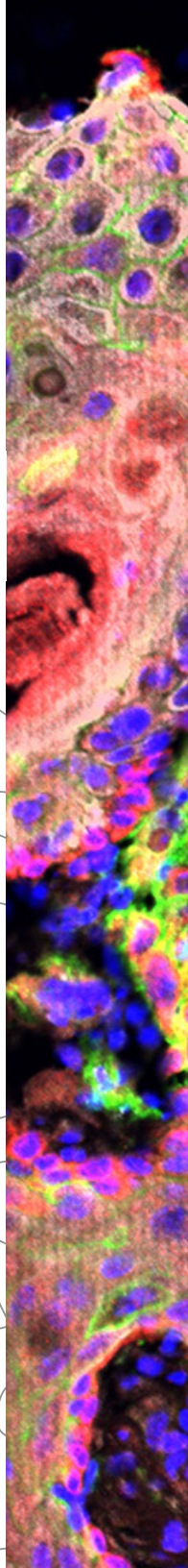


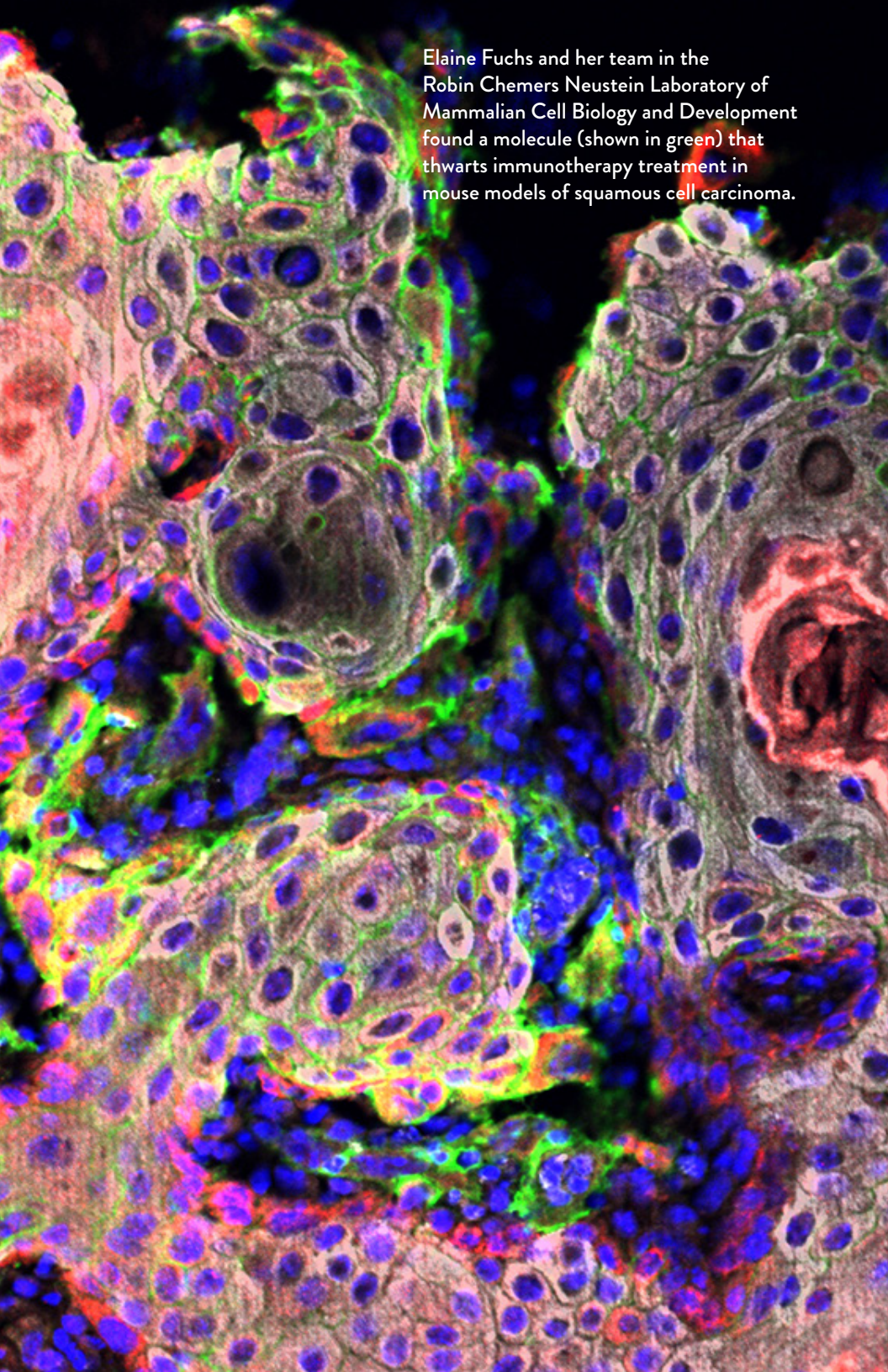


THE ROCKEFELLER UNIVERSITY

WOMEN  
& SCIENCE

2023-2024





Elaine Fuchs and her team in the Robin Chemers Neustein Laboratory of Mammalian Cell Biology and Development found a molecule (shown in green) that thwarts immunotherapy treatment in mouse models of squamous cell carcinoma.

## The Rockefeller University

The Rockefeller University is the world's leading institute of biomedical research and graduate education. Founded in 1901 by John D. Rockefeller with the mission of science for the benefit of humanity, it was the first institution in the United States devoted exclusively to biomedical research. The university is home to approximately 70 independent laboratories, each led by a distinguished scientist, and a research hospital dedicated to developing new medical therapies.

The university's bold, innovative approach to science has led to revolutionary and transformative contributions to biology and medicine, including:

- Discovery that DNA is the chemical of heredity
- Development of methadone maintenance to treat opioid addiction
- Discovery of human blood groups, improving the safety of blood transfusions
- Determination of the molecular structure of the protein involved in cystic fibrosis, opening the way for improved therapeutics
- Discovery of how the ends of chromosomes are protected from degradation and the consequences when protection is lost
- Development of combination drug therapy for treatment of AIDS, as well as potent anti-HIV antibodies for HIV treatment and prevention of infection in high-risk individuals
- Elucidation of the role of stem cells in homeostasis, wound repair, inflammation, and cancer
- Development of the biochemical assays that paved the way for drugs that cure hepatitis C
- Identification of molecular mechanisms controlling circadian rhythm

During Rockefeller's more than 120 year history, 26 university scientists have won Nobel Prizes, 25 Lasker Awards, 5 Breakthrough Prizes, 19 Gairdner Awards, and 20 have garnered the National Medal of Science, the highest honor in science and medicine awarded by the United States government.



## About Women & Science



Photo Credit: Matthew Septimus

Assistant Professor Viviana Risca, Ph.D., with Graduate Fellow Hera