

The SUEZ Foundation and the Institut Pasteur join forces to promote women's access to scientific careers

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- The Institut Pasteur and the SUEZ Foundation have announced a three-year partnership designed to inspire young women to pursue scientific careers, support female scientists in their professional development, and foster the emergence of a new generation of women in the fields of health and the environment.
- The two institutions are launching the "Institut Pasteur – SUEZ Foundation Prize" to annually recognize outstanding achievements by women and remarkable scientific work, with a particular focus on women's health and environmental health.

Inspiring careers, supporting professional journeys, and advancing science

The SUEZ Foundation's mission is to strengthen access to essential services in emerging countries and to support a fair and inclusive ecological transition in France. Building on 15 years of commitment, the SUEZ Foundation is proud to enter into this unique partnership with the Institut Pasteur to encourage and support women in scientific fields. Convinced that a diversity of talent is essential for scientific excellence and a more inclusive ecological transition, both institutions are combining their expertise to remove the barriers that still limit women's access to scientific careers, especially for those from the most vulnerable groups that remain distant from these pathways.

Through the **"Women, Science, and Environmental Health" program**, the two partners share a common ambition: to enable more young women, particularly those with the least access to scientific opportunities to develop their potential and build their futures in science. This ambition is rooted in a firm conviction: scientific excellence requires providing all talented individuals with the means to emerge, progress, and contribute to major breakthroughs in health and the environment.

Spanning three years, the program is structured around five complementary pillars:

- **Fostering an interest in science from a young age** through observation internships, pairing participants with female researchers, and offering immersion programs specifically for young women from disadvantaged backgrounds.
- **Raising awareness of health and environmental issues** by conducting **science-discovery workshops** in collaboration with local stakeholders.
- **Supporting female talent through mentorship**, facilitating access to scientific knowledge, training, and future-oriented careers via personalized guidance provided by experts and scientists.
- **Promoting equal opportunity** by awarding grants for mobility, equipment, and internships, thereby removing the economic, social, and material barriers that can hinder the academic and professional paths of young women.
- **Developing leadership and recognizing scientific excellence** by supporting female scientists at every stage of their careers, offering training to enhance their expertise in cutting-edge techniques and strengthen their leadership skills.

Highlighting career paths and inspiring new generations

The partnership also includes the creation of **the Institut Pasteur – SUEZ Foundation Prize**, which will annually honor exemplary achievements by women, from middle-school students to early-career research group leaders, as well as outstanding scientific work, particularly in the fields of women's health and environmental health. This initiative will help increase the visibility of women in science, recognize their contributions, and provide younger generations with role models to look up to.

At the heart of this initiative lies a dynamic of passing things on: the women who receive support may, in turn, become role models, mentors, or ambassadors, thereby helping to broaden the horizons of possibility for future generations in a lasting way.

Measuring impact to ensure long-term sustainability

Co-developed by the two partners, the program will undergo a three-year impact assessment. This will make it possible to track the results of the initiatives undertaken, evaluate their contribution to equal opportunity and social inclusion, and gain a better understanding of their role in fostering an interest in scientific careers and supporting women's advancement within the sciences.

"Science cannot afford to lose out on any talent. Yet, too many young women still hesitate to pursue scientific paths, and too many women encounter obstacles as they advance toward positions of responsibility. We have a collective responsibility to provide them with the means to envision their future, develop their potential, and contribute fully to scientific progress. This requires action at every stage of their journey: sparking an interest in science, facilitating access to opportunities, supporting professional development, and highlighting their achievements. Through the SUEZ Foundation, we aim to help foster a new generation of female scientists and build a more inclusive research landscape, one capable of harnessing the full diversity of talent for the benefit of health and the environment."

Yasmine Belkaid, President of the Institut Pasteur

"Together with the Institut Pasteur, we share a firm conviction: science is both a driver of progress and a catalyst for empowerment. Nevertheless, women still face barriers in accessing scientific education and careers, as well as in their professional advancement. We want to broaden the horizons for young people, remove the obstacles that still hinder their progress, and enable female scientists to reach their full potential. This partnership is deeply rooted in SUEZ's scientific heritage, a legacy that has fueled the Group's commitment and actions for over 160 years. We are very proud to join forces with the Institut Pasteur, a century-old institution with an international scientific reputation to advance this shared ambition for the benefit of women, science, and society."

Xavier Girre, CEO of SUEZ

"For 15 years, the SUEZ Foundation has worked to open up new prospects and provide individuals with the means to build their own futures." This is a committed illustration of the Group's scientific heritage. By joining forces with the Institut Pasteur, we have chosen to invest in what truly drives scientific progress: talent. Through this program, the SUEZ Foundation aims to support more women at every stage of their scientific careers, ensuring that the major breakthroughs of tomorrow are built upon a full diversity of vocations and perspectives."

Stéphanie Cau, President of the SUEZ Foundation

About

Institut Pasteur

A foundation recognized as serving the public interest established by decree in 1887 at the initiative of Louis Pasteur the Institut Pasteur is now an internationally renowned center for

biomedical research. To carry out its mission of combating disease, both in France and around the world, the Institut Pasteur focuses its activities on four areas: research, public health, education, and the development of research applications. A recognized global leader in the fields of infectious diseases, microbiology, and immunology, the Institut Pasteur is dedicated to the study of living organisms. Its work encompasses emerging infectious diseases, antimicrobial resistance, certain types of cancer, neurodegenerative diseases, and disorders of brain connectivity. To bolster the excellence of its research, the Institut Pasteur maintains and develops a high-level technological environment, including capabilities in nano-imaging, computational biology, and artificial intelligence. Since its inception, 10 researchers working at the Institut Pasteur have been awarded the Nobel Prize in Medicine, most recently in 2008, in recognition of their 1983 discovery of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), which causes AIDS. Institut Pasteur is a member of the Pasteur Network, a global network comprising 33 members across five continents, united by shared "Pasteurian" values and dedicated to improving human health.

SUEZ Foundation

The SUEZ Foundation supports concrete initiatives aimed at lastingly improving the living conditions and autonomy of vulnerable people, both in developing countries and in France. It backs projects designed to ensure access to essential services namely water, sanitation, and waste management in emerging and developing nations. In France, it contributes to projects that promote a just ecological transition and the social inclusion of marginalized or vulnerable individuals. The SUEZ Foundation provides support through financial grants as well as skills-based volunteering by SUEZ Group employees. Over the past 15 years, the SUEZ Foundation has supported nearly 700 projects, benefiting more than 6.5 million people worldwide, including over 122,000 people in France.