The Elsevier Foundation

Advancing sustainable development to create an inclusive science landscape

Unique contributions to sustainable development, in partnership with our research, health and tech communities

Creating an inclusive science landscape

Health & Innovation

Information technology can significantly advance the delivery of healthcare in developing countries. We directly support organizations working to improve health outcomes in developing countries.

Diversity in STM

The future of science requires a robust and diverse workforce drawn from all corners of society. We focus on advancing women in science and help under-served youth receive greater exposure to science education.

Research in Developing Countries

For many low-income countries, the scientific gap limits their involvement in vital research. We seek to redress the balance with partnerships designed to widen access to academic knowledge.

Technology for Development

Technological solutions play a key role in helping the world solve some of the greatest challenges. Harnessing the power of technology and big data for good, we help tackle some of the toughest global issues.

Focus on: Diversity in STM

At Elsevier we know first-hand that the future of science depends on a robust and diverse workforce from across society. From 2006 to 2015, the Elsevier Foundation New Scholars Program contributed to the advancement of early to mid-career female scholars helping to balance family responsibilities with demanding careers in science, health and technology. Over more than 10 years, 50 grants and $2.5 million investment, we provided grants for family friendly policies, career skills, dual career issues, recognition, awards, benchmarking studies and boosting professional visibility through childcare grants. In 2016, we shifted to a more partnership driven focus on policy, the needs of women scientists in developing countries and underserved youth. Here are a few of our diversity projects:

The Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World

Since 2010, the OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World recognizes the achievements of researchers who have made significant contributions to the advancement of scientific knowledge. The program represents a longstanding partnership with the Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD).

Portia

Building on past New Scholars grants, Portia, the architect of the Gender Summits, and The Elsevier Foundation have developed a strategic partnership to promote the understanding and adoption of gender-sensitive approaches, and advance sex and gender sensitive research, innovation and development.

GenderInSITE

GenderInSITE promotes the role of women in science, innovation, technology and engineering, and demonstrates how applying gender lens can provide deeper insights, more effective programs and more sustainable outcomes in development for both men and women.

The OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World

"The determination, commitment and enthusiasm of these five women are an inspiration to us all. This award celebrates their excellent science and demonstrates that their hard work has had an impact both regionally and internationally, despite the difficult local conditions."

JENNIFER THOMSON
President
Organization for Women in Science in the Developing World

Description

Women scientists in developing countries often suffer from isolation, lack of role models and visibility. For the past seven years, the Organization for Women in Science (OWSD) has collaborated with the Elsevier Foundation responding to these issues through a unique program for outstanding women scientists. Five awards are given annually, targeting Latin America and the Caribbean, the Arab region, Sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South Asia, and East and South-East Asia and the Pacific. The prizes rotate annually between three areas: Biological Sciences: Agriculture, Biology and Medicine; Engineering Sciences: Engineering, Innovation and Technology; and in 2018 Physical Sciences: Chemistry, Math and Physics. In addition to the $5,000 cash prize, travel and accommodation expenses are provided to attend the American Association for the Advancement of Science annual conference, where they are awarded in front of a distinguished audience of international scientists.

Goals

The Awards aim to increase the number and influence of women doing high-level science in the developing world. The premise is simple: the more diverse the pool of scientists, the better the science will be. Women scientists often make life-changing contributions on local, national and international levels, identifying problems and finding solutions that others have not considered. They provide long-term improvements to the lifestyle and economies. Previous winners underscore the Awards' impact in enhancing their past work and creating opportunities for collaboration and support. Awardees become influential role models for young women who struggle with the question of whether they should remain in an environment that is often hostile to their needs and experience.

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OWSD President, Professor Jennifer Thomson, Dr. Felycia Edi Soetaredjo and Dr. Geraldine Richmond during the 2017 AAAS Award Ceremony in Boston. Dr. Soetaredjo, who received the award for her research on using biomass for environmental remediation and renewable energy, said she's motivated by the desire to improve the environment of her country – and encourage young women to create better lives for themselves by pursuing science.

