ROSALIND FRANKLIN SOCIETY

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:

Lasker Awards Given for Work in Genetics, Anesthesia and Promoting Women in Science, nytimes.com, September 11, 2018
The Lasker Awards, among the most prestigious prizes in medicine, were awarded by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation on September 11. Joan Argetsinger Steitz, the winner of the Alasker-Koshland Award for Special Achievement in Medical Science, is recognized as “a champion of women in her field.” She is a founding board member of the Rosalind Franklin Society. Read more.

The Rockefeller University Pearl Meister Greengard Prize, September 12, 2018, Jennifer A. Doudna, PhD will be awarded the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize on the evening of October 2, 2018 at the Rockefeller University, followed by a reception. Dr. Doudna is best known for her work on CRISPR gene-editing technology, triggering a scientific revolution. You may register now. Read more.

Changing the Culture of Science to End Sexual Harassment, nih.gov, September 17, 2018
In response to findings of the recent National Academies Report that current policies, procedures, and approaches have not significantly reduced sexual harassment in academic science, engineering, and medicine, Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, announced that NIH has launched an anti-sexual harassment website. Dr. Collins, co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Science with NSF Director Dr. France Cordova, will request that the committee consider uniform measures to change the pervasive culture of sexual harassment in science and foster “a culture of respect for all.” Dr. Cordova will be speaking at the annual Board Meeting of the Rosalind Franklin Society on November 1-2 at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia. 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

September 18, 2018

Changing the Culture of Science to End Sexual Harassment, nih.gov, September 17, 2018
In response to findings of the recent National Academies Report that current policies, procedures, and approaches have not significantly reduced sexual harassment in academic science, engineering, and medicine, Dr. Francis Collins, NIH Director, announced that NIH has launched an anti-sexual harassment website. It provides comprehensive information on policies, practices, and initiatives to address sexual harassment at NIH, including the institutions it supports and those where its research activities are based. New initiatives will be summarized in a Federal Register Notice in a few days, including a survey to all NIH staff to assess the NIH workplace climate and harassment. NIH's colleagues at the National Science Foundation (NSF) are also working to address this problem. Dr. Collins, co-chair of the National Science and Technology Council Committee on Science with NSF Director Dr. France Cordova, will request that the committee consider uniform measures to change the pervasive culture of sexual harassment in science and foster "a culture of respect for all." Dr. Cordova will be speaking at the annual meeting of the Rosalind Franklin Society on November 1-2 at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia. According to Dr. Collins, "Our goal is to create paradigm shift in the scientific culture wherever NIH research activities take place to eliminate sexual harassment and enhance women's contributions to scientific advancements." Read more.

Scientist Omitted from Nobel Prize Finally Gets Her Due, cnn.com, September 13, 2018

Jocelyn Bell Burnell, a British astronomer, played a main role in the 1967 discovery of pulsars, remnants of long-dead stars that emit radio waves detectable on earth. However, her male doctoral advisor was awarded the 1974 Nobel Prize in Physics for this discovery which he shared with a colleague. This story is reminiscent of other young female graduate students working with established scientists. “There are a distressing number of examples of women overlooked for a well-deserved Nobel Prize,” including Rosalind Franklin, Lise Meitner, and Vera Rubin, among others. But now, in recognition of a “’lifetime of leadership in the scientific community,’” underscored by her contribution to the discovery of pulsars, Burnell has been awarded a special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics of $3 million, more than twice the financial worth of the older Nobel Prize. This story is even more remarkable because Burnell is donating the entire prize to the Institute of Physics for scholarships and support to students and scholars from underrepresented groups. Read more.

She Made the Discovery, But A Man Got the Nobel. A Half-Century Later, She’s Won a $3 Million Prize, washingtonpost.com, August 9, 2018
Jocelyn Bell Burnell received a $3 million Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics a half-century after her pioneering discovery of pulsars, described as among the “most important astronomical finds of the 20th century.” The discovery was made in 1967 when she was a graduate student at the University of Cambridge in the radio astronomy department, working under Antony Hewish who later was one of the recipients of a 1974 Nobel Prize in Physics for this work. Not being recognized for her discovery was something she accepted as the way things were at the time. Burnell’s journey, chronicled in this article, highlights the plight of a young girl aspiring to a career in science despite pervasive barriers. In her words: “’The assumption was that boys would do science and the girls would do cookery and needlework. It was such a firm assumption that it wasn’t even discussed.’” Yet, her tenacity to pursue science never wavered – from being the girl who “had to fight to take sciences after age 12” to the graduate student at Cambridge who was only one of two women in her program. Even then, she fought: “. . . until they throw me out, I’m going to work my very hardest,’” she recalled thinking. Now, one of the U.K,’s leading astronomers and a role model for women, she remains true to herself. Believing that her drive “came from being a minority within the field,” she wants to encourage underrepresented minorities to study physics by donating her award to create scholarships for these students. Read more.

