

PRESS RELEASE

8 March 2018



**20TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE PROGRAMME:
AN EXCEPTIONAL LIST OF LAUREATES FOR 2018**

Paris, 8 March 2018 – The L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO are preparing to honor five exceptional female scientists with the 2018 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards at a ceremony on 22 March at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris.

The ceremony will follow a major scientific conference, organized by the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO on 21 March. These events will recognize leading women scientists and shine a spotlight on 15 talented young female scientists. They will also provide an opportunity to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the *For Women in Science* programme.

Women continue to be under-represented in public and professional life, particularly in science, where the glass ceiling is still a reality. Today, only 28% of scientists are women and 3% of Nobel Prizes for Science have been awarded to women since the awards began in 1901.

Despite this, there are many eminent women scientists, and raising their profile is vital to promoting greater gender equality in science. Annually for the past 20 years, the L'Oréal Foundation has recognized five exceptional female scientists, in partnership with UNESCO, and taken action to improve the balance of women and men in science.

THE 2018 LAUREATES: EXCEPTIONAL WOMEN IN SCIENCE

On 22 March, five leading female scientists will receive the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women In Science* Award in the field of life sciences. Each laureate will receive a prize of €100,000 and be honored for her contribution in the fields of medicine, palaeontology, molecular biology, ecology and developmental biology.

Over the last 20 years, the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science programme has raised the profile of 102 laureates and supported more than 3,000 young female scientists, helping them benefit from increased recognition within the scientific community. Three of these laureates have received Nobel Prizes for Science.

In order to further promote these women in science, the L'Oréal Foundation is raising public awareness of their achievements. It has launched an international communications campaign in seven international airports (Paris, New York, Beijing, London, Dubai, Sao Paulo and Johannesburg) and on the streets of Paris, in partnership with JCDecaux and Aéroports de Paris.

For more information, please refer to the press kit attached to this press release.

THE 2018 L'OREAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE LAUREATES



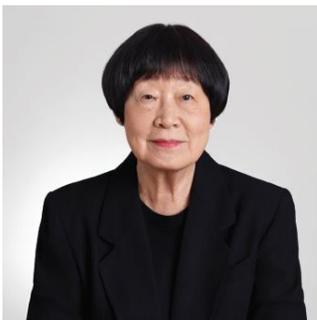
AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

Professor Heather ZAR

Professor and Chair, Department of Paediatrics & Child Health, Red Cross War Memorial Children's Hospital

Director SAMRC Unit, University of Cape Town, South Africa

For establishing a cutting-edge research program on pneumonia, tuberculosis and asthma, saving the lives of many children worldwide.



ASIA-PACIFIC

Professor Mee-Mann CHANG

Professor, Institute of Vertebrate Palaeontology and Palaeoanthropology

Member of Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, China

For her pioneering work on fossil records leading to insights on how aquatic vertebrates adapted to live on land.



EUROPE

Professor Dame Caroline DEAN

Professor, John Innes Centre, Norwich Research Park, United Kingdom

For her groundbreaking research on how plants adapt to their surroundings and climate change, leading to new ways for crop improvement.



LATIN AMERICA

Professor Amy T. AUSTIN

Professor, IFEVA-CONICET, Facultad de Agronomía, Universidad de Buenos Aires, Argentina

For her remarkable contributions to understanding terrestrial ecosystem ecology in natural and human-modified landscapes.



NORTH AMERICA

Professor Janet ROSSANT

Senior Scientist, The Hospital for Sick Children, Toronto, Canada

University Professor, University of Toronto, Canada

President, Gairdner Foundation, Canada

For her outstanding research that helped to better understand how tissues and organs are formed in the developing embryo.

THE 2018 L'OREAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL RISING TALENTS

Over the past 20 years, the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO have supported 3,022 talented young female scientists through research fellowships. These L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* fellowships are awarded annually at national and regional ceremonies held in 117 countries.

275 young women benefit from national and regional fellowships each year. Out of these 275, the International Rising Talents programme selects the 15 most promising scientists.

The 15 young female talents who will be honored in 2018 are:

AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

- **Dr. Areej Abuhammad, Jordan**
A crystal for a cure
- **Danielle Twilley, South Africa**
Targeting angiogenesis for the treatment of melanoma
- **Dr. Hanifa Taher Al Blooshi, United Arab Emirates**
Sustainable products for major oil spills clean-up
- **Dr. Ibtissem Guefrachi, Tunisia**
Plants point to ways of overcoming antibiotic resistance

ASIA-PACIFIC

- **Dr. Weang Kee Ho, Malaysia**
Targeted screening for breast cancer
- **Dr. Hiep Nguyen, Viet Nam**
A 21st century first-aid kit
- **Dr. Yukiko Ogawa, Japan**
Lightening the load: next-generation structural materials

EUROPE

- **Dr. Radha Boya, United Kingdom**
Making tiny pipes for transport and filtration
- **Dr. Agnieszka Gajewicz, Poland**
Safety first in developing new materials
- **Dr. Anna Kudryavtseva, Russia**
The mysteries behind tumour malignancy
- **Associate Prof. Duygu Sag, Turkey**
Triggering the immune system to fight cancer
- **Dr. Ai Ing Lim, France**
The origins of immune system intelligence

LATIN AMERICA

- **Dr. Selene Lizbeth Fernandez Valverde, Mexico**
The secrets of genomic "dark matter"
- **Dr. Rafaela Salgado Ferreira, Brazil**
Computing power in the service of neglected diseases

NORTH AMERICA

- **Dr. Anela Choy, United States of America**
Ocean food webs and human societies

CONTACTS – L'OREAL FOUNDATION

Ludivine DESMONTS-MORNET / ludivine.desmonts-mornet@loreal.com / +33 (0)6 10 57 41 74
Alix BONNET / alix.bonnet@mtrchk.com / +33 (0)6 99 45 86 45

www.fondationloreal.fr