



CANAN DAĞDEVİREN

Material scientist

Turkey / Born in 1985

First Turkish scientist in the history of the Harvard Society to become a Junior Fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University.

Her inspiration was the biography of Marie and Pierre Curie. Woman science advocate member of women in science and engineering association.



FERYAL ÖZEL

Astrophysics

Turkey / Born in 1975

Contributed to first measurements of neutron star radii and the first image of a black hole. Appointed chair of NASA Large Mission Concept Study.

An advocate and spokesperson for the Louis Vuitton's Women's Literacy Campaign in the Middle East. Appeared on numerous TV documentaries.



BILGE DEMİRKÖZ

Astropracticle, high energy

Turkey / Born in 1980

Appointed coordinator of Particle Radiation Tests Creation Laboratory, the first collaboration between CERN and Turkey for high energy physics.

Advocate of women in science. Encourages students that feel afraid about their future in STEM with the moto "if I have done it, you can do it".



MARIA AGNESI

Math, philosophy

Italy / Born in 1718

The first woman to write a handbook in mathematics and the first woman appointed as a mathematics professor at a university.

She became nun, devoting herself to the poor and faced poverty herself losing all her fortune. However, she always supported women education.





SAMANTHA CRISTOFORETTI

Astronaut

Italy / Born in 1977

The first Italian woman in space, she holds the record for the longest uninterrupted spaceflight by a European astronaut travelling for 199 days.

Appointed astronaut of the European Space Agency. Succeeded in a very "male" career. Prepared the first espresso coffee cup in space.



ELENA CATTANEO

Pharmacologist

Italy / Born in 1962

Appointed Senator for life in Italy fighting against prejudices and false-treatments of Huntington's disease. Prominent work on science ethics.

An advocate of patients rights organized the campaign HDdenmore, which aims to relieve families of the stigma of Huntington's disease.



MARIE CURIE

Radioactivity

Poland-France/Born in 1867

The first person and the only woman to win the Nobel Prize twice, and the only person in two different scientific fields physics and chemistry.

Faced health problems from exposure to radiation during her scientific research with radioactivity and diagnostic work at WWI hospitals.



ADA LOVELACE

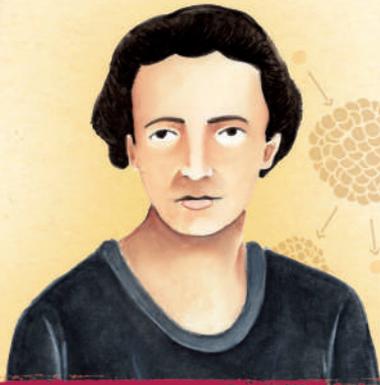
Algorithms

Great Britain / Born in 1815

Published the first algorithm to be carried out by a computer. Realized the potential use of computers beyond calculation.

Faced challenge with her health from the age of 8 years old with vision and kinetic disabilities and died from cancer at the age of 36.





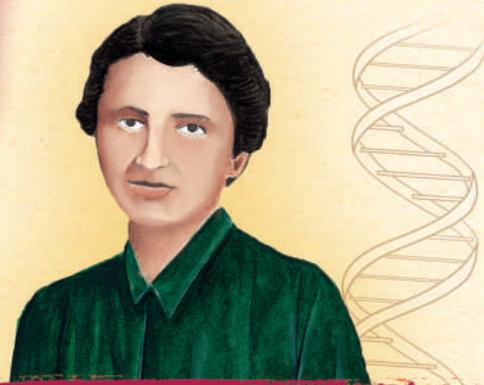
IRÈNE JOLIOT-CURIE

Radioactivity

Poland-France / Born in 1897

Awarded the Nobel Prize for artificial radioactivity. Appointed Undersecretary of State for Scientific Research by the French government.

Faced leukaemia from exposure to radioactivity like her mother Marie Curie. Politically active antifascist and advocate of women education.



