

# WE WOMEN IN ENDOCRINOLOGY

<http://www.women-in-endo.org/>

Spring 2008

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## **\*WE Executive Committee\***

The executive committee of WE is eager to receive your comments and suggestions. Along with our President and Secretary-Treasurer, above, our Committee Chairs are:

**Awards Committee:** PAMELA MELLON, Ph.D.,  
[pmellon@ucsd.edu](mailto:pmellon@ucsd.edu)

**Communications Committee:** GERALYN LAMBERT  
MESSERLIAN, Ph.D., [gmesserl@wihri.org](mailto:gmesserl@wihri.org)

**Development Committee:** TAMI WOLDEN-HANSON,  
Ph.D., [tw@u.washington.edu](mailto:tw@u.washington.edu)

**Mentoring Committee:** GAYATHRI DEVI, Ph.D.,  
[gayathri.devi@duke.edu](mailto:gayathri.devi@duke.edu)

**Nominating Committee:** CAROLE R. MENDELSON,  
Ph.D., [carole.mendelson@utsouthwestern.edu](mailto:carole.mendelson@utsouthwestern.edu)

**Program Committee:** MARY RUPPE, M.D.,  
[mary.ruppe@uth.tmc.edu](mailto:mary.ruppe@uth.tmc.edu)

## **\*Action Items\***

**Annual Dinner:** Sunday, June 15, 2008  
**New WE website:** <http://www.women-in-endo.org/>  
**Membership for 2008:** DUE NOW!  
**WE Election:** Watch for ballot- to be sent soon.

## **\*WE website\***

The new WE website contains an improved layout and easier navigation, with an option for on-line dues payments. Visit our site to learn about the upcoming annual meeting, renew your membership, or find WE colleagues (member log-in required for member access). If you have any suggestions for the website, or to add pertinent society information to the site, please contact GERALYN MESSERLIAN at [gmesserl@wihri.org](mailto:gmesserl@wihri.org).

**Note:** This website is secure.

## **\*Annual Dinner Meeting\***

**Sunday, June 15<sup>th</sup>, Metropolitan Ballroom of the  
Westin San Francisco Market Street**

Opportunity for networking, presentation of the WE Mentor Award, the WE Young Investigator Awards, and awards from the Australasian Branch of WE. Our guest speaker, Deborah Kolb, will speak on "Everyday Negotiations: Creating the Conditions for Career Success". The Endocrine Society designates this educational activity for a maximum of 1.5 *AMA PRA Category 1 Credits*™.

Advanced registration is available during registration for ENDO 2008. The fee is \$65 per person. For further information, please go to [www.women-in-endo.org](http://www.women-in-endo.org)

## **\*Dues for 2008\***

*Annual membership in Women in Endocrinology follows the calendar year. All memberships expired on December 31, 2007. Please renew!*

Full members, academic and industry	\$50.00
In training, post-graduate (post-doctoral or clinical fellows):	\$15.00
Predoctoral or medical students	no dues

Fill out enrollment form and provide evidence of training status

## **\*Thanks to our contributors for 2008!\***

We acknowledge the generous support from:

**Mentor Award:** **Pfizer**  
**Gold Level (\$5,000):** **Wyeth Pharmaceuticals**  
**Amgen**  
**Silver Level (\$2,500):** **Genentech**  
**Miscellaneous (\$1,500):** grateful patients, member donations, etc.

## \*Congratulations to the 2008 WE Mentor and Young Investigator Awardees\*

### WE Mentor Award - 2008

Mary F. Dallman, Ph.D.,  
Professor of Physiology  
UC San Francisco

### WE Young Investigator Awards - 2008

#### Neena Schwartz Award for Excellence in Basic Science Research:

- Andrea Daniel, University of Minnesota Cancer Center

#### Janet W. McArthur Award for Excellence in Clinical Research:

- Lisa-Marie Atkin, University of Queensland

#### WE Young Investigator Awards:

- Katherine Aird, Duke University
- Anna Barron, University of Western Australia
- Sumbul Beg, Baylor College of Medicine
- Rhonda Bentley-Lewis, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Suzy Bianco, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Amy Chang, UC San Diego
- Marieke Dekker, Erasmus MC, Rotterdam
- John Gill, Brigham and Women's Hospital
- Anita Iyer, UC San Diego
- Emily Lam, Prince Henry's Institute, Monash Medical Centre
- Alina Montalbano, UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas
- Kristy Nicks, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences
- Christine Rigsby, Medical College of Georgia
- Joanna Spencer, The Rockefeller University
- Zhaoyu Sun, University of Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey
- Almudena Veiga-Lopez, University of Michigan

## \*Opportunities for Trainees at ENDO 08\*

WE is co-sponsoring the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Endocrine Trainee Day to be held on Saturday June 14, 2008 <http://www.endo-society.org/endo07/development/students.cfm>.

