



**UK AND IRELAND CHOOSES TOP FOUR
WOMAN SCIENCE RESEARCHERS
“L’ORÉAL-UNESCO FELLOWSHIPS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE” AWARDED**

2nd July 2008 – This evening, L’Oréal announced the 2008 winners of the UK and Ireland Fellowships For Women In Science. At a ceremony hosted by Baroness Susan Greenfield and held at the Royal Institution in central London, four outstanding female scientists were awarded fellowships of £15,000 each to further their research careers.

Now in their tenth year internationally, the fellowships offer awards to outstanding female postdoctoral researchers. Designed to promote the vital importance of ensuring greater participation of women in science, the awards are run in partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO, the Royal Institution of Great Britain and the UK Resource Centre for Women in Science, Engineering and Technology.

Baroness Susan Greenfield, the first female Director of the Royal Institution and chair of the L’Oréal For Women In Science jury panel commented:

“It’s crazy to disadvantage 50% of the scientific workforce. It’s crazy to invest in educating and training people and then ignore them and their talent in later life.”

“Approximately 50,000 women with SET qualifications are not working in these sectors. Many women leave each year, often due to maternity leave, and do not return to pursue a career in science.

“Women can bring a different dimension to science that has perhaps not been recognised over the course of history and today’s awards ceremony celebrates that fact.

That is why the L’Oréal fellowships have been designed to be totally flexible. Winners may choose to spend their fellowship award on paying for childcare costs, or buying an assistant’s time – whatever enables them to continue with their research in a way that suits them.”

2008 winners of the UK and Ireland Fellowships For Women In Science are:

- Dr Sarah Bridle, 33, lecturer in the department of Physics and Astronomy, University College London, from Royston, Herts.
- Dr Ashleigh Griffin, 36, Research Fellow, University of Edinburgh, currently living in Oxfordshire.
- Dr Sarah Reece, 30, Wellcome Trust Career Development Fellow, University of Edinburgh
- Dr Tamsin Mather, 31, Research Council UK Fellow in Physics and Chemistry of the Earth and Environment, Department of Earth Sciences, University of Oxford.

Grita Loeb sack, L'Oréal UK and Ireland Managing Director, said last night:

“Tonight’s event was incredibly inspiring for everyone involved. I’m delighted that, in conjunction with our partners, we are able to help further the careers of some exceptional young female scientists and raise awareness of this crucial issue.”

Ends

For more information and images from the event, please contact:

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Notes to Editors

- **Winners are available for photographs and interviews on the evening of the 2nd July and following**
- **Baroness Susan Greenfield is also available for select interviews upon request**

UK Jury Panel:

The jury panel is chaired by Baroness Susan Greenfield CBE, Director of The Royal Institution and includes:

Chair:

- **Baroness Susan Greenfield**, Director, The Royal Institution of Great Britain

Members:

- **Professor Alec Boksenberg**, Chair, UK National Commission for UNESCO
- **Julie McManus**, Assistant Scientific Director, L'Oréal UK and Ireland
- **Professor Athene Donald**, University of Cambridge, Director of WiSETI, the University's Women in Science, Engineering and Technology Initiative
- **Professor Jane Grimson**, Chair, Irish Research Council for Science, Engineering and Technology
- **Professor Julia King**, Vice-Chancellor, Aston University
- **Mary Mulvihill**, Science Broadcaster
- **Professor Claudio Stern**, University College London
- **Annette Williams**, Director, UK Resource Centre for Women In Science, Engineering and Technology
- **Phil Willis MP**, Chair, House of Commons Select Committee on Innovation, Universities and Skills

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The **L'Oréal UNESCO For Women In Science** programme was founded 10 years ago by L'Oréal and UNESCO on the premise that 'the world needs science and science needs women'. The awards programme is designed to promote and highlight the critical importance of ensuring greater participation of women in science, by awarding promising female scientists with fellowships to help them further their research. There are three distinct schemes:

- The founding awards provide five women, one from each continent, with a prestigious laureate of up to \$100,000 for their research. The international structure of the programme ensures that the laureates are distributed among women who are working under a wide variety of conditions.
- The UNESCO-L'Oréal fellowships are run internationally and have awarded 120 promising female doctorate or post-doctorate scientists up to \$40,000 each, since their inauguration in 2000. The fellowships help women scientists pursue their research in some of the world's most prestigious laboratories.
- National Fellowships, such as the UK and Ireland programme detailed below, run in 35 countries around the world. Each National Fellowship helps students pursue scientific careers and have, to date, enabled 340 women to continue their research. By the end of 2008, over 50 countries will have established their own programmes.

In total, over 700 women in 70 countries have been recognised for their research and received funding to further their studies since the programme was founded in 1998.

THE L'ORÉAL UK AND IRELAND FELLOWSHIPS FOR WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The **L'Oréal UK and Ireland Fellowships For Women In Science** were launched in January 2007. The Fellowships are run in partnership with the UK National Commission for UNESCO, the Irish National Committee for UNESCO, Royal Institution of Great Britain and the UK Resource Centre for Women In Science, Engineering and Technology.

This year, 4 awards of £15,000 will be offered to outstanding female postdoctoral researchers. The judging panel is chaired by Baroness Susan Greenfield, Director of The Royal Institution.

The fellowships have been designed to provide practical help for the winners to continue in their chosen fields. For example, winners may choose to spend their fellowship on buying scientific equipment or paying for childcare costs or indeed whatever they may need to continue their research.