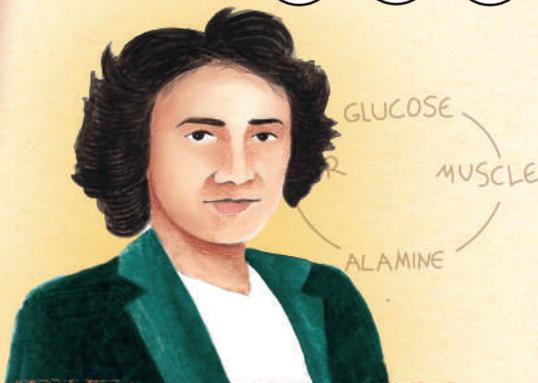
ROSALIND FRANKLIN

Chemist and X-ray crystallographer

Great Britain / Born in 1920

Provided the first evidence for double helix DNA structure. Significant contributions to molecular research of viruses, RNA, coal and graphite.

Faced sexist discriminations and lack of recognition of her contributions to DNA research. Died from cancer at the age of 37.



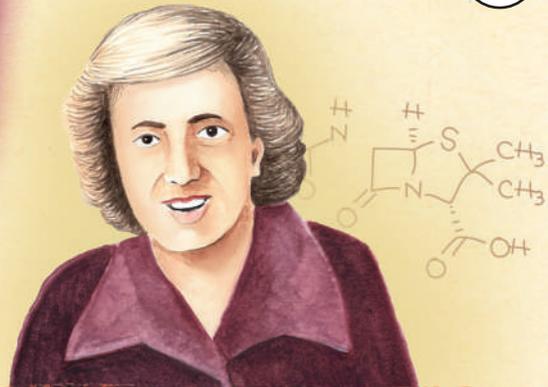
GERTY THERESA CORI

Medicine, biochemist

Austria-Hungary / Born in 1896

The first woman to be awarded the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for her role in the discovery of glycogen metabolism.

Faced a challenge to find a job at the university as a woman. Got 1/10 of her husband's salary working with her. Suffered from myelosclerosis.



DOROTHY HODGKIN

Chemist, x-ray crystallographer, structural

Great Britain / Born in 1910

First and only British woman to win the Nobel Prize for discovering the structure of several important biomolecules advancing X-ray crystallography.

Faced rheumatoid arthritis, deforming her hands and feet, spending a great deal of time in a wheelchair without stopping her work in science.





EMMY NOETHER

Abstract algebra and theoretical physics
Germany / Born in 1935

Noether's theorem explains the connection between symmetry and conservation laws. The most important woman in the history of math.

Faced problems to find a position in academia as a woman and then the Nazis obliged her to leave her job in Germany as "Jewish professor".



FRANÇOISE BARRÉ-SINOUSI

Virology
France / Born in 1947

Awarded the Nobel Prize for the identification of HIV as the cause of AIDS. Appointed president of the International AIDS Society.

An advocate of women in science and has admitted that the driving force of her career was to prove what women can do in research.



MITRODORA

Medicine, physician, gynecology
Greece / Born in 450

Author of the first medical text written by a woman: "On the Diseases and Cures of Women". She introduced innovative surgical techniques.

Women physicians of her era were focused only on childbirth issues of gynecology. She was the first to approach women pathology.



MARIA GOEPPERT MAYER

Physics
Germany / Born in 1906

Awarded the Nobel Prize for the nuclear shell model of the atomic nucleus. Appointed professor after a long struggle at the age of 54.

Faced a challenge to find a position in academia in the US and was paid a minimal salary. She was a Nazi-Regime refugee.





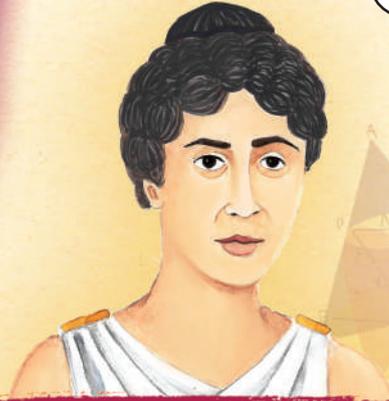
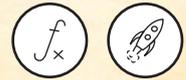
CHRISTIANE NÜSSELEIN-VOLHARD

Developmental biology

Germany / Born in 1942

Awarded the Nobel Prize for genetic control of embryonic development. Appointed Director of Max Planck Institute for Developmental Biology.

