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**L'Oréal USA Announces Recipients of 2012 For Women In Science Fellowships  
*Five Women Scientists Recognized for Breakthrough Research***

**New York, N.Y. (July 31, 2012)** –L'Oréal USA today announced the recipients of the 2012 L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science. The L'Oréal USA program is a national initiative that annually recognizes and rewards five U.S.-based women researchers early in their careers. Recipients each receive up to \$60,000 towards their postdoctoral research.

“We are proud to partner with L'Oréal USA and its Fellowships For Women In Science Program. We too strongly believe it is important to raise awareness of the contributions women make in science, technology, engineering and math, and these Fellows represent the next great generation of female researchers,” said Shirley Malcom, Head of Directorate of Education and Human Resource Program with American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS.)

The 2012 Fellows were selected from a competitive pool of nearly 300 candidates by an interdisciplinary review panel and a distinguished jury of eminent scientists and researchers. The Fellows were chosen based on specific criteria including exceptional academic records, intellectual merit, research proposals with the potential for scientific advancement, and outstanding letters of recommendation. The peer-review process was managed by the program's partner, AAAS.

This year's awards will recognize and support the following female scientists and their work:

**Christina Agapakis**, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, synthetic biologist. The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science award will help her focus on engineering new relationships between microorganisms that usually would not find each other in nature. Her research includes attention to how bacteria can work together in natural ecosystems and how those relationships can be useful in biotechnology, which typically uses only isolated organisms one at a time.

**Lilian Childress**, Yale University, New Haven, CT, physicist in quantum optics. The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science award will allow Childress to develop a new optomechanical device based on a potentially dissipationless mechanical material: superfluid helium. Combining excellent optical properties with superfluid flow and novel excitations, this system could drastically reduce optical and mechanical losses and provide a window into many-body physics.

**Joanna Lynne Kelley**, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, geneticist interested in biological diversity. The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science award will provide her with an opportunity to explore the genomic basis of adaptation to environments containing high levels of hydrogen sulfide. She will use sulfide spring populations of the fish *Poecilia* from three river drainages to study adaptive trait divergence, differentiation in gene sequences, and gene expression patterns.

**Erin Marie Williams**, George Washington University, Washington, DC, paleoanthropologist in a biomechanics laboratory. The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women in Science award will help Williams investigate the decision-making processes and abilities of our early human ancestors as evidenced through their selection of raw materials for the production and use of Early Stone Age technologies.

**Jaclyn Winter**, University of California, Los Angeles, CA, biochemist interested in chemical diversity of biologically active natural products. The L'Oréal USA Fellowships for Women in Science award will enable her to interrogate the biosynthetic strategies that nature uses for assembling small molecules in fungi and investigate how their biosynthetic systems can be engineered to generate novel metabolites or otherwise inaccessible derivatives for testing in biological assays.

L'Oréal USA Fellowships for Women in Science program has awarded grants to 40 post-doctoral women scientists in the life and physical/material sciences, mathematics, engineering, and computer science since its launch in 2003.

In addition to awarding the grants, the program also offers the Fellows professional development workshops, facilitated by the program's partner, AAAS, and helps them build networks with accomplished female leaders in corporate, academic, government and scientific fields.

The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women In Science Award ceremony will take place at the Morgan Library and Museum in New York City on Thursday, September 13.

The L'Oréal USA Fellowships For Women In Science is a national extension of the global **L'Oréal – UNESCO For Women in Science** program, which, since 1998, has recognized 67 Laureates, two of whom received the Nobel Prize in 2009. The program has also awarded 864 Fellowships, which have been granted to young women scientists from 93 countries so that they can continue their research projects. The program has become a benchmark of scientific excellence on an international scale, revealing the contributions of these scientific women each year.

**For more information, please visit [Facebook/L'Oréal USA For Women In Science](#)**

#### **ABOUT L'ORÉAL USA**

L'Oréal USA, headquartered in New York City, is the #1 wholly-owned subsidiary of L'Oréal SA, the world's leading beauty company. In addition to corporate headquarters in New York, L'Oréal USA has Research and Innovation and Manufacturing and Distribution facilities across six other states including New Jersey, Kentucky, Arkansas, Illinois, Ohio, and Texas. L'Oréal's impressive portfolio of brands includes Lancôme, Giorgio Armani Beauty, Yves Saint Laurent Beauté, Viktor & Rolf, Diesel, Cacharel, L'Oréal Paris, Garnier, Vichy, La Roche-Posay, L'Oréal Professionnel, Kérastase and Shu Uemura Art of Hair. The U.S. is the base for the product development, international marketing and advertising for L'Oréal's twelve American brands: Maybelline New York, Soft-Sheen.Carson, Kiehl's Since 1851, Ralph Lauren Fragrances, Essie Cosmetics, Redken 5th Avenue NYC, Matrix, Mizani, Pureology, SkinCeutical, Dermablend and Clarisonic. For more information on our brands visit [www.lorealusa.com](http://www.lorealusa.com). Follow us on Facebook at [L'Oreal USA - Corporate Facebook Page](#) and Twitter [@LOrealUSACorp](#).

#### **ABOUT AAAS**

The American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) is the world's largest general scientific society, and publisher of the journal, *Science* ([www.sciencemag.org](http://www.sciencemag.org)) as well as *Science Translational Medicine* ([www.sciencetranslationalmedicine.org](http://www.sciencetranslationalmedicine.org)) and *Science Signaling* ([www.sciencesignaling.org](http://www.sciencesignaling.org)). AAAS was founded in 1848, and includes some 261 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world, with an estimated total readership of 1 million. The non-profit AAAS ([www.aaas.org](http://www.aaas.org)) is open to all and fulfills its mission to "advance science and serve society" through initiatives in science policy; international programs; science education; and more. For the latest research news, log onto EurekaAlert!, [www.eurekaalert.org](http://www.eurekaalert.org), the premier science-news Web site, a service of AAAS.