

WOMEN
INITIATIVE
FOUNDATION

Newsletter #10
September 2019



Dear Friends of the Women Initiative Foundation,

I hope that, like us, you've come back from summer full of energy. We approach autumn hot on the heels of a real success with our executive programs in June and in July (CentraleSupélec, Haas Berkeley, SCRIPPS College and Stanford) and after finalising our new program for women leaders with McGill in Montreal in May 2020.

We've also just successfully launched the first inter-company mentoring program in the US with a number of prestigious companies: ENGIE, BNP Paribas/Bank of The West, Amazon, Ernst & Young, Axa, SalesForce and even the United Nations. After Europe and the USA, we're working on launching the program in Asia, in Singapore, by 2020.

At the same time, as you'll read in this newsletter, several events are coming up that give us the opportunity to meet up and bolster the WIF circle. The highlight will be the dinner at the Cercle Interallié on November 4th. We'll celebrate our 10th anniversary and we'll unveil the book written on our adventure. I look forward to seeing many of you there!

Wishing you a great new academic year,

Warmest regards,
Martine Liautaud

MENTEE NEWS

The success story of... Patrizia Paterlini-Bréchet
Researcher, Professor and Founder of Rarecells



Patrizia Paterlini-Bréchet studied medicine at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, where she specialised in haematology and oncology. After working as an oncologist in Bologna, she met a number of world-renowned researchers and in turn she decided to go into medical and scientific research. So, in 1988 she left Italy for Paris where she trained in molecular biology. Her gamble paid off as today she's Professor of cell and molecular biology and oncology at Paris Descartes University. She also heads up a team of researchers at the French National Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM). She focuses on circulating tumor cells (CTC) and detecting them by blood filtration for cancer prevention. She managed to develop a test to detect cancer by a blood test, the ISET® method, a real breakthrough in medicine that has led to her being a finalist for this year's European Inventor Awards

In 2011, Patrizia set out on an entrepreneurial venture by founding Rarecells Diagnostics, to develop and commercialise ISET® technology. And just like in research, you need to fight to exist in entrepreneurship. "In research, the vast majority of research directors are men, and yet there are lots of women in research who could qualify for such a post", deprecates Patrizia. The world of entrepreneurship is equally difficult to understand. "The notions of leadership in research and entrepreneurship are totally different. I needed to learn other ways of working, to establish hierarchy and manage finances."

This is where the WIF foundation came into play. Patrizia's son, working at a New York start-up at the time, found out about the Foundation as his director was one of the first mentees. A meeting was soon set up between Patrizia and Martine Liautaud: "I was really impressed when Martine told me about her career and everything that she's done with the Foundation."

Claire Simier, executive coach and founder of Simier Partners, became her mentor: "Meeting Claire came just at the right moment; she's based in New York, and I was planning on moving to the States to develop my company." Although Patrizia already had strategic contacts, notably at Colombia University, she needed to find sources of investment for fundraising. "Claire's helping me a lot in this transition phase, and I now have the chance of having an unbelievable network of people supporting my project. People I meet quickly become aware of the global benefit of the ISET® method in fighting cancer."

With an approach as fundamental as it is revolutionary, let's bet that Patrizia will not only take the USA by storm, but will also promote the position of women in research.

Access Patrizia Paterlini-Brechot's [LinkedIn page](#)

To find out more about Rarecells and the ISET® method, [click here](#)

If you want to become a mentee or mentor at the Foundation, click here!

FOCUS ON...

Launching the inter-company program in the United States

Nolwenn Godard, Director of Pricing Product at PayPal and Operations Director for WIF on the West coast of the United States, answered our questions on the new inter-company mentoring program developed in the States.

How did you manage to expand the inter-company program in the USA?

A year ago, Martine Liautaud and I discussed launching the inter-company program in Europe, with the goal of then expanding in the United States. In January we officially unveiled the program in Europe with PayPal, Oracle, BNP Paribas, ENGIE and l'Oréal, but we were already approaching American companies with a view to launching an American program.

We will start the program in the States in September with companies including Amazon, AXA, BNP Paribas/Bank of The West, Engie, Ernst & Young, Salesforce and the United Nations.

Is this type of mentoring program for high-potential women common in the United States?

There are indeed mentoring initiatives where women executives can be coached within their own company, but the idea of doing one-to-one mentoring across companies is relatively new. And it's this innovative aspect of sharing experience and skills that interests all the companies we talked to – especially as some of them are already actively promoting inclusion and parity. This is the case for Salesforce, as well as all WIF's partners: Engie, BNPP, and Ernst & Young

Has the European program been successful? Are there any improvements you plan on applying to the American program?

The European program has so far been a real success, both for the mentee-mentor pairings and the allocated training programs. So, we're trying to reproduce in the US exactly what we did in Europe, especially regarding the training programs led by renowned university professors and lecturers, to ensure high quality input on diversity, inclusion and mentoring. In total, we have 34 participants in the American inter-company program, 17 mentee-mentor pairs, made up of a wide variety of executive profiles, working in consulting, technology, finance, energy...

