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6 Women Scientists Who Were Snubbed Due to Sexism

By Jane J. Lee
[National Geographic](#)
May 19, 2013

In April, National Geographic News published a story about [the letter](#) in which scientist Francis Crick described DNA to his 12-year-old son. In 1962, Crick was awarded a [Nobel Prize for discovering the structure of DNA](#), along with fellow scientists James Watson and Maurice Wilkins.

Several people posted comments about our story that noted one name was missing from the Nobel roster: [Rosalind Franklin](#), a British biophysicist who also studied DNA. Her data were critical to Crick and Watson's work. But it turns out that Franklin would not

have been eligible for the prize—she had passed away four years before Watson, Crick, and Wilkins received the prize, and the Nobel is never awarded posthumously.

But even if she had been alive, she may still have been overlooked. Like many women scientists, Franklin was robbed of recognition throughout her career

She was not the first woman to have endured indignities in the male-dominated world of science, but Franklin's case is especially egregious, said [Ruth Lewin Sime](#), a retired chemistry professor at Sacramento City College who has written on women in science.



British scientist Rosalind Franklin at work on the microscope.
Photograph from *Science Source* via *National Geographic*

Over the centuries, female researchers have had to [work as "volunteer" faculty members](#), seen credit for significant discoveries they've made assigned to male colleagues, and been [written out of textbooks](#).

[Read the full story.](#)

Creative Ways to Support Women in Science Could Increase Their Presence and Improve Retention

From NatureJobs.Com
May 18, 2013

WHEN Jennie Lill recently advertised a senior position at Genentech, the pharmaceutical company where she works, she was inundated with responses.

The problem was, only nine out of the hundreds of applicants were women.

"I really had to use all of my contacts to get more women to interview," she says. "And in the end, when there's just not that pool of applicants, there's only so much you can do."

Lill's efforts were part of a recent initiative to increase the number of female scientists at the

company, under which managers must ensure at least 30 per cent of interviewees for any position are women. It's progress, says Lill, but the dearth of female applicants highlights deeper gender imbalances in scientific professions.

[Read the full story.](#)

NSF award aids Pannier's work on gene delivery tool



Angela Pannier, a UNL biological systems engineer, is using nanotechnology to develop a gene delivery tool. (Craig Chandler / University Communications)

Employing DNA that codes for genes to correct genetic problems, treat disease or aid healing holds tremendous potential, but finding an effective, safe method of delivering genes to cells remains a significant hurdle. A UNL engineer is using nanotechnology to develop a gene delivery tool that could unleash the power of gene therapy.

Angela Pannier, assistant professor of biological systems engineering, recently earned a five-year, \$419,051 Faculty Early Career Development Program Award from the National Science Foundation to continue her research. These prestigious awards, also known as CAREER awards, support junior faculty who exemplify the role of teacher-scholars through outstanding research, excellent teaching and the integration of education and research.

[Read the full article in Today@UNL.](#)

Thank you Berthe Y. Choueiry, Associate Professor of Computer Science & Engineering, for providing a link to an article by the University of Nebraska–Lincoln Office of Research and Economic Development about all three UNL faculty members who have been awarded NSF CAREER Awards in 2013! [Click here to read more!](#)





Congratulations to ADVANCE Co-PI Dean Manderscheid who will be Leaving UNL to Lead Ohio State's College of Arts and Sciences!

From the College of Arts & Sciences Website:

The Ohio State University has named David C. Manderscheid as the new leader of the College of Arts and Sciences. Executive Vice President and Provost Joseph A. Alutto announced that Manderscheid accepted the position of executive dean of the College of Arts and Sciences, vice provost for Arts and Sciences and professor of mathematics. The appointment, subject to approval by The Ohio State University Board of Trustees, will be effective July 1.

