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Women in Cognitive Science sponsored interactive panel discussion: Professional advancement, leadership and international collaboration

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Keywords: cross cultural diversity; networking; participation; professional development; research collaboration.

Women in Cognitive Science conducts panels at yearly meetings of several professional societies. Their goal is to increase attention to the situation of women cognitive scientists, to better understand the reasons for existing problems of under representation in key positions, and to provide a forum for professional development that encourages both junior and senior scientists to consider the ways in which they might work with their own home institutions to effect change. Specific topics have addressed networking and collaboration, best practices for institutional transformation, and issues of family and academic careers. Speakers and panelists have included both women and men who represented senior and junior scientists and topics have focused on the experience of both faculty and administration in negotiating these issues and in developing policies that are likely to support women's success. Its history demonstrates that WICS is in a unique position to address the concerns of junior as well as senior scientists in their professional careers.

The goal of a small "Connections" conference sponsored by the US National Science Foundation in Japan and the Japan Science and Technology Agency of Japan in 2010 was to establish networking connections between researchers and to strengthen international partnerships for collaboration. American and Japanese participants represented a variety of STEM disciplines. The primary goal of that meeting was to foster the research agendas of the participants. A secondary goal was to "help develop future leaders in science and engineering by encouraging discussion on the institutional environment and culture that are conducive to nurturing women STEM leaders."

The **Interactive Panel Discussion: Professional advancement, leadership and international collaboration** seeks to build on this momentum by bringing together American and Japanese researchers in Cognitive Science at

the 2012 meeting of the Cognitive Science Society in Sapporo, Japan. Speakers include Sanae Ariga (Hokkaido U), Mutsumi Imai (Keio U), Noriko Hoshino (Kobe U Foreign Studies), Naomi Miyake (U Tokyo), Hanako Yoshida (Houston), Laurie Feldman (U Albany & Haskins Labs) and Betty Tuller (NSF). These scientists represent American and Japanese junior and senior researchers, university administrators and program officers/directors of NSF.

Speakers will discuss cross-cultural solutions to foster research productivity and visibility for women scientists. One major theme will be leadership, both how to identify and assume positions that help to develop leadership skills for professional advancement. A related theme is how those experiences do and do not differ across cultures. A second major theme will be how to develop new research collaborations outside of one's primary institution, including international collaborations. All acknowledge that this is not a simple process and often evolves slowly, out of more social networking connections. While such solutions generally occur on an ad hoc basis and vary across individuals, the aim of the WICS workshop is to enable discussion of possible solutions so as to enhance the productivity and visibility for women scientists in cognitive science.

Social Hour and refreshments to follow.

Acknowledgments

Women in Cognitive Science (WICS) was founded in 2001 by Judith Kroll (Penn State), Randi Martin (Rice University), and Suparna Rajaram (Stony Brook) with NSF ADVANCE Funds. From 2007 onwards, Laurie Feldman (Albany) and Janet van Hell (Penn State) have assumed a leadership role within the group. In 2012, Natasha Tokowitz joined the group.

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