



THE L'OREAL FOUNDATION AND UNESCO REVEAL THE LAUREATES OF THE 19TH EDITION OF THE L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS

Paris, October 4th 2016 – The L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO reveal today the five exceptional laureates of the 2017 *L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards* in the Physical Sciences. They will receive their awards at a ceremony to be held on March 23rd 2017 in Paris.

THE 2017 L'OREAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS

Proposed by a community of more than 2,000 leading scientists, the five laureates were then selected by an independent international jury of 12 prominent scientists presided this year by **Professor Christian Amatore, member of the French Académie des sciences**.

The jury is therefore pleased to announce the **winners of the 2017 edition, five outstanding women scientists** who will be celebrated on March 23rd 2017 at the Maison de la Mutualité in Paris. Each laureate will receive a Prize of €100,000 to reward their contribution to science.

Africa & Arab States	Professor Niveen KHASHAB (Saudi Arabia) , King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST)
Asia Pacific	Professor Michelle SIMMONS (Australia) , Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology - University of New South Wales
Europe	Professor Nicola SPALDIN (Switzerland) , Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH Zurich)
Latin America	Professor Maria Teresa RUIZ (Chile) , Astronomy Department, Universidad de Chile
North America	Professor Zhenan BAO (United States of America) , Department of Chemical Engineering, Stanford University



AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES



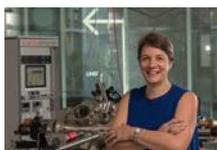
Professor Niveen KHASHAB
Lebanese

Associate Professor of Chemical Sciences and Engineering, King Abdullah University of Science and Technology (KAUST), SAUDI ARABIA

Analytical chemistry

“For her contributions to the development of innovative smart hybrid materials aimed at drug delivery and for developing new techniques to monitor intracellular antioxidant activity.”

ASIA PACIFIC



Professor Michelle SIMMONS
Australian

Professor, Centre of Excellence for Quantum Computation and Communication Technology - University of New South Wales, AUSTRALIA

Quantum physics

“For her pioneering contributions to quantum and atomic electronics, constructing atomic transistors en route to quantum computers.”

EUROPE



Professor Nicola SPALDIN
British

Professor and Chair of Materials Theory, ETH Zürich, SWITZERLAND

Materials Science

“For her groundbreaking multidisciplinary work predicting, describing and creating new materials that have switchable magnetic and ferroelectric properties.”



NORTH AMERICA



Professor Zhenan BAO
American

Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Stanford University, USA

Material Chemistry

“For her outstanding contributions and mastery of the development of novel functional stretchable polymers for consumer electronics, energy storage and biomedical applications.”

LATIN AMERICA



Professor Maria Teresa RUIZ
Chilean

Professor, Department of Astronomy, Dept. / Universidad de Chile, CHILE

Astrophysics

“For her contributions to the study of a variety of faint celestial objects hidden in the darkness of the universe.”



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About the L'Oréal Foundation

Accompany. Value. Communicate. Support. Move boundaries. The convictions, the core values which drive the L'Oréal Foundation's commitment to women everyday. A commitment divided into two main areas - science and beauty.

Through its' For Women in Science program, a worldwide partnership with UNESCO, the L'Oréal Foundation motivates girls in High School to pursue scientific careers, supports women researchers and rewards excellence in a field where women remain underrepresented.

Through its beauty programs, the Foundation assists women affected by illness, who are economically disadvantaged or isolated, to recover their sense of self-esteem and femininity in order to feel better and to fare better. Its' actions also include providing training programs for beauty industry professions.

About UNESCO

Since its' creation in 1945, the United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization supports international scientific cooperation as a catalyst for sustainable development and peace. UNESCO assists countries in the development of their public policies and in building their capabilities in the fields of science, technology, innovation and scientific education. In addition, UNESCO leads several intergovernmental programmes for the sustainable management of freshwater, ocean and terrestrial resources, for biodiversity protection and the promotion of the role of science in combating climate change and handling natural disasters. To meet these goals, UNESCO is committed to ending discrimination of all kinds and to promoting equality between women and men.