



RFS Briefings

October 13, 2016

Mary Ann Liebert Interview for *The CEO FORUM*, Volume VI, Issue 3, 2016
Mary Ann Liebert, founder and president of Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., was recently interviewed for the current issue of *The CEO FORUM*, a quarterly publication. The feature highlights the professional and personal side of the esteemed founder of the Rosalind Franklin Society. Additionally, Liebert shares her journey into scholarly publishing and what inspires her to continue her commitment to recognize, foster, and advance the important contributions made by women in the life sciences and related fields.

[Read more.](#)

33 Women Named Scholars, hhmi.org, September 2016

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute, the Simons Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation announced the selection of 84 Faculty Scholars, early-career scientists who have potential to make distinctive contributions to their fields. The scientists represent 43 institutions across the United States.

[Read more.](#)

Howard Hughes Medical Institute Names 4 UCSF Researchers as Faculty Scholars, ucsf.edu, September 22, 2016

Four UC San Francisco researchers are among the 84 Faculty Scholars named by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI), the Simons Foundation, and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in a new program to support promising early-career scientists. [Read more.](#)

Two Female Scientists Named MacArthur Fellows, macfound.org, September 23, 2016

- Rebecca Richards-Kortum is a bioengineer addressing global health disparities in low-research environments by creating point-of-care medical technologies and a new approach to engineering education. [Read more.](#)
- Dianne Newman is a microbiologist exploring the role that bacteria have played in shaping the Earth and continue to play in modern biomedical contexts. She has training in environmental engineering, earth science, geobiology, and molecular genetics. [Read more.](#)

Deborah S. Jin Dies at 47; Physicist Studied Matter in Extreme Cold,

nytimes.com, September 21, 2016

Deborah S. Jin, a distinguished physicist who created and explored matter that exists only at a sliver of a degree above absolute zero – or minus 459.67 degrees Fahrenheit – died on September 15, 2016 in Boulder, CO. She was 47. In 2005, Dr. Jin became the second-youngest woman ever elected to the National Academy of Sciences. [Read more.](#)

Rockefeller neuroscientist Cori Bargmann to lead science work at Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, Rockefeller.edu, September 21, 2016

Cori Bargmann, a neuroscientist recognized worldwide and head of the Lulu and Anthony Wang Laboratory of Neural Circuits and Behavior at The Rockefeller University, has been named incoming president of science at the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI), the philanthropy funded by Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg and his wife Priscilla Chan. In her new role, effective October 1, 2016, Bargmann will oversee a multi-billion dollar effort over the coming years to develop and implement a strategy to unlock understanding of the human body down to the cellular level. [Read more.](#)

HHMI Launches New Program for Early-Career Scientists, hhmi.org, September 19, 2016

The Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) announced a new program – the Hannah H. Gray Fellows Program – to recruit and maintain early-career scientists who are from gender, racial, ethnic, and other groups underrepresented in the life sciences, including those from disadvantaged backgrounds. Through an open competition, HHMI plans to select scientists early in their training to become Hannah H. Gray Fellows and each fellow will receive funding for up to eight years, with mentoring and active involvement within the HHMI community. The deadline for applications is February 15, 2017, at 3:00 PM EST. [Read more.](#)

Society Led by Strong Females, nytimes.com, September 13, 2016

Humans are similarly related to chimps and bonobos, including a range of behavior variations. “We can be as aggressive as the chimpanzee, or as female-allied as the bonobo,” says Dr. Francis White, a biological anthropologist at the University of Oregon. Female bonobos have found a way practice “solidarity and

“sisterhood,” which gives a basis for understanding human evolution and the future for women. The unresolved question for researchers, however, is how the female solidarity routine started among Bonobos. [Read more.](#)

Lasker Awards Given for Work in Physiology, Virology and Science

Education, nytimes.com, September 13, 2016

The Lasker Awards are among the most highly regarded prizes in medicine and will be awarded to six researchers who made key discoveries in their respective fields. All recipients of the awards are male scientists. [Read more.](#)

Speaker Cancelled; Third Annual Rodolfo Llinás Lecture Series, September 6, 2016

The lecture by Professor James Watson, scheduled for September 12, was cancelled. An open letter written by medical and graduate students at NYU School of Medicine expressed their feeling regarding the invitation to Dr. Watson for this lecture. They pointed out that Dr. Watson had made public claims to diminish respect for black female and obese individuals. NYU Langone Medical Center remained true to its mission of diversity and inclusion and has thus cancelled the lecture. [Read More.](#)

Female Scientists Turn to Data to Fight Lack of Representation on Panels,

nytimes.com, September 5, 2016

To combat the gender disparities that were evident at a conference on deep brain stimulation – where none of the 21 scientists scheduled to speak were women – Yael Niv, a Princeton University neuroscientist, and 20 other female scientists created a website called BiasWatchNeuro. Their goal? To collect data on the numbers of male and female speakers. [Read more.](#)

NIH Names Dr. Diana Bianchi Director of the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, nih.gov, August 25, 2016

Diana W. Bianchi, MD, was named director of the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD), effective October 31, 2016. She will oversee research on pediatric health and development, maternal health, medical rehabilitation, population dynamics, reproductive health, and intellectual and developmental disabilities. [Read more.](#)

Earth-sized Planet Around Nearby Star is Astronomy Dream Come True,

nature.com, August 25, 2016

Proxima Centauri, the star closest to the Sun, has an Earth-sized planet orbiting it at the right distance for liquid water to exist. The discovery fulfills a longstanding dream that a possibly habitual world is close enough for humans to send their first interstellar spacecraft. Sherry Cady, Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, was a past speaker at the Rosalind Franklin Society Board Meeting. [Read more.](#)

What’s So Special About Another Earth?, nytimes.com, August 25, 2016

Astronomers have discovered a planet the size of Earth orbiting Proxima Centauri, our nearest star that could sustain life. [Read more.](#)

One Star Over, a Planet That Might Be Another Earth, nytimes.com, August 24, 2016

Astronomers announced that they have found a planet orbiting Proxima Centauri, the closet star. This discovery “raises the public awareness that there’s a new world just next door,” says Dr. Ruslan Belikov of the NASA Ames Research Center in Mountain View, California. [Read more.](#)