



## Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD)

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### OWSD Shortlisted for Nature Research Awards for Inspiring and Innovating Science

The [Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World](#) (OWSD), a Trieste-based organization, has been shortlisted for the [Nature Research Awards for Inspiring and Innovating Science](#) – Science Outreach category. The announcement of the shortlist was made on Friday, September 4 on the Nature website. Finalists will be announced in an online presentation on October 14, 2020.

This award, given by Nature in partnership with The Estée Lauder Companies, is intended to celebrate and support the achievements of women in science, and of all those who work to encourage girls and young women to engage with STEM subjects and support women to stay in STEM careers around the world. Selected entries have "shown exceptional vision, insight and/or imagination and demonstrated that they encourage, support or promote the interest of girls and/or women in STEM."

The eventual winners of the Nature Research Awards for Inspiring & Innovating Science will receive a US\$30,000 grant to spend on initiatives linked to the award as well as a US\$5,200 grant for event funding, coverage on nature.com, and an invitation to present their work or initiative to the scientists at The Estée Lauder Companies, among other opportunities.

OWSD, based at the International Center for Theoretical Physics (ICTP) and hosted by The World Academy of Science (TWAS), provides research training, career development and networking opportunities for women scientists throughout the developing world at different stages in their careers, through PhD and Early Career fellowships, an annual awards programme, and a membership network with over 5800 active members in 144 countries.

Women are globally under-represented as researchers (29%), but this percentage is even lower for women in many developing countries and can be under 10% in some of the countries where OWSD operates. OWSD programmes are designed to attract women from developing countries to enter science careers in the first place and then support them to overcome the challenges that, despite their aptitude and enthusiasm for STEM research, often compel them to drop out. Women from developing countries have unique knowledge, experience and perspectives to contribute to the international science agenda and to input into research design for nationally and regionally relevant



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solutions. They are also in key positions to disseminate the use of new technologies to benefit the most vulnerable economies.

This award is such important recognition for OWSD that the work we do has an impact on women's participation in science at an international level," said OWSD Programme Coordinator Tonya Blowers. "We are well known in the developing world but perhaps not so well known here in Trieste, where we are based. Nature's seal of approval during the important week of ESOF2020 here in Trieste will give us increased visibility and credibility in Trieste, in Italy and in Europe - where we seek partners and collaborators."