

The Association for Women in Science (AWIS) Bethesda chapter presented its annual Award for Excellence in Mentoring to Dr. Laurel Haak at its recent meeting at the National Library of Medicine on the NIH campus. The award is given in recognition and appreciation of outstanding mentoring of young women and men in science.

Dr. Laurel Haak is currently a Program Manager with Discovery Logic, Inc. Whether at the National Academies, where she mentored and guided dozens of science policy fellows, or in the National Postdoctoral Association (NPA), Dr. Haak has put to good use her energy, wisdom, intelligence, and charm, being instrumental in shaping a new, friendlier environment for women and men at an early stage in their careers. As a neuroscience graduate student at Stanford, she was a member of the Stanford-AWIS Mentoring Project Planning Committee. While a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow at the NIH, she was an editor of the Women in Neuroscience newsletter; currently, she serves on the SfN Committee for the Development of Women's Careers in Neuroscience. Following her postdoctoral work, Dr. Haak joined the staff at Science's Next Wave at AAAS, working as an editor and manager of the Postdoc Network. Also, Dr. Haak was a founding member of the Biophysics Society Early Careers Committee, and an advisor and mentor for the NPA. While a Program Officer at the NAS, Dr. Haak has brought to the attention of policy makers and the public thorny issues, resulting in reports such as "*Beyond Bias and Barriers: Fulfilling the Potential of Women in Academic S&E*" or "*Policy Implications of International Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars in the US*". People like Dr. Haak, who transform their passions into lifelong careers and always succeed in helping others along the way, deserve to be recognized, applauded... and followed!

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*Crina Frincu, Ph.D. (r) presents the AWIS mentoring award to Laurel Haak, Ph.D. Dr. Frincu is one of many young scientists who benefited from Haak's mentorship (photo credit: Dr. Edith Miles of NIDDK)*