

## **Rady School Of Management At UC San Diego Announces Gray Cary – ATHENA FlexMBA Scholarship Recipient**

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The Rady School of Management at the University of California, San Diego, today announced Elaine M. Weidenhammer as the first Gray Cary - Athena FlexMBA Scholarship recipient. Dr. Weidenhammer is the associate director of business development of Nanogen, a San Diego-based supplier of molecular diagnostic tests to the medical community and clinical researchers.

The scholarship, which covers tuition for the two-year FlexMBA program, is sponsored in partnership with Gray Cary, a major San Diego-based national law firm, and ATHENA, a UCSD-sponsored organization for executive women in the San Diego technology, life sciences and business communities. The charter class of the FlexMBA program, the Rady School's Executive MBA degree program, begins this fall.

In partnership with the Rady School, the Gray Cary - Athena FlexMBA Scholarship is awarded to an individual who plays a key role in managing or creating an emerging small to medium-sized science or technology-driven company in the San Diego region, and who shows outstanding personal leadership, intellect, and integrity. The recipient must also demonstrate commitment to the technology sector and to the San Diego community. Dr. Weidenhammer was chosen by a selection committee comprised of representatives from Gray Cary, ATHENA and the Rady School.

"We were extremely pleased with the strong pool of nominees," said Robert S. Sullivan, founding dean of the Rady School. "The caliber of the individuals nominated was extremely impressive and Elaine's qualifications and interests are truly outstanding by every measure."

Prior to joining Nanogen in 1998, Dr. Weidenhammer was a postdoctoral fellow at the UCSD School of Medicine. She was initially involved in research and scientific roles before moving into business development. She received a B.S. in science from Johns Hopkins University and a Ph.D. in biological sciences from Carnegie Mellon University. Dr. Weidenhammer has also played leadership roles in the San Diego chapter of the Association of Women in Science and in Athena.

"By selecting Elaine as the first recipient of the Gray Cary-Athena Scholarship, we know we are making a sound investment in someone who has tremendous potential to succeed in the life sciences and technology communities in San Diego," said Lisa Haile, J.D., Ph.D., a partner at Gray Cary Ware & Freidenrich LLP, chair of the law firm's Life Sciences Group and Athena Board member. "In addition to her strong professional skills and academic foundation, the education and experience she will receive through the Rady School of Management will serve her well. Gray Cary is pleased to be associated with the Rady School of Management and its vision for training future business leaders."

Gray Cary is a national law firm that represents both private and public businesses ranging from growth companies to Fortune 500 corporations with an emphasis on the technology and life sciences industries. The firm has more than 400 attorneys practicing throughout the United States.

"Elaine has been actively involved in Athena and is clearly an up and coming leader in the biotechnology community," said Jeanine Jacobson, Executive Director of UCSD Athena. "We are privileged to have Elaine as the first Gray Cary - Athena FlexMBA Scholar."

Athena is a program for executive women with a vision to foster personal and professional change through inclusion, risk-taking, education, recognition, and diversity of thought, thereby enhancing competitiveness and opportunity in the San Diego business community.

The Rady School at UC San Diego offers a revolutionary MBA program that grows innovators into successful business leaders. Situated in San Diego's globally recognized hotbed of innovation, the school is uniquely poised to offer access to both cutting-edge research and a fully engaged business community. The Rady School presents an integrated approach to business and technology and emphasizes cross-boundary collaborations and joint degree programs with UC San Diego centers of excellence: science, engineering, medicine, economics and international relations. The Rady School draws upon UC San Diego's tradition of risk-taking and breakthrough innovation to recruit the top educators and students in the world.

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