As an advocate for women rights in science and motherhood she initiated a foundation with the main focus to facilitate childcare for female scientists.



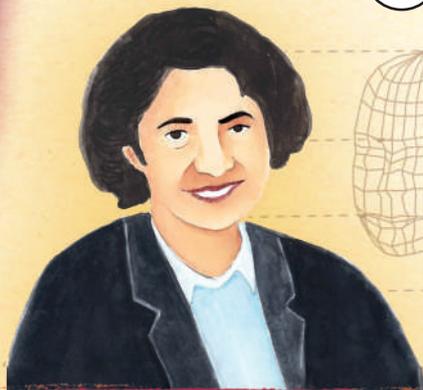
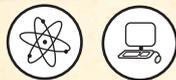
HYPATIA

Math astronomy philosophy

Greece / Born in 350

The first famous female mathematician and philosopher. Regarded as an icon for women's rights, a "martyr of philosophy".

Faced religious hate. Murdered by Christians opposing her popularity and philosophy. Precursor advocate of the feminist movement.



MARIA PETROU

Artificial intelligence, machine vision

Greece / Born in 1954

Developed novel image recognition techniques. Appointed Chair of Signal Processing at Imperial College and Director of the Informatics Institute.

Faced cancer disease. A great cartoonist with a sense of humour she put the "ironing robot challenge" which became an EU funded program.



ELENI STROULIA

Artificial intelligence, social computing

Greece / Born in 1955

Developed algorithms recognizing depression from voice recordings, virtual reality and IoT to assist older people with in-home exercise.

Women science advocate, founded the Ada's Team, a support group for women computing students and people from disadvantaged groups.





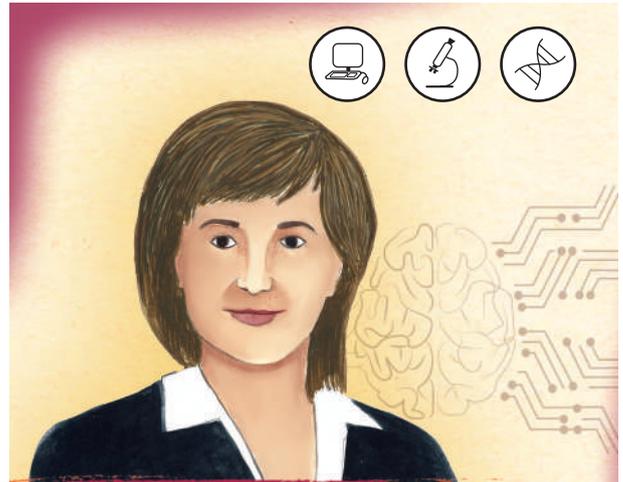
EFFIE KALFAGIANNI

Math, quantum topology

Greece / Born in 1965

Appointed in 2019 class of fellows of the American Mathematical Society for her contributions to knot theory, topology, and mentoring.

Born in a small Greek island, she faced isolation but showed a talent in geometry and her teacher encouraged her to follow a math career.



GEORGIA GINA TOURASSI

Biomedical informatics, artificial intelligence

Greece / Born in 1954

Developed artificial intelligence to extract and process data for cancer surveillance. Appointed Director of the Oak Ridge National Laboratory.

An advocate for women and minorities in science and engineering. Involved with the Oak Ridge National Laboratory women's mentorship program.



AMALIA FLEMING

Medicine, bacterology

Greece / Born in 1912

Established the Greek Foundation for Basic Biological Research, appointed president of the Greek Women Scientists Association.

Participated in resistance during the WW2 and military Junta. An advocate of human and women rights. The first chair of Greek Amnesty International.



SOPHIA FRANGO

Psychiatry

Greece / Born in 1965

Appointed head of several psychiatric institutions researching processes underlying psychosis, schizophrenia and bipolar disorder.

