

WCX Quarterly



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Presents

*'Community Meeting':
Reading the Field*



A networking meeting to identify interests and
needs in the WCX community

August 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.](#)

WCX initiative Presents



Stories & Science
With
Dr. Jennifer Grandis



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

September 3rd, 2026
11am EST

Via ZOOM



Join us for a special edition of **Stories & Science**
with Dr. Jennifer Grandis.

[Register here to attend!](#)

Save the date:

Stories & Science with Dr. Jenny Permuth

Vice Chair of Research, Dept. of Gastrointestinal Surgical Oncology
Senior Member, Dept. of Cancer Epidemiology
Moffitt Cancer Center

November 16th, 2026, 12pm EST

Register here to attend!



Celebrating your recent achievements



Publications

- **Dr. Yan Sun**, a Postdoc at Maastricht University published a study in *Clinical Nutrition ESPEN*, entitled, 'Subcutaneous adipose tissue radiation attenuation is associated with chemotoxicity and survival in metastatic colorectal cancer'. Well done, Yan!

Announcements

- **Dr. Debasmita Mukherjee**, a Postdoc at Cancer Research UK Cambridge Institute at University of Cambridge was **selected for an oral presentation in the 'whole body metabolism and cancer' session at the Cancer Grand Challenges: Cancer and the Host** meeting in London, held on June 17-19th. Cheers, Debasmita!
- **Dr. Nikita Bhalerao**, a Postdoc at University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School received a **prestigious National Cancer Institute Early K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award** focusing on understanding earlier stages of PDAC cachexia. Bravo, Nikita!
- In August, **Dr. Brittany Counts**, a Postdoc at Oregon Health & Sciences University, will advance to the next stage of her career as a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor in the Department of Health and Exercise Science at the University of Oklahoma. Congratulations Brittany!
- **Dr. Paige Arneson-Wissink**, Assistant Professor at Rosalind Franklin University Center for Genetic Diseases gave an oral presentation, titled, '*Pancreatic cancer causes STAT3-dependent changes in hepatic metabolic gene expression*' at the Midwest Tumor Microenvironment Conference, held in May 2026. Way to go, Paige!
- **Ms. Doaha Awad**, a PhD Student at University of North Carolina – Charlotte received a *Power of Possibilities* award and a *1st Place Poster Award* for her work, titled '*Investigating the Role of MUC1 in Pancreatic Cancer Cachexia*' at the Graduate Research Symposium and the Center for Innovation, Translational Research and Applications of Nanostructured Systems 2026 Symposium, respectively. Amazing work, Doaha!
- **Dr. Deena Snoke** is continuing her academic career at University of Vermont Larner College of Medicine where she will be promoted from Postdoc to Assistant Professor of Medicine in the Division of Hematology and Oncology in August. Well done, Deena!

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. Nikita Bhalerao



Dr. Nikita Bhalerao is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Massachusetts Chan Medical School. She recently received a prestigious NCI-funded K99/R00 Pathway to Independence Award to support her postdoctoral to tenure-track faculty transition and her research, focused on understanding early manifestations of Pancreatic Cancer Cachexia.

When asked who inspires her, Nikita says, "While she hasn't directly championed my work, Katalin Karikó is one of my greatest scientific inspirations. As an immigrant in science, I relate deeply to her story of perseverance and dedication despite significant challenges and skepticism. Her resilience reminds me that meaningful discoveries often require unwavering belief in your work."

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

Wikipedia's gender gap has flipped for one group of scientists

A new study finds that women biology faculty are now more likely than men to have a biography on the popular website.

Editorial published on *Science.org*, May 2026. [Read it here](#).

Highlighting peer-reviewed article, 'Monitoring the gender gap in the coverage of biology professors on Wikipedia' published in *Proceedings of the Royal Society B*.

Image (right): *Proc Biol Sci* (2026) 293 (2071): 20252566

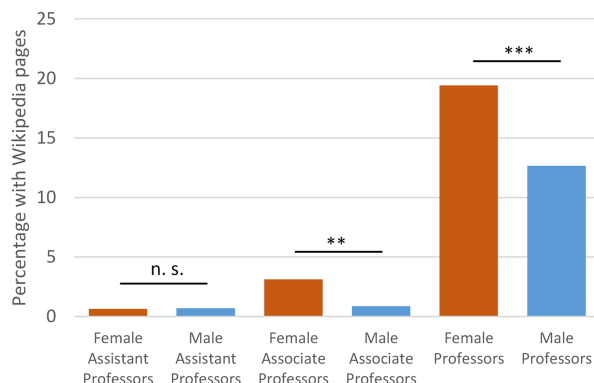


Fig.1: percentage of female versus male faculty with Wikipedia Biographies grouped by academic rank.

Upcoming Events

Pancreatic Cancer Conference - WCX Meetup

Where: Park Plaza Victoria London, London UK, July 7-9, 2026

When: Meet at the registration desk after the poster session on July 7th at 19:15.

Contact: debasmita.mukherjee@cruk.cam.ac.uk / dasgup2@charlotte.edu

For more information and to register for the conference, 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)