Portia Ltd

The Gender Summits

"The Gender Summits help improve policy efforts around the world to tackle gender problems in society by advancing scientific understanding of gender issues and creating consensus on how women and men can best, and equally, benefit from research and innovation."

ELIZABETH POLLITZER
Executive Director
Portia Ltd and architect of the Gender Summits

Description
The Gender Summit is not a conference but a platform for dialogue and change to improve the quality of research and the relevance of science to society, wherever biological and socio-cultural differences between females and males influence outcomes. Scientists, gender scholars, policy makers and other stakeholders are deeply involved in the process, examining new evidence and establishing consensus where improvements are needed. To support this critical process globally, the Elsevier Foundation has partnered with Portia Ltd to help steer the ongoing development of the Gender Summits. Since it was first established in 2011, 5 regional platforms are now active in Europe, North America, Africa, Asia Pacific, Latin America. The dialogue has grown to include not only research but also the Sustainable Development Goals and inclusive innovation.

Goals
- Advancing understanding and evidence of when, why and how biological and socio-cultural differences between females and males impact research and innovation outcomes, and how this results in different effects for women and men.
- Promoting the benefits of applying a gender lens to policy initiatives looking towards science as a source of solutions to societal and environmental challenges.
- Developing and connecting Gender Summit communities and regional actors for more effective and sustainable ways for research and innovation to improve societal and environmental wellbeing.

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L to R: Elissavet Vozmerg-Vrionidi, (Member of European Parliament and of the EP Committee on Women's Rights and Gender Equality-FEMM), Chiara Tamburini (Acting Head of Unit FEMM Committee, European Parliament), Elizabeth Pollitzer, Miyoko O. Watanabe (Deputy Executive Director, Japan Science and Technology Agency) and Kumie Inose (Vice-President, Science Council of Japan) at the European Parliament, where the opening session of the Gender Summit 9 Europe was held in November 2016.

GenderInSITE

"GenderInSITE is enormously pleased to be working with the Elsevier Foundation to promote the visibility of women's roles in science and innovation for sustainable development. Through two strategic workshops on gender in higher STEM education and gender in innovation, GIS strives to advance the understanding of policy and decision makers about the transformations needed to create a more gender-equitable path to meeting the SDG targets."

ALICE ABREU
Director
GenderInSITE

Description
GenderInSITE is an international initiative to promote the role of women in science, innovation, technology and engineering (SITE). The main goal is to increase the number of STI policies and programs globally that take gender into account. GenderInSITE has held 2 thematic workshops with support from the Elsevier Foundation. The April 2017 workshop in Buenos Aires focused on gender integration in higher STEM education, while the September 2017 workshop in South Africa will focus on gender and innovation.

Goals
- Short-term objective: enable policy makers to meet with scientists, researchers and other stakeholders to share ideas for applying a science and gender lens to specific SDGs in a local and regional context.
- Medium-term goal: produce and disseminate recommendations and guidelines to target organizations and stakeholders, based on the findings and conclusions of the workshops.
- Long-term objective: work with policymakers to adopt the GenderInSITE guidelines.

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The GenderInSITE-Elsevier Foundation workshop "Integration of gender perspectives in science and technology in higher education: Contributions to the advancement of the SDGs" was held in Buenos Aires in April 2017. Organized by Gloria Bonder, the GenderInSITE regional focal point for Latin America and the Caribbean, the workshop invited participants to share their expertise and lessons learned from existing efforts to incorporate gender in STEM curricula and institutional practices.

THE ELSEVIER FOUNDATION

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"Never give up pursuing your dream, and take a moment to celebrate your achievements step by step."

2017 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation award winner Felycia Edi Soetaredjo, PhD, Lecturer at Widya Mandala Surabaya Catholic University in Surabaya, Indonesia, was recognized for her work utilizing waste and cheap materials for environmental remediation of renewable energy.

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