



Dear Colleagues,

I am pleased to include another issue of RFS Briefings with some timely and encouraging (and some not encouraging) updates on women in science.

Of note in particular:

**Announcing 2017 Blavatnik Regional Awards for Young Scientists Winners,**  
blavatnikawards.org, October 12, 2017

The Blavatnik Family Foundation and the New York Academy of Sciences announced the three Winners and six Finalists of the 2017 Blavatnik Regional Awards for Young Scientists. All winners and finalists were men. [Read more.](#)

Please also see four major pieces of coverage below regarding the Nobel Prizes avoiding women in science.

**See below for more news about women in science**

Please continue to share important news and opportunities with us so that we may share it with you, and others who are committed to supporting the careers of exceptional women in science.

With regards,

Karla Shepard Rubinger  
Executive Director  
*Rosalind Franklin Society*

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# RFS Briefings

October 2017

## Nobel Prize Announcements

### **Once Again, No Female Nobel Winners in Science,**

blogs.scientificamerican.com, October 4, 2017

Why have only 17 women been awarded a science Nobel Prize since its inception in 1901? [Read more.](#)

### **Nobel Prize in Chemistry Awarded for 3D Views of Life's Biological Machinery,**

nytimes.com, October 4, 2017

The Nobel Prize in Chemistry has been [awarded 109 times to 178](#) Nobel Laureates between 1901 and 2017. Less than five winners were women. [Read more.](#)

### **2017 Nobel Prize in Physics Awarded to LIGO Black Hole Researchers,**

nytimes.com, October 3, 2017

The Nobel Prize in Physics has been [awarded 111 times to 207](#) Nobel Laureates between 1901 and 2017. Two winners were women. [Read more.](#)

### **2017 Nobel Prize in Medicine Goes to 3 Americans for Body Clock Studies,**

Nytimes.com, October 2, 2017

Since 2000, [only six women have been the recipients of the Nobel Prize in Medicine.](#) The Nobel Prize in Medicine was recently awarded to three men. [Read more.](#)

### **Isabella L. Karle Dies at 95; Findings on Molecules Helped Husband Win Nobel,**

October 26, 2017

Isabella L. Karle, whose experiments elucidating the shapes of molecules contributed crucially to her husband's Nobel Prize in Chemistry, died on October 3 at the age of 95. She was an expert in bouncing X-rays off crystals to deduce the structure of molecules by observing patterns in the deflected rays. When her husband was awarded the Nobel Prize for his work, she was deeply disappointed that his wife was not also honored. [Read more.](#)

### **MacArthur Foundation Names 2017 'Genius' Grant Winners,**

nytimes.com, October 11, 2017

The MacArthur Foundation fellowships were announced and two women in science were named recipients: Regina Barzilay, a computer scientist who developed machine learning methods that enable computers to process and analyze large amounts of data, and Betsy Levy Paluck, a psychologist who examines how social networks and norms influence our interactions with one another. The fellows were awarded to those

demonstrating exceptional originality, insight and potential in their respective fields. [Read more.](#)

**How to Fight and Fix Your Car Like a Woman**, nytimes.com, October 6, 2017

Judith Newman discusses the tone of female-empowerment books. Do these self-help books truly inspire woman? She analyzes several self-help books, written by both female and male writers of different ethnicities. [Read more.](#)

**The Novelist and the Explorer**, time.com, October 6, 2017

Brought together by TIME magazine, Jennifer Egan, Pulitzer Prize winning novelist, and Sylvia Earle, legendary marine biologist, met to discuss the beauty and mystery of the ocean. Jennifer, whose new novel *Manhattan Beach* tells the story of a World War II-era female diver, has a deep fascination with the ocean. Sylvia has spent her professional life exploring the mysteries of the ocean. [Read more.](#)

**Jane Goodall: 'We Don't Have Unlimited Time' to Save the Planet'**, time.com, October 6, 2017

"We don't have unlimited time," said Jane Goodall. "Do we or don't we care about our grandchildren? We've been stealing their future." Jane, a longtime supporter of the conservation movement, stresses the urgency of protecting the environment and wildlife before the impacts of climate change become irreversible. [Read more.](#)

**NIH Director's high-risk research awards announced for 2017**, nih.gov, October 5, 2017

The National Institutes of Health's High-Risk, High-Reward Research program, part of the NIH Common Fund, funded 86 awards to extraordinarily creative scientists – including close to 30 women. The recipients use innovative approaches to tackle major challenges in biomedical research and the program fast-tracks scientific discovery by supporting high-risk research proposals. [Read more.](#)

**New Study from Harvard Examines Gender Differences in Obtaining First NIH Research Award**, Journal of Women's Health (Mary Ann Liebert Inc., Publishers), October 2, 2017

A study of more than 5,400 instructors and assistant professors at Harvard Medical School compared differences between males and females for receipt of their first National Institutes of Health research award. This is published in Journal of Women's Health, a peer-reviewed publication from Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers, and is available for free on the Journal of Women's Health website until November 2, 2017.

[Read more.](#)

**Fortune 2017: Most Powerful Women**, fortune.com, September 29, 2017

*Fortune* published its 20<sup>th</sup> Annual Most Powerful Women list, which named the 50 top female executives in America spanning across a variety of professions. This critically important list does more than just profile the women, but rather it tells the stories of their professional accomplishments. [Read more.](#)

**The Winners of the 2017 Xconomy**, xconomy.com, September 26, 2017

The winners of the first-ever Xconomy Awards were announced on September 26 at a gala dinner during Biotech Week Boston. Six women were included in the list of recipients for their work and contributions to improving the Boston life sciences community. [Read more.](#)

**Biochemist chosen as Canada's chief science adviser**, nature.com, September 26, 2017

Canadian prime minister Justin Trudeau has appointed biochemist Mona Nemer as his country's chief government science adviser. Her work has focused on the genetics of cardiovascular disease and birth defects. In her new role, she will advise the government on ensuring that government science is publicly available and that scientists are able to speak freely about their work. [Read more.](#)

**Pfizer Spins Off New Firm for Some Rare Disease Drugs**, Bloomberg.com, September 25, 2017

Lara Sullivan will lead SpringWorks Therapeutics, a Pfizer spinoff developing four experimental drugs with funding from outside investors. Lara is the founder and president of New York City-based SpringWorks Therapeutics, a therapeutic development company whose mission is to connect scientists, biopharmaceutical partners, patient groups, funders and philanthropists to deliver promising, transformative science to underserved patients. [Read more.](#)

**Keystone Symposia 2017-2018 Conferences**, kestonesymposia.org, September 25, 2017

The 2017-2018 Keystone Symposia conference season is underway. Attendees can take part in a variety of outstanding programs featuring key women in science in every symposium. Keystone is a member of the Rosalind Franklin Society's Council of Academic Institutions. [Read more.](#)

**5 Things Women Can Do to Become CEO of a Company**, fortune.com, September 21, 2017

What does it take for a woman to ascend to the top of the corporate ladder? What skills does she need? How can she defeat the ever-prominent gender inequalities? A forthcoming study by the recruiting firm Korn Ferry, in partnership with the Rockefeller Foundation, identifies several key factors and tips. [Read more.](#)

**HHMI Selects 15 Hanna Gray Fellows to Support Diversity in Science**, hhmi.org, September 18, 2017

HHMI announced the selection of 15 exceptional early career scientists as the first group of HHMI Hanna Gray Fellows, including eight women. In this two-phase program, fellows will be supported from early postdoctoral training through several years of a tenure-track faculty position. The 2018 Hanna Gray Fellows competition is now open, with applications due on January 10, 2018. [Read more.](#)

**Launch of Unstereotype Alliance set to eradicate outdated stereotypes in advertising**, unilever.com, June 20, 2017

UN Women in partnership with Unilever and industry leaders announced the launch of the Unstereotype Alliance, which is a new global Alliance set to eliminate stereotypical portrayals of gender in advertising and all brand led content. By using the power of advertising, industries can positively share perceptions that reflect realistic, non-biased portrayals of women and men. [Read more](#).