

**BRIDGING THE GENDER GAP
AND ACCELERATING INNOVATIVE, SUSTAINABLE GROWTH**

FRINGE SESSION, STUDIO 213, MARCH 11, 2014, 9H00 – 10H45

**EUROPEAN INNOVATION CONVENTION 2014
SQUARE - BRUSSELS MEETING CENTRE - RUE MONT DES ARTS, B-1000 BRUSSELS**

PROFILES:

YLVA RYNGEBO, Managing Director, Medical Innovation Design, Sweden



YlvaRyngebo

YlvaRyngebo is the current EUWIIN Platinum Overall Award winner 2013, a registered radiographer and an inventor. She runs her own company Medical Innovation Design located in Stockholm, Sweden. After 20 years working in medical care, she became fed up with unsatisfactory equipment, so in 2000 she started to develop her own new products that are dedicated to the development, innovation and design of medical products, with a special focus on the radiology environment. Amongst these products was the award winning 'EasymarkDx-Sin', the lead free marking system that works without tape, designed specifically for the digital radiology environment. Ylva continues to use her many years of healthcare experience to create products that matter every day, for patients and for the use of hospital staff. She is an appreciated speaker at healthcare and innovation events and an enthusiast who continues to work towards making healthcare better and safer.

PROFESSOR SHEENA LEWIS, Queen's University Belfast, Northern Ireland, United Kingdom



Professor Sheena Lewis

Professor Sheena Lewis' research has been focused on male infertility and in particular sperm DNA damage testing where her goal has been to identify causes of and treatments for male infertility by developing novel biomarkers. Professor Lewis is past Chair of the Andrology special interest group of the European Society of Human Reproduction and Embryology, Chair of the British Andrology Society, a member of the executive committee of the British Fertility Society and a Founder member and past Vice Chair of the Irish Fertility Society. She is on various editorial boards of top journals in her specialty. She has published over 100 full papers, many book chapters and numerous reviews. She is committed to raising ethical debate, particularly in

issues relating to assisted reproductive technologies (ART), within the medical and scientific undergraduate curriculum.

She also has a strong commitment to public engagement with research and regularly communicates her group's latest research findings through international TV, radio and online interviews. Through translational research, Professor Lewis' group has developed the first quantitative assay for DNA damage in individual sperm through the Sperm Comet™ test. The SpermComet™ test is a molecular test quantifying DNA damage in individual sperm. It has high specificity and sensitivity for diagnosis and ART outcome. Clinical thresholds facilitate male fertility diagnosis and objective appraisal of each couple's treatment needs.

ELINORA INGA SIGURDARDOTTIR, Founder And Chairman of KVENN, QUIN - (Icelandic Women Inventors and Innovators Network) Iceland



Elinora Inga Sigurdardottir

Elinora Inga Sigurdardottir was presented with the GWIIN Founders Award in 2008 for her dedication and commitment to the empowerment and advancement of women inventors in Iceland. She is a business owner and an inventor with a mission to mentor and coach inventors and innovators. She was elected as Chairman of The Icelandic Inventors Association in 1998, the first woman in Europe to be in that position. Ninety percent of the members were men, so in 2007 she organized KVENN (Icelandic Women Inventors and Innovators Network), to reach out to more inventive women and to get them the respect and recognition they deserve from society. Apart from the capacity building services she provides within Iceland, Elinora provides lectures about innovation, networking and is a recognisable voice for the importance of role models throughout the world. She extends this to also planning exhibitions and conferences for inventors, in cooperation with both men and women.

DR BOLA OLABISI, Director, European Women Inventors & Innovators Network (EUWIIN) & CEO, Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GWIIN)



Bola Olabisi

Bola Olabisi wears a number of hats. She is a Social Entrepreneur, Author, Innovator, Coach, Founder of a successful global network, Champion of an inclusive society that allows for creativity, invention and innovation. With a professional background in social housing and resident participation it is of little wonder that Bola expanded her expertise to building the capacity of women with remarkable ideas. She is the Founder & CEO of the UK based Global Women Inventors & Innovators Network (GWIIN) covering various regions in Europe, Africa, Asia and Latin America. With over 25 years in enterprise and knowledge transfer programmes. Dr Bola's main goal is to increase the amount of knowledge transfer in the area of enterprise, innovation, technology and intellectual property rights in order to alleviate poverty, create jobs and wealth for many of the disadvantaged.

She continuously works to build opportunities for creative, inventive and innovative women and young people under the age of 30 in the workplace, at home, in the

business context and in learning environments. Her work serves to raise aspirations, improve self confidence and self esteem, increase motivation and broaden horizons and experience.

MARIE-HELENE THERRE, Past-President and Vice-President of the French association of Women Engineers, France



Marie-Hélène Therre

Marie-Hélène THERRE is the founder of the consultant agency 'Inclusive Innovation', specialized in organization development and in collective intelligence by empowering gender diversity in the human activities.

As an Engineer, she has been leading engineers' teams in scientific computing, for the supercomputer's manufacturer Cray-Research-Silicon Graphics for 25 years. Managing the operations for the services department of South Europe, she was driving strategic projects for big customers and for the company.

Through her work on the place of women scientists & engineers in technological environments and her active contributions in international Human Resource and Human Social Science expert groups, she gradually focused her interventions and approaches to integrate Gender Diversity in organizations and to reveal its impact on innovation and in managerial practices.

As an expert for the European Commission, DG Research & Innovation since 2010, she belongs to international experts groups, pioneers on the matter 'Gender and Innovation', and is a member of the task force 'innovation in Industry' of the European network COST-GenderSTE.

