



To

Dr. Padma Nambisan
Coordinator, Seminar on Women in Science
Department of Biotechnology
Cochin University of Science and Technology
Cochin : 682 022

Venue:

SMS Auditorium, Thrikkakara Campus, Cochin University of Science and Technology, Cochin: 682 022.

Registration:

There is no registration fee, however participants are requested to fill up the attached Registration form and submit it to the Coordinator before **1 April 2008**. Registration could also be done by sending an e-mail to the co-ordinator with the relevant information.

Correspondence:

All correspondence regarding the seminar may be addressed to:

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Organizing Committee:

Patron:

Prof. Gangan Prathap, Vice-Chancellor, CUSAT

Convener:

Prof. Rohini Godbole, Chair, Women in Science (WiS)
Panel of the Indian Academy of Sciences.

Co-ordinators:

Dr. Padma Nambisan (Biotechnology)

Dr. Sarita G. Bhat (Biotechnology)

Members:

Dr. A. Vijaykumar (Mathematics)

Dr. K.G.Nair (Science in Society)

Dr. M.Chandrasekaran (Biotechnology)

Dr. K.K.Elyas (Biotechnology)

Dr. Rani Joseph (Polymer Technology)

Dr. C.S.Paulose (Biotechnology)

Dr. Asha Gopalakrishnan (Statistics)

Dr. Ammini Joseph (Environmental Science)

Dr. B. Lakshmy (Mathematics)

Dr. Mariamma Vincent (Culture and Heritage)

Dr. N.G.Devaki (Languages)

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Women in Science
An Indian Academy of Sciences Initiative



Seminar on

"WiS: A Career in Science"

5 April 2008

Organized by:

**Panel on "Women in Science (WiS)"
Indian Academy of Sciences
Bangalore**

and



**Cochin University of Science
and Technology**

**Venue: SMS Auditorium
Cochin University of Science and
Technology, Cochin: 682 022**

Background:

Women in science comprise only a small percentage of the total number of working women in India. Although there is no explicit discrimination against women in enrollment and recruitment at the college, university or faculty levels, attitudinal biases and absence of supportive institutional/social structures have, over the years, operated as powerful forces against talented women realising their full potential in the pursuit of productive and rewarding careers in science. It does not appear that there is a societal perception in India of women being incapable of intellectual attainment in science since women students are not in short supply at the under-graduate and post-graduate levels in science. Many of these university students do brilliantly and are gold medalists. Many of them also enter Ph.D programs. However their numbers drop in faculty positions, and drop even more in higher faculty positions, in selection committees, and so on. The under-representation of women in science, particularly at the senior levels of teaching and research in India, has become a serious cause of concern for women scientists and science policy planners.

There is an overwhelming body of empirical and qualitative evidence for this 'leaky' pipeline in science, as well as presence of gender inequity in the practice of science. There is a need to make women aware of a career in science as a possible career option and then to retain them in the profession. It is becoming increasingly evident that if we want more women to be successful in science we need to create, at all levels, support structures for and positive attitudes about a science career for women. The pressure for change has to come from within the scientific community, not just from women but from all those who believe that the practice of science cannot be built on a foundation of iniquity.

Objectives:

The aims of the seminar are as follows:

1. To have presentations by leading women scientists about latest developments in their area of activity, to showcase the work done by women scientists, to an audience of both genders.
2. To inspire and motivate young women to take up a career in Science
3. To create an awareness on various career options available to young women scientists
4. To explore avenues for entrepreneur development for women through Science.

This is part of the role model program of the WiS Panel of the Indian Academy of Sciences (<http://www.ias.ac.in/womeninscience/>). By holding the Seminar in Cochin University, we hope to target graduate and undergraduate students, research scholars, teachers and scientists in Kerala and inspire more young women to take up a career in science.

Theme of the Seminar:

The focal theme of the seminar is the recent developments in different fields of science, while simultaneously highlighting the career options for women scientists. The seminar will have six speakers, one each from mathematics, biology, chemistry, physics, engineering and remote sensing.

Registration Form

Seminar on
"Women in Science: A Career in Science"

5 April 2008

Name:

Designation:

Name of the institution with full address:

Telephone:

Fax:

E-mail:

Place:

Signature

Date: