

Networking at my first AWIS Meeting

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Being a new AWIS member, meeting new people was one of the best parts of my first AWIS meeting focused on networking. The event took place at the University of the Sciences in Philadelphia, conveniently located for most members and not too far from where I recently began a postdoctoral fellowship at the University of Pennsylvania.

The event began with casual interaction among attendees, in the form of a small game. The objective was to meet new people fitting the descriptions in squares on a game board. I felt that this was a very nice way to put a new member like me at ease, and I really enjoyed the conversations and the prizes were a definite plus.

Next we were introduced to Susan Morris, the guest speaker for our September networking meeting. Susan is the President of Morris Consulting Group, has over 30 years of experience as an educator and consultant to the health care industry. Her focus area includes improving the leadership performance of pharmaceutical R&D scientists with a focus on retaining women scientist. She gave an engaging and informative talk on 'The Art of Career Networking' which described the Do's and Don'ts of networking and shared pointers based on her experience. She highlighted the importance of using these skills in every day encounters. She recently published **Leader Essentials for Women Scientist**. She feels a unique role in the field by sharing her expertise on management and leadership challenges for women in science. Her endeavors towards making networking talks a success for women scientist helps improve relations between individuals with different communication styles. This discussion facilitated conversations on how to build a network in the scientific community, including the art of social networking. This event was really helpful and will facilitate collaborations among AWIS members.

Overall, I found the event fruitful and fun, as I got to meet many interesting people. I left more aware of the diverse fields occupied by women in the Philadelphia scientific community. I look forward to attend future AWIS events and continue to network with my new colleagues.