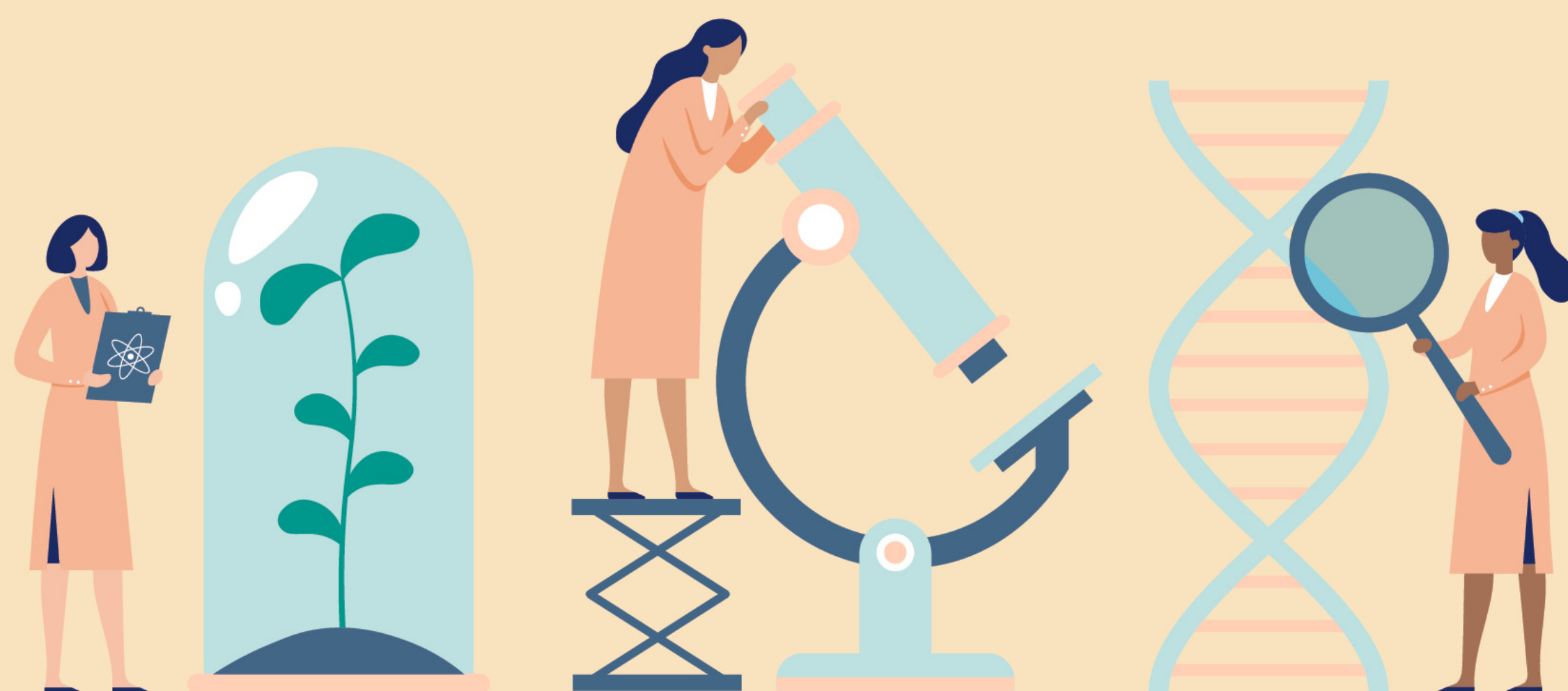


**apéro des
sciences**

**ONLINE EVENT
MARCH 6, 2023
5:30 - 6:30 PM**



women & diversity in science

RAISING CONCERN IS NICE

BUT HOW TO CONCRETELY EMPOWER TALENTED WOMEN TO SUCCEED IN STEM ?