The program was launched on September 20 in New York with Martine Liautaud. Soazig Drevillon, a member of the WIF team in New York who helped me in setting up the program, and I presented the mentee-mentor pairs. We organized 3 workshops led by 3 women executives: Anna Gallotti discussed the mentor's posture, Claire Simier explained the difference between mentor and coaching, and Adriana Bello testified about her mentee experience.

Thanks to the sponsors of the Kick off day in New York:



NEWSSTAND

- Widoobiz

Martine Liautaud, from investment banker to philanthropist via Widoobiz

FocusRH

Intrapreneurship training for women at CentraleSupélec via Focus RH

wansquare

Nathalie Kosciusko Morizet : Cybersecurity and feminism in New York via Wansquare

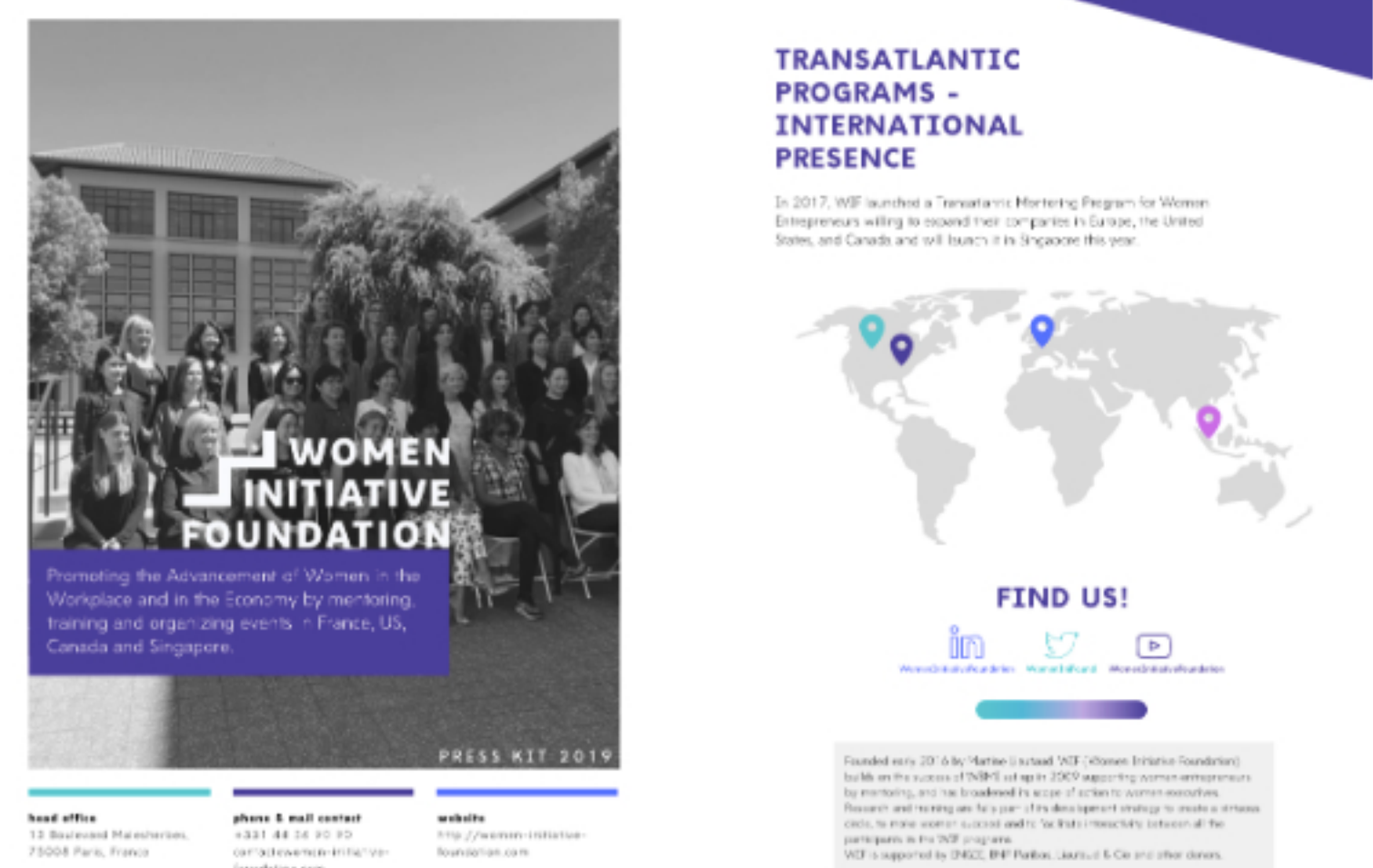
Chef d'Entreprise

Women leaders : in network, smash the glass ceiling! via Chef d'Entreprise

CALENDAR

FRANCE
September 26, 2019: European intercompany mentoring dinner
September 27, 2019: European intercompany mentoring program day
October 21, 2019: WIF - BNP Paribas-Croissance Plus "Women entrepreneurs" lunch
November 4, 2019: WIF's 10th anniversary dinner
ETATS-UNIS
October 3, 2019: Roundtable on cybersecurity - Palo Alto
> Click here for more information

Check out WIF' new presentation leaflet
(click on the image below to access it)



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