



Seminar on
"WiS: A Career in Science"
5 April 2008

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 inequity.

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.

Speakers

April 5th, 2008 (Saturday)

08.00AM -9.30AM

Registration

09.30AM -10.00AM

INAUGURATION

: **Prof. Gangan Prathap**, Vice-Chancellor, CUSAT

10.15AM -11.00AM

Dr. Mythily Ramaswamy

: Some new trends in Differential Equations

TIFR Centre, IISc Campus,
Bangalore

11.10AM -11.55AM

Dr. Aruna Dhathatreyan

: Properties of molecular organized assemblies at interfaces

Chemical Laboratory, CLRI,
Adyar, Chennai

12.05PM - 12.50PM

Dr. Usha Vijayraghavan

: The making of a flowering stem : lessons from molecular genetic analysis of flowering plants

Department of Microbiology and
Cell biology,
IISc, Bangalore

01.00PM - 02.00PM

LUNCH Break

02.00PM - 02.45 PM

Dr. Rama Govindarajan

: Flow instabilities and other challenges in fluid mechanics

Engineering Mechanical Unit, JNCASR,
Jakkur, Bangalore

02.55PM - 03.40 PM

Dr. Neelima Gupte

: Transport, congestion and traps in a communication network

Department of Physics, IIT, Madras

03.50PM - 04.35PM

Dr. Geetha Ramkumar

: Women Power in Space Science

Space Physics Laboratory,
VSSC, Trivandrum

04.45PM - 05.45PM

Panel discussion

Moderator: **Prof. Rohini Godbole**
Centre for High Energy Physics
IISc, Bangalore

Members: **Prof. Archana Bhattacharyya**
Director, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism
Navi Mumbai

Prof. K.G.Nair
Director, Science in Society
CUSAT

Prof. A. Vijaykumar
Department of Mathematics
CUSAT

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 Chemistry)
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)

Registration

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

Address for Communication

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Organized by

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

and

Cochin University of Science and Technology

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