



22nd EDITION OF THE L'ORÉAL-UNESCO INTERNATIONAL FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS

5 exceptional women scientists are honoured in the field of Life Sciences

Paris, 5th March 2020 – On the occasion of the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO reveal the winners of the 22nd International For Women in Science Awards, which honours five exceptional women scientists from diverse regions of the world. They are awarded for the excellence of their work in the field of Life Sciences.

They will each receive €100,000 and will be recognised through a campaign of raising awareness on the importance of women in science. A powerful promotional display campaign will be running during March around the streets of Paris, as well as in nine major airports worldwide (Bangalore, Beijing, Dubai, Frankfurt, Johannesburg, London, Paris, New York, Sao Paulo and Shanghai¹).

FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE: A COMMITMENT SINCE 1998

Convinced that the world needs science, and science needs women, the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO are actively supporting women in science, in order to give them more visibility, raise awareness of their talent and inspire more women to enter science.

Since the creation of the *For Women in Science* programme in 1998, we have honoured and supported 112 laureates and more than 3,500 talented young women scientists, including doctoral candidates and post-doctoral researchers, in more than 118 countries.

Globally, women continue to represent only 29% of researchers.² They are more numerous in certain disciplines, however, the glass ceiling remains a reality within research as a whole. Men therefore occupy 89% of senior academic posts in Europe,³ and only 3% of Nobel Prizes for Science have ever been awarded to women.

REVOLUTIONARY DISCOVERIES IN LIFE SCIENCES

Steadfast in their commitment, the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO celebrate the scientific excellence of 5 outstanding women researchers each year from diverse regions of the world. And this year, the International L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Awards will recognise women scientists in the field of Life Sciences: biotechnology, ecology, epigenetics, epidemiology and infectiology.

¹ The Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO wish to express their gratitude to their partners Paris Aéroport and JC Decaux, for their support to the *For Women in Science* programme.

² UNESCO Science Report: towards 2030 (2015).

³ Boston Consulting Group study for the Fondation L'Oréal (2013) on 14 pays (South Africa, Germany, Argentina, Brazil, China, Egypt, Spain, United States, France, India, Indonesia, Japan, Morocco, United Kingdom).

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO INTERNATIONAL FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS THE FIVE 2020 LAUREATES



AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

Professor Abia MEHIO SIBAI – Medicine and Health sciences

Professor of Epidemiology, Faculty of Health Sciences, American University of Beirut, Lebanon.

Awarded for her pioneering research and advocacy to improve healthy ageing in low- and middle-income countries and their impact on health and social policies and programs.



ASIA-PACIFIC

Doctor Firdausi QADRI – Biological sciences

Senior Scientist, Head Mucosal Immunology and Vaccinology Unit, Infectious Diseases Division, International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease and Research, Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Awarded for her outstanding work to understand and prevent infectious diseases affecting children in developing countries, and promote early diagnosis and vaccination with global health impact.



EUROPE

Professor Edith HEARD FRS (1) – Biological sciences

Director General of the European Molecular Biology Laboratory, Chair of Epigenetics and Cellular Memory at the Collège de France, Paris, France, and former Director of the Genetics and Developmental Biology Unit at the Institut Curie. (1)Fellow of the Royal Society.

Awarded for her fundamental discoveries of mechanisms governing epigenetic processes that allow mammals to regulate proper gene expression, which is essential for life.



LATIN AMERICA

Professor Esperanza MARTÍNEZ-ROMERO – Ecology and Environmental sciences

Professor of Environmental Science at the Genomic Science Center, National University of Mexico, Mexico City, Mexico.

Awarded for her pioneering work on the use of environmentally friendly bacteria to support plant growth for increased agricultural productivity while reducing the use of chemical fertilizers.



NORTH AMERICA

Professor Kristi ANSETH – Biological sciences

Distinguished Professor, Tisone Professor and Associate Professor of Surgery at the University of Colorado, Boulder, United States of America.

Awarded for her outstanding contribution in converging engineering with biology to develop innovative biomaterials that help promote tissue regeneration and more effective delivery of drugs.

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO INTERNATIONAL FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS THE FIFTEEN 2020 INTERNATIONAL RISING TALENTS

Almost 260 talented young women scientists, doctoral candidates or post-doctoral researchers, are supported each year through the national and regional *For Women in Science* programmes. Among them, the 15 most promising researchers have been selected to receive a €15,000 endowment.

AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

Dr Laura-Joy BOULOS – Neuroscience

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – LEVANT, Saint-Joseph University

Dr Nowsheen GOONOO – Biomedicine

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, University of Mauritius

Dr Nouf MAHMOUD – Health Sciences

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – LEVANT, Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan

Georgina NYAWO – Molecular Biology, Medical Microbiology

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA, Stellenbosch University

ASIA-PACIFIC

Dr Rui BAI – Biological sciences

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – CHINA, Westlake University

Dr Huanqian LOH – Physics

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – SINGAPORE, National University of Singapore

Dr Mikyung SHIN – Biomaterials

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – REPUBLIC OF KOREA, Sungkyunkwan University

LATIN AMERICA

Dr Paula GIRALDO-GALLO – Physics

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – COLOMBIA, University of the Andes

Dr Patrícia MEDEIROS – Biological sciences

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – BRAZIL, Federal University of Alagoas

NORTH AMERICA

Dr Elizabeth TREMBATH-REICHERT – Earth Science /Environmental Science

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, Arizona State University

EUROPE

Dr Vida ENGMANN – Material Engineering

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – DENMARK, University of Southern Denmark

Dr Serap ERKEK – Molecular biology / Epigenetics

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – TURKEY, Cancer Epigenomics Laboratory, Biomedicine and Genome Center

Dr Jennifer GARDEN – Chemistry

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – UNITED KINGDOM, University of Edinburgh

Dr Cristina ROMERA CASTILLO – Marine sciences

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – SPAIN, Institute of Sea Sciences

Dr Olena VANEEVA – Mathematics

YOUNG TALENTS AWARDS – UKRAINE, Institute of Mathematics of NAS of Ukraine

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