



Newsletter October 2021

# 500 Women Scientists Bern-Fribourg

On the 14th of October we had the fourth networking lunch (first one in 2021) of the [500WS Eat Lunch](#) series with [Dr. Rachel Hevey](#). She is one of the leaders of the [Swiss Women in Chemistry](#) network that aims to increase the visibility of female leaders in science as well as to help the career progression of female junior scientists. She discussed with us about the issues that women have to face in science and her vision on how to approach them.

**JOIN US!** We encourage women scientists who work/live in the Bern-Fribourg area to be part of our network and to participate in science communication activities. [German and French speakers](#) with a [passion for politics](#) are especially welcome! We want to join forces to speak out against the injustices we see in science and in society.

**500 Women Scientist Bern-Fribourg Pod Coordinators**  
Claudia Kasper, Andrea Fortier and Ana I. Benítez-Mateos

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## TOP STORIES

### Our petition is supported by the Frauensession

We are very happy to announce that our proposal to add the demand for a nation-wide office for complaints about sexual harassment and violence has been accepted into the petition 'Equality policy standards for university funding and the allocation of third-party funding' during the [Frauensession](#) on October 29 and 30, 2021! Also included are the following demands:

- standardized and transparent processes to deal with misconduct as an institution
- standards for transparent allocation of resources within the institution based on measurable criteria
- standards to combat discrimination, abuse of power and sexual harassment involving minorities through quantitative and qualitative surveys

These demands are part of our letter [Addressing gender inequality in academia in Switzerland](#) and will be brought to the chambers of the Swiss parliament. You can still sign our letter to support this cause! See the full list of 23 proposals [here](#) (in German).

## Good reads

***Acoso #MeToo in Spanish Science*** is a book (in Spanish) about sexual harassment and sex-based discrimination in universities and public research institutions.

In 2017, the allegations against the Hollywood producer, Harvey Weinstein, sparked the #MeToo movement. Since then, many inappropriate behaviors have been reported creating awareness of a situation that had been hidden for decades. In this book, Angela Bernardo Álvarez combines interviews and analyses to provide an up-to-date overview about questions such as: What defines those types of misbehaviors? How are they regulated? What is known about sexual stalkers? What difficulties are faced by people having these problems? What is the role of the institutions to prevent and stop this scourge?



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### READ

The [interview with Dr. Bettina Almasi](#) in *Paths Through Science* by Gabrielle Vance

### CHECK OUT

The new [Unibe Venture Fellowship](#) that supports researchers who want to translate their scientific results into innovative products or services. Deadline: 12 December.

### SAVE THE DATE

10 December, 12:00-13:00. Join the virtual lunch event [Professor and mother? Yes you can!](#) organized by the 500WS Zurich pod. Register [here](#).

CONTACT US in [500wsbern@gmail.com](mailto:500wsbern@gmail.com)

YOU CAN JOIN OUR POD [HERE](#)



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