

# News Release

## Dobbs Ferry Science Research Students Gain Insights At Inspiring Women Scientists Forum

**Dobbs Ferry, N.Y. October 4, 2013--** Thirty-plus Dobbs Ferry High School science research students, both boys and girls, attended the Inspiring Women Scientists (IWS) Forum on Friday, September 27<sup>th</sup> at CUNY Graduate Center in New York City. The half-day Forum was co-sponsored by the *Feminist Press* and the City University of New York Office of Research. During the program, Dobbs Ferry 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders heard from and interacted with top scientists in the metropolitan region.

The keynote speaker was **Ana Maria Cuervo**, co-director of the Einstein Institute for Aging Research and the Robert and Renee Belfer Chair for the Study of Neurodegenerative Diseases at Albert Einstein College of Medicine. Her lab focuses on how cell-cleaning systems break down as we age, and how this connects to neurodegenerative diseases such as Alzheimer's and Parkinson's. She is considered a leader in the field of autophagy. Dr. Cuervo was also interviewed by New York Times writer Claudia Dreifus in a Q&A session. Dr. Cuervo spoke about the influence of mentors throughout her career, and how this maintained her passion for science. She also discussed the importance of supporting other women in science.

Students then heard from a panel of women scientists from various disciplines and careers in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics). The panel, moderated by CUNY Vice Chancellor for Research, Gillian Small, included **Mary Corliss Pearl**, Associate Dean & Chief Academic Officer, Macaulay Honors College, City University of New York; **Judith Spitz**, Senior Vice President, Chief Information Officer, Verizon Business; **Suzanne Mello Stark**, Assistant Professor, Election Technology and Digital Forensics, University of Connecticut and Rhode Island Community College; and **Sihong Wang**, Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, City College of New York. You can find in-depth interviews with each of the panel members at <http://www.underthemicroscope.com/>

“We were the only public school from Westchester at the Forum,” said Dobbs Ferry Science Research Teacher Tom Callahan. “The attendees were mostly college and graduate students, private school students and other scientists. One of our students, Beckett Morris, struck up a conversation with Diane Fresquez, who recently authored *A Taste of Molecules*, and she gave Beckett a copy of her book right there. Fresquez's book talks about the connection between food and memory and Beckett's work involves food science. It was an amazing opportunity to converse and network with elite scientists in many different fields.”

The program also included one-hour breakout sessions to discuss educational pathways and careers in technology, academia and entrepreneurship. Most of the Dobbs Ferry students chose to attend the Entrepreneurship and Technology sessions, which were led by each of the panel participants. “It was such a thrill for our science research students to be able to interact one-on-one with professional scientists and to pick their brains,” said Mr. Callahan.

**For more information, please contact:**

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