Edited the book "woman in academic psychiatry" featuring the most influential women in psychiatry, and the challenges they faced.





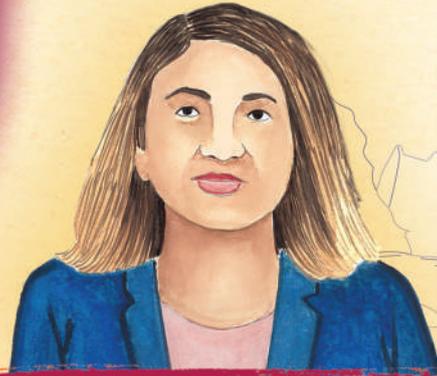
MÜFIDE KULEY

Medicine

Turkey / Born in 1899

The first female doctor and clinical professor in Turkey. Appointed general secretary and chair of the Turkish Medical Association.

Faced rules against women studying medicine, overcame them with persistence and became an advocate of Turkish female scientists



BURCU ÖZSOY

Works on sea ice remote sensing

Turkey / Born in 1976

One of the two women in the expedition in Antarctica. Appointed head of the first Turkish polar research center.

Faced old-fashioned opinions in her fight to promote the importance of polar research in Turkey. Advocate of climate change awareness.



BETÜL KAÇAR

Astrobiology, chemistry

Turkey / Born in 1975

Appointed at the first astrobiology professorship. Got inspiration about how molecular properties change with age volunteering for Alzheimer.

Faced the challenge that no women in her family went to school. An advocate of science education, founded SAGAnet, a STEM Mentorship Network.



ENGİN ARIK

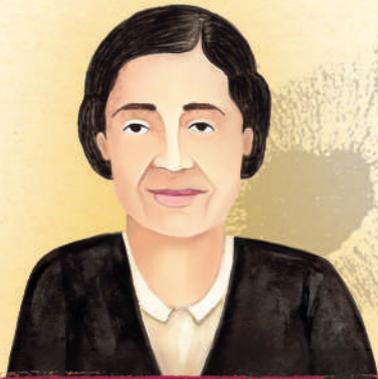
Particle physics, high energy

Turkey / Born in 1948

Appointed head of the Experimental High Energy Physics. Promoted Turkish accelerator program and CERN participation. Ranks first Turkish scientist.

It is disputed whether her death in an air crash was an assassination. Faced opposition as an advocate of Turkish participation in high energy physics.





RITA LEVI MONTALCINI

Neurology

Italy / Born in 1909

Nobel Prize for the discovery of "Nerve Growth Factor". Appointed Italian Senator of Life. First Nobel Prize Laureate to reach the age of 100.

An advocate of women scientists. Faced her father's opposition to women attending college. Forced out of university by fascists.



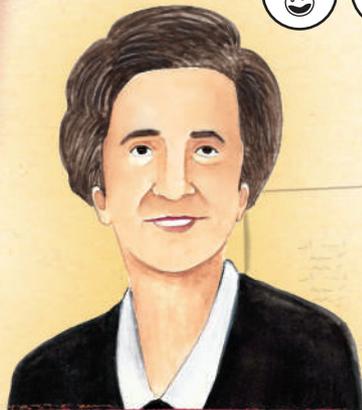
FABIOLA GIANOTTI

Particle physics, high energy

Italy / Born in 1960

The first woman to be Director-General at CERN and the first person to get this position for two 5-year periods.

A strong supporter of promoting STEM among young girls and as an advocate for women in science, she supports them when having children.



MARGARITA SALAS

Biochemistry, molecular genetics

Spain / Born in 1938

The discovery of the bacterial virus $\Phi 29$ was recognized as the highest-grossing patent in Spain. Pioneered molecular biology research.

The first woman appointed to the Royal Spanish Academy. Advocate of women and feminism in science. Faced discrimination as a woman.



