

Bios for AWIS-PHL Board of Officers Election 2025-2026



Eileen Collyer, Ph.D.

Candidate for President-Elect

Eileen Collyer earned her PhD in Physiology from the Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, where she studied axonal collateral sprouting after spinal cord injury. Seeking to broaden her research scope, she moved to the U.S. for a postdoctoral position at UCSD, where she combined stem cell grafting with rehabilitative paradigms for spinal cord injury. She then continued her postdoctoral training at Drexel University, focusing on autonomic dysreflexia following spinal cord injury. Most recently, she worked as a Research Associate at Thomas Jefferson University, investigating the astrocytic responses to stroke. She has since left this position to take a sabbatical year, during which she is exploring new professional directions. Beyond research, she has been an active member of AWIS since 2015, serving on various committees in the San Diego and Philadelphia chapters and benefiting from the extensive professional network each chapter provides. She is a strong advocate for achieving a healthy work-life balance and strives to be a positive role model for her daughter and future generations.



Mary Barnette, Ph.D.

Candidate for Treasurer

I am a retired scientist, pharmacologist. My career spans 30+ years in the pharmaceutical industry in both drug discovery and development. During that time, I have led both drug discovery teams and development teams. In discovery, I focused on identifying clinical drug candidates for the treatment of gastrointestinal diseases (GERD and IDB) and respiratory diseases (asthma and COPD). In development, my work focused on identifying and implementing clinical biomarkers in early stage oncology drug clinical trials. To facilitate both the discovery and development processes, I have experience in managing CROs, setting up contracts, and managing the budgets for these efforts.

Since my retirement, I have become more involved in the AWIS, participating in the mentoring program these past 2 years. My other interests include: 1. Volunteering as a poll worker at my local precinct; 2. Leading a book club; 3. Ice dancing and participating in my local figure skating club as the test chairperson; 4. Teaching skating skills to adults as a Learn to Skate instructor; 5. Acting as a judge for Pennsylvania State High School STEM competition.



Chloe Azadegan

Candidate for Secretary

Chloe is a Ph.D. candidate in the Drexel University MCBG (Molecular and Cell Biology & Genetics) program. She received her bachelor's degree in Cell Biology and Neuroscience from Rutgers University where she was involved in somatosensory research for the duration of her 4-year degree. In addition to her education and academic research, Chloe held a 2-year co-op position at Colgate-Palmolive's Early R&D branch. Currently, Chloe is studying cancer epigenetics in Dr. Whetstine's

laboratory at the Fox Chase Cancer Center. Throughout her various research experiences, she was involved in training and mentoring many students in research labs. At Drexel University, Chloe is a biochemistry tutor for incoming graduate students and a peer academic coach for undergraduates and graduates alike. Chloe discovered AWIS through her involvement in the AWIS-PHL mentoring circles and has enjoyed the community gained through this experience.

Chloe has served on the AWIS-PHL board as Secretary since 2023 and is proud to be involved in the decision-making of such a respectable and supportive chapter. She hopes to continue growing as a researcher and leader within the Drexel and AWIS communities and aims to encourage and inspire young women to achieve their goals in STEM careers.