

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

WWW.AWSPHL.ORG

AWIS
ASSOCIATION FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE



October 2026
Edition 2



AWIS-PHL Celebrates Hispanic Heritage Month

We at AWIS-PHL want to acknowledge the brilliant Hispanic scientists and scientists in training for Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs until October 15th.

“Rooted in Culture, Driven by Science”, is an event being held on October 12th from 3:30 - 5:30 PM at Penn’s KRB Auditorium and AWIS-PHL will be supporting the organizers [PennINSPIRE](#) and [SACNAS](#). The event, led by Keynote speaker Ángela Fernández Iglesias (Founder & Director of Ciencia con Acento) celebrates the connection between who we are and the work we do, while highlighting the many Hispanic and Latino voices contributing to STEM. Join us on Monday, October 12th for networking, celebrating Hispanic culture, and great food!

Top News

Mentoring Circles Kick Off on
October 15th!

University of Pennsylvania
will hold their National
Research Conference on Oct
8th

Thank you, Sherri!

Follow us on
social media



@awisphl

[Join AWIS-PHL](#)

[AWIS National
Website](#)



A picture from our
Welcome Event Panel

AWIS-PHL's Welcome Event Panel

AWIS Philadelphia kicked off their seasonal programming with an informative panel event featuring STEM workers in industry.

Dr's Sherri Lordi, Sucharit Ray, Sarah Bender, Hager Mohamed, Larissa Ishikawa, and Sabyasachi Sen answered questions about their daily lives in industry jobs as well as gave advice to our members on transitioning to industry from academia. Afterwards, our members had an opportunity to network with the panelists.

This event demonstrated what AWIS-PHL does best and that is encourage professional development and networking in a fun and welcoming atmosphere. Stay tuned for our November programming!

Upcoming Events and Webinars

- **Oct 8:** 2026 National Research Conference (UPenn) | AWIS Webinar: How to Successfully Pivot from Academia to Industry
- **Oct 12:** Science on Tap | Rooted in Culture Event
- **Oct 15:** AWIS-PHL Mentoring Program Kick-off | PA Rare Disease Day, Harrisburg, PA
- **Oct 16:** Science After Hours: Fright Nite, The Franklin Institute
- **Oct 29:** Mad Science Halloween Show, Wissahickon Public Library. Register here.

October Observances

- Polish American Heritage Month
- Italian American Heritage Month
- Filipino American Heritage Month
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month
- LGBTQ+ History Month
- **Oct 4:** Simchat Torah
- **Oct 20:** Dussehra
- **OCT 31: HALLOWEEN**

Follow us on
social media



Member Spotlights

Meet our President-Elect!



Samar Nasser Chehimi, PhD

Samar Nasser Chehimi, PhD, is currently a Senior Research Specialist at the University of Pennsylvania (UPenn), where she studies the molecular basis of hedonic behaviors and investigates the reward system of the brain. She received her PhD in Human Genetics from the University of São Paulo (Brazil) and moved to the US for her post-doctoral training at the Children's Hospital of Philadelphia and UPenn. Soon after she moved to the US, she joined AWIS-PHL as a mentee, looking to build connections and a community, and have been a proud member ever since!

During that time, she held the Social Media Chair role and acted as a mentor for one of the mentoring circles. She is excited about her role as President-Elect of the AWIS-PHL chapter and hopes to continue the amazing job that has been done by previous presidents and board members!

Thank you, Sherri!



Sherri Lordi, PhD

Sherri Lordi, PhD served as AWIS Philadelphia's president for the 2025-2026 season. . She has also served as Treasurer and a mentor in AWIS-PHL's mentoring circles. We would like to thank her for all of her efforts. Her leadership was part of AWIS PHL winning the Shooting Star Award from AWIS National, for being awesome all around.

Outside of AWIS PHL, Sherri is Senior Director of Laboratory Sciences at Charles River Laboratories, where she has spent more than 13 years supporting preclinical drug development within the Drug Safety division. She also served as a Girl Scout troop co-leader for 10 years, helping young girls develop leadership skills, confidence, and a passion for exploration and lifelong learning. She exemplifies AWIS-PHL's mission of mentorship and advocacy for women in STEM.

Follow us on
social media



Welcome Event Photos

