

## A Thanksgiving Note to Our AWIS Houston Community

As we head into the season of gratitude, the AWIS Houston leadership team would like to extend a heartfelt **thank you** to each of our members! AWIS Houston is powered by the time, talent, and generosity of our members who are scientists, leaders, mentors, students, and allies who show up for one another and for our mission.

This year, we've seen remarkable engagement across our chapter: from career-building workshops and community outreach to networking events that have sparked new collaborations and friendships. None of this happens without our members! Every volunteer hour, every event you attend, every connection you help build strengthens the pipeline of women in STEM across our region.

This holiday season, we hope all of you can take a moment to rest, recharge, and reflect on the impact you are making not just in your work, but in the lives and careers of those around you.



September 2025, Sixty Vines  
Networking Event

Thank you for being part of our community, and for everything you do to advance women in science! **Your AWIS Leadership team is grateful for each one of you, and we are excited for all we will continue to build together in the year ahead!**

***Wishing you and your loved ones a warm, joyful, and restorative Thanksgiving!***

*AWIS Houston Board Members:*

*Elizabeth O. Hileman, PhD, President*

*Garima Vyas, Treasurer and PR Chair*

*Cindy Jezerski, Secretary*

*Maria Annovi, Membership Chair*

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## Master the Art of Negotiation at AWIS Houston's December Event

Join us for a **FREE, hands-on workshop** on December 5, 2025, led by AWIS Houston Board Member **Garima Vyas**, focused on helping women strengthen one of the most critical career skills: **effective negotiation**. Garima was selected by AWIS National to give this talk and it is open to any AWIS members!

***"Negotiating Like You – A strategic framework for negotiating your ideas, your time, and your value in your own way"*** helps women in STEMM approach negotiation as a repeatable, structured process grounded in self-awareness and practical strategy.

This interactive session invites participants to explore how their natural communication style shapes negotiation outcomes and introduces tools for building their own personalized negotiation framework. The discussion focuses on three dimensions that define nearly every career conversation:

- Your ideas – framing expertise and proposals with clarity and confidence
- Your time – setting boundaries that protect focus while maintaining professionalism
- Your value – communicating contributions and advocating for fair recognition

Participants will complete a brief self-assessment prior to this session and apply the insights to scenarios involving collaboration, workload, and career advancement. This masterclass offers a practical, self-informed approach to negotiation designed for STEM professionals and leaders who want strategies they can apply immediately.

***This is a wonderful opportunity to invest in your professional growth, connect with other AWIS members from across the country, and head into the new year with stronger tools to advocate for yourself and your career!***

**DATE:** Friday, December 5, 2025

**TIME:** 1:00pm – 2:00pm CST via Zoom

**REGISTRATION LINK:** <https://awis.memberclicks.net/cacdec2025>

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## Podcast Dedicated to Women in STEM

“*The Life of Her Mind*” is a podcast series that explores the lives, perspectives, career pathways, and research of women working across STEM fields. Hosted by [Mia Wood, Ph.D.](#), the series blends thoughtful inquiry with wide-ranging curiosity. Mia, a philosophy professor and writer, combines her expertise at the intersection of philosophy and science with interests that include early modern scientific thought, consciousness, and personal identity.

“*The Life of Her Mind*” remains dedicated to understanding how women in science think and how they approach their work, their fields, and the future of scientific research. Each episode spotlights one professional working in or around the sciences, uncovering what makes each individual's story and contributions uniquely impactful.

Season 1 is already out, and season 2 starts in January 2026! Check out the title of some of the previous podcast tiles, including:

- ***Fieldwork and Biological Anthropology with Dr. Stephanie Poindexter***
- ***Unconventional Career Paths in STEM with Shilo Nelson***
- ***Building a Network for Black Women in Science with Tomi Akingbade***
- ***Neuroscience of Sex and Gender with Dr. Daphna Joel***
- ***Planetary Science and Finding Your Career Path with Dr. Alyssa Rhoden***
- ***...AND MUCH MORE!***

Link to access all podcasts and learn more about this incredible resource can be found here:  
<https://www.labroots.com/podcast-series/life-of-her-mind>

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## Funding Opportunity for PhD, MD, or MD/PhD Scientists

The [Fellows-to-Faculty Award](#) program supports talented early career scientists by facilitating their transition into tenure-track faculty positions. The focus of this program is the \$600,000 USD three-year faculty research grant. Additionally, fellows engage with a community of investigators and receive mentoring and peer support during their transition. There is *NO citizenship requirement*.