5:30 - introduction

JULIE DUHAUT-BEDOS, Consul General of France in Los Angeles

AURÉLIE JEAN, PhD, Computational Scientist

5:40 - panel discussion

DAWN L. BROWN, EmpowHer institute

RAFFAELLA GHITTONI, PhD, USC Wise

ROSE PRESBY, PhD, AWIS San Diego

moderated by Clara Devouassoux & Karim Belarbi, PhD

6:10 - empowered talk

SOPHIE RAMIREZ giving access to science for all women

6:20 - 5 scientists pitch session



Dawn L. Brown

President & CEO at EmpowHer Institute

Dawn L. Brown joined the EmpowHer team in October 2020. She has more than 20 years of nonprofit management and consulting experience, and has served as the Executive Director of three well-respected nonprofit organizations across California. In each role, Dawn successfully launched fundraising and marketing strategies that increased company revenue, improved program delivery, and expanded advocacy and policy efforts for youth of color from economically disadvantaged communities.

Dawn has served on various advisory boards and think tanks focused on issues affecting women & girls of color.

A proud native of Washington, DC, Dawn is supporting local and national initiatives to ensure racial justice and eliminate gender bias in America.

Since 2003, EmpowHer Institute has been the only gender-responsive organization in Los Angeles County that provides a social-emotional learning class in Title 1 schools that is fully integrated in the school day. We deliver our work through a social justice framework, aimed at examining the intersection between race and gender and equipping girls with the necessary skills and access to resources that will disrupt the systems that impede Black and Brown girls from reaching their fullest potential.

EmpowHer Institute supports more than 600 BIPOC girls, ages 11 to 18, each year from marginalized communities. Our programs deliver a trauma-informed, culturally inclusive, social emotional learning curriculum in a safe, gender-responsive space. We empower our girls to boldly break ceilings by encouraging them to unapologetically express themselves while exposing them to college and career opportunities.





Raffaella Ghittoni, PhD

Faculty Coordinator of the Undergraduate Students Research Program at USC WiSE

Raffaella Ghittoni is an Associate Professor of Teaching at the Department of Biological Sciences, Molecular and Computational Biology section, with a courtesy appointment at the Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Medicine at USC Keck Medical School.

Born in Rome, Italy, she received her PhD in Clinical and Experimental Allergology and Immunology from the University of Siena in 2005. Before joining the University of Southern California in 2014, she conducted research in the field of immunology at the University of Arizona, Tucson and different national (INSERM) and international (WHO-IARC) institutes in Lyon, France.

Raffaella is an active member of the USC Women in Science and Engineering (WiSE) Program. For WiSE, she is in charge as Faculty Coordinator of the Undergraduate Students Research Program, and is also member of the Advisory Board.

The USC Women in Science and Engineering Program (WiSE) is USC's premiere diversity initiative. Founded in 2000 by an anonymous donation of \$20 million, WiSE is an endowed initiative aimed at increasing the representation of women in tenured and tenure-track faculty positions in the sciences, engineering, and mathematics at USC. Since the program's inception, WiSE has successfully helped to increase the number of women in these positions in the programs it represents -- the departments of engineering in the USC Viterbi School of Engineering (VSoE) and the departments of mathematics, biological sciences, earth sciences, physics and astronomy, and chemistry in the USC Dana and David Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences -- from 15 in 2000 to 85 in August 2022. By targeting the recruitment and retention of new women faculty members and by establishing a suite of programs aimed specifically at creating an environment in which women at all stages of their careers may thrive, WiSE serves as a role model for successful diversity efforts at USC, as well as across the country and internationally.

USC WiSE

Women in Science and Engineering



Rose Presby, PhD

President of AWIS San Diego

Dr. Rose Presby received her MS and Ph.D. in Behavioral Neuroscience from the University of Connecticut in the lab of Dr. John Salamone. Her academic research sought to assess the motivational aspects and pharmacological manipulation of a rodent model of binge-like eating behavior. She is currently in her second year as a postdoc at the Scintillon Institute in the lab of Dr. Albert Chen studying neural circuits of food intake. She joined the Association for Women in Science San Diego (AWISSD) chapter in January 2022. In January 2023, she began her 2-year term as the AWISSD chapter President. She is a member of the Outreach, the Corporate Sponsorship, and the Scholarship committees, as well as being one of two Co-chairs of the Academia to Industry committee. She is an avid sewist, hiker, and chocolate lover. Feel free to reach her at rpresby@scintillon.org or on [LinkedIn](#).

