

Publicity announcement about 2022 AWIS Award Winner Dr. Dharshi Bopegedera

For more information, contact Reitha Weeks, Seattle AWIS Board Member, Treasurer and Awards & Banquet Committee member, at reithaweeks@gmail.com
Seattle AWIS website: www.seattleawis.org and <https://seattleawis.org/awards/>
SOON: bioparagraphs of the 2022 award winners will be posted at <https://seattleawis.org/awards/>.

Congratulations to Dr. Dharshi Bopegedera, a 2022 Seattle AWIS Award Winner

Seattle Association for Women in Science (AWIS) takes pride in recognizing particularly outstanding Washington women for their accomplishments in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM). We are pleased to recognize **Dr. Dharshi Bopegedera**, on the Chemistry Faculty at The Evergreen State College, as the 2022 recipient of the Seattle AWIS award for **Excellence in STEM**



Education/Outreach. Dr. Bopegedera is very deserving of this award for her years of education innovation and inspiring mentoring and support for students at Evergreen and around the country.

The Seattle AWIS awards program began in 2013 and has honored 22 women from industry, academia, and non-profit research organizations. The AWIS award winners are selected from nominations submitted from around the state. The selection committee, composed of professional women representing many fields of STEM, are tasked with selecting the category winners from women with amazing accomplishments and influence and who are held in high regard by their colleagues.



Dr. Dharshi Bopegedera has been a faculty member in Chemistry at The Evergreen State College since 1991. She is passionate about education inside and outside the classroom. In 2017, she published a chemistry workbook which furthered her interest in developing laboratory exercises and workshops to actively engage students in learning chemistry in classrooms. She also involves her students in outreach activities to teach science in the local community.

She received two previous teaching awards from The Evergreen State College and she has served as the Faculty Advisor to The Evergreen State College Chemistry Club since its inception in 2003 until 2019. Her favorite annual event is Career Day which she initiated 17 years ago for the benefit of the undergraduate students.

Dr. Bopegedera has been an active member and volunteer in the American Chemistry Society (ACS) at the national level and with the local Puget Sound Section. She has organized and hosted numerous ACS sponsored events at The Evergreen State College. Dr. Bopegedera is a Councilor for the Puget Sound Section and she became a Career Consultant for national ACS in 2019, which has meant working one on one with students to assist them with career planning.

Dr. Bopegedera was nominated for the AWIS award by ACS colleagues to recognize her leadership, tireless volunteering for over 25 years, her advocacy work on behalf of undergraduate education and educators, and her efforts to make science accessible to all students inside and outside the classroom.

Other 2022 AWIS Award Winners

This year Seattle AWIS is honored to recognize three inspiring women who have advanced their fields of scientific research, innovation, education and outreach. They are leaders and innovators whose work has made an impact. They are also mentors and inspiring role models for students and other professionals.

The 2022 AWIS Award categories and winners are

◆ **Excellence in STEM Education/Outreach**

Dr. Dharshi Bopegedera, PhD, The Evergreen State College

Professor, Chemistry

American Chemical Society, Career Consultant

◆ **Science Advancement and Leadership**

Dr. Mary (Nora) Disis, MD, University of Washington

Director, UW Medicine Cancer Vaccine Institute,

Associate Dean, Translational Science, UW

Professor of Medicine and Adjunct Professor of Pathology and Obstetrics and Gynecology

Helen B. Slonaker Endowed Professorship for Cancer Research

◆ **Early Career Achievement in STEM**

Dr. Angela Fang, PhD, University of Washington

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Psychology

Banquet Invitation

Evergreen students, faculty and staff are invited to celebrate the accomplishments of the award winners at the Seattle AWIS banquet, June 3, 2022 at UW Center for Urban Horticulture. This will be the eighth Seattle AWIS Banquet at which professional awards and undergraduate scholarships have been given. There have been twenty-two previous award recipients.

The AWIS Banquet promises to be an inspirational evening. Guests will hear from the 2022 Award Winners, meet the AWIS undergraduate scholarship winners and donors, and enjoy the company of other supporters of women in science, technology, engineering and math. Local companies and organizations will be present as table sponsors showing their support for our dynamic scientific community.

