



Press Release 2015 – Women in Science Symposium
--for immediate release--

2nd June 2015

Pathways to Excellence: Experiences of Illuminating Women in Science

In celebration of the Year of Light, on the 22nd of May, the Young Academy of Europe and SciLifeLab co-organized a one-day symposium “Pathways to Excellence: Experiences of Illuminating Science”, in order to honor the contributions of outstanding women in research and academic leadership.

The symposium featured 12 speakers, all of whom are leaders in their research field, and several of whom are members and fellows of distinguished academies, including the Academia Europaea, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, and the Royal Society. The talks were divided into four sessions of three speakers each, with each speaker giving a 15 minute overview lecture, followed by a half-hour round table with all speakers of the session. Representatives from the Young Academy of Europe, the Swedish Young Academy, Eurodoc and Nature moderated the roundtables.

The topics covered at the symposium included personal experiences as female researchers in different areas of science and technology, discussion on the gender aspects of excellence initiatives, the work done by the European Research Council for young researchers, and a discussion of the obstacles faced by women and other minorities in academia today. The themes brought up resonated with many in the audience, in particular the discussion of “imposter syndrome”, but also the importance of perseverance, passion, and loving what you do. To close the symposium, Christina Florin from Stockholm University gave a historical overview about the participation of women in Swedish academia, and our Chair, Lynn Kamerlin, and Board Member Gentiana Wenzel, concluded with a lecture about gender in academia from a “young” perspective.

We would like to thank the Academia Europaea, the SciLifeLab, Uppsala University’s Equal Opportunities Council and the Department of Cell and Molecular Biology at Uppsala University for generous financial support for this symposium allowing us to welcome 166 participants from 12 different countries and 4 different continents to take part in this symposium in Upp



sala (without including speakers, moderators and organizers). Both genders were represented at the symposium, and participated actively in the associated discussion.

The symposium was filmed by Utbildningsradion, who will make the recorded parts of the symposium available for online streaming later this summer. Once the material is online, a link will be provided to this website. Further information and the symposium brochure are also available for download at http://yacadeuro.org/workshops/YAE_Brochure_web.pdf