



## THE L'ORÉAL FOUNDATION AND UNESCO LAUNCH A NEW INITIATIVE: "MALE CHAMPIONS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE"

Paris, March 23, 2018 – Thursday, March 22, during the 20th annual L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards Ceremony, the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO launched the "Male Champions for Women in Science" initiative. The goal is simple: contributing to better gender balance in science for more effective progress.

25 eminent male scientists have already committed to the initiative, such as mathematician Cédric Villani, geneticist Axel Kahn, Étienne Klein, Research Director at the CEA (French Atomic Energy Commission), and Mouin Hamze, Secretary General of the CNRS (French National Council for Scientific Research) in Lebanon.

More information [here](#).



### UNDER-REPRESENTATION OF WOMEN POSES QUALITY ISSUES IN RESEARCH

Over the past 20 years, the percentage of women working in science has increased by about 12%, but it remains too low: less than 30%<sup>1</sup> of researchers are women. The glass ceiling still exists; women hold only 11 % of academic leadership positions in Europe. And only 3% of Nobel Prizes for Science have ever been awarded to women.

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<sup>1</sup> UNESCO Science Report: Towards 2030 (2015).

This under-representation of women impacts the very quality of scientific research. For example, studies show that the lack of diversity in the sector of artificial intelligence has led to the development of software that reproduces, or even magnifies stereotypes, especially those related to gender.<sup>2</sup>

## A COALITION OF ALLIES TO CHANGE THE FACE OF SCIENCE



To encourage collaboration between women and men, the L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO are launching a new initiative called "Male Champions for Women in Science". Male scientists were invited to sign a Charter of clear and measurable Commitments with the following objectives:

- Promoting access to research funding for women
- Providing equal recruitment opportunities
- Striving to achieve a better balance in publications and copyrights.

*"We want to accelerate change towards improved gender balance and effectiveness in science, in order to help advance scientific understanding for the benefit of all and better address the challenges facing today's world,"* says **Jean-Paul Agon, President of the L'Oréal Foundation**.

Learn more about the L'Oréal Foundation For Women in Science report [here](#)

### CONTACTS

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<sup>2</sup> "Semantics derived automatically from language corpora contain human-like biases", Aylin Caliskan, Joanna J. Bryson, Arvind Narayanan, *revue Science* (April 14, 2017).