



RFS Briefings

March 23, 2017

Five Nobel Women in Focus, [youtube.com/NobelPrize](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NobelPrize), March 8, 2017

Learn about five women who have received Nobel Prizes and changed the world thanks to their research. [Read more.](#)

A Small Sampling of Things You Wouldn't Have Without the Work of Women, [elle.com](http://www.elle.com), March 8, 2017

On March 8, International Women's Day, women across the county participated in #DayWithoutAWomen to celebrate the impact women have had, and continue to have, on the world. For one day, women joined together by staying home from work, shopping only at small women and minority-owned-businesses, and/or wore red in solidarity. The movement worked to answer the questions "how does the work of women make our world possible?" and "what wouldn't we have it not for women inventors?" [Read more.](#)

Patchy Progress on Fixing Global Gender Disparities in Science, [nature.com](http://www.nature.com), March 8, 2017

Although women are publishing more studies, being cited more often, and securing more coveted first-author positions than they were in the mid 1990s, overall progress toward gender parity in science varies widely by country and field. A report published by Elsevier examines this issue. [Read more.](#)

The Quest to Reveal Science's Hidden Female Faces, [nature.com](http://www.nature.com), March 8, 2017

Hilda Bastian was organizing a Wikipedia edit-a-thon for the US National Institutes of Health in 2015 to highlight the work of women scientists when she realized how difficult it was to find photos of them. She noticed the evident bias toward photos of men and white women scientists. In an effort to combat this gap, and celebrate all women in science regardless of race and ethnicity, she began to track down copyright-free photos of African American women researchers and add them to their respective Wikipedia pages. The project began in February as a way to celebrate Black History Month and has continued through March to celebrate Women's History Month. [Read more.](#)

A Woman's Pioneering Exoskeleton Technology Could Allow Paralyzed People to Move Again, qz.com, March 7, 2017

New Mexico native Sam Huynh is a woman of color studying engineering at the Rochester Institute of Technology on a Gates Scholarship. She was raised in a lower middle-class household by refugee parents. Rather than be held back by her background, she used her race, ethnicity, and gender as a way to fuel her desire to learn and create. Always a fixer, Sam knew she needed to find a solution for a friend who was paralyzed from the chest down after a dirt-bike accident. The solution? A robotic suit. [Read more.](#)

Gender Diversity Leads to Better Science, pnas.org, February 28, 2017

It is not enough to just recruit women to work in science. Employers and leaders in the field must also harness the power of gender diversity – utilize the strengths of their female counterparts – for collective innovations and discoveries. [Read more.](#)

Her Scientific Discovery: Support, nytimes.com, February 26, 2017

Anjelica L. Gonzalez is an associate professor of biomedical engineering at Yale University. She is also an African-American and Mexican-American woman working in the science field. How has the film “Hidden Figures” impacted her as a female professor in science? [Read more.](#)

Women Do Like To Compete – Against Themselves, nytimes.com, February 24, 2017

Coren Apicella, an assistant professor of psychology at the University of Pennsylvania, and Johanna Mollerstrom, a professor of economics at Humboldt University and the German Institute of Economic Research in Berlin, found women to be just as competitive as men in certain situations. They hope that their findings, which will be published in May in the Papers and Proceedings issue of the *American Economic Review*, will help alter some longstanding assumptions about women in the workplace. [Read more.](#)

Andy Weir's Best Seller 'The Martian' Gets a Classroom-Friendly Makeover, nytimes.com, February 24, 2017

A science teacher's dream teaching tool, “The Martian” by Andy Weir, has been updated for classroom use. The book tells the story of a male hero's ability to solve a series of complex problems, using his knowledge of physics, chemistry, astronomy and math, to stay alive on a hostile planet. Globally, science teachers are using the book as a guide for lesson plans. Will this story inspire new tools that include a female protagonist? [Read more.](#)

An Ethnographer of Cancer Care for IBM Watson, nytimes.com, February 23, 2017

Hannah Graffeo is a design researcher at IBM in New York and supports IBM Watson for Oncology, a part of Watson Health that helps care teams personalize cancer treatment. Her group develops software tools that allow cancer specialists to quickly analyze health data to gain insights. [Read more.](#)

Not From Venus, Not From Mars: What we Believe About Gender and Why Its Often Wrong, nytimes.com, February 23, 2017

Cordelia Fine discusses common biases about men and women, including body assumptions, preconceptions, conjectures and distortions, in her new book *TESTOSTERONE REX: Myths of Sex, Science, and Society*. She questions the common stereotypes about gender and why they are often wrong. [Read more](#).