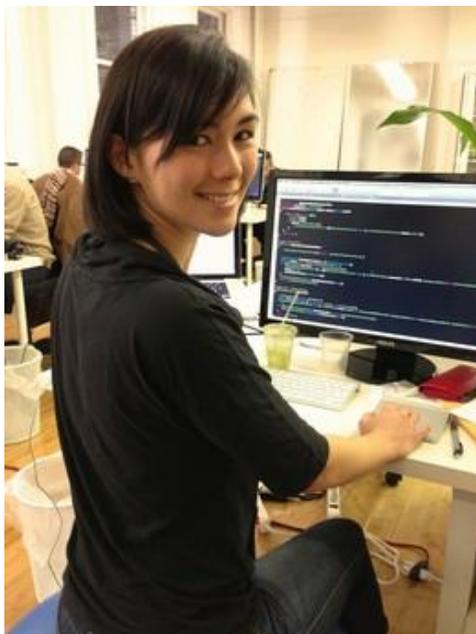
[Read the full story.](#)

SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN™

This App Teaches Kids To Code By Letting Them Make Their Own Games By Patrick James

Samantha John didn't learn programming until she was nearly done with college. Her Hopscotch iPad app teaches the next generation of kids how to write code as soon as they can read.

[Read the full story.](#)



Congratulations to the New Interim Dean of the College of Arts & Sciences Steve Goddard!



From the College of Arts & Sciences Website:

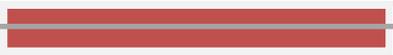
Steve Goddard has been appointed to the position of interim dean in the University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts and Sciences. Ellen Weissinger, senior vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, announced the appointment on May 15.

Goddard will formally accept the appointment, which is pending Board of Regents approval, July 1.

A member of UNL's faculty since 1998, Goddard has served as chair of the Department of Computer Science and Engineering since August 2008. He has served on the Chancellor's Commission on the Status of Women, the ADVANCE-Nebraska Faculty Committee, the UNL Faculty Senate's Intercollegiate Athletics Committee and has for the past several months led a campuswide task force to study the potential role and impact of MOOCs – massive online open courses – at UNL.

"Over the last few days, I have been able to consult with several department chairs and directors in the college and have found universal respect for Steve's integrity and vision," Weissinger said. "I'm confident in Steve's academic values and know that he has the administrative experience to be effective in all aspects of the dean role."

[Read the full story.](#)



THE ELSEVIER FOUNDATION

**Grant Guidelines for the New
Scholars Program
Call for Proposals Deadline: June
24th 2013**

The New Scholars online grant application proposal system will accept Phase I applications through June 24th 2013.

The New Scholars Program supports projects to help early- to mid-career women scientists balance family responsibilities with demanding academic careers. New Scholars seeks to actively address the attrition rate of talented women scientists caused by work-life balance issues. The Foundation provides one, two and three year grants to STEM institutions and organizations actively working towards a more equitable academia by:

- Encouraging networking and collaborations among institutions and/or across STEM disciplines in ways that support the challenges of faculty and staff with family responsibilities.
- Developing and implement strategies for advocacy and policy development to advance knowledge, awareness, and application of programs to retain, recruit and develop women in science.
- Enabling scientists to attend conferences, meetings, workshops and symposia that are critical to the development of a career in science by helping them with childcare and other family responsibilities when attending scientific gatherings.

[Learn more about New Scholars Grants.](#)



Forging the Way for Other Minority Scientists

By [Elisabeth Pain](#)
May 22, 2013

Knatokie Ford was sitting in a movie theater when she discovered a quote from Marianne Williamson, often misattributed to Nelson Mandela:

Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. ... [A]s we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give others permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our own fear, our presence automatically liberates others.

The movie she was watching, *Akeelah and the Bee*, portrays a young girl from a poor African-American community as she wins a shared victory at the Scripps National Spelling Bee. At the time, Ford was working as a substitute teacher in an underserved community in Los Angeles. She had already earned bachelor's and master's degrees at Clark Atlanta University in Georgia. She had started a [biological and biomedical sciences](#) doctoral program at Harvard Medical School in Boston—but her insecurities and the feeling that she was ill-prepared prompted her to take a leave of absence to reevaluate her life and career goals, not knowing whether she would return.

The words in that quote resonated with her. She realized that she wasn't living up to her full potential and that she was allowing the fear of failure to stifle her "light." She decided to "take ownership of my role as a ... potential inspiration to young students who may not have all the resources or feel like they have odds in their favor," she says.

