

L'ORÉAL

Landmark Year For L'Oréal-Unesco "For Women In Science" Award

5th anniversary year marked by significant strengthening, diversification and expansion of world's leading award dedicated to improving the position of women in science

Paris, 27th February 2003 - The L'ORÉAL-UNESCO program FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE today celebrated its 5th anniversary at a ceremony honoring twenty women scientists from all corners of the globe.

The Awards, presented by the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of L'ORÉAL, Lindsay Owen-Jones, and Director-General of UNESCO, Koïchiro Matsuura, recognized for the first time women working in the field of the Material Sciences. Five Laureates in the Material Sciences, in addition to fifteen Fellows in the Life Sciences, were honored at the event held at UNESCO's Paris Headquarters. This year's Awards bring to 71 the number of women, from 45 countries, who have been honored by the program.

The L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE program aims to improve the position of women in science by recognizing outstanding women researchers who have contributed to scientific progress (L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Awards of \$100,000 each), and young women scientists engaged in exemplary and promising projects (UNESCO- L'ORÉAL Fellowships of \$20,000 each).

The L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Award distinguishes five remarkable women researchers representing the five continents: Africa, Asia-Pacific, Europe, Latin America and North America. Often, these women's exceptional careers have opened up new and revolutionary ways of improving conditions of life and well being. Professor Pierre-Gilles de Gennes, Nobel Prize in Physics 1991, presided over an international jury of ten eminent scientists.

The 2003 Award Laureates :

Karimat EL-SAYED (Egypt), Professor of Solid State Physics, Ain Shams University, Cairo, has specialized in the detection of impurities in materials relevant to industrial metallurgy and semi-conducting materials.

Fang-Hua LI (China), Professor, Institute of Physics, Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, is a specialist of electron microscopy. Her work has pushed back the limits of observation of crystalline structures through the elimination of interference.

Ayse ERZAN (Turkey), Professor of Physics, Istanbul Technical University, has used the concepts of fractal geometry to study the collective phenomena of percolation, in which the interactions of simple constituents translate to behavior at large scale or over long periods.

Mariana WEISSMANN (Argentina), Senior Researcher, Argentine National Research Council,

Buenos Aires, has helped to move our understanding of quantum solids from a qualitative view to quantitative predictions. She has also been a pioneer in the use of computers to study the properties of solids.

Johanna M. H. LEVELT SENGERS (USA), Scientist Emeritus, National Institute of Standards and Technology, Gaithersburg, Maryland, has contributed to a better definition of water and steam properties for scientific applications. Her work has aided industry in its search for cleaner and safer ways to dispose of hazardous and toxic waste.

The expansion of the Awards to include the discipline of the Material Sciences, coupled with a significant increase in their monetary value, demonstrates the commitment of the Award partners to ensure that the L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE program finds its place alongside the world's leading international awards programs.

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The UNESCO-L'ORÉAL Fellowships encourage young women scientists to pursue their research projects in the laboratory of their choice. This year, fifteen women from five regions are rewarded. By fostering young researchers and their hopes, the FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE program works to reinforce the vocation of women in scientific disciplines. Since the creation of the Fellowships in 2000, the program has distinguished a total of 45 young scientists.

Africa

Côte d'Ivoire: Ahou Edwige SIRANSY - Physiology

Nigeria: Sodangi Abdulkarim LUKA GESINDE - Parasitology

South Africa: Karin JACOBS - Mycology

Arab States

Palestinian Authority: Mary George KAILEH - Molecular Biology

Syria: Darie ALIKAJ - Virology

Tunisia: Samia REJIBA - Molecular Biology

Asia-Pacific

Australia: Devi STUART-FOX – Ecology/Evolutionary Biology

Iran: Shiva SEYED FOROOTAN - Molecular Biology

(The third Asia-Pacific Fellowship Recipient will be announced in the coming weeks.)

Europe/North America

Israel: Victoria YAVELSKY - Molecular Biology/Immunology

Romania: Adriana JALBA - Plant Biology

Turkey: Ahu ALTINKUT UNCUOGLU - Molecular Biology

Latin America/Caribbean

Argentina: Maria Gabriela PALOMO - Marine Ecology

Peru: Dionicia GAMBOA VILELA - Molecular Biology

Venezuela: Rocío DÍAZ-BENJUMEA BENAVIDES – Parasitology/Cell Biology

The annual international Award ceremony is the highlight of an increasingly full program of local initiatives being organized worldwide; including in Austria, Belgium, China, Finland, Germany, Italy, Republic of Korea, Poland, Romania, Spain, Sweden, Thailand, Turkey and the United Kingdom. These initiatives are ensuring that women in science benefit even further from the partnership forged between L'ORÉAL and UNESCO.

