



GEC Chair - Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli, Ph.D.



Co-Chair - Hannes Stockinger, Ph.D.

12 years ago, IUIS created a Gender Equality Committee (GEC) to build a broad global effort to close the gender gap between scientists.

Committee Members:

Vanessa Bryant, Ph.D.

Rita Carsetti, MD

Günnur Deniz, Ph.D.

Jeffrey Frelinger, Ph.D.

Narinder Kumar Mehra, MD

Olivera J. Finn, Ph.D

IUIS-GEC celebrates the

**International Day of
Women and Girls in
Science on February 11.**



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*Immunology
without
Borders*

International Union of Immunological Societies



This year, this awareness day is particularly relevant, because the COVID-19 pandemic disproportionately harmed women's careers due to additional family responsibilities incurred by shutdowns that disrupted the productivity and work of female scientists much more than those of men.

*(Read Nature, March 2021;
Andersen et al. eLife 9, 2020).*

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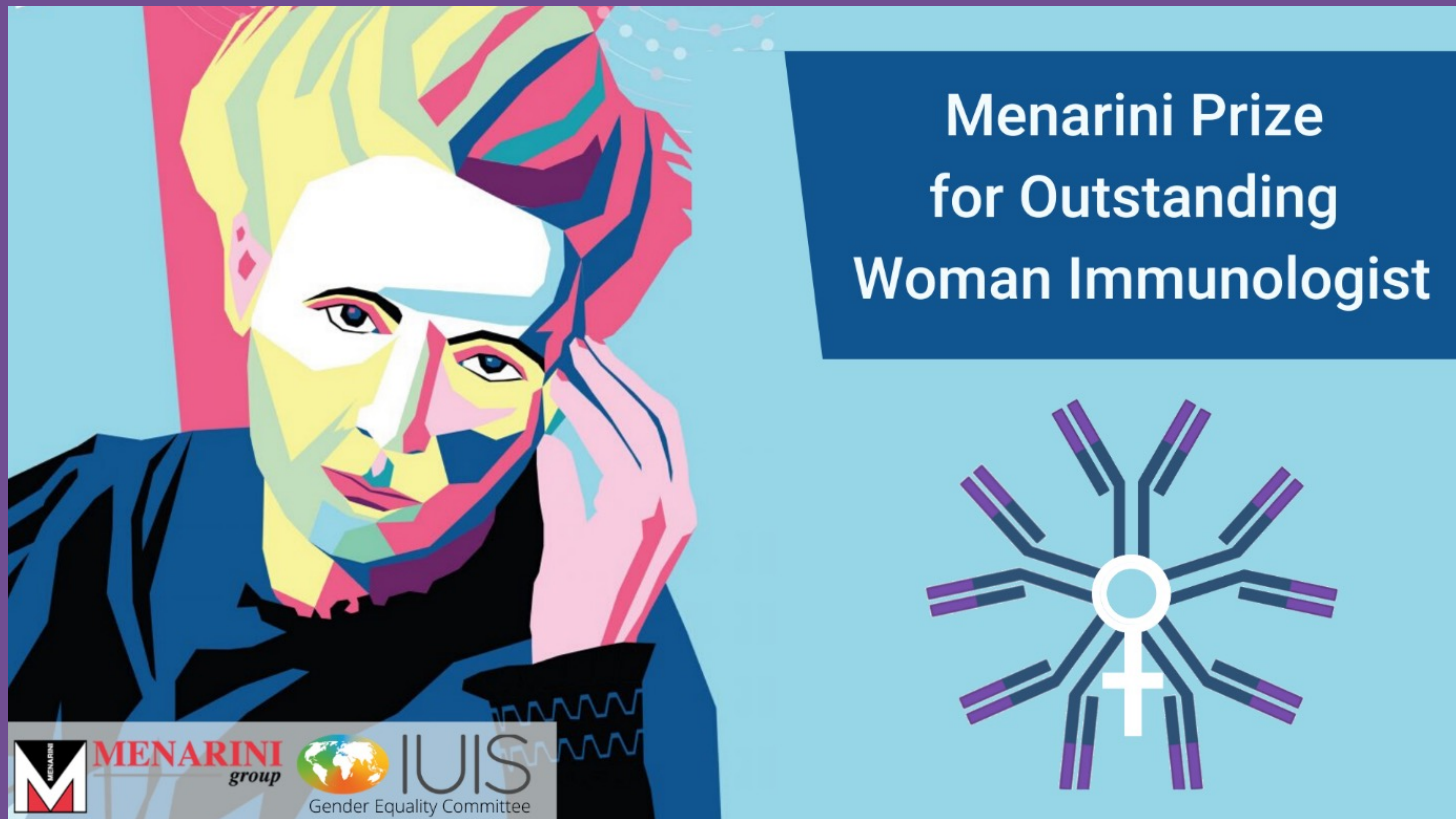
What is IUIS-GEC doing to close the gender gap?



- **Support female scientists** in early career stages by **sponsoring participation** at schools, courses and meetings.
- **Encourage** regional societies to establish searchable ***Women in Immunology Databases*** of talented and expert women working in immunology, promoted on society homepages (EFIS, FIMSA, AAI, ASI databases established, ALACI and FAIS in progress) and the IUIS main menu.
- **Monitor** gender balance of **women speakers and chairs** at IUIS-affiliated congresses and meetings (*Women in Immunology Databases are a terrific resource for women specialists!*).
- **Initiate childcare supports** at immunological congresses and **highlight successes of women immunologists** by **organizing gender equity symposia**.
- **Enhance pressure on governments, universities and companies** to establish strategies to attract and retain talented women in immunology by providing flexible childcare options, encouraging gender equity for grants/fellowships/recruitment panels, increasing the time allotted for earning tenure.
- **Roll out** these activities by encouraging national societies to **establish national GECs**.

In 2020, the IUIS-GEC in collaboration with the Menarini Group launched the IUIS-MENARINI-AWARD.

This is the first and only IUIS prize that specifically recognizes women immunologists and their outstanding research accomplishments.



The inaugural US\$ 40,000 prize will be awarded at the 18th International Congress of Immunology, Cape Town, South Africa, 2023 (ICI2023).