This competitive day-long program is an opportunity for select graduate students, postdoctoral fellows and clinical fellows to obtain career advice, including detailed discussions on grant writing, scientific presentations, and mentorship.

An extensive number of additional opportunities for career development will be provided at ENDO 08: **Trainee Exchange** – a designated area will be available for trainees to meet and share information. This area will also host presentations, including Career Development

Workshops to be held on each day of ENDO 08 (visit <http://www.endo-society.org/endo/trainees/#careerdev/> for more information).

**Trainee Reception** - Saturday, June 14, 2008 from 5:30-7:00 PM in the Mascone Center to honor ENDO travel grant recipients.

**Minority Mentoring Reception** - Monday, June 16, 2008 from 6:30-8:30 PM (location TBD).

**Job Fair** - for both employers and candidates will be available throughout the meeting (more information can be found at [http://www.endo-society.org/endo/professional\\_development.cfm](http://www.endo-society.org/endo/professional_development.cfm)).

## \*Past WE Awardees: Where are they now?\*

WE is proud to share the following updates on former WE Awardees.

*"I believe that through my activities with WE, I was able to expand my network which has been important for my*



*international standing in the field of Endocrinology - this led to an invitation to join the Publications Committee of the Endocrine Society."*

- Currently a Visiting Scientist at the Department of Pediatrics at University of Washington, Seattle, **Cathie Coulter, Ph.D.** was the recipient of WE Investigator Awards in 1995 as a

postdoctoral fellow at Lawson Research Institute, University of Western Ontario, Canada, and in 1998 as a junior faculty at Baker Medical Research Institute, Australia. Dr. Coulter is continuing her research on the factors which regulate the development of the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis, as well developing new technologies to assess the effectiveness of therapies used in the treatment of perinatal brain injury. Dr. Coulter has continued the tradition of supporting trainees by establishing the Australasian Branch of Women in Endocrinology and raising money to support a similar awards program for the past 8 years.

**Jonna Frasor, Ph.D.**, was a new faculty member in the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at University of Illinois at Chicago when she received the WE Young Investigator Award in 2007. Jonna is now in her 3<sup>rd</sup> year as an Assistant Professor at the same institution and is currently studying how inflammation influences estrogen receptor activity. Dr. Frasor commented that *"The award*



from Women in Endocrinology was a great honor to me and it was very helpful in my career development. It allowed me to attend the annual Endo meeting, present my own research, learn about other people's work, meet with colleagues, and establish a new collaboration."



**Madhu Misra, M.D., MPH,** was a junior faculty in the Pediatric Endocrine and Neuroendocrine Units at Massachusetts General Hospital when she received the WE Janet McArthur Award. She is now an Assistant Professor in Pediatrics at Massachusetts General Hospital and Harvard Medical School. Dr.

Misra is currently working on therapeutic strategies to increase bone mass accrual in adolescent girls with anorexia nervosa, and is also characterizing the pathophysiology of hypogonadism and low bone density in athletes with amenorrhea. In addition, her interests span the neuroendocrinology of obesity and depressive disorders. Dr. Misra commented that *"I was deeply honored to receive the Janet McArthur Award, and this award has certainly been very helpful to my career development. It provided me immediately with resources to attend the Endocrine Society meeting in 2003, where I was invited for platform presentations of two abstracts. Manuscripts resulting from those data are now published in the Journal of Clinical Endocrinology and Metabolism. Since then, this has been an important and prestigious award to list in my CV, and I am truly honored to be a recipient of this award, particularly given the wonderful and inspiring researcher that this award is named after."*

WE is interested in obtaining feedback on the potential impact of the WE awards (previously called the WE Travel or WE Abstract Awards) on the careers and scientific development of all of our awardees. If you are a past Awardee, please send your current contact information to WE Mentoring Committee member, JingJing Kipp, [j-kipp@northwestern.edu](mailto:j-kipp@northwestern.edu). Please add "WE Awardee's" in the subject line of your email. WE is proud of your accomplishments; please share them with us!

### **\*Membership Renewal\***

**Why should you join or renew your membership in WE?** WE is devoted to promoting and facilitating the professional development and advancement of women in the field of endocrinology. WE provides networking and mentorship opportunities for our members, not only through the WE Annual Meeting, but also through support of our members in The Endocrine Society (TES). WE facilitates member participation in TES activities by nominating and providing opportunities to chair sessions,

hold office, and review papers for society journals. WE members can apply for Young Investigator Awards given preferentially to WE members and their trainees (see below). ***Please pass this information on to students, trainees, fellows, and faculty.***

### **2. Tax-deductible donations to WE**

The WE Development Committee would like to remind you that, in addition to corporate donations (which are increasingly difficult to acquire), WE is supported by membership dues and donations from you, our members. As a 501(c)(3) organization, all donations are tax-deductible (tax ID 52-2137017), although we encourage you to check with your tax accountant. Donations can be directed to either trainee development or to unrestricted use in the areas of networking, development of informational programs, maintenance of the website and other critical functions.

