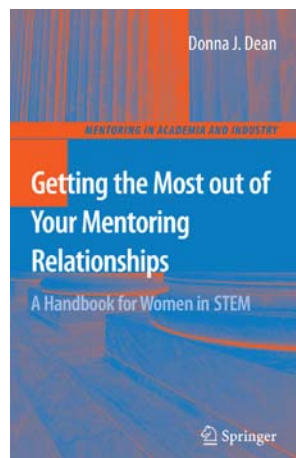


# Donna J. Dean: Getting the most out of your mentoring relationships. A handbook for women in STEM

Julie A. Stenken

© Springer-Verlag 2009



## Bibliography

Getting the most out of your mentoring relationships. A handbook for women in STEM

Donna J. Dean

Series: Mentoring in Academia and Industry, Vol.3

Springer

ISBN: 978-0-387-92408-3

Softcover, 168 pages, June 2009,

€ 32,95

**Book's topic** This book aims to be a reflective guide to women seeking mentoring relationships (e.g., protégés) in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) careers. This book primarily addresses mentoring needs at various career milestones and provides many stories and quotes from women scientists at different stages of their career.

**Contents** The book contains twelve chapters including a historical perspective of the word “mentor” (Chapter2) and a comprehensive listing of the subgroups devoted to diversity,

mentoring, and women's issues among the many STEM professional societies (Chapter12). Chapter1 challenges the reader to be introspective as to their career-long mentoring needs. The mentoring needs an individual may have at different career stages (Chapter3), how different individuals addressed their own transitions or concerns (Chapter4), and online scientific mentoring and networking sites (Chapter5) are described. Career transition needs (Chapter6) followed by strategies for handling inappropriate mentoring relationships (Chapter7) are included. Formal (Chapter8) and informal educational needs (Chapter9) with regard to timing and career choices along with numerous stories and advice regarding career development needs (Chapter10) are then described. Chapter11, “Provocative Thoughts for a Better Future”, outlines the continuing problems and barriers to women achieving parity in STEM fields that have been known for decades, but sadly still exist. Chapter11 ends with prominent female scientist stories identifying different aspects of their successful careers.

**Comparison with existing literature** An extensive psychological and sociological literature exists describing the many different needs and concerns of women in STEM fields. Different books addressing mentoring needs in academic STEM careers are available [1, 2]. General mentoring books are also available and individuals seeking academic careers are strongly encouraged to read the humorous and insightful books and columns written by Emily Toth, “Ms. Mentor” [3–5]. This book is more general in its approach and certainly has its place among the literature related to women in STEM disciplines.

**Critical assessment** This monograph is among many books aimed at addressing various issues affecting women in STEM disciplines. The unique aspect of this book is that it

---

J. A. Stenken (✉)  
Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry,  
1 University of Arkansas,  
Fayetteville, AR 72701, USA  
e-mail: jstenken@uark.edu

covers the good, the bad, and the ugly with regard to women's advancement and their mentoring needs in STEM careers. The author strongly encourages the reader to be quite introspective with regard to their mentoring needs at different stages of their professional careers. Many cited references are to Association for Women in Science (AWIS) published literature that is not available to non-AWIS members.

**Summary** *Getting the Most Out of Your Mentoring Relationships. A Handbook for Women in STEM* is one of many books aimed at helping women in the STEM fields be more productive and satisfied with their careers. The book is meant to be read in bits and pieces when specific questions or concerns arise during specific career mile-

stones. There are many useful points throughout the text that are gender neutral. Scientists at all levels will certainly benefit from this book.

## References

1. Barker K (2002) *At the helm. A laboratory navigator*. Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Press, Cold Spring Harbor
2. Pritchard PA (2006) *Success strategies for women in science: A portable mentor*. Elsevier Academic Press, Burlington
3. <http://chronicle.com/>
4. Toth E (1997) *Ms Mentor's impeccable advice for women in academia*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia
5. Toth E (2009) *Ms Mentor's new and ever more impeccable advice for women and men in academia*. University of Pennsylvania Press, Philadelphia