Scientist Whose Male Boss Won Nobel for Her work is Giving New $3 Million Prize Away, huffingtonpost.com, September 9, 2018
Jocelyn Bell Burnell, a 74-year-old renowned astrophysicist, won the special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics 44 years after her male doctoral supervisor at Cambridge University won the Nobel Prize in Physics for the discovery of pulsars, a phenomenon that she first noticed in 1967 during a routine data collection using a radio telescope that she was responsible for monitoring. The discovery of pulsars established a new branch of astrophysics. Dame Burnell, a Quaker, is donating her $3 million prize to the Institute of Physics, a global physics society where she was the first female president, so that women, refugees, and other minority students can “follow in her footsteps” to become physics researchers themselves. Read more.

Closing the Tech Gender Gap through Philanthropy and Corporate Social Responsibility, mckinsey.com, September 2018
Women, especially women of color, are pervasively underrepresented in the US tech sector, and the situation is bleak. "The percentage of computing roles women hold has largely declined over the past 25 years," according to McKinsey & Company. The problem is even more apparent for underrepresented women of color. To foster the growth of women in the tech industry, McKinsey in collaboration with Pivotal Ventures (an investment and incubation company created by Melinda Gates) conducted a comprehensive study of how tech-company philanthropy and corporate social responsibility investments can improve gender diversity in this pipeline. Based on a survey of 32 leading tech companies representing nearly $500 billion in revenues and slightly more than $500 million in philanthropic giving in 2017, coupled with in-depth interviews with about 40 tech-company leaders, the study found that current philanthropic and corporate social responsibilities are "falling short." For the full report, *Rebooting representation: Using CSR and philanthropy to close the gender gap in tech*, see here. Read more.

CZI Announces a New $12.5 Million Funding Opportunity to Bring More Engineering Expertise to Imaging, chanzuckerberg.com, September 5, 2018
On September 5, the Chan Zuckerberg Initiative (CZI) invited engineers, physicists, mathematicians, computer scientists, and biologists with expertise in technology development to apply for CZI's new Imaging Scientists Program. Recognizing that the imaging of cells, molecules, and tissues has been slowed by "inadequate software and limited sharing of advanced microscopy methods," this initiative will address an issue which is of great importance to both biomedical research and clinical practice. Read more.

Hanna Gray Fellows Program, hhmi.org, September 12, 2018
To increase diversity in the biomedical research community, the Howard Hughes Medical Institute (HHMI) launched the Hanna H. Gray Fellows Program in 2017, which recruits and retains diverse candidates targeting underrepresented groups in the life sciences, including men and women of every race and every color who bring diverse perspectives and original thinking to the field. The Program honors the contributions of Hanna Holborn Gray, PhD over her 28 years of service as a trustee of HHMI. The 2018 fellows included 9 women and 9 minorities representing an impressive, diverse group. Each fellow receives up to $1.4 million in funding over 8 years, as well as mentoring and active involvement in the HHMI community. The 2019 competition is now open, with applications due January 9, 2019. Fellowships will be announced by the end of June 2019. HHMI has created a powerful video featuring its 2017 fellows. Read more.

Role Models Tell Girls that STEM's for Them in New Campaign, nytimes.com, September 9, 2018
"She Can STEM," a new public service campaign, encourages girls 11 to 15 years old to get involved in science, technology, engineering, and math. Launched by the Advertising Council together with General Electric, Google, IBM, and Verizon, its

centerpiece includes videos of seven women from these and other employers, including Boeing and Microsoft, discussing their work and opportunities in STEM with girls (actresses) who have an interest in STEM. The campaign also includes other platforms such as a website, Instagram, and more traditional media. According to the president and chief executive of the Ad Council. "'If we want women at the forefront of the next generation of STEM leaders, we must show young girls that it is possible.'" Read more.

