

**Gender Equity Project  
Sponsorship Program Workshops**

**Making the Most of Attending Conferences  
Activities and Discussion**

**Read**            Networking (Cuny, n.d.)  
 Networking at meetings is vital for career advancement (Goodman, 1993)  
 Women scientists stress need for visibility at conferences (Mack, 1997)  
 Promoting yourself is key to climbing the academic ladder (Rief-Lehrer, 1993)  
 Attending conferences (Valian et al, 2006)

**Pre-Workshop Activity** Think about the most recent conferences you have attended and consider the following questions:

1. Did you take the time out to meet other scientists in your field, both junior and senior?
  - a. If yes, what was most and least successful about your encounters?
  - b. If not, what do you think the reasons are?
2. Did you follow-up with those you met?
  - a. If yes, did it lead to a professional relationship?
  - b. If not, why?
3. Do you think you benefited from attending the conferences?
  - a. If yes, how do you think you benefited?
  - b. If not, how could make the next conference better?
4. What tips do you have for others?

**Presentation**

Guest Speaker            Professor Suparna Rajaram, Psychology, SUNY-Stony Brook

Guest Speaker            Professor Steven Greenbaum, Physics, Hunter College

Discussion                Q&A with Professors Rajaram and Greenbaum

When formulating questions, consider the Pre-Workshop Activity, the handout and the presentations of Professor Rajaram and Professor Greenbaum. Also, be prepared to share any tips you have for attending conferences with others.

1. Were you surprised by anything you heard or discovered?
2. How have your views on attending conferences been affected, if at all?

### **Background resources**

- Cuny, J. (n.d.). Networking. Retrieved July 17, 2006 from <http://www.cra.org/Activities/craw/projects/mentoring/mentorWrkshp/network.pdf>
- Goodman, B. (1993, February 22). Networking at meetings is vital for career advancement. *The Scientist*, 7, 19-23.
- Mack, A. (1997, November 24). Women scientists stress need for visibility at conferences. *The Scientist*, 11, 13-19.
- Rief-Lehrer, L. (1992, July 20). Promoting yourself is key to climbing the academic ladder. *The Scientist*, 6, 20-25.
- Valian, V., Rajaram, S., Nicols-Grinenko, A., Martinez, T. & Mazhar, S. (2006). Attending conferences. Unpublished manuscript, Gender Equity Project, Hunter College. Available at [www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity/profskillsmaterial.html](http://www.hunter.cuny.edu/genderequity/profskillsmaterial.html)