



27th edition of L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* International Awards:

The Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO honor five outstanding women scientists and announce the international expansion of the “*For Girls in Science*” programme.

Paris, June 12, 2025 – On the occasion of the 27th edition of the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* International Awards, five world-renowned researchers were recognized last night at a ceremony at UNESCO headquarters in Paris for their groundbreaking work in physical sciences, mathematics, and computer science, as well as for their contributions to scientific progress in the face of the major challenges of our time.

The ceremony was also marked by a major announcement: the “*For Girls in Science*” programme, initiated by the Fondation L'Oréal, will now be scaled up internationally through a strategic partnership with UNESCO. This ambitious initiative aims to inspire more young girls to pursue careers in science by raising awareness among students and teachers to combat the systemic exclusion of women from science.



From left to right: Prof. Priscilla Baker, Prof. Barbara Finlayson-Pitts, Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, Jean-Paul Agon, President of the Fondation L'Oréal, Prof. Claudia Felser; Prof. Maria Teresa Dova.

“Alongside the Fondation L'Oréal, we have been supporting women scientists for almost thirty years. Today, we are entering a new chapter. Together, we will work to inspire millions of young girls in UNESCO's associated primary and secondary schools, and guide them towards scientific careers” said **Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO.**

“We will continue to take action from the age of awakening vocations, throughout the year, in the field. This is the whole meaning and strength of our 'For Girls and Science' programme. We are delighted with the international reach, and therefore the major impact, that this wonderful programme will have thanks to the support of UNESCO,” said **Jean-Paul Agon, President of the Fondation L'Oréal.**

THE “FOR GIRLS IN SCIENCE” PROGRAMME IS SCALED UP INTERNATIONALLY

While the representation of women in scientific careers remains insufficient worldwide, education and awareness-raising at an early age are essential to transforming mindsets in the long-term and making progress towards gender equality in science. As highlighted in a recent [UNESCO report](#), there are half as many female researchers as male researchers, and although more women than men enrol in university, they ultimately represent only 35% of science graduates.

On June 12, the *“For Girls in Science”* programme reached a major milestone with the announcement that it would be scaled up from a French programme to an international one – a step made possible by a new strategic partnership between the Fondation L'Oréal and UNESCO. This ambitious initiative will build on the tools and content used by the Fondation L'Oréal, and on UNESCO's longstanding expertise in education and science.

Its international rollout will be carried out through the UNESCO Associated Schools Network, which brings together nearly 10,000 schools in 180 countries and more than 328,000 teachers. Active since 1953, this network aims to reach up to 5 million young people by 2030.

By combining educational tools, teacher training, and role models, the programme, “For Girls in Science” seeks to inspire the next generation of women scientists.

27 YEARS OF EMPOWERING WOMEN IN SCIENCE

During the ceremony at UNESCO Headquarters, the extraordinary contribution of women in science was celebrated in the presence of representatives from the scientific community, academics, key opinion leaders, politicians, public authorities, and organizations promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

The [five laureates of the 2025 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science International Awards](#), representing each of the main world regions, were recognized for their pioneering contributions to physical sciences, mathematics and computer science.

The event included speeches by Ms. Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Mr. Jean-Paul Agon, President of the Fondation L'Oréal, as well as an address by Professor Yasmine Belkaid, President of the Institut Pasteur. Together, they reiterated their commitment to closing the gender gap in science.

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About the Fondation L'Oréal

The Fondation L'Oréal supports and empowers women to shape their future and make a difference in society. It focuses its action on two main areas: science and inclusive beauty.

Science: encouraging women's scientific excellence and inspiring future generations.

The Fondation L'Oréal is committed to supporting women scientists at every stage of their careers, from sparking vocations at a young age to recognizing excellence in established researchers. This commitment translates into an intergenerational approach and dedicated programmes.

In partnership with UNESCO, Fondation L'Oréal has run the For Women in Science programme since 1998. This programme aims to accelerate the careers of women scientists, remove the obstacles they face, and inspire younger generations to embrace scientific careers. To date, the programme has supported more than 4,700 researchers from over 140 countries, promoting scientific excellence and encouraging many young women to pursue scientific studies.

The Fondation L'Oréal also invests in the future of women in science through its For Girls in Science programme. This programme aims to inspire scientific vocations in young girls by raising their awareness of the scientific challenges of tomorrow and introducing them to inspiring female role models. The goal is to support and encourage the next generation of female scientists, giving them the keys to succeed in scientific fields.

Inclusive Beauty: restoring self-esteem and promoting professional integration.

Convinced that beauty contributes to the process of rebuilding lives, the Fondation L'Oréal helps vulnerable women to improve their self-esteem through free beauty and wellness treatments. These treatments help restore their self-esteem and help them regain confidence. At the same time, the Fondation L'Oréal promotes the professional integration of vulnerable women through excellent training in beauty professions. On average, 16,000 women benefit from these treatments each year, and more than 67,000 people have been trained in beauty professions since the programme's launch.

About UNESCO

With 194 Member States, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization contributes to peace and security by leading multilateral cooperation on education, science, culture, communication and information. Headquartered in Paris, UNESCO has 53 field offices and employs over 2300 people. UNESCO oversees more than 2000 World Heritage sites, Biosphere Reserves and Global Geoparks; networks of Creative, Learning, Inclusive and Sustainable Cities; and over 13 000 associated schools, university chairs, training and research institutions. Its Director-General is Audrey Azoulay.

"Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defences of peace must be constructed" – UNESCO Constitution, 1945.

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