Lasker Awards Given for Work in Genetics, Anesthesia and Promoting Women in Science, nytimes.com, September 11, 2018
The Lasker Awards, among the most prestigious prizes in medicine, were awarded by the Albert and Mary Lasker Foundation on September 11. Joan Argetsinger Steitz, the winner of the Alasker-Koshland Award for Special Achievement in Medical Science, is recognized as "a champion of women in her field." She is a founding board member of the Rosalind Franklin Society. Since her foray into science more than 40 years ago, Dr. Steitz has contributed to several breakthroughs in the understanding of RNA. An author of the 2007 National Academy of Sciences report that recommended specific steps for maximizing women's potential in academic science and engineering, she continues to give presentations about how to encourage more women in science and to mentor them. Read more.

The Rockefeller University Pearl Meister Greengard Prize,
https://womenandscience.rockefeller.edu, September 12, 2018,
Jennifer A. Doudna, PhD will be awarded the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize on the evening of October 2, 2018 at the Rockefeller University, followed by a reception. Dr. Doudna is best known for her work on CRISPR gene-editing technology, triggering a scientific revolution. She is a professor at the University of California, Berkley, a Howard Hughes Medical Institute Investigator, and director of the Innovative Genomics Institute, a joint UC-Berkeley. Registration for this event is open. Read more.

2018 SRF Summer Scholars Program, sens.org, September 2018
The SENS Research Foundation offers a Summer Scholars Program for undergraduate students with paid internships in the field of regenerative medicine, encompassing the development of both laboratory and communication skills. Interns have the opportunity to conduct biomedical research to combat diseases of aging, such as cancer, Alzheimer's, and Parkinson's Disease. Scholars work under the guidance of a scientific mentors and are responsible for their own research projects. Read more.

TIME'S UP. An Open Letter to the CBS Board, timesupnow.com, September 12, 2018
In an open letter, TIME'S UP challenges Ms. Shari Redstone, vice-chairwoman of the CBS Corporation, and board members to demonstrate "true leadership" in the wake of the Les Moonves allegations – with a promise to work together to effect change not only in CBS' structure but in its workplace culture to ensure safety, dignity, and equity for its employees. The letter argues for a more diverse board, to include women of color and other underrepresented groups, noting that several new women have been already added. It also outlines strategies for accomplishing long-term change, such as: a full,

independent investigation of sexual harassment allegations; regular oversight of the workplace culture with specific and measurable benchmarks; an inclusive hiring, promotion and retention policy at all levels; and implementation of a pay equity study. TIME'S UP requests that Mr. Moonves' $120,000 severance pay be donated to the movement. Read more.

2019 Simons Early Career Investigator in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution Awards, simonsfoundation.org, September 12, 2018
The Simons Foundation issued a request for applications for its Simons Early Career Investigator in Marine Microbial Ecology and Evolution Awards. Individual grants of $180,000 per year for three years, beginning on April 1, 2019, will help launch careers of outstanding investigators in these and other fields through experiments, modeling, or theory. The first step in the application process is a letter of intent (due by November 6, 2018), followed by a review process during which selected applicants will be invited for further consideration (to be announced by February 1, 2019). Read more.

Special Issue in Honor of Professor Susan Brand Horwitz, pubs.acs.org/jnp**,** March 23, 2018
The Guest Editors of the *Journal of Natural Products* published a special issue honoring the significant accomplishments of Dr. Horowitz of the Department of Molecular Pharmacology at Albert Einstein College of Medicine – the first time the Journal has honored a female scientist. The issue includes contributed papers from her colleagues and collaborators across the world, many of which highlight the significant impact of her discovery of the mechanism of the action of taxol on the fields of natural products, cancer pharmacology, and clinical oncology over nearly four decades. Taxol and its later derivatives have enhanced and extended the lives of millions of cancer patients. Read more.

American Association for the Advancement of Science Internship Sponsors, aaas.org, April 2018
The 2018 AAAS internship program is sponsored by Mrs. Sara Lee Schupf and Dr. Jerry Pausch. Mrs. Schupf, the namesake of the Sara Lee Baking Company founded by her father, has demonstrated a passion for science and diversification of the STEM fields through her support for science and technology education. In addition to the internship sponsorship, she and her family foundation have endowed academic chairs, fellowships, and scholarships along with centers and programs to enrich STEM education and career opportunities. Mrs. Schupf has also been a funder of the Rosalind Franklin Society. Read more.