

The William J. Degutis Women in Science and Health Lecture Series in collaboration with CSH's 10th Anniversary Celebration presents

10
YEARS

2011-2021

COLLEGE OF SCIENCE
AND HEALTH

On the Origins of Gender: Brain Sex Differences, Neuroplasticity and Women's Advancement in STEM

APRIL 28, 2021 - 4:30 - 6:00 PM
ZOOM WEBINAR



**Celebrating
10 Years of
Discovery
and
Innovation**

Gender gaps are present across human experience (health, careers, relationships) but that doesn't mean they are 'hard-wired' by brain evolution.

Neuroscientist Dr. Lise Eliot will debunk popular myths about brain sex differences that are often used to rationalize gender gaps in STEM advancement and leadership. Recent large-scale studies demonstrate that such differences are small, non-binary and swamped by the much larger range of inter-individual difference.

Dr. Eliot will then address the interaction between nature and nurture in shaping children's brain and gender development. Genes and hormones play a part, but most gender differences arise out of experience, status, and social learning. Disaggregating these influences can help us design more effective interventions to attract and promote women in STEM.



About the Lecture Series

The William J. Degutis Women in Science and Health Lecture Series is an annual event sponsored by the College of Science and Health. The purposes of the lecture series are to promote the accomplishments of women in the natural and health sciences and in the closely related fields, as well as create scholarship and community among faculty, students, staff, and the public.

About the Lecture Donor:

Dr. Linda C. Degutis, MSN, FRSPH, is a proud DePaul alum ('75, BS Nursing) and nationally recognized leader for her policy, advocacy, and work on initiatives focusing on prevention of violence and injury, in addition to suicide prevention and intervention.

Dr. Degutis is the former Director of the National Center for Injury Prevention & Control at Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Most recently, Dr. Degutis has been appointed to the Advisory Group for the National Academy of Medicine - American Public Health Association COVID-19 Conversations Webinar series, a national committee to create policy and disseminate information on the COVID pandemic. Dr. Degutis is also a member of the CSH Advisory Council.

The lecture series is named after Dr. Degutis' father, William J. Degutis. A WWII veteran, Mr. Degutis worked at Ford Motor and the US Department of the Interior - Federal Water Pollution Control Administration. He instilled in his daughter a similar love for science and public service.

Lecture Program

Welcoming Remarks

Salma Ghanem, Ph.D.

Interim Provost

Introduction to Lecture Series and Dr. Linda Degutis

Stephanie Dance-Barnes, Ph.D.

Dean, College of Science and Health

A Word from the Donor

Dr. Linda C. Degutis

DePaul Alumna '75, BS Nursing

Scholarship Highlights

Jingjing Kipp, Ph.D.

Associate Professor, Reproductive Biology

Conforti Scholarship - Lauren Ables-Torres

Liput Scholarship - Mariam Shaikh

Introduction of Dr. Eliot

Dorothy Kozlowski, Ph.D.

Vincent DePaul Professor of Biological Sciences and Neuroscience

Keynote Address and Q&A

Lise Eliot, Ph.D.

Professor of Neuroscience, Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University

Closing Remarks

Susan D. McMahon, Ph.D.

Associate Dean for Research, Vincent DePaul Professor of Psychology

About the Speaker: Lise Eliot, Ph.D.

Lise Eliot is a Professor of Neuroscience and Executive Chair of Foundational Sciences & Humanities at the Chicago Medical School of Rosalind Franklin University. She received a B.A. degree Magna Cum Laude in History & Science from Harvard University, a Ph.D. in Cellular Physiology & Biophysics from Columbia University, and completed a post-doctoral fellowship in the Division of Neuroscience at Baylor College of Medicine.

Dr. Eliot analyzes the interplay between innate biology, sociocultural factors, and individual experience in molding our brains and behavior across the lifespan. Her research is centered on brain and gender development, especially the role of neuroplasticity in shaping neural circuitry and behavior.

Dr. Eliot has published more than 60 works, including experimental studies in cellular neurophysiology, meta-analyses of brain sex difference, and two highly-praised books: "What's Going On in There? How the Brain and Mind Develop in the First Five Years of Life", and "Pink Brain, Blue Brain: How Small Differences Grow Into Troublesome Gaps -- And What We Can Do About It".

The William J. Degutis Women in Science and Health Lecture Series Committee:
Jingjing Kipp (Chair), Joeline Arndt-Lee, Bernhard Beck-Winchatz, Nina Botting Herbst, Dorothy Kozlowski, Susan McMahon, Margaret Silliker