

Highlights

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January Meeting of the East Bay Chapter of the Association for Women in Science

An Evening of Networking

with hosts Kitty de Jong, Ph.D. and Mary Alice Yund, Ph.D

Tuesday, January 10, 2006

Chiron Corporation, Room 4.104, Emeryville

6:30 – 8:30 pm

Light Supper at 6:30 pm. See www.ebawis.org or page 3 for directions.
Suggested donation, covers cost of food: \$10 non-members, \$5 members

Due to its tremendous popularity at past meetings, the East Bay AWIS chapter will host an entire meeting dedicated to networking. Kitty de Jong, Ph.D. and Mary Alice Yund, Ph.D. will engage us in networking games that will fine tune our networking skills and make those ever important job contacts! We will introduce an effective networking game that enables you to meet and exchange information with many people in a very short time. You will get to meet EVERYONE in an informal and friendly setting.

President's Message

by Terry Calarco

Regulated Environment?

Last month's panel discussion was titled "Being a Consultant", but it was also about careers in areas you don't learn about in school. Terms like FDA, GMP, GLP, QA, QC, Regulated Environment, and more were tossed about. The acronyms are for terms which are deceptively simple, Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP), Quality Assurance (QA) and Control (QC). These are the guidances under which all companies producing human drugs operate. Instead of publish or perish it is practice it or perish (prohibited from making or selling your drug).

Job opportunities in these regulated areas abound. As the Biotech companies in the Bay Area mature, i.e., put products in clinical trials and on the market, the need for skilled professionals in all the related areas grows. Training is on the job, at companies producing drugs.

The panel discussion gave us a flavor not only for being a consultant but also for working in this field. Two panel members moved from Research to Process Development and then on to Quality, Manufacturing or Regulatory from within biopharmaceutical or pharmaceutical firms. One panel member started at the FDA as a postdoctoral fellow and then moved into industry, today is a regulatory affairs

senior director. Career opportunities exist in quality assurance, quality control, regulatory affairs, and other fields, for those of us who have scientific training, with or without a Ph.D.

Unfortunately, there is no university degree program that leads to a career in this area. The panelists described the role of luck, timing, and willingness to learn while on the job.

Our panelists were: Elizabeth Leininger, Ph.D., currently Senior Director of Regulatory Affairs and Quality at BAS Medical; Mary Davis, currently self employed as a quality assurance consultant; and Paula Shadle, Ph.D., currently self employed as a quality consultant by Shadle Consulting.

For the January Chapter meeting we have a Networking Mixer, starting with a bit of "best practices" and then we'll go through a few rounds. So bring your "elevator ride" introduction (introduce yourself in the span of an elevator ride) and likely a few business cards. See you there!

We look for your suggestions for additional topics of interest.

November Meeting Review: Panelists Paula Shadle, Elizabeth Leininger, and Mary Davis

Being a Consultant: A Panel Discussion

by Suzanne Canada

Flexible and resourceful, Willing to go the extra yard, Experienced, Nerves of steel—if these phrases describe you, you may want to consider consulting as a future career path. The three women on the panel, Paula Shadle, Elizabeth Leininger, and Mary Davis, answered many questions for us and presented the advantages and disadvantages of consulting as a way of earning a living while giving us a background of how they entered the field. Each of them had developed a rich career in the biotech or pharmaceutical industry before becoming a consultant.

What kinds of scientific disciplines lend themselves to consulting?

It is not so much a specific scientific discipline that is required for consulting so much as the basic ability to understand and interpret scientific data. Coupled with Good Manufacturing Practice (GMP) experience, the scientific training is quite valuable in consulting. Clients are usually looking for a specialized skill that isn't generally available but is required over the short term to get a drug or other product to market.

How do you get jobs?

Much of the discussion hinged on how to get the consulting “gigs”. Most of the work described was through professional contacts. The ability to get contracts depended on networking skills: word of mouth, and going to professional meetings.

In addition to networking, belonging to a professional group can also provide a support system that helps consultants through “dry spells”.

How do you know how much to charge for your services?

Prices are usually set by either using information gathered on other consultant's fees, or charging what the market will bear by raising your rates until clients complain. Many factors may influence rates: For example, how busy you are, whether you want the job, whether or not you need to travel, and tax factors can all influence the rates.

