

Women in Science in Scotland

RSE presents a major photography exhibition celebrating leading Scottish scientists



Clockwise from top left: Prof Lesley Yellowlees; Prof Dame Anne Glover; Prof Mercedes Maroto-Valer; Prof Catherine Heymans; Prof Niamh Nic Daeid; Prof Nicola Stanley-Wall; credit Ian Georgeson

PHOTO CALL IMAGES:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/61deequwx3ap25i/AACnaZ7NrLQ5pz3097svW_4wa?dl=0

The RSE (Royal Society of Edinburgh), Scotland's National Academy; unveiled a new free photography exhibition at its offices on George Street in Edinburgh, celebrating some of Scotland's leading female scientists, all of whom are RSE Fellows.

The women featured were asked to bring along an item that represents their inspiration to become a scientist or their scientific journey. Objects included a female lego scientist in a lab, solar powered cells, carbon dioxide locked up inside rocks, models of molecules, books, a sixth-year school report on biology and even a melted kettle element. A short self-penned essay next to every photo explains each woman's expertise and what inspired them to become a scientist and why they do what they do.

Speaking at the exhibition, **RSE President Professor Dame Anne Glover** who herself is featured in the exhibition said:

“The RSE is privileged to have amongst its Fellowship some of the most innovative female scientists in the world today. By celebrating some of them here, we can hopefully inspire many others in realising what a wonderful and diverse career path science can be and take pride in ourselves as a nation in the calibre of scientists who choose to study, work or carry out their research in Scotland.”



Prof Dame Anne Glover in front of Women in Science in Scotland exhibition, credit Duncan McGlynn

Dr Rebekah Widdowfield, CEO of the RSE said: “While our recent report, with the RSE Young Academy, *Tapping all our Talents 2018*, showed some good progress in the number of women pursuing a career in science; we know that more still needs to be done to attract women to study and work in science and to retain them within the profession. The report highlighted the importance of positive role models and providing the instigation for this exhibition which seeks to help increase the visibility of some of Scotland’s fantastic women scientists. It demonstrates both the impact of their work and the pleasure these women gain through their life in science.”

The exhibition currently features 21 portraits including **Professor Dame Anne Glover**; **Professor Mandy MacLean** who carries out research into pulmonary arterial hypertension, a fatal disease mainly affecting women; Forensic Scientist **Professor Niamh Nic Daeid**; **Professor of Computing Science Muffy Calder**; Chief Scientific Adviser for Scotland **Professor Sheila Rowan**; **Professor of Reproductive Medicine Hilary Critchley** who works with patients with menstrual disorders; Solar Physicist **Professor Ineke De Moortel**; **Professor Karen Faulds** who works on developing bionanosensors for detection of biomarkers related to disease; **Professor Lesley Yellowlees**, expert in solar energy; **Professor of Physical Chemistry** at University of St Andrews **Sharon Ashbrook**; **Dr Silvia Paracchini** whose research currently focuses on the genetic basis of dyslexia; environmental hydrologist **Professor Louise Heathwaite**; synthetic chemist **Professor Eva Hevia**; Professor **Rona MacKie** whose research focused on epidemiology and molecular genetics of malignant melanoma; **Professor of Microbiology Nicola**

Stanley-Wall; Crum Brown Chair of Chemistry **Professor Polly Arnold**; **Professor of Chemical Engineering Raffaella Ocone**; research engineer **Professor Becky J Lunn**; applied statistician **Professor Ruth King**; **Professor of Astrophysics at the Royal Observatory Catherine Heymans** and **Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer** whose research is addressing global challenges to ensure sustainability of resources and energy. Four more portraits are to be added at the end of the month including former RSE President Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell. [*For full list of the scientists featured in the exhibition go to Notes to Editors.*]

Women in Science in Scotland is also part of this year's Edinburgh Science Festival, alongside a special, sold out discussion presented by the RSE, *Being a Woman in Science: Changed Times?* which features Professor Dame Anne Glover, Professor Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell and RSE Fellow Young Academy of Scotland (YAS) member Dr Silvia Paracchini who will discuss their personal experiences of being a woman in science.

Large-scale print outs of the photographs taken by Ian Georgeson will be on display until the Autumn.