The banquet is open to the public – AWIS members and non-members, women and men, students and professionals. Individual banquet tickets will be available online in mid-April 15 at <https://seattleawis.org/awards/>: Student tickets - \$30; AWIS Members - \$35; Non-AWIS Members - \$40,

Seattle AWIS Background

The AWIS Seattle Area Chapter was founded in 1985 and is affiliated with National AWIS (awis.org). The chapter has approximately 70 members representing many fields of science and technology and all education and career levels. The chapter provides a welcoming environment to support women in STEM and encourage girls to participate in the sciences. Seattle AWIS has monthly programs that are open to the public, a peer mentoring program, an undergraduate scholarship program, a science program for middle school girls and an annual banquet to honor local, award-winning women. For more information, visit www.seattleawis.org or contact info@seattleawis.org.

OTHER BACKGROUND

SAVE THE DATE: Come celebrate with Seattle AWIS!

2022 AWIS Banquet

Friday – June 3, 2022 – 6:30-10:00 pm

UW Center for Urban Horticulture

3501 NE 41st St., Seattle WA 98105

This is the 8th Seattle AWIS Banquet at which professional awards and undergraduate scholarships have been given. The twenty-two previous award recipients are listed below.

Previous AWIS Award Recipients

- **2021 virtual program, no banquet**

Science Advancement and Leadership

Dr. Sheri Tonn, PhD, Professor Emeritus of Chemistry, VP Finance,
Pacific Lutheran University

Early Career Achievement in STEM

Dr. Margaret Sibley, PhD, Associate Professor,
UW Dept of Psychiatry & Behavioral Sciences and Seattle Children's Research Institute

Excellence in STEM Education/Outreach

Dr. Amanda Jones, PhD, Senior Director, Education Initiatives,
Seattle Children's Research Institute

Excellence in Professional Development Education

Dr. Karen Peterson, PhD, Director, Office of Scientific Career Development and Scientific Omsbud,
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

- **2020 – No banquet or awards**

- **2019**

Science Advancement and Leadership

Denise Galloway, PhD; Director, Pathogen Associated Malignancies IRC
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Early Career Achievement in STEM

Corrie Ortega, PhD; Senior Research Scientist
Intellectual Ventures Laboratory

Excellence in STEM Education / Outreach

Jeanne Chowning, PhD; Senior Director of Science Education
Fred Hutchinson Cancer Research Center

Outstanding Seattle AWIS Member

Reitha Weeks, PhD; Biotech Camp Program Coordinator
Shoreline Community College

- **2018**

Scientific Advancement and Leadership in STEM

Colleen Delaney, MD, MSc
Full Member, Clinical Research Division, Fred Hutch;
Chief Scientific Officer, Nohla Therapeutics

Early Career Achievement in STEM

Elizabeth Nance, PhD
Clare Boothe Luce Assistant Professor, UW Chemical Engineering;
Adjunct Assistant Professor, UW Radiology

Excellence in Science Education / Outreach

Beverly Torok-Storb, PhD, MEd
Full Member, Clinical Research Division, Fred Hutch;
Director, Summer High School Internship Program, Fred Hutch

Outstanding Seattle AWIS Member

Fran Solomon, MS, PhD
Environmental Science Professor, Western WA University on the Peninsulas

- **2017**

Scientific Advancement: Emily Fox, MEng, EE, PhD; UW Paul G. Allen Computer Science & Engineering and
UW Statistics

Science Education: Alyssa Taylor, PhD; UW Bioengineering

Science Outreach: Claudia Ludwig, MEd; Institute for Systems Biology

- **2016**

Scientific Advancement: Hongkui Zeng, PhD; Allen Institute
Leadership in the Public/Private Sector: Erin Shellman, PhD; Zymergen

- 2015

Scientific Advancement: Julie Overbaugh, PhD; Fred Hutch, UW
Early Career Achievement: Brandi Cossairt, PhD; UW Chemistry

- 2014

Scientific Advancement: Anna Wald, PhD; UW, Fred Hutch
Science Education/Outreach: Nancy Hutchison, PhD; Fred Hutch

- 2013

Scientific Advancement and Mentoring:
Sheila Lukehart, PhD; UW Medicine, Global Health and Harborview