It is a good idea to have either another source of income, or a cache of money to weather possible “dry spells” because consulting can be seasonal in a sense of client's budgets for the year, and because consulting is strongly influenced by the economy.

How do civic and legal factors influence consulting?

Although they both operate under a contract, consultants differ from contractors as defined by the tax code. When you consult, or work for yourself, there are a number of taxes that you pay that are normally paid by an employer. It helps to know the tax law or to hire someone who can advise you on factors like how to shelter the money that you earned.

It may be necessary to incorporate, or become a Limited liability company (LLC) to protect your assets from law-suits. In some counties, it is necessary to have a license to be self-employed, and in some areas of expertise, it is worth carrying insurance against the possibility of law-suits.

Do you have a suggestions on how to get in to consulting?

There are several ways to become a consultant. For instance, you can learn from someone else. It is easier if you have a breadth of experience that you can draw on. They felt that the best consultants have good common sense and the ability to interpret guidelines in a clear manner: “Common Sense is Uncommon” was the phrase that set us all chuckling.

Benefits of Joining a Local AWIS Chapter

Enhance your career

- Meet women in our local area who are in influential positions
- Attend networking events at local universities and companies
- Attend seminars by leading scientists on a variety of topics
- Participate in panel discussions on topics relevant to women in science
- Develop your presentation skills
- Develop leadership skills outside of your regular job

Expand your network

- Attend networking dinners and events hosted by local chapters
- Get involved as a chapter committee member
- Take on a leadership role as a chapter board member
- Find a mentor, friend, or new contact

Enhance your life

- Participate in forums discussing topics relevant to women in science:
Balancing work and family life, maternity leave issues, harassment and discrimination, and women's perspectives on science and science-related issues
- Attend group tours of local museums and gardens
- Outreach to local girls in their scientific growth and achievement
- Help a young woman reach for a career in science, math, or engineering

East Bay AWIS 2006 BOARD BOARD MEMBERS

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| Advertising Editor | Position Available |
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| NCC-AWIS Representative | Position Available |
| Meeting Setup Coordinator | Position Available |
| Meeting and Newsletter Sponsors | Open |

Directions to Chiron Corporation Room 4.104, 4560 Horton St., Emeryville, CA

From San Francisco: Take 101 North/I-80 East towards San Francisco. Continue on I-80 across the Bay Bridge. I-80 then joins I-580 (left lanes). Immediately move to the far right lanes and take the Ashby Avenue exit, the next exit past Powell Street. Exit at Ashby Avenue and proceed under the railroad overcrossing, then turn right on 7th Street at the light. Turn right on Folger Avenue and follow the road as it turns left and becomes Hollis Street. Continue on Hollis, across Powell Street, and turn right on 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left (4560 Horton Street).

From Oakland: Take I-880 North. Continue past Oakland to the I-980 interchange towards Walnut Creek. Proceed to I-580 West to San Francisco then to I-80 East. Stay to the right and proceed towards Berkeley on I-80 East/I-580 West. Exit Powell Street and turn right on Powell at the light. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the light turn right on Hollis and then right again on 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left.

From Walnut Creek: Take Highway 80 East toward Berkeley from Highway 24 Westbound, Exit Powell Street and turn right on Powell at the stop light. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the light turn right on Hollis and then another right turn on 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left.

From the South Bay: Take I-880 North. Take I-980 exit towards Highway 24/Walnut Creek. Take the I-580 exit towards San Francisco/Hayward. Take the I-580 West exit on left towards San Francisco. Merge onto I-580 West. Turn slight right at the intersection of I-80 West Ramp to stay on I-580 West. Take the Powell Street exit towards Emeryville and turn right on Powell at the stop light. Continue on Powell over the overpass to Hollis Street. At the stop light at Hollis turn right, then right again onto 53rd Street. Chiron is the third driveway on the left.

Park for the AWIS meeting in the visitor parking area you will see immediately after turning off 53rd Street into the Chiron driveway. Our meeting takes place in the large brick façade building with purple and yellow stucco located across 53rd Street from visitor parking. Enter at the doors nearest the big yellow stucco ball. We meet in room 4.104.

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