Images featured on top of this release include:

- Professor Lesley Yellowlees holding a dye sensitised solar cell which absorbs sunlight between conducting glass to transfer generated electrons.
- Professor Dame Anne Glover holding lego to symbolise her role in mentoring young women in STEM - a present from a colleague when she was the Chief Scientific Adviser to the President of the European Commission.
- Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer, holding 5.5 litres of carbon dioxide locked up inside rocks.
- Professor Catherine Heymans is holding her well-thumbed childhood copy of *Relativity: The Special and the General Theory* by Albert Einstein, which formed the foundations of her future life surveying the universe.
- Professor Niamh Nic Daeid is holding the heating element of a kettle which shows arc melt damage as a result of overheating which caused the kettle to ignite.
- Professor Nicola Stanley-Wall is holding her sixth year studies biology project report which she wrote in her final year of secondary school.

/ENDS

Notes to editors:

Selection of the images featured in the exhibition:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/w9i56z47c33gfvz/AACq1Vrojvo_lqZsYjSZQGOaa?dl=0

Women in Science in Scotland exhibition features (in alphabetical order):

Professor Polly Arnold OBE FRSE; Crum Brown Chair of Chemistry, University of Edinburgh

Professor Sharon Ashbrook FRSE; Royal Society Wolfson Research Merit Award Holder; Professor of Physical Chemistry, School of Chemistry and Centre of Magnetic Resonance, University of St Andrews

Professor Muffy Calder FRSE; Professor of Computing Science, Vice-Principal and Head of the College of Science and Engineering, University of Glasgow

Professor Hilary Critchley FRSE; Professor of Reproductive Medicine at the University of Edinburgh; Consultant Gynaecologist

Professor Niamh Nic Daéid FRSE; Professor of Forensic Science, University of Dundee, and Director of the Leverhulme Research Centre for Forensic Science

Professor Ineke DeMoortel FRSE; Deputy Head of School, School of Mathematics and Statistics, University of St. Andrews

Professor Karen Faulds FHEA, FRSC, FSAS, FRSE; Head of Bionotechnology and Analytical Research Section, Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, Technology Innovation Centre, University of Strathclyde

Professor Dame Anne Glover FRS, President, Royal Society of Edinburgh, Special Adviser to the Principal at University of Strathclyde

Professor Louise Heathwaite CBE FRSE; Professor of Land and Water Science, The Lancaster Environment Centre, Lancaster University

Professor Eva Hevia FRSC FRSE; Department of Pure and Applied Chemistry, University of Strathclyde

Professor Catherine Heymans FRSE; Professor of Astrophysics at the Royal Observatory, University of Edinburgh

Professor Ruth King FLSW FRSE; Thomas Bayes' Chair of Statistics, University of Edinburgh

Professor Becky J Lunn MBE FICE FRSE; Royal Academy of Engineering and BAM Nuttall Research Chair in Biomineral Technologies for Ground Engineering; Head of the Centre for Ground Engineering and Energy Geosciences, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, University of Strathclyde

Professor Rona MacKie CBE MD DSc FRCP FRSE

Professor Mandy MacLean MBE FRSE; Strathclyde Institute of Pharmacy and Biomedical Sciences, University of Strathclyde

Professor Mercedes Maroto-Valer FICHEM FRSA FRSC FRSE; Assistant Deputy Principal (Research & Innovation); Director of the Research Centre for Carbon Solutions (RCCS); Buchan Chair in Sustainable Energy Engineering, Heriot-Watt University

Professor Raffaella Ocone OBE FREng FRSE; Professor of Chemical Engineering, School of Engineering and Physical Sciences, Heriot-Watt University

Dr Silvia Paracchini FRSE; Royal Society University Research Fellow, School of Medicine, University of St Andrews

Professor Sheila Rowan MBE FRS FRSE Hon FInstP; Professor of Experimental Physics, University of Glasgow; Director of the Institute for Gravitational Research; Chief Scientific Adviser (CSA) for Scotland

Professor Nicola Stanley-Wall FRSE; Professor of Microbiology, University of Dundee

Professor Lesley Yellowlees CBE HonFRSC FRSE; Professor Emerita in Inorganic Electrochemistry, University of Edinburgh

Photo sessions were held in the Mitchell Library Glasgow; School of Medicine St Andrews and the RSE.

The RSE is an educational charity, registered in Scotland, operating on a wholly independent and non-party-political basis and providing public benefit throughout Scotland.

It was established in 1783 and since then has drawn upon the considerable strengths and varied expertise of its Fellows, of which there are currently around 1600, based in Scotland, the rest of the UK and beyond.

www.rse.org.uk

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