She concludes her post by saying “Let’s stop giving lip service to diversity and start practicing inclusivity instead.” [Read more.](#)

**Women in STEM face unique challenges**, marquettewire.org, April 24, 2018

According to Julie Murphy, director of enrollment management and outreach for Marquette University’s College of Engineering, Marquette’s male to female ratio in STEM majors is less uneven than in the workforce because many women interested in STEM exit the field between school and job searching. In an effort to overcome these challenges, the department hosts pre-college summer programs targeted to female high school students in addition to interactive sessions for college students with Kristina Ropella, the dean of the College of Engineering. Additionally, the Women in STEM Summit, held on April 23, featured prominent local women in STEM. [Read more.](#)

**Increasing Role Models, Fostering Community for Women in STEM,**

diverseeducation.com, April 24, 2018

Since 2016, more than 200 girls have participated in Stempower, a program created by women engineering students at Georgia Institute of Technology to train and empower the next generation of girls in STEM. There are chapters at several universities across the United States and abroad as well. “We decided to create a mentorship program that paired college-aged women with pre-teen girls because we noticed that their confidence tends to drop right before middle school,” said Brenna Fromayan, an industrial and systems engineering student and vice president and co-founder of Stempower. “We wanted to intervene before that time to try to boost their confidence and provide relatable role models for them in STEM.” The program offers mentoring sessions, STEM activities, lessons, and more. [Read more.](#)

**Roslin Institute earns top award for promoting women in science**, thenational.scot, April 24, 2018

Edinburgh University’s Roslin Institute won the Athena SWAN Gold award from the Equality Challenge Unit for the promotion of women in science after the number of its women professors soared to the extent that women now hold more than a third of its professorships. It’s the only higher education department in Scotland to hold the award. Professor Eleanor Riley, director of The Roslin Institute, said: “We have worked extremely hard to create and mainstream sustainable structural and cultural changes to advance gender equality. We have put in place a wide range of actions to develop and support the careers of women scientists at every stage, and we have shared these within the university and across the higher education sector.” [Read more.](#)

**'Goddesses' to 'men only': China tech firms pledge to end sexist job ads,**

news.trust.org, April 23, 2018

Chinese tech firms pledged to tackle gender bias in recruitment after a rights group said they routinely favored male candidates, luring applicants with the promise of working with "beautiful girls" in job adverts. China was ranked 100 out of 144 countries in the World Economic Forum's 2017 Gender Gap Report, after the report said the country's progress towards gender parity has slowed. [Read more.](#)

**Salk Institute places a star geneticist on leave over allegations about his conduct,**

latimes.com, April 21, 2018

Renowned cancer researcher Inder Verma was placed on leave from the Salk Institute because of unspecified allegations. Three female Salk professors filed separate lawsuits against the Institute in July. "Yesterday, our Board of Trustees met to determine an appropriate course of action. Effective immediately, Dr. Verma has been placed on administrative leave, pending the outcome of the investigation," the institute said. "He will not be performing scientific or administrative roles on behalf of the Institute during this period." When asked about the matter, Verma said in an email: "I have never used my position at the Salk Institute to take advantage of others. I have also never engaged in any sort of intimate relationship with anyone affiliated with the Salk Institute." [Read more.](#)

**2018 BIO World Congress Partnering and Programming Webinar,** bio.org, April 19, 2018

Do you want to learn how to make an effective pitch to potential business partners and schedule more partnering meetings at the BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology this July 16 -19 in Philadelphia (where the annual RFS award is given)? Join a webinar on May 15 at 2:00 p.m. EDT and learn more about BIO One-on-One Partnering™. [Read more.](#)

**Statement on the retirement of Dr. Richard Nakamura,** nih.gov, April 18, 2018

After 39 years working at NIH, Richard Nakamura, PhD, will retire from the directorship of the Center for Scientific Review (CSR). Noni Byrnes, PhD, will serve as acting director while a national search for a new director is being conducted. Noni has served as acting deputy director at CSR since January 2018 and director of CSR's Division of Basic and Integrative Biological Sciences since 2012. She was also chief of CSR's Cell Biology Integrated Review Group and the Scientific Review Officer for the Enabling Bioanalytical and Biophysical Technologies study section. "In the annals of CSR history, Noni will be praised for overseeing CSR's successful review of over 20,000 Challenge grant applications for American Reinvestment and Recovery Act funds in 2009 and 2010. In this effort, she managed the activities of over 200 scientific, professional, technical, and support staff. I deeply appreciate Noni's willingness to lead CSR in this transition period," stated Director of National Institutes of Health Francis S. Collins, MD, PhD. [Read more.](#)

**Awards to celebrate women in science**, nature.com April 12, 2018

*Nature* is thrilled to announce two annual awards - the Inspiring Science Award and the Innovating Science Award - which will recognize inspirational early-career female researchers and those who have worked to champion young women's and girl's interests and participation in science. The goal? To contribute to a positive shift towards the gender equity needed in the research community. Nominations close on June 11, 2018. A longlist of ten nominees for each award will be announced on July 24, and a shortlist of five will be announced on September 4. Both awards are run by Nature Research in partnership with The Estée Lauder Companies. [Read more.](#)

**Scientists teach computers how to analyze brain cells**, nih.gov.com, April 12, 2018

Thanks to advances in technology, it may be possible to teach machines how to pick out features in neurons and other cells that have not been stained or undergone other damaging treatments, according to a new study in *Cell*, which was partially funded by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke (NINDS), part of the National Institutes of Health. "This approach has the potential to revolutionize biomedical research," said Margaret Sutherland, PhD, program director at the NINDS. Using Deep Learning, a research team trained a computer program to analyze brain cells by showing it stained and unstained images. Then, to test whether the program had learned anything, the researchers challenged it with new unlabeled images. [Read more.](#)

**Still looking for room at the top: Ten years of research on women in the workplace**, mckinsey.com, March 2018

In 2007 women held 11 percent of seats on the executive committees of Europe's leading companies, and McKinsey published its first *Women Matter* report. The report not only argued for greater gender diversity in corporate management but also suggested how to achieve that goal. Now, 11 years later, McKinsey has expanded its research, publishing more than 20 reports that have shared the debate on gender equality in the workplace around the world. Progress, however, is still too slow. McKinsey's article summarizes what their decade of research has taught them about the case of change, the barriers in the way, and the solutions required. [Read more](#)