



## RFS Briefings

February 1, 2017

### **A Crime in the Cancer Lab**, nytimes.com, January 28, 2017

“Falsified data is a crime against scientific truth,” says Theodora Ross, an oncologist and the director of the cancer genetics program at the University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center. Several years ago, one of Ross’ graduate students said her research had been sabotaged. Was she self-sabotaging, or is the culture of scientific research – and the pressure to produce – to blame for the tampering of work? [Read more.](#)

### **Gender Stereotypes about Intellectual Ability Emerge Early and Influence Children’s Interests**, sciencemag.com, January 2017

Common stereotypes associate advanced intellectual ability (brilliance, genius, etc.) with men more than women. It is these stereotypes that discourage women from pursuing various careers, such as physics and philosophy, and result in gender disparity in the workplace. A new study shows that these stereotypes can have a direct impact and influence on the interests of children as young as six. As children begin to make their own choices that shape their education and career paths, how can, as adults, break down these stereotypes? [Read more.](#)

### **The Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine and *Gender and the Genome* Announce the Robert S. Birch Award Competition**, liebertpub.com, January 19, 2017

The Foundation for Gender-Specific Medicine and *Gender and the Genome* (Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers) announced the Robert S. Birch Award, a prize of \$25,000. The intent of the new prize is to encourage submissions of original research or scholarly legal/ethical commentary of the highest quality concerning the relevance of biological sex/gender to cutting edge 21st-century science for publication in *Gender and the Genome*. The submission deadline is September 30, 2017. [Read more.](#)

### **The Public Health Associate Program**, cdc.gov, January 19, 2017

The Public Health Associate Program (PHAP) is a competitive, two-year, paid training program with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Associates will gain hands-on experience that will serve as a foundation for their public health careers. [Read more.](#)

**Jesse H. Shera Award for Distinguished Published Research: Call for Submissions**,

American Library Association

The Library Research Round Table of the American Library Association announces the 2017 Jesse H. Shera Award for Distinguished Published Research. The deadline for submitting entries is January 31, 2017. [Read more](#).

**"Hidden Figures" First at the Box Office for Second Week**, abcnews.com, January 16, 2017

"Hidden Figures" grabbed the top spot at the weekend box office for the second week in a row. The film tells the story of three brilliant African-American women at NASA who serve as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history: the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. [Read more](#).

**If You Want to Live Longer, Take Good Care of Your Telomeres**, washingtonpost.com,

January 13, 2017

Molecular biologist Elizabeth Blackburn, RFS board member and President of the Salk Institute, and two colleagues won the Nobel Prize in 2009 for the discovery of telomerase, the enzyme that replenishes the bits of DNA on either end of your chromosomes and are often compared to the plastic caps on shoelaces. What happens when you let the shoelace caps wear down from use? Your shoelaces fray and they can't do their job. Telomeres are like these caps, but stress will make them shorter. And, if they get too short, your cells stop dividing, leading to pain, heart disease and more. [Read more](#).

**Meet the First African-American Crew Member Aboard the International Space Station**,

nymag.com, January 13, 2017.

Jeanette Epps, was first selected as an astronaut in 2009 and has been assigned to her first spaceflight scheduled to launch in May 2018. [Read more](#).

**Margaret Werner-Washburne wins the 2016 AAAS Mentor Award for Lifetime**

**Achievement**, scienmag.com, January 13, 2017

Margaret Werner-Washburne, Regents Professor Emerita of Biology at the University of New Mexico and principal investigator of the University of New Mexico's Initiative for Maximizing Student Development Program, will receive the Lifetime Mentor Award from the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She will be honored for her work in mentoring and research that led to a substantial increase in Hispanic and Native American doctorates in the biological sciences. [Read more](#).

**Two UW Professors win Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers**,

Washington.edu, January 10, 2017

Two University of Washington professors, Emily Fox and Catherine Karr, have received the 2017 Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers (PECASE), the highest honor given by the U.S. government to early career scientists and engineers. President Obama named 102 scientists and researchers as recipients of PECASE. 60 were women. [Read more](#).

**Synthego Raises \$41 Million From Investors, Including a Top Biochemist**, nytimes.com,

January 4, 2017

Synthego, a genetic engineering start-up founded by brothers Paul and Michael Dabrowski, garnered support from Jennifer A. Doudna, the biochemist who helped discover the Crispr-Cas9 gene-editing technique that made altering DNA much easier. Four years ago, the brothers had a goal to help scientists better automate their research. [Read more](#).

**Why Vera Rubin Deserved a Nobel**, nytimes.com, January 4, 2017

Dr. Vera Rubin's understanding on dark matter was groundbreaking and, while she received awards during her career, many feel she should have received a Nobel Prize. Of the 204 Nobel laureates in physics, only two have been women. Although Dr. Rubin, who passed away on Christmas Day, missed her chance, it is not too late to recognize strong female scientists. [Read more.](#)

**Why Aren't Their More Female Billionaires?** nytimes.com, December 30, 2016

The world of billionaires remains a predominately male club. According to Wealth-X, of the nearly 2,500 billionaires in the world, only 294 are women. With the continued gender gaps in the workplace, how can women crack the "diamond ceiling?" [Read more.](#)

**Join Our Board: Companies Hotly Pursue New Wave of Women in Tech**, nytimes.com, December 30, 2016

There is a new pool of prospective board member candidates in the world of technology: women who are younger, ethnically diverse, and have grown up in digital business for the majority of their careers. The new generation of tech women are continually being courted to close the gender gap in the boardroom. [Read more.](#)

**Vera Rubin, 88, Dies; Opened Doors in Astronomy, and for Women**, nytimes.com, December 27, 2016

Vera Rubin transformed modern physics and astronomy with her observations showing that galaxies and stars are immersed in the huge clouds of dark matter. Dr. Rubin overcame numerous gender disparities throughout her educational and professional career. [Read more.](#)

**Human Frontier Science Program Invites Applications for Innovative Life Science Research**, philanthropynewsdigest.org, December 19, 2016

The Human Frontier Science Program is inviting applications from researchers with an innovative approach to understanding the complex mechanisms of living organisms. Applicants must register and obtain a 2017 reference number from the HFSP website by March 20, 2017. Letters of Intent must be received no later than March 30, 2017. [Read more.](#)

**The Changing Face of Epidemiology: Gender Disparities in Citations**, December 2016

Female biomedical scientists tend to publish fewer articles as last author than their male colleagues. Additionally, they accrue fewer citations per publications. Scientists are striving to understand whether epidemiology follows this pattern. [Read more.](#)

**The Woman Who Might Fund Us Another Earth**, nytimes.com, December 7, 2016

In 2013, the MacArthur Foundation certified astrophysicist Sara Seager as a "genius." They were right. Dr. Seager, a tenured professor of physics and of planetary science at M.I.T., has dedicated her life to search for the smallest lights – exoplanets – and ultimately, discover another earth. [Read more.](#)