



September 2, 2025

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## AWIS UPDATES

### Book Giveaway: *Lead Bigger*

[awis.org](#)

Enter for a chance to win a copy of Anne Chow's *Lead Bigger: The Transformative Power of Inclusion*. It's a call to leaders at every level: inclusion is the path to better performance, collaboration, and change. Submit your entry by September 19 (11:59 p.m. ET). [Enter now.](#)

### Tapping Into the Senses

[awis.org](#)

In the hands of women reclaiming their place in brewing, sensory science has become a tool for education, empowerment, and empathy. AWIS member Frances Tietje-Wang interviews the women redefining the scope and reach of this science. [Read more.](#)

### From San Diego to New Zealand

[awis.org](#)

In transitioning to an international scientific career in New Zealand, Erin Bomati, PhD, had to overcome challenges, including how to navigate a smaller, more interconnected scientific ecosystem. She shares her experience with AWIS member Georgina To'a Salazar, PhD. [Read more.](#)

## HOT HEADLINES

### HHS Terminates NIH Program Aimed at Diversifying Biomedical Workforce

[www.statnews.com](http://www.statnews.com)

HHS Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr. announced the elimination of the Minority Biomedical Research Support Program in a document posted to the Federal Register Monday. Kennedy cited the program's failure to comply with the Trump administration's executive orders that prevent federal agencies from supporting diversity, equity, and inclusion-related activities.

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### Columbia Got Most of Its Research Funding Back. The Damage Goes Deeper.

[www.nytimes.com](http://www.nytimes.com)

Looming over the deal, researchers said, is a bleak national outlook for federal science funding, making some scientists feel as if they dodged a bullet only to face the possibility of a firing squad.

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### Transparent Peer Review: A New Era for Scientific Publishing

[www.the-scientist.com](http://www.the-scientist.com)

So far, researchers find that publishing peer review comments is an overall net positive. However, the details of whether these reports should be signed or remain anonymous, how these change critiques overall, and what other material should be included is an ongoing experiment that will take time to produce results.

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## CELEBRATING WOMEN IN SCIENCE

## Defying Gravity: Tracy Drain's Journey From Kentucky

### Stargazer to NASA Engineer

uknow.uky.edu

Drain, who appears in NASA outreach videos, speaks at schools, and mentors novice scientists, knows how much representation matters. For young Black girls who haven't seen themselves in lab coats or mission control, she sends a simple, vital message: space is for you, too.

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## MIT Alumna Jennifer Rumsey On Decarbonizing the Diesel

### Engine

www.technologyreview.com

How does a 106-year-old company built on diesel engines evolve to thrive in a decarbonized future? Jennifer Rumsey, chair and CEO at Cummins, is leading the way to answer that question by steering the company toward a future with cleaner power options. Rumsey, who studied at MIT for her master's in mechanical engineering, says her experience broadened her worldview.

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## Bison Herd Growing as Environmental Scientist Alyssa Nyberg Restores Indiana's Prairies

news.iu.edu

Nyberg, who earned her undergraduate and master's degrees in environmental science from the O'Neill School, has spent the past 25 years restoring Efroymson Prairie at Kankakee Sands in Northwest Indiana as preserve coordinator.

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## The Forgotten Half-Life of Women in Physics

therader.mitpress.mit.edu

I was far from the first woman to have to choose between career and family. This challenge is common enough in the academic world that it has its own nickname borrowed from a well-known problem in physics: the "two-body problem."

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## OVERCOMING OBJECTIONS

### STEM Faculty on How To Make the Most of Grad School

www.gc.cuny.edu

Professor Viviana Acquaviva (GC/City Tech, Physics, Astrophysics), who shifted her research focus from astrophysics and machine learning to climate data science, offers this advice on pivoting to a new area of study: Focus on the variables within your control.

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## Women Engineers Weigh in on the Challenges They've Overcome and the Workplaces That Have Helped Them Grow

builtin.com

In recognition of Women's Equality Day, 18 women engineers share how they've navigated their careers, how their current employers offer them space to thrive, and what advice they'd offer to other women in the field who are looking for their next role.

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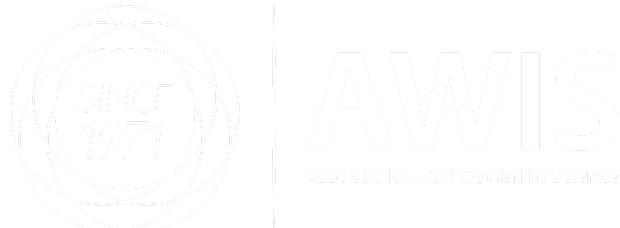


## Educating on Inequality Boosts Women in Biomedical Engineering

bioengineer.org

Women have been underrepresented in many engineering disciplines, especially in biomedical engineering, which combines principles of engineering and biological sciences. They often face not just practical barriers but also psychological hurdles, including the families' and society's preconceived notions of their capabilities.

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Association for Women in Science  
1629 K Street, Suite 300  
Washington, DC 20006  
202-827-9798  
Contact Us  
[www.awis.org](http://www.awis.org)