



L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Alumnae Network: Sharing Knowledge and Actions on COVID-19

Tuesday, 2 June 2020, 1-2:45 pm CEST (Paris Time)

Webinar

Background

Despite the rapid spread of COVID-19 around the world, we all keep our hopes high as we can follow impressive achievements of scientists, from epidemiologists and geneticists to social scientists, in understanding the nature of the virus and finding efficient ways to contain it. Based on scientific findings from all over the world, the policy makers are trying to deal with the complexity of knowledge, the scientific flows of information and scientific advice, in order to make evidence-based decisions to control this outbreak and prevent future ones.

A global challenge like the current COVID-19 pandemic reminds us of the critical role science and international scientific collaboration play at the forefront of global health. The situation that we are facing is unprecedented also in terms of the number of researchers, experts, health workers, policymakers, international organizations based in so many different countries but simultaneously focusing on a single topic and with such urgency.

Communication and collaboration among the international scientific community is essential to ensure widespread and timely data collection and data sharing.

Since 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* Programme recognizes outstanding achievements of eminent women scientists, and encourages young women researchers throughout their scientific careers through the L'Oréal-UNESCO International Awards, the L'Oréal-UNESCO International Rising Talents Programme, and the L'Oréal-UNESCO National and Regional Young Talents programmes.

With 112 laureates, 300 International Rising Talents and International Fellows and more than 3000 national and regional Young Talents from over 100 countries, the FWIS network is a benchmark of scientific excellence on an international scale, and has been used over the years not only as a platform for an increased participation of women in science, but also as an instrument to value their vital contribution to the advancement of scientific knowledge and its applications for sustainable development and human well-being.

Thus, faced with the current global health emergency, UNESCO and the L'Oréal Foundation are mobilizing the FWIS network to learn more from the experiences, lessons learnt and recommendations on the covid-19 outbreak from the incredible international women experts in virology, epidemiology, and relevant disciplines awarded through the L'Oréal-UNESCO FWIS Programme.

Objectives of the Virtual Dialogue

The purpose of the dialogue is to provide a platform for Women Scientists for exchange of information and potential collaboration among the FWIS community with the objective for knowledge sharing and lessons learned between scientists from developing and developed countries with the following specific objectives: .

- Bring together the FWIS network of experts currently working at the forefront of research on COVID-19, to share their experiences and lessons learned with the rest of the FWIS network
- Facilitate collaboration and networking on COVID-19 within the FWIS community both at international and regional levels
- Brainstorm on how international scientific collaboration can help in our quest to finding solutions in response to COVID-19 and other future global challenges and threats

Format of the Virtual Dialogue

The virtual dialogue will be open to the L'Oréal-UNESCO *For Women in Science* international community (Laureates, International Rising Talents and regional Young Talents) and will be held in English on the Microsoft Teams online platform.