

Interdisciplinary Mentoring

On February 5th, Ofelia Oliveri, PhD, presented a webinar to AWIS members on interdisciplinary mentoring.

Interdisciplinary mentoring has become more important and prevalent over the past few years. Since science and research are increasingly multidisciplinary and based upon a large amount of crosstalk, it makes sense that mentoring follow this trend. Interdisciplinary mentorship is the tool of scientists to help produce synergy in groups, and to generate multifocal ideas and complex solutions to complex challenges. The outcome of interdisciplinary mentoring is that a community of diverse scientists can be unified by mentoring connections. These connections will create opportunities to establish collaborations and work in an interdisciplinary fashion.

Best Qualities of an Interdisciplinary Mentor

1. **Know yourself.** Being more connected to ourselves helps to facilitate the connection to others, improves perceptions about others, and aids in identification of the talents of the mentee.
2. **Pay it forward.** Many of us have had a mentor in some form or another during our careers. So, now it is time to give that same experience to others, who in turn will do the same.
3. **See the best in others.** Probably the most important talent in a mentor is the ability to identify the best skills and qualities in the individuals they are mentoring.

Conversely, they need to see weaknesses and have the ability to help change or control these traits.

4. **Open-minded.** Be able to find common ground with whomever they work.
5. **Flexibility.** Role shifting happens often as we move between groups. Being able to contribute in diverse roles is an essential talent.

Webinars such as these are provided at no additional cost to all AWIS members. They are specially designed for women in STEM fields. We hope you will take advantage of them live, or listen to them later on demand. ■

For a complete list of upcoming AWIS webinars visit www.awis.org