

Newsletter Volume 4

The International Women's Forum Connecticut (IWFCT) brings together accomplished and professional women leaders of significant and diverse achievement. The organization promotes leadership and advocacy in a trusting and respectful community that is committed to the advancement and support of each member.

IWF Upcoming Conference

The Stockholm Conference is approaching quickly, and several members are attending. Update on the conference will be shared during our Annual Meeting on June 14.



Stockholm, Sweden, May 17-19, 2017 – IWF World Cornerstone Conference

New Members



Donna Galluzzo, Ph.D, R.D.

Welcome to our newest member, Donna Galluzzo! Donna is the Principal of The Corridor Group in Wallingford. The Corridor Group is a leading national service organization that delivers industry expertise and solutions for non-acute healthcare providers. Donna can be reached at dgalluzzo@corridorgroup.com

A Message from IWFCT President Roberta Prescott

Dear Members,



One of the highlights of IWF membership is our International Conferences. This years' World Cornerstone Conference will be held in Stockholm on May 17-19. Members from 50 countries will attend. Many of the attendees are pioneers of change and are redrawing the map for how we will live, work, produce and maintain healthy communities in the future. As always, there are some fascinating speakers. Here are just 2 examples:

- [Baroness Pauline Neville-Jones, DCMG](#), Chair of the Cyber Security Advisory Panel of the Bank of England and former Minister of State for Security and Counter Terrorism; and
- [Karolina Skog](#), Swedish Minister for the Environment.

I have attended these conferences from Jordan, Berlin and Rome to Jamaica, Morocco and Israel and have made many wonderful friends who welcome you to their countries whenever you travel. I encourage you to consider attending in the future and leverage the great values it brings. The next conference is around the corner **October 25-27 in Houston**. Lock your calendars. You will not be sorry. Closer to home, our **Annual Meeting** this year is scheduled for **June 14th**. Invite will be going out soon.

Final note. As you know, every few years we evaluate who we are and where are we going. What's working? What's not? And how can we engage and connect with you in a better way. Your Executive Committee under the guidance of Sheryl Sleeva is currently building a new Strategic Plan. If you have any ideas or suggestions feel free to contact us. We are very excited and hope to share this with you in our next Newsletter.

Roberta Prescott

I encourage you to reach out to me or any of our Executive Team:

Roberta Prescott: Roberta@theprescottgroup.com, Michele Etzel: michelemetzel@gmail.com Marie Meliksetian: kasmari@gmail.com Denise Stevens: denise.stevens@matrixphs.com Sheryl Sleeva: Sheryl_Sleeva@yahoo.com and Valarie Gelb: valarie@vgelb.com

Member News



Nancy Bernstein was recently named President and Chief Operating officer of Women's Health USA (WHUSA), the Avon, Connecticut- based company providing business services to health care providers in Connecticut and five other states.

In her role, Nancy will be responsible for Whusa's operations with OBGYN physicians and family planning clinics in six states throughout the country, including Connecticut, as well as clinical, billing and operating functions.

Kate Larson, our Executive Administrator, is one of the five "Town Champions" who will be honored by Laurel House at its Annual Dinner Dance in Greenwich on April 29. Kate is being honored for her nonprofit and volunteer work in Darien. For additional details, visit <https://www.laurelhouse.net/events/upcoming-events-2.html#>

Upcoming Events



APRIL – Dine-Arounds Our 2017 Dine-Arounds are taking place on the 20th, 24th and 27th. Many thanks to our hostesses Ann Gray, Roberta Prescott and Joanne Firstenberg. These dinners are always very popular with members, and this year is no exception, as each dinner is at capacity.



JUNE 14 – Annual Meeting @ Aspetuck Valley Country Club Join us for a great food cooking demonstration by the Aspetuck Valley Country Club Chef Girard. You will enjoy a unique experience in cooking and demonstration event. This will be a good treat to both the food connoisseurs and the cooks in you! A real treat!

Events - February 2017

INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY: IBM WATSON IMAGINES THE FUTURE

BY Marie Meliksetian and Roberta Prescott



On February 24th, IWF CT members and several guests were treated to a site visit at the [IBM Research THINKLab](#). The visit was a two and one half- hour interactive program packed with visualization and experiences across multiple topics including cognitive computing, healthcare, analytics, IBM Watson Power6, Concierge Robots and the future of knowing. The program was sponsored and hosted by IWFCT member, Angela Archon, Vice President, Operations, Watson Health, supported by Dr. Anna Topol, Chief Technology Officer, Industry and Solutions Group; Dr. Jia Chen, Watson Cognitive Client Experience Center Leader; and Jay Murdock, Content Manager, IBM THINKLab

Upon arrival, we were greeted by a robot named Jessica, who



interacted with us, answered questions and even had a sense of humor. When asked "do you think robots will replace humans"? "She" answered "you worry too much".

We moved around the center populated by interactive touch screens and Video presentation rooms.

Our hosts welcomed us into a large conference room where multiple topics were covered.

- Life Sciences; Advancing drug therapy, Innovative medical devices and safety of medicine are getting more and more complex. IBM's cognitive technologies ensure that therapies will be faster, safer and more effective.
- Oncology and Genomics; Focus is on identifying personal treatment. This means less time researching and more time caring for patients
- Government Health and Human Resources; the power of Cognitive computing will give physicians greater confidence in diagnosis and treatment.

Events - February 2017

INNOVATIONS IN TECHNOLOGY: IBM WATSON IMAGINES THE FUTURE (Cont'd)

BY Marie Meliksetian and Roberta Prescott

IBM WATSON HEALTH-FIVE SOME INITIATIVES

WATSON VERSUS JEOPARDY!