She provides consultancy and facilitation to companies and to higher education schools in order to enable them to create added value in products, services, and processes, by integrating the gender dimension in their activities and to support design that promotes human well-being, including gender equality.

At the French association of Women Engineers, she contributes actively to the works of several international engineers organizations to promote the place of women in Science, Technology, and Engineering. She is member of Voxfemina, and also of the network of executives in industry 'Women in Engineering'.

She has been awarded 'Chevalière' (Knight) of the National Order of the Legion of Honor in 2008.

DR. BRIGITTE MÜHLENBRUCH, President of the European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS, Former Managing Director of the Center of Excellence Women and Science CEWS, Germany



Dr Brigitte Mühlenbruch

Brigitte Mühlenbruch was the first Vice President of the European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS in Brussels. She is a member of the European Commission's Network of Women in Decision Making in Politics and the Economy, and Vice President of the Christiane Nüsslein-Volhard-Foundation in Germany.

After finishing her PhD in Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Brigitte Mühlenbruch worked as a scientist at the University of Bonn for almost 20 years before becoming the University's first Equal Opportunities

Commissioner. Since the late 1980's her research and concept development have focused on gender equality, gender mainstreaming, and programmes and processes regarding the recruitment and retention of female scientists in Germany as well as at the EU level.

In 2003, Brigitte Mühlenbruch was a member of the Steering Committee for the Study on Networks of Women Scientists in Brussels which confirmed the need of a network for women scientists at European level. Brigitte Mühlenbruch was the founder and Managing Director of the Center of Excellence Women and Science CEWS in Bonn from 2000 until 2005, managing several research projects funded by the German government and the EU in the field of gender equality in science. Under her leadership, CEWS drafted the winning proposal for the establishment of the European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS in Brussels and signed the contract with the European Commission in 2005. She is the author of numerous papers in the field of equal opportunities for women in science, science culture and gender-balanced innovation. In 1996 she has been awarded with the German Federal Cross of Merit.

PROFESSOR CLAUDINE HERMANN, Vice-President of EPWS, Ecole Polytechnique, France



Claudine Hermann

Claudine Hermann was Professor of Physics at the Ecole Polytechnique, the most renowned French engineering school. Her research domain is optics of solids. She is alumna of Ecole Normale Supérieure de Jeunes Filles and her PhD (1976) is in Solid State Physics. She was the first woman ever appointed Professor at Ecole Polytechnique in 1992.

Since then, in addition to her activities in physics, she has been studying the situation of women scientists in Western Europe and promoting science for girls, by papers and conferences, in France and abroad. She has worked in team for many years with the late Huguette Delavault, a retired Mathematics Professor at Paris University.

Claudine Hermann was a member of the expert group that produced the so called 'ETAN report' ('Science policies in the European Union: Promoting excellence through mainstreaming gender equality') of the Directorate General Research of the European Commission on women in research in academia in Western Europe (2000). She has been one of the two French members of the group of civil servants on Women and Science at DG Research ('Helsinki group') from 1999 until 2006. She is a co-founder and the first president of the association Femmes et Sciences (French Women and Science association). She is now the vice-president of this association. She is the author of 80 referred papers in Physics and 30 in the field of Women and Science. She has been awarded 'Commandeure' (Commander) of the National Order of the Legion of Honor in 2011.

ABOUT EUROPEAN WOMEN INVENTORS & INNOVATORS NETWORK (EUWIIN)

EUWIIN is a catalyst and capacity building initiative for the introduction of new products, processes and services with a special focus on women. With a growing connection of networks from across Europe, EUWIIN continues to identify and promote effective ways of bringing support, tools and information that assists women in achieving significant growth in their businesses and workplaces. Many facts argue in favour of promoting women inventor and innovator activities in Europe. European statistics revealed data and information on female innovative entrepreneurship in the 2009 European Commission report on 'Evaluation on policy: Promotion of Women Innovators and Entrepreneurship'. This showed that at European level: only 8.3% of patents awarded by the European Patent Office were awarded to women: only 20.3% of businesses started with venture capital belonged to women: women scored less than men when accessing the level of innovation of their own business (innovation of product: 13.9% women compared to 14.5% of men. Innovation of process compared to 4.1% women compared to 7.8% of men: innovation in the organisation 5.2% of women compared to 6.5% of men: marketing innovation 9.1% women compared to 10.45% of men. EUWIIN serves to increase the pool of human resources and stimulate wider inclusiveness and the exchange of knowledge in areas of intellectual property rights, access to finance, international trade, equity and commercialisation.

ABOUT THE EUROPEAN PLATFORM OF WOMEN SCIENTISTS EPWS

The **European Platform of Women Scientists EPWS** is an umbrella organization bringing together networks of women scientists and organizations committed to gender equality in scientific research in all disciplines in the 28 EU Member States and the countries associated to the European Union research programme. EPWS is a non-profit Belgian association (AISBL).

EPWS mission and activities are to represent, with democratic legitimacy and transparent decision-making structures, the concerns, needs, aspirations and interests of women scientists, in all stages of their career path, in dialogue with national, European and international institutions. The association aims at promoting networking among women scientists, particularly in Central and Eastern Europe and the private sector; enhancing the understanding and the inclusion of the gender issue in science and research policy in all scientific fields; ensuring that women scientists' interests are taken into consideration when setting the political research agenda. Its main activities are Networking the women scientists Networks; Participation in the Policy Debate; Structural Link between women scientists and policy makers. Its members' main disciplines are Social Sciences and Humanities, Natural Sciences and Engineering, Multidisciplinary.

EPWS has a wide experience in European women and science issues and is ready and willing to share this expert knowledge.