The AWIS San Diego Chapter was established in the mid-1980s. It currently has over 130 active members, is one of the largest chapters in the country, and is proud to further the AWIS mission of championing “the interests of women in science across all disciplines and employment sectors” in our local community. Their diverse membership includes students as well as professors, entry-level interns, CEOs, patent attorneys, as well as business entrepreneurs. Over 60% of the membership holds a doctoral degree.

AWISSD hosts outreach science programs, career development, and social activities that provide support for women scientists throughout San Diego County. Our scholarship program and special science fair awards provide much needed funds and recognition to women STEM students. For more information on upcoming events or ways to get involved please visit www.awissd.org.





Sophie Ramirez

When I turned fourteen, I left my parents and life behind in Mexico to pursue a future in science in the US. I faced countless challenges when I arrived in the US ; I was living in a country where I could barely communicate, I held different values from those around me, and I had to study twice as hard as my peers to understand the material in my classes. Yet, when my parents trusted me to take control of my life at such a young age and to follow my dreams, they instilled in me a confidence that I could accomplish any goal. In 2017, when I became the first member of my family to receive a Bachelor of Arts, I was once again inspired to challenge myself with an entirely new culture, language, and academic rigor. I decided to pursue graduate studies in Paris, France, attracted by its education system and social policy. I was enthusiastic to challenge my French language skills, integrate to a culture that resonated with me, and was welcoming of diversity in its population. Due to my long-term career plans, during my graduate studies in France, I hoped to develop my skills in a language so globally spoken, advance in the field of science, while reinforcing my diplomatic values in a foreign country.

During my Master's in France, I decided to use my language skills by volunteering with refugees and isolated immigrants, also providing them with French lessons. Being a foreigner from a young age, I still feel distressed and very connected with the situation of immigrants, as it resembles my own struggle in the United States. So it inspired me to volunteer in this community. During my year in Paris, I realized the effects that my mobility and my cultural adaptability could have on the people around me. This influenced my life and transitioned my career into one where I could make intercultural connections to improve access to medical and educational resources.

My studies in France led me to volunteer with Peace Corps Morocco where I served as a Youth Development Specialist. Initially, I led girls' sports clubs and taught English and French classes, but I quickly transitioned into mentoring the girls in their academic and professional goals as well. This experience confirmed to me the multitude of challenges women are often subjected to when they come from underprivileged communities. Gendered economic inequalities emphasized to me the necessity of foreign policy work that seeks social reforms to favor women. Furthermore, my research experience from my Masters' in France, opened the doors to work at the National Institute of Health to continue learning and researching about health and gender inequality.

As a woman of color with migrant parents, my charge in life is to be an agent of change, promoting policy reform and civic engagement for women and minorities around the globe. Having closely worked with such communities abroad before, I have seen the way foreign policy can provide equity and empower these communities. Theodore Roosevelt once called for people to “be actors and not merely critics of others.” Through a career in foreign service work, inspired by my Masters in France, I encourage disadvantaged populations to become “actors” in policy decision-making, while working to create inclusive policy reforms for sustained community wellbeing and international relations. My graduate studies in France provided me with the support, initial experience, and knowledge necessary to become a representative of the U.S., capable of using my multicultural and academically diverse background to advocate for people of all walks of life, promoting peace and prosperity nationally and abroad.



Photo credit : Geraldine Aresteanu

Aurélie Jean, PhD

Computational Scientist

Aurélie Jean is a computational scientist and entrepreneur, expert on algorithmic science and computer modeling. She works and lives between the USA and France. She co-founded two ventures, a consulting and development agency specialized on algorithms and data, as well as a deep tech startup in medical application. She is teaching algorithmic science in executive education, and she is the author of a couple of best sellers on algorithms. She is an editorial contributor to many newspapers and magazines on sciences and technologies. Aurélie is also an investor business angel.

On April 5th, she is launching her first anticipation novel, *Résistance - 2050*, co-written with the writer Amanda Sthers, at L'Observatoire.