In 2011 Watson triumphed over two of *Jeopardy!*'s best winners. But it is **how** it won that was so interesting. It "knew" every answer, but the human mind works much faster, so the humans were quicker to ring the buzzer; but when there was more time as in the daily double or the final *Jeopardy!* question there was no contest. Clearly, there was more complexity than speed for Watson's win but the key taking is that IBM Watson's power has and will continue to be unprecedented across industries and businesses.

HEALTH CARE

We were shown an example of a sick child. The diagnostic tests took several days before the correct answer was reached. Watson took a few hours to reach the same diagnosis. This speed of a diagnosis is a powerful outcome to both Doctors and patients. In a study of 300 patients, Watson's recommendations have been true 100% of the time. There are eight thousand new research papers a day and many are 12-24 months out of date. Watson analyzes data faster than the human mind could have.

DECISION MAKING Example: If an executive wants to make a decision such as "should we increase our dividend?" he or she could line up pro's on one side of the room and con's on the other. Their arguments might not necessarily be empirical. Watson looks at all studies on the subject in an impartial way. It will list all the best pro and con claims. Then it will search for evidence to back up the claims and at the provenance of that evidence. Watson does not make the decision for you, but it helps you decide. An issue that comes up is how to maintain objectivity.

CHALLENGES

Voice recognition: Siri or Amazon Echo will ask you to repeat if it doesn't understand. Watson will use several voice prompts such as "did you mean to say?" If you say yes, this equates to an 80% confidence. In the range of 40-80% confidence, it will say "I'm close to what you said but ..." Below 40%, it will ask you to repeat. Also if it plays back to you "Is that what you meant?" and you say "no", this becomes the learning component for Watson.

Language: Watson can interpret 17 languages. It can ask in one language and answer in another, and vice versa. It can interpret Japanese, but Chinese is still work in progress.

Handling ambiguous language: Example: the words "check out" – in retail it could mean a sale while on the street it could mean something entirely different. Wording and context are important.

Contact centers: How to deal with emotions.

Financial: Example about Keystone Pipeline. What is a claim? What is a fact? If it doesn't find the facts it will require fact finding and fact sources.

Driverless cars: Looking at the challenges of decision making, parking, etc. We had so many more questions when we reluctantly had to say good bye. Watson Health's research and practical applications is unique and interactive. It helps the world keep up with the challenges this Information Age provides. Watching and interacting with what they are doing is exciting and opens our minds to possibilities.

Special thanks to IWFACT Member Angela Archon, Vice President, Operations, IBM Watson Health and her team for sharing the ThinkLab experience with us. Best wishes to Angela in her move to Austin, Texas!

Events - March 2017

IWFCT HONORED TO REPRESENT INTERNATIONAL IWF HOSTS U.N. NGO/CSW PANEL IN NEW YORK

By Marie Meliksetian and Roberta Prescott

Every year the U.N. Commission on the Status of women hosts two weeks of panels on important world. This year's theme was women's economic, as a driving force for women's successful and equal participation in society. Thanks to Marie Meliksetian, IWFCT Secretary and Program Chair, the Connecticut panel was the only one representing IWF on March 17th, and was featured on the home page of iwforum.org. The enthusiastic well-attended audience rated our panel as the best panel of the week. The outstanding women leaders on the panel shared opportunities, tools and innovations used successfully to drive change. The panelists included:



1. Moderator, our own **Valarie Gelb**, President of Gelb Global Business Growth Advisors and a recent honoree at the Chicago Cornerstone Conference as one of 12 women from around the world who make a difference
2. **Carolyn Miles**, IWFCT member and CEO and President of Save the Children
3. **Musimbi Kanyoro**, CEO and President of the Global Fund for Women
4. **Kavita Ramdas**, Philanthropy Change maker and former CEO and President of the Global Fund for Women
5. **Chris McConnell**, Womens Forum NY member and President and founder of The McConnell Group

The panel was highly interactive with many thoughtful questions and dialogue from the audience. Here are some highlights and lessons learned:

- Inequality is the cause of our time. One example: the gender pay gap is 24% globally;
- The struggle is truly global, ongoing and inherently political;
- What holds women back. Early marriage, violence, discrimination, but technology more and more is leveling out the playing field;
- Empowerment begins with one's self. What's purposeful in our lives? Who are we and how do we own our space in the world?
- Early education makes the single greatest change in women's lives and is a protective measure for girls. However, by 6th grade the number of girls in school has become greatly diminished;
- Pneumonia is the number one killer of children. Now, through innovation and technology a new tool has been placed in the hands of community health workers – a handheld ultra sound machine that not only diagnoses pneumonia, but also evaluates what kind – a vast improvement over the unscientific method of counting the number of breaths per minute;
- India;
- Has asked for cell phones to be banned for girls because it gives them the freedom to make dates and other freedoms;
- There are still extreme forms of neglect such as a girl being raped by her grandfather and uncles with no consequences;
- We need to recognize that while in Saudi Arabia and Japan there are high levels of education and achievement, this doesn't guarantee freedom
- Women are kept invisible – out of public spaces, lack of personal capital, driving still open to only a few, passport issues and still thought of as the girl who gets the coffee;
- 90% of 800 women's groups can now access e mail.

NEXT STEPS – SUGGESTIONS FROM THE PANEL ON WHAT WE CAN DO

- Become part of the solution;
- Stop reacting and become pro-active. Use your time, treasure and talent to leave a legacy;
- As you climb the leadership ladder, pay it forward and lift others to grow with you;
- Choose one thing that you can do to strengthen women's economic empowerment and leadership and do something about it;
- Give dollars, open your experience by meeting someone you don't know, speak up;
- Help end poverty by working to reduce inequalities in our own communities;
- Work to bring technology advances, global.

IWFCT is proud to have focused on important issues of our time and to learn, not only from the panelists but also from the wide-ranging and diverse audience.