Speaking at the ceremony, UNESCO Director General, Koïchiro Matsuura said: "You are the role models for today's young girls, opening a door to freedom and adventure that has been forbidden them for too long. In today's knowledge societies, women must contribute to scientific research, and mark it with their vision of the world and its development."

Lindsay Owen-Jones added: "The discoveries that you make push forward the boundaries of science. You are emblems who are a great source of hope ; attracting new young women to your fields of research and inspiring a great calling that ensures the future of science."

Contacts

Media Relations Agency

CICOMMUNICATION

Alix de Nicolay/Stéphanie Gruter

Tel.: +33 (0)1 47 23 90 48

Fax: +33 (0)1 47 23 88 98

denicolay@cicommunication.com

gruter@cicommunication.com

UNESCO

Press Service

Tel: +33 (0)1 45 68 17 48

Fax: +33 (0)1 45 68 56 52

www.unesco.org

L'ORÉAL

Direction of Public Relations and Sponsorships

Tel.: + 33 (0)1 47 56 42 55

Fax: + 33 (0)1 47 56 42 59

FWIS-infos@dgc.loreal.com

Corporate Press Service

Tel: +33 (0)1 47 56 41 95

Fax: +33 (0)1 47 56 40 54

presse@loreal.com

www.forwomeninscience.com

Note to Editors:

-Life Sciences and Material Sciences both contribute to the scientific success of L'ORÉAL. In twelve research centers in France, Asia and America, more than 2,700 scientists are responsible for the registration of hundreds of patents annually. 55% of these scientists are women – a percentage unmatched elsewhere in the industry.

-L'ORÉAL is the world's number one cosmetics company, present in 140 countries. For more details, see the site www.loreal.com

-UNESCO is an intergovernmental organisation. It currently has 188 Member States. The main objective of UNESCO is to contribute to peace and security in the world by promoting collaboration among nations through education, science, culture and communication.

About L'Oréal

L'Oréal has devoted itself to beauty for over 100 years. With its unique international portfolio of 34 diverse and complementary brands, the Group generated sales amounting to 25.8 billion euros in 2016 and employs 89,300 people worldwide. As the world's leading beauty company, L'Oréal is present across all distribution networks: mass market, department stores, pharmacies and drugstores, hair salons, travel retail, branded retail and e-commerce.

Research and innovation, and a dedicated research team of 3,870 people, are at the core of L'Oréal's strategy, working to meet beauty aspirations all over the world. L'Oréal's sustainability commitment for 2020 "Sharing Beauty With All" sets out ambitious sustainable development objectives across the Group's value chain. www.loreal.com

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This news release may contain some forward-looking statements. Although the Company considers that these statements are based on reasonable hypotheses at the date of publication of this release, they are by their nature subject to risks and uncertainties which could cause actual results to differ materially from those indicated or projected in these statements."

Contacts L'OREAL (switchboard + 33 1.47.56.70.00)

Individual shareholders and market authorities

Jean Régis CAROF
Tel : + 33 (0)1.47.56.83.02
jean-regis.carof@loreal.com

Financial analysts and institutional investors

Françoise LAUVIN
Tel : +33 (0)1.47.56.86.82
francoise.lauvin@loreal.com

Journalists

Stéphanie Carson-Parker
Tel : + 33 (0)1 47 56 76 71
stephanie.carsonparker@loreal.com

For further information, please contact your bank, stockbroker or financial institution (I.S.I.N. code: FR0000120321), and consult your usual newspapers or magazines or the Internet site for shareholders and investors, www.loreal-finance.com, the L'Oréal Finance app or call the toll-free number from France: 0.800.66.66.66.

Anne-Laure RICHARD
Tél : +33 (0)1.47.56. 80.68
annelaure.richard@loreal.com

Polina Huard
Tél : +33 (0)1 47 56 87 88
polina.huard@loreal.com

Vanessa Wang
Tel : +33 (0)1 47 56 76 88
vanessa.wang@loreal.com