An informational webinar about the Fellows-to-Faculty Award was held on 11/5/25 on Zoom. Interested applicants are encouraged to review the recording [here](#).

**Deadline for application submission: 12:00 p.m. (Noon) Eastern Time on January 14, 2026.**

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## New Career Center Through AWIS National

You may have noticed a new look to the AWIS career center in recent months. This is because AWIS National has identified a better way for job seekers AND potential employers to match up with one another! This new platform **utilizes “Skills-Based” searching** and whether you are just starting your journey, outgrown your current role, or looking for a new challenge, the new AWIS Career Center can help!

What do we mean by skills-based? The system will match the technical STEM skills that you possess with the required and desired skills of an employer’s job posting. Our growing taxonomy includes over 8000 technical STEM skills. **Other platforms don’t offer this level of specificity when it comes to technical STEM skills.** In addition, the smart algorithm has been programmed to understand the nuances in the STEM taxonomy. For example, if your resume lists “Western Blot” or “ELISA,” the algorithm knows those are biochemical assays and would include relevant roles in your search results.

The new skills-based algorithm was **NIH-awarded for reducing bias in hiring**. When employers search for candidates with a certain degree or specific job experience, they narrow their search too much and miss out on qualified candidates. By focusing on the required skills, all qualified candidates are included. We also recognize that many women feel they need to [tick every box](#) of a job description before they will apply. The algorithm takes this into consideration and recommends roles based on a percentage of the required and preferred skills that you possess.

***Start exploring the new AWIS Career Center today and take the first step towards achieving your professional goals!!***

<https://awis.org/awis-career-center/>

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## International Cancer Neuroscience Symposium in the TMC

The [Cancer Neuroscience Program](#) at MD Anderson invites you to attend the 3<sup>rd</sup> biennial **International Cancer Neuroscience Symposium** happening February 18–20, 2026, in the TMC<sup>3</sup> Collaborative Building.

This unique, three-day event will feature:

- **Multiple keynote lectures from world renowned scientists**, including Nobel Laureate Dr. James P. Allison
- **Poster presentations** covering all areas of cancer neuroscience including [neuroimmunology](#), [neurobiology](#), [neurotoxicity](#), [neural neoplasms](#), and [neurobehavioral health](#)
- **Cutting-edge scientific sessions** and **interactive panels**
- **Networking opportunities** with global leaders in cancer neuroscience
- **Two evening receptions** with live music



**2026 International Cancer Neuroscience Symposium**

Sponsored by  
MD Anderson's Cancer Neuroscience Program  
and Wiley Advanced Portfolio

**Feb. 18-20**  
TMC<sup>3</sup> Collaborative Building



**3 Full Days of Discovery & Connection**

- *Multiple keynote lectures & poster sessions*
- *Cutting-edge science & interactive panels*
- *Networking with global leaders*
- *Evening receptions with live music*

**Registration: Only \$100 until Dec 1, 2025!**

**Abstracts Due: Nov 7, 2025**

**Multiple Awards Available: \$500–\$1,250**

**Registration is only \$100 until December 1<sup>st</sup> for in-person participation (\$150 thereafter) for all three days, including evening receptions!**

**THIS IS AN INCREDIBLE OPPORTUNITY TO ENGAGE IN AN INTERNATIONAL FORUM OF NEUROSCIENTISTS WITHOUT LEAVING THE STATE!**

**[View full details, agenda, and register here](#)**

Take advantage of this exciting opportunity to engage with the international cancer neuroscience community and be a part of this event that happens only every two years!