A great read on RAD Women In Science from Councilor Richard Britten

RRS's current President and Councilwomen at the 2019 Annual Meeting

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It was a cartoon illustrating the "debate" over the choice of surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy. While the specialists were debating what therapy should be used, the patient was just concerned about whether the tumor was going to be eradicated. That was my point!

Not being a great artist I made the cartoon by tracing over a picture of President Clinton surrounded by his advisors. Clinton was in the middle and so became my patient, while his advisors became my MDs. I guess because of Clinton's voluminous hair at the time, my portrayal of him as my patient came across as a female patient.

Liz pointed out the fact that all the MDs were men and my "victim" patient was a female and, as such, I was portraying a very sexist view of the medical profession. Since at the time I had 2 daughters (now have 3), who were very smart and destined for great things, Liz pointed out that I was biasing their vision of medical life by my cartoon.

That really struck home to me.

At the Cancun meeting, a disturbing conversation with a bright young female post-doc (who I knew from NASA Summer school) regarding how male-centric the program was, led me to carry this to our Council for serious discussion. We are proud to say that RRS sprang into action and rallied the "old guard" and restarted the "women in RadRes" movement. Liz Travis was one of the original founders of the Women in Science movement, which President Susan Bailey has now branded as RAD Women in Science. Our society has had a long history of great female radiobiologists, who defeated systemic bias to do so. While things are easier now, it is still not a level playing field. While I feel most of my male colleagues are not chauvinistic per se, we are unaware of many of the issues that our female colleagues face.

The more that the unique issues female researchers have to deal with are discussed, the more we as a society can try to help. With more and more of our young members being female, we need to be proactive in helping them as much as we can.

This is also personal for me as I guide and protect 3 daughters and 2 granddaughters. I truly believe the majority of the RRS shares my commitment to promoting equal rights and opportunities to all members.

Happy Mothers’ Day to everyone. Look forward to seeing you all in Hawaii.

A message from Councilor Julie Schwarz

On this Mother’s Day, I would like to acknowledge my grandmother. The last grade of school she attended was 4th grade. At that time, she was forced to quit school to clean floors in other people’s homes as a means to support her family during the Great Depression.

I would also like to acknowledge my mother, who was the first in her family to attend college, and instilled in me the confidence to reach for the sky academically. I think of their support, resilience and persistence despite the odds everyday. Happy Mother’s Day everyone!

A message from Councilor Evagelia Laiakis

On this Mother’s Day, I would like to acknowledge my amazing mom, first and foremost. Since I was a child, she has told me to reach for the stars, be independent, and has been my biggest supporter. She has always felt deeply and loved unconditionally. I love you mom, wish I could be in Greece to celebrate this special day with you!

I would also like to extend a big thank you to all my academic “moms”, who have been plentiful, caring and helpful, and absolutely crucial throughout my career. Our Society is full of them and I encourage the SIT’s to find their own.

Finally, I want to acknowledge all the moms during these hard times, who juggle a full time career, full time being mom, and full time teacher, all in 24 hrs. You rock and deserve special recognition and pampering this Sunday. Happy Mother's Day to everyone!

A great read from RAD Women in Science from Councilor Richard Britten

From: richardbritten2019@radres.org

To: test@example.com

Sent: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 11:49 AM

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