



RFS Briefings

December 13, 2016

\$25 Million in Breakthrough Prizes Given in Science and Math, nytimes.com,
December 4, 2016

Huda Zoghbi, MD, professor of neurology at Baylor College of Medicine, Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator, director of the Jan and Dan Duncan Neurological Research Institute at Texas Children's Hospital, and Rosalind Franklin Society Board Member, was recognized by the Breakthrough Foundation for her work with a prize of \$3 million. She discovered that a mutation to a gene known as SCA1 causes Spinocerebellar ataxia, a neurodegenerative disorder. [Read more.](#)

High-Earning Moms Get Socked with 10% 'Motherhood Penalty,' bloomberg.com,
December 1, 2016

New research shows that having a child is a "bad career move" for women. Women will suffer a "motherhood penalty" of 4% of income for each child. And, for high-skilled, high-paid women workers, that penalty climbs to 10% per child. To employers, being a dad, shows stability and commitment, while being a mom is associated with stereotypes such as less productivity and lack of competence. [Read more.](#)

Keystone Symposia Fellow to Organize a Keystone Symposia Conference,
YouTube.com, November 30, 2016

Cherié Butts, PhD, is one of the organizers of the Keystone Symposia Biobettors and Next-Generation Biologics meeting to be held in Snowbird Resort, Utah, January 22-26, 2017. [Read more.](#)

C. Megan Urry, Peering Into Universe, Spots Bias on the Ground, nytimes.com,
November 28, 2016

C. Megan Urry is a former president of the American Astronomical Society and the first woman to head the physics department at Yale University. Recently, she announced that scientists with a record of sexual harassment would no longer be welcome at the astronomical society's meetings. The New York Times spoke with Dr. Urry. [Read more](#) for a condensed and edited version of the conversation.

Four Women Appointed to Named Professorships at MIT, [wiareport.com](#), November 28, 2016

The School of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology has announced that nine faculty members have been appointed to named chairs. Four faculty members who identify as women are among the appointees. [Read more](#).

Mina Bissell, PhD Receives ASCB's highest scientific honor, the 2016 E.B. Wilson Medal, <http://www.ascb.org>, November 15, 2015

Dr. Bissell, RFS Board Member, is the 2016 winner of the E.B. Wilson award for science, presented on December 6 at annual meeting of the American Society for Cell Biology. In a "very personal essay," published in *Molecular Biology of the Cell* (Volume 27, November 1, 2016), she describes the honor of winning the award as "truly humbling," and shares the joys and challenges she has experienced as a woman scientist. This paper is dedicated "To the memory of Susan Lindquist, the most prophetic, distinguished, passionate and original scientist of our era." Dr. Lindquist, who died on October 27, 2016, was an RFS Board Member. [Read more](#).

On Election Night, Colleges Watch as a Glass Ceiling Stays Put, [chronicle.com](#), November 9, 2016

The election of Mrs. Clinton as president would have represented a final shattering of the glass ceiling that has been present for so many women students and recent graduates. Students, alumni, and faculty members at Wellesley College, Mrs. Clinton's alma mater, watched together as the glass ceiling stayed in place. [Read more](#).

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program, hhmi.org, November 8, 2016

Through the new Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) seeks to increase diversity in the biomedical research community. HHMI will recruit and retain individuals from groups underrepresented in the life sciences. The application deadline is February 15, 2016 at 3:00 p.m. (Eastern Time). [Read more](#).

The 2017 Keystone Symposia Conferences, [keystonesymposia.org](#), November 8, 2016

The 2016-2017 Keystone Symposia conference season is underway, with a full list of meetings and speakers. [Read more](#).

Machine-Learning Algorithm Quantifies Gender Bias in Astronomy, [scientificamerican.com](#), November 7, 2016

Researchers from the Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Zurich, Switzerland estimate that, because of gender bias, papers whose first authors are women receive around 10% fewer citations than do those that are first-authored by men. Because a good track record of citations is crucial for research career progression, it's no wonder there is a shortage of women in senior academic positions. [Read more.](#)

\$5.8 Million Grant Will Fund STEM Studies, sanmarcosrecord.com, November 4, 2016

A 5-year, \$5.8 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education will enable Texas State University to advance and improve support services and strategies enhancing student success in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. To further create an inclusive community within STEM fields and increase the number of Hispanic and low-income students achieving degrees in STEM, the Hispanic-Serving Institutions – Science, Technology, Engineering or Mathematics and Articulation Program (HSI STEM), sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education, will provide approximately \$1,138,000 annually for the duration of the grant. [Read more.](#)

BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology, bio.org, November 1, 2016

The 2017 BIO World Congress on Industrial Biotechnology will bring together the industrial biotechnology community next July in Montreal, Canada. RFS will again sponsor the Rosalind Franklin Award for Leadership in Industrial Biotechnology. Submit a panel or speaker now through January 11, 2017. [Read more.](#)

The Wing: Manhattan's First All-Female Coworking Space and Social Club, fastcompany.com, October 28, 2016

Audrey Gelman brings a new meaning to “girls’ day.” In need of a place to work when she was on the go and a fan of the idea of a supportive women’s-only zone, Gelman launched The Wing. This women’s space is not just part social club, part coworking studio and part beauty salon, but is an inclusive place for women to come together and create connections. [Read more.](#)

Bob Dylan Won. But in Science, the Times They Aren't A-Changin', nytimes.com, October 31, 2016

With only three Nobel Prizes available for science – physiology or medicine, physics and chemistry – the constraints surrounding the Nobel Prizes continue to hinder experts, both men and women, from winning in their respective fields. [Read more.](#)

National Academy of Medicine Elects 79 New Members, nationalacademies.org, October 17, 2016

The National Academy of Medicine announced the election of 70 regular members and 9 international members during its annual meeting. More than 30 new members are women. [Read more.](#)