

August 24, 2022

Greetings, WIMScommunity!

Although our executive team officially “turned over” in July of this year, I am just getting around to sending an official “transition email.” I desired to do this both to introduce the new WIMS president and also to thank you – the WIMS community – for all of the incredible work that each of you do as members of this organization.

I’ll start with the latter. This WIMS membership is more than just a body of faculty and trainees. It is a force. You all individually and collectively give much of your time and energy to this organization, and our institution is better for it. As I reflect on the last academic year(s), I note the many accomplishments. We welcomed new members and ran professional development opportunities for students and faculty. Impactful conversations occurred in several spaces, surrounding the NASEM report on sexual harassment and the *Picture A Scientist* documentary. Working groups were put in place, and have since established policies to ensure a better workplace environment, adequate space and protected time for lactating persons, and a newly formed mentorship program for women faculty. And most recently, the executive team established the Grace LeMasters *Lift While You Climb* mentorship award, which yielded a highly competitive applicant pool – further demonstrating just how incredible the faculty at our institution truly are.

All of this was on the backdrop of the very real struggle that the pandemic presented for many (and that some continue to feel). I am grateful to have witnessed the support and perseverance of this group. I am perhaps more excited for the future of WIMS, and look forward to continuing in an advisory capacity as the new executive team takes their active place.

That brings me to the exciting news! I am so thrilled to welcome Dr. Danielle Clark as the WIMS president. (*Thank you for serving in this role!*) Dr. Clark is a true advocate for the WIMS mission, and an effective leader. Already, she has implemented some ideas that are sure to bolster our community and further our impact. One such idea is the generation of a WIMS newsletter that will help connect our members and regularly highlight the amazing work that continues to take place. Keep your eyes out for more from Danielle – including an upcoming kickoff event for this academic year!

Once again – I’m grateful for each of you. And I send a special thanks to the executive team for your dedication and service. You inspire me to do better, and be better.

Looking forward to this upcoming year!

Peace,
Heather

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