Christian Women in Science
A Place to Connect!

An affiliate of the American Scientific Affiliation

The How’s, What’s and Why’s of CWIS

Christian Women in Science (CWIS) is an affiliate group of the American Scientific Affiliation (ASA). Founded in 1941, ASA is an international network of Christians in the sciences. The mission of CWIS is to encourage Christian women of all ages to pursue, sustain, and grow in a career in science, technology, engineering or math, and to encourage women in these endeavors to pursue, sustain, and grow in the Christian faith.

Become a CWIS member!
1. If you haven't already, first join the American Scientific Affiliation on the ASA website. Click on CWIS as a group you want to join. Your membership donation helps support both ASA and CWIS. Membership fees range from free up to $85/year, depending on your situation. If you think CWIS is important, please help by becoming a paid member!
2. Or if you are an ASA member, become a member of CWIS by logging in to the ASA home page, and clicking on Chapters and Groups. The drop down will take you to Affiliates and then CWIS. On the CWIS Homepage, click on "join group."

Why CWIS?
Take a look at our logo. You will see the three-way intersection that is the focus of CWIS - women, faith and science. Women with a passion for Christ and a passion for science or engineering face a unique set of challenges.

Gender Gaps
Though some are surprised by the statistics, the gender gaps between men and women in science and engineering are still a major concern. Here are some facts:

Degree-Career Gap: Women received about 54% of BS and MS degrees, and 34% of PhDs, in science and engineering in 2010. But Women held only 34% of science and 13% of engineering occupations in 2013.
Critical Fields PhD Gap: Women earned fewer than a third of the PhDs in computer sciences, earth, atmospheric, and ocean sciences; mathematics and statistics; physical sciences; and engineering (2010).

Leader Gap: Men held more than 350,000 managerial jobs in science and engineering but women held only about 140,000 managerial jobs (2008).

Salary Gap: Men’s average salaries in science and engineering (averaged over all lengths of service) were 21% higher than women’s salaries (2008).

Professorship Gap: Women held only 20% of full-time professorships in research institutions in science, engineering, and health doctorates (2010).

Faith/Science Challenges
These gender gaps are well documented. On the bright side, some major new initiatives in the United States have been started or strengthened recently to try to close these gaps. But what about a woman scientist – or science-oriented female student – who is a Christian? She also has to deal with the perceived conflict between Christianity and science. Some scientists who are atheists cast Christians as intellectual infants who trust in fairy tales, and some Christians (and others) disdain the findings of mainstream science.

How many young women might this affect? According to a review of recent U.S. surveys, 39% of the participants responded positively to the statement “God created the universe, the earth…plants, animals…people within the past 10,000 years.” The current U.S. population is 317 million, and about 31 million are young women between the ages of 10 and 24. Applying the 39% figure noted above to this 31 million, perhaps 12 million young women could be among those who think the earth is only a few thousand years old. Yet all secular schools, and some Christian schools, will teach that the earth is a few billion years old. How is a female Christian student to deal with the angst over this? Such conflicts in the minds of young women can cause them to either turn away from their faith or to abandon their scientific interests – neither of which is necessary.

Christian women established in science or engineering careers also need encouragement -- to move forward in their careers, deal with family-related pressures, compete effectively for leadership positions, and other issues.

CWIS’s mission is to provide this support and encouragement to help women maintain their passion for both Jesus Christ and science or engineering -- through information, networking, mentoring, personal stories, and more. Take a look yourself. If you haven’t already, come join us!

http://network.asa3.org/group/CWIS