MARTA MACHO STADLER

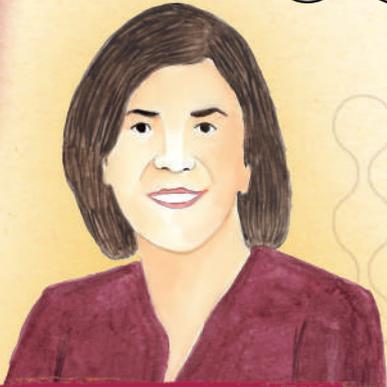
Geometry, Topology, scientific disseminator

Spain / Born in 1962

Her work in Noncommutative Geometry and Theory of Foliations is highly regarded as well as her fight for equality for women in science.

Appointed to the Women's Commission of Mathematical Society as an advocate. Works as editor of the digital blog Women in Science.





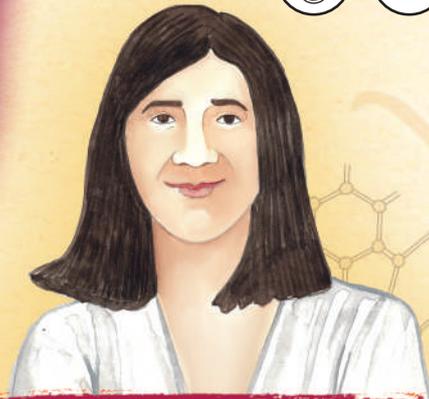
PALOMA DOMINGO GARCIA

Astrophysics and computer science

Spain / Born in 1959

Appointed general director of the Spanish Foundation for Science and Technology and head of Science Park.

—
Holds both managerial positions and scientific ones, since she is engaged in both entrepreneurship, innovation and software development.



MARIA BLASCO MARHUENDA

Cancer research

Spain / Born in 1965

Appointed director of the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre an institution in which nearly five hundred people work to fight cancer.

—
Faced sexist behaviour against her from colleagues when she reached top managerial positions.



GABRIELA MORREALE

Early Endocrinologist

Spain / Born in 1930

Pioneered the first heel test national program for children to prevent and treat mental disability. Appointed director of the Institute of Endocrinology.

—
Worked with her lifelong scientific partner and husband forming an exemplary couple like the Curies. Remained always the indisputable leader.



ROSA MENENDEZ

Materials energy biomedicine

Spain / Born in 1966

The first woman appointed president of the Higher Council for Scientific Research in Spain. Also served as vice president of Science Europe.

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Worried about Spanish low rate of integration of women in STEM careers, she is an advocate of gender equality trying to sensitize young girls.





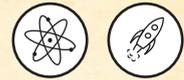
ASUMAN ÖZDAĞLAR

Social and economic networks

Turkey / Born in 1974

Appointed head the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at MIT. A leading scientist in optimization and game theory.

An advocate for educational innovation in Computer Science. Developed new courses on networks and game theory. Inspiring coach for her students.



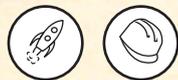
LUCIA VOTANO

Astroparticle physics

Italy / Born in 1947

The first woman appointed director of the National Laboratory of Gran Sasso. Engaged in many astroparticle neutrino experiments.

Faced prejudices about the necessity of women education. Her mother stopped studying at 14 and she made a career in research in her honour.



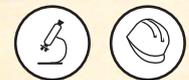
ESTEFANIA MATESANZ ROMERO

Astronaut

Spain / Born in 1980

Appointed Dean of the College of Aeronautical Engineers of Spain, the first in its history and the youngest. President of the Association.

Faced a challenge to be accepted as a head of aeronautical engineers because of being a woman in this position which is not usual.



ELENA GARCÍA ARMADA

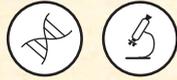
Robotics, bioengineering

Spain / Born in 1971

Appointed leader of the CSIC group that has developed the world's first bionic exoskeleton for children with spinal muscular atrophy.

Faced difficulties in combining motherhood and research. Her inspiration was a girl suffering from tetraplegia after a traffic accident.





ANA ASLAN

Gerontologist, biologist, physician

Romania / Born in 1897

The first using the term "gerontology". Appointed head of Physiology Department and founded the Geriatrics Institute devoted to ageing problems.

