

WCX Quarterly



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Presents

Community Meeting: *Reading the Field*



A journal club to discuss and address challenges experienced by people from underrepresented groups in science

May 4th, 2026
12pm EST

Via ZOOM

Join us for a **Journal Club** followed by a **community meeting** and **open forum discussion** about recent science news articles and peer-reviewed manuscripts.

[Register here](#) to attend.

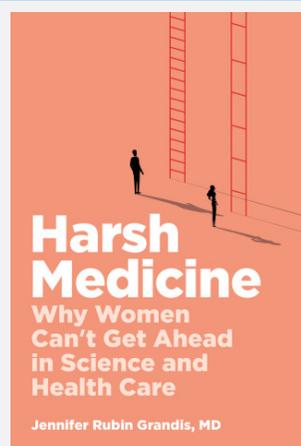
Save the date:

Dr. Jennifer Grandis, MD

Distinguished Professor, University of California San Francisco
Author of *Harsh Medicine: Why Women Can't Get Ahead in Science and Healthcare*

September 3rd, 2026, 11am EST

[Register here](#) to attend!





Celebrating your recent achievements



Publications

- **Dr. Yan Sun**, a postdoc at Maastricht University published a study in *Journal of Cachexia and Sarcopenia of Muscle*, entitled, 'Loss of skeletal muscle mass is associated with reduced cytotoxic T cell abundance and poor survival in advanced lung cancer'. Well done, Yan!
- **Dr. Rima Nasrah**, an oncology dietitian and researcher at McGill University published an insightful review article, entitled The gut microbiome and dietary interventions in cancer cachexia in *Current Opinion in Clinical Nutrition and Metabolic Care*. Congratulations, Rima!
- **Dr. Brittany Counts**, a postdoc at Oregon Health Sciences University is first author on a study from senior author **Dr. Teresa Zimmers'** lab group showing that high-fat diet and obesity each increase tumor cell proliferation and muscle wasting in experimental cancer cachexia, published in *AJP Cell Physiology*. Kudos, Brittany!
- **Ms. Megan Bowers**, a PhD Student at King's College London is first author on a paper in *JCSM Communications* showing that multicomponent interventions targeting physical function are superior to standard care for improving outcomes in individuals with cancer cachexia. A round of applause for Megan!
- **Ms. Marcia Andrade**, a PhD student in the Cancer Metabolism Research Group at University of Sao Paulo, is first author on a paper with senior author **Dr. Marilia Seelaender** published in *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN*. The study was a randomized, double-blind proof-of-concent trial showing that supplementation with isolated leucine is insufficient to counteract cancer-related muscle wasting. Way to go, Marcia!
- **Ms. Joyce Cristina Ferreira de Resende**, a PhD student in the Cancer Metabolism Research Group at University of Sao Paulo, is first author on a review article with senior author **Dr. Marilia Seelaender**, entitled 'Cancer-associated cachexia in the era of obesity', published in *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*. Hats off to Joyce!

Announcements

- **Dr. Aleisha Garret**, a Postdoc at the Terasaki Institute, was **selected for the American Cancer Society Brightedge Entrepreneurs Program**, which uses the American Cancer Society's ecosystem to foster cancer innovation, aiding entrepreneurs in overcoming early stage challenges by providing resources, training, and support to launch companies that advance cancer research. Bravo, Aleisha!
- **Ms. Megan Bowers**, a PhD student at King's College London was selected for an oral presentation focused on qualitative interviews with patients about their quality of life at the European Association for Palliative Care 20th World Congress. Way to go, Megan!
- **Dr. Blanca Majem**, a Postdoc at IRB Barcelona in the Department of Aging and Metabolism was one of seven inspiring women selected to receive a 'To the Mothers of Science' grant, which awards scientists who are mothers with financial support and career development sessions for 1 year. She states, "**[This award] acknowledges my trajectory toward scientific independence while affirming that leadership and motherhood can grow together rather than in the opposite direction**'. Amazing, Blanca!
- **Ms. Joyce Cristina Ferreria de Resende**, a PhD Student at University of Sao Paulo, received a scholarship this semester from the Sao Paulo Research Foundation this term. A round of applause for Joyce!

Have a new publication, awarded grant, or announcement to share with the CCS community?
Submit your recent achievements to be highlighted in our next newsletter!

WCX Spotlight: Dr. Paola Costelli



Dr. Costelli is a Professor at the University of Torino, and is the newest member of the CCS Board, serving as Chair of the Networking Committee and the Liaison to the Women in Cachexia Initiative. Her current work focuses on the mechanisms regulating protein turnover in cancer and investigating the role of the immune system in the pathogenesis of cancer cachexia, with recent findings showing significant mitigation of skeletal muscle mass and functional loss following IL-4 administration (stay tuned- publication forthcoming!).

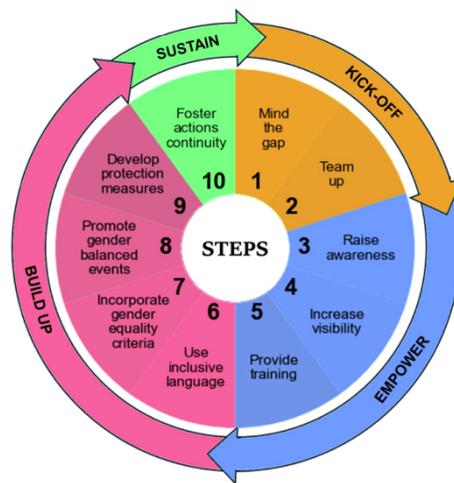
As she reflects, *"Having worked on cancer cachexia since the very beginning of my scientific training and career, joining the CCS Board feels like coming full circle- a meaningful milestone"*

Read more of Dr. Costelli's inspiring interview [here](#).

Breaking barriers: ten essential steps to achieve gender equality in academia through scientific societies

Published in *NPJ Biodiversity*, October 2025. [Read it here](#).

*"The gender gap in STEM is a persistent global issue. Scientific societies can address this by **promoting gender equity through collaboration, advocacy, and leadership**. This study analyses gender representation on executive boards and the presence of gender groups in freshwater societies. Drawing on a decade of experience, it **proposes ten actionable steps, highlights obstacles, and calls on societies to actively foster gender equity within academia and beyond.**"*



Upcoming Events

Cancer Grand Challenges Conference: Cancer & the Host

Royal Society, London UK

June 17th-19th, 2026

[For more information and to register, click here](#)

Pancreatic Cancer Conference

Park Plaza Victoria London, London UK

July 7-9, 2026

[For more information and to register, click here](#)

Important Links & Resources

WCX members: [Submit your recent achievements to be highlighted in our next newsletter](#)

Know someone with wisdom to share?

[Nominate a speaker](#) for a WCX-sponsored event

Not a part of the WCX community?

[Register here to join!](#)

Looking for a job or mentorship opportunity?
[Access the WCX network](#) (network members only; access request required)