The newly remodeled WE website features an easy way to pay your dues and make donations through a secure website. Donations can also be made by sending a check to the Secretary-Treasurer, Lisa Halvorson (see address above).

### **3. Membership in the Endocrine Society (TES)**

Although membership in TES is not mandatory for WE membership, we encourage you to join to gain additional benefits available through this society.

### **4. Volunteer**

Please volunteer for WE and TES activities. It's easy. Just fill out the volunteer form on our new web site and email or mail a copy to Lisa Halvorson.

### **\*WE Job Placement Service \***

Looking to hire or searching for a position? The WE website provides a venue for potential employees to advertise job opportunities on the Career Resources page at [www.women-in-endo.org/career/](http://www.women-in-endo.org/career/). If you are interested in placing an ad, please contact the Secretary-Treasurer, Lisa Halvorson, including a short description of the available position.

### **\*WE President's Corner\***

It has been my very great pleasure to serve as the President of WE for the past two years. It is truly a wonderful organization that was founded by a small group of women who were committed to ensuring that women in endocrinology had a seat at the table. This remains our most important goal. As described in our Mission Statement, WE seeks to accomplish this goal through:

1. promoting educational opportunities for women in the science and discipline of Endocrinology;
2. identifying promising young women in Endocrinology and providing mentoring through guidance and

assistance to enhance their capabilities in Endocrinology; and

3. encouraging and supporting the admission of women into relevant scientific, educational and professional societies and making it possible for them to participate fully.

I have been joined this year by an incredible group of people who have volunteered their time and wisdom. Under the leadership of GERALYN Lambert-Messerlian, the Communications Committee has done an amazing job of revamping the WE website that was initially designed and maintained for many years by **David Steffen** to whom we are forever indebted. Pamela Mellon and her committee have reviewed a superb group of applications for the Mentor and Young Investigator Awards that will be presented at our meeting in June. Gay Devi and the Mentoring Committee have worked with the Endocrine Society on activities for trainees and have surveyed our past award winners, providing the profiles that are highlighted in the Newsletter and others that will be appearing on our website. Tami Wolden-Hanson and the Development Committee have worked tirelessly to garner additional funds to support the activities of WE and we thank them and our sponsors. Carole Mendelson and the Nominating Committee have done a superb job of identifying qualified women for membership on Endocrine Society committees and candidates for Endocrine Society Laureate Awards and leadership positions. Their job includes coming up with a slate for election of new members of the WE Nominating Committee. An election ballot will be sent by e-mail in the next few days. ***Don't miss your opportunity to vote.***

I hope you will join us at the ***WE Dinner on Sunday June 15***. From my first Endocrine Society Meeting, this has been a very special event for me. I have been inspired and sometimes chastised by the speakers, awed by the accomplishments and contributions of the Mentor Award winners, thrilled to be able to recognize young investigators and perhaps, most of all, have developed special connections with so many individuals that I might not otherwise have come to know. This truly is a wonderful community to be a part of. Mary Ruppe and the Program Committee have put together an event that I know you will enjoy. Please reach out to your colleagues

and trainees to encourage them to join us. We look forward to seeing you there!

WE has also had a hand in making ENDO '08 a more welcoming experience for our trainees - through the WE Young Investigator Awards that will be presented at the WE Dinner, through the participation of our members as faculty for Trainee Day and through the sponsorship of trainees to attend this special meeting, a new initiative for us this year. ENDO '08 will be packed with many opportunities to learn and share your science. I want to draw your attention to a very special presentation this year - the Clark T. Sawin Memorial Lecture that will be given by **Neena B. Schwartz**, one of the founding members of WE, on Wednesday June 18 at 12:15 and is titled, "A Lab of Our Own: Historical Perspectives on the Contribution of Women to Endocrinology".

A major component of the mission of WE is to promote the achievements of women in the Endocrine Society and to ensure that women are given the opportunities to attain leadership positions. The Endocrine Society has acknowledged the incredible accomplishments of **Dr. Nancy Weigel** who will receive the Endocrine Society's Roy O. Greep Lecture Award for 2008 and speak at the afternoon Plenary Session on Monday, June 16, and **Dr. Lisa Fish**, the recipient of the 2008 Sidney H. Ingbar Distinguished Service Award. Finally, I would like to congratulate **Carole Mendelson** who has been elected Vice-President, Basic Scientist of the Endocrine Society and **Teresa Woodruff** who has been elected to the Endocrine Society Council and look forward to their leadership in the society.

As I look towards June and the time that I will turn over my position to President-Elect, Ursula Kaiser, I want to thank our Secretary-Treasurer, Lisa Halvorson and the Chairs and Committee Members for their hard work and commitment this past year. I also want to thank our members for continuing to make WE an organization that we can all be proud of. Together, we can ensure that women have a seat at the table and speak with a strong voice.

**Janet E. Hall, MD**  
**President, Women in Endocrinology**