Faced her mother's opposition to her will to become a physician due to financial strains. Went on a hunger strike until her mother accepted it.



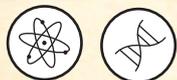
CABIRIA ANDREIAN CAZACU

Complex analysis

Romania / Born in 1928

Appointed Dean of the faculty of mathematics at the University of Bucharest. Known and honoured for her important contributions in complex analysis.

Faced a challenge as a child refugee with her family in Bucharest during WWII. Became the first woman lecturer at the University of Bucharest.



RUXANDRA SIRETEANU

Biophysics, human vision

Romania / Born in 1946

Fundamental contributions to neural plasticity and amblyopia. Appointed head of the Psychophysics group at Max Planck Institute for Brain Research.

Gifted speaker, a steadfast educator and a caring laboratory head, devoted to excellence in science and creative interaction.



ALEXANDRA BELLOW

Ergodic theory, probability and analysis

Romania / Born in 1935

Her monograph about lifting theory is a standard reference in this field. Appointed Fellow of the American Mathematical Society in 2017.

Her mother taught her math through games. Faced political pressures and math was a territory of freedom and security.





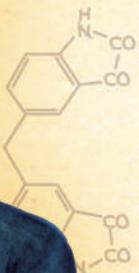
ECATERINA CIORĂNESCU

Drug synthesis

Romania / Born in 1909

Created the first synthetic drugs in Romania. First woman chemist assistant and then appointed head of the Organic Chemistry department.

Like her father, the initiator of education of deaf-mute she was a devoted educator, author of the first course of the synthesis of drugs in Romania.



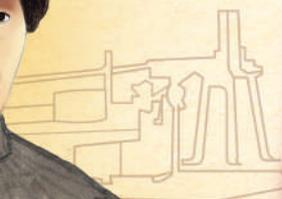
ȘTEFANIA MĂRĂCIȘEANU

Radioactivity

Romania / Born in 1882

Appointed director of research by the Academy of Sciences. Worked with Marie Curie, had a lot of innovative ideas. Very capable experimentalist.

Faced cancer due to exposition to radioactivity and had an unhappy childhood with health problems which draw her back at school.



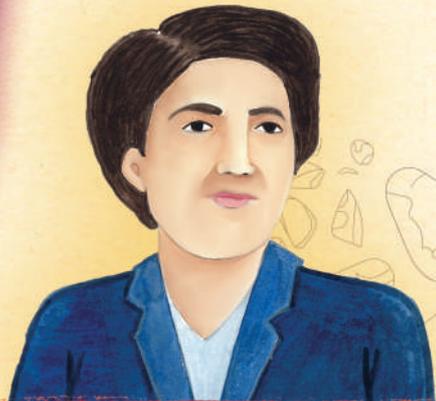
LAURA BASSI

Physicist

Italy / Born in 1711

The first woman to obtain a doctorate in science, and first woman university professor. First female appointed member of the scientific establishment.

Her brilliance impressed the Pope to let her in the Academy of Sciences. as first female experimental physician, she popularised Newtonian mechanics.



ELISA ZAMFIRESCU

Engineer, geology

Romania / Born in 1887

The first female member of an engineer association. One of the first women with an engineering degree. Appointed hospital director during WWI.

Faced difficulties with schools and universities to be accepted as a woman to study engineering. An advocate of the disarmament movement.







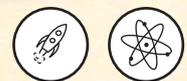
RODICA - MARIANA ION

Photochemistry and nanomaterials

Romania / Born in 1958

Invented a new method of treating pre-malignant dermatological cancers. Appointed leader of Cultural Heritage Conservation research group.

Unlike other scientists of her era, her inventions and scientific techniques cover a wide range of applications from cancer to heritage pieces.



MARGHERITA HACK

Astrophysics

Italy / Born in 1922

First Italian woman to be appointed leader of an Astronomical Observatory in Trieste. Founded and directed also popular science magazines.

Scientific disseminator, politically active advocate and atheist. Wrote many popular science books and essays along with her scientific work.

