



21st L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE INTERNATIONAL AWARD CEREMONY

Paris, March 15th 2019 – Yesterday, at the 21st L'Oréal-UNESCO For Women in Science Ceremony at UNESCO's headquarters in Paris, the international scientific community joined together with eminent figures to celebrate five outstanding women scientists. Coming from all over the world, they were rewarded for the excellence of their research in the fields of material science, mathematics and computer science.



Inaugurated by Audrey Azoulay, Director-General of UNESCO, and Jean-Paul Agon, Chairman & Chief Executive Officer of L'Oréal and Chairman of the Fondation L'Oréal, the Ceremony also recognised 15 talented young women scientists from across the world, selected among the programme's 280 national and regional fellows.

All the visuals available: [LINK](#)

THE 2019 LAUREATES: 5 OUTSTANDING WOMEN

Each of these five women, through their exceptional careers, has been saluted by Artur Avila, President of the 2019 Jury, Professor at Institute of Mathematics University of Zurich, Switzerland, and 2014 Fields Medal.

Professor Najat Aoun SALIBA - Analytical and atmospheric chemistry (Africa and the Arab States). Professor Saliba is rewarded for her pioneering work in identifying carcinogenic agents and other toxic air pollutants in the in Middle East, and in modern nicotine delivery systems, such as cigarettes and hookahs. Her innovative work in analytical and atmospheric chemistry will make it possible to address some of the most pressing environmental challenges and help advance public health policies and practices.

Professor Maki KAWAI - Chemistry / Catalysis (Asia-Pacific). Professor Maki Kawai is recognised for her groundbreaking work in manipulating molecules at the atomic level, in order to transform materials and create innovative materials. Her exceptional research has contributed to establishing the foundations of nanotechnologies at the forefront of discoveries of new chemical and physical phenomena that stand to address critical environmental issues such as energy efficiency.

Professor Karen HALLBERG - Physics/ Condensed matter physics (Latin America). Professor Karen Hallberg is rewarded for developing cutting-edge computational approaches that allow scientists to understand the physics of quantum matter. Her innovative and creative techniques represent a major contribution to understanding nanoscopic systems and new materials.

Professor Ingrid DAUBECHIES - Mathematics / Mathematical physics (North America). Professor Daubechies is recognised for her exceptional contribution to the numerical treatment of images and signal processing, providing standard and flexible algorithms for data compression. Her innovative research on wavelet theory has led to the development of treatment and image filtration methods used in technologies from medical imaging equipment to wireless communication.

PRESS RELEASE

March 15th 2019

Professor Claire VOISIN - Mathematics / Algebraic geometry (Europe). Professor Voisin is rewarded for her outstanding work in algebraic geometry. Her pioneering discoveries have allowed to resolve fundamental questions on topology and Hodge structures of complex algebraic varieties.

About the Fondation L'Oréal

The Fondation L'Oréal works to support women across the world, helping them to fulfil their potential in two major areas that sit at the heart of the Group's DNA: scientific research and inclusive beauty. Established in 1998 and managed by the Fondation L'Oréal in partnership with UNESCO, the For Women in Science programme seeks to improve the representation of women in scientific careers, strong in the conviction that the world needs science, and science needs women. Over the past 20 years, the programme has supported and raised the profile of more than 3,100 researchers from 117 countries. Convinced that beauty is at the core of the process of reconstructing lives and an important element of social inclusion, the Fondation L'Oréal also develops outstanding free training in beauty professions for people from vulnerable backgrounds. The Fondation also provides access to beauty and wellness treatments in medical and social settings, supporting people undergoing physical, psychological or social suffering, as well as reconstructive surgery.

About UNESCO

Since its creation in 1945, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has supported scientific cooperation as a lever for sustainable development and peace among peoples. UNESCO supports States in the development of public policies and capacity building in science, technology and innovation, as well as in science education. UNESCO is also leading several intergovernmental programs dedicated to the sustainable management of freshwater, ocean and land resources, the protection of biodiversity, and the use of science to combat climate change and natural disasters. In the pursuit of its objectives, the Organization is working towards the elimination of all forms of discrimination and the promotion of equality between men and women.

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