[Read the full story.](#)

Women Scientists Address Drought and Climate Change at the 2013 Water for Food Conference Sponsored by the Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute at the University of Nebraska



Photo Credit: University of Nebraska-Lincoln Center for Plant Science Innovation website.

[Sally Mackenzie](#), Ralph and Alice Raikes Chair of Plant Sciences at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, discussed her research in genetic solutions for breeding drought-resistant crops. [Click here to listen to her talk!](#)

[Cynthia Rosenzweig](#), Senior Research Scientist, NASA Goddard Institute for Space Studies discussed the impacts of climate change on food production. [Click here to listen to her talk!](#)



Photo Credit: University of Michigan School of Natural Resources & Environment website: <http://www.snre.umich.edu/profile/rbierbau>

[Rosina Bierbaum](#) - Professor, School of Natural Resources and Environment, University of Michigan discussed the imperatives to action in climate science. [Click here to listen to her talk!](#)



Photo Credit: Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Facebook page. Caption: "Line Gordon of the Stockholm Resilience Center speaks during the Resilience in Working Agricultural Landscapes panel."



Photo Credit: Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Facebook page "Heidi Cullen of Climate Central talks about climate change at the 2013 Water for Food Conference."



Photo Credit: Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Facebook page



Photo Credit: Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Facebook page



Photo Credit: Robert B. Daugherty Water for Food Institute Facebook page "Ann Bleed of the University of Nebraska-Lincoln moderated the Resilience in Working Agricultural Landscapes panel at the 2013 Water for Food Conference."

Thank you to Concetta DiRusso, ADVANCE Faculty Committee Chair for sharing this announcement!

ASBMB New Faculty Mentoring and Grant Writing Workshop

Dear Colleagues,

ASBMB is hosting its first New Faculty Mentoring and Grant writing workshop, which will be held June 27–29, 2013 at the [Hyatt in Arlington, VA](#). This event is for new faculty in biochemistry and molecular biology who have not received NSF or NIH funding, and are in their first few (0-3) years of a tenure-track faculty position. The workshop will aim to demystify the grant application and funding systems both at the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health; promote skills in effective grantsmanship; provide networking opportunities and intrusive mentoring for participants, and provide a platform upon which participants can present their proposal ideas and associated approaches and receive honest and expert feedback from successful faculty mentors and expert grant reviewers and program officers.

Key features of the workshop will be (1) talks by NSF and NIH program officers about funding opportunities and strategies for successful proposal submission; (2) presentations by participants on their ideas and approaches for federal funding, which will be followed by critical feedback from a panel of expert reviewers and others; (3) a mock review panel to provide insight into the review process; (4) case-study driven discussions related to beginning a career in academia, ethical standards of conduct, and strategies for long-term success; (5) and ample opportunities for networking with other participants/attendees and faculty mentors. A website describing the workshop can be found at: www.asbmb.org/grantwriting2013. Faculty mentors in attendance will be Squire J. Booker (Penn State University), Wilfredo Colón (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute), Takita Felder Sumter (Winthrop University), Reuben Peters (Iowa State University), Marion Sewer (UC, San Diego), James Stivers (Johns Hopkins School of Medicine), Sarah Woodson (Johns Hopkins University) and Ruma Banerjee (University of Michigan at Ann Arbor). Nominations can be made [online](#) and should be sent by Monday, June 3, 2013. It should include the nominee's CV, a one-page research description, and a nominating letter from the nominee's department head confirming the department's willingness to cover the nominee's travel costs to the workshop as well as lodging. ASBMB has secured a rate of \$129.00 a night for lodging, and will cover all other onsite expenses, including group meals.

ASBMB is particularly interested in strategies to enhance the presence of underrepresented minorities in the scientific enterprise, and will also consider applications from members of those groups who are current postdoctoral associates applying for academic positions in the Fall of 2013.

Sincerely,
Squire J. Booker
Professor of Chemistry, and of
Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
The Pennsylvania State University
Chair, ASBMB Minority Affairs Committee