



18th Annual L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards

Five exceptional women recognised for their outstanding research discoveries in the Life Sciences

Paris, September 30th 2015 – The L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO today reveal the five laureates of the 2016 L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards in the field of Life Sciences.

A LONGSTANDING COMMITMENT TO WOMEN IN SCIENCE, MORE NECESSARY THAN EVER

Today, still, much progress remains to be made for gender balance to become a reality in science. Women represent only 30% of the world's researchers and multiple barriers continue to discourage young women around the world from pursuing a scientific career¹. Since the L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Awards were founded to recognize eminent women scientists 18 years ago, the program has recognised 92 laureates, two of whom have gone on to win Nobel Prizes.

THE 2016 L'OREAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE AWARDS

Nominated by more than 2600 leading scientists, 2016's five laureates were then selected by an independent and international jury of 13 prominent scientists in the international scientific community. This year's President of the Jury is **Professor Elizabeth H. Blackburn, 2008 Laureate L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science, 2009 joint winner of the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine and the first woman Jury President in the history of the awards.**

For Professor Blackburn, *"2016's laureates bring an extraordinary vision and immediate solutions to major human health issues, encompassing HIV, avian flu or dengue fever. Two laureates have revolutionized genome editing, enabling precise 'rewriting' of the DNA genetic code. All their careers are exceptional, their discoveries truly new, and they epitomize top-level research."*

Also for the first time in the prize's history, the **L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO are proud to award a research duo.** Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, a French researcher based in Germany and Professor Jennifer Doudna, from the U.S., for their collaboration in genome editing technology. This historical first demonstrates how crucial collaboration is for innovation. The growing specialization within scientific disciplines together with the increasing complexity of research motivates scientists to collaborate and work together creating a whole greater than the sum of its parts.

The 18th awards ceremony will be held on March 24th, 2016 at the Sorbonne University's Grand Amphitheatre in Paris.

Each laureate will receive €100,000 as a reward for their contribution to science.

¹Statistic Institute - UNESCO.

THE FIVE 2016 L'OREAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE LAUREATES

EUROPE



Professor Emmanuelle CHARPENTIER

Professor, Helmholtz Centre for Infection Research, Hannover Medical School, GERMANY

Biological Sciences/Molecular Biology

"For her game-changing discovery, alongside Professor Jennifer Doudna, of a versatile DNA editing technique to "rewrite" flawed genes in people and other living organisms, opening tremendous new possibilities for treating, even curing, diseases."

NORTH AMERICA

Professor Jennifer DOUDNA



Professor, Howard Hughes Medical Institute, Department of Molecular and Cell Biology, University of California, Berkeley, UNITED STATES of AMERICA

Biological Sciences/Molecular Biology

"For her game-changing discovery, alongside Professor Emmanuelle Charpentier, of a versatile DNA editing technique to "rewrite" flawed genes in people and other living organisms, opening tremendous new possibilities for treating, even curing, diseases."

AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

Professor Quarraisha ABDOOL KARIM



Professor, CAPRISA, Nelson R Mandela School of Medicine, University of KwaZulu-Natal, SOUTH AFRICA

Medicine and Health Sciences/Women's Health

"For her remarkable contribution to the prevention and treatment of HIV and associated infections, greatly improving the quality of life of women in Africa."

ASIA/PACIFIC

Professor Hualan CHEN



Professor, Harbin Veterinary Research Institute, Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences, Harbin, CHINA

Biological Sciences/Veterinary Sciences

"For her outstanding research into the biology of the bird flu virus, leading to the development and use of an effective vaccine."

LATIN AMERICA

Professor Andrea GAMARNIK



Professor, Molecular Virology Laboratory, Fundación Instituto Leloir, CONICET, Buenos Aires, ARGENTINA

Biological Sciences/Virology

« For her seminal discoveries on how mosquito-borne viruses reproduce and cause human diseases, particularly Dengue Fever."



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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 for peace between people. 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 programs for the sustainable management of freshwater, ocean and terrestrial resources, for biodiversity protection and to promote science's role in combating climate change and natural disasters. To meet these goals, UNESCO is committed to ending discrimination of all kinds and to promoting equality between women and men.