Microsoft Programs Expand Access to STEAM Education for Women and Girls, uschamberfoundation.org, February 22, 2017

Aimee Sprung, Civic Engagement Manager for Microsoft's Technology & Civic Engagement Team in Boston, MA, discusses Microsoft's programs that are supporting access to STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics) education for women and girls. [Read more](#).

Sangeeta Bhatia: The Biotech Entrepreneur Advocating for Gender Equity in STEM Fields, theguardian.com, February 4, 2017

Sangeeta Bhatia was a creator early on in life. Currently, she is an engineer, a physician, the director of Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Laboratory for Multiscale Regenerative Technologies, and a biotech entrepreneur. Bhatia is using her platform – her role as a woman in science – to inspire young women to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) and related tech industries. [Read more](#).

2017 Vilcek Prizes in Biomedical Science and Fine Arts, vilcek.org, February 1, 2017

Two women scientists were awarded Vilcek Prizes. The Vilcek Foundation awards Vilcek Prizes annually to immigrants who have made ongoing contributions to American society through their extraordinary achievements in biomedical research and the arts and humanities. [Read more](#).

Social Distancing of College Students Toward Individuals Who Experienced Sexual Violence, *Violence and Gender* (Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers), February 2017

The study investigated social distancing toward victims of sexual violence among 230 college students in Lagos, Nigeria, and showed that although the majority of college students were willing to continue friendly relations with individuals with a history of sexual violence, they were more socially distancing in situations that involved intimate and close family contacts. There is a need to help bridge social distancing toward individuals who experienced sexual violence among college students in Lagos, Nigeria. [Read more](#).

Speaker Introductions at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds: Forms of Address Reveal Gender Bias, *Journal of Women's Health* (Mary Ann Liebert, Inc. publishers), February 2017

Gender bias has been recognized as one of the drivers of gender disparity in academic medicine. This bias may be reinforced by subordinate language, including how professional titles may influence the perceived expertise and authority of the individual. Experts examined how professional titles were used in the same and mixed-gender speaker introductions at Internal Medicine Grand Rounds. [Read more.](#)

Coercive Control, Physical Violence, and Masculinity, *Violence and Gender* (Mary Ann Liebert, Inc., publishers), February 2017

This article explores the relationship among three individual-level trait measures of masculinity and two aspects of intimate partner violence (IPV), physical violence and coercive control, in a sample of 137 heterosexual men court mandated to a batterers' treatment program. [Read more](#)

A Gathering of the Global Elite, Through a Woman's Eyes, nytimes.com, January 20, 2017

Iris Bohnet is a behavioral economist studying gender inequality at the Harvard Kennedy School. She is one of about 600 female participants at this year's World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. With 2,400 male participants, the gender imbalance reflects the continuous need for female leaders. Bohnet details her experiences as a woman at the forum. [Read more.](#)

NIH Initiates Pilot Grant Program for Innovative Neurological Research, nih.gov, January 26, 2017

The first 30 recipients of the new R35 Research Program Award, a pilot program designed to inspire creative research by increasing funding stability, have been announced by the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke, part of the National Institutes of Health. [Read more.](#)

Is The Talent Shortage a Myth? Just Ask These Thousands of Women Coders, fastcompany.com, January 25, 2017

In an effort to combat the tech industry's diversity problem, HackerRank, a startup that helps companies find qualified developers by testing global tech workers' coding skills, is working to identify the world's most talented female developers. [Read more.](#)

A Public Reality for Women in Biotech Boardrooms, lifestream.com, January 24, 2017

Lifestream's new report, *A Public Reality for Women in Biotech Boardrooms*, delves into gender diversity on the board of directors of biotechnology companies. The report details a study of 177 biotech companies that conducted an Initial Public Offering between 2012 and 2015. [Read more.](#)

Chan Zuckerberg Initiative Makes Its First Acquisition, Meta, Bloomberg.com, January 23, 2017

Mark Zuckerberg's philanthropic organization The Chan Zuckerberg Initiative made its first acquisition, the purchase of Meta, a website that makes it easier for scientists to find the latest academic research. [Read more.](#)

Carla Hayden Thinks Libraries Are a Key to Freedom, nytimes.com, January 19, 2017

Carla Hayden was named the 14th Librarian of Congress and is the first woman and first African-American to be appointed to this role. “If you can absorb information yourself and make your own decisions, that’s a freedom. And for so many times in history, being able to read and access information has been part of it, especially in my case, with African-Americans,” said Hayden. [Read more.](#)

The Self-Perpetuating Gender Gap In Academic Science: It’s Not Just About Having A Baby, rolereboot.org, January 11, 2017

The life of an academic scientist is difficult, rigorous, and time consuming, but even more so for women. “Women are still a stark minority in the physical sciences faculty,” says Dr. Emily Weiss. To break down the gender disparity in academia, the cycle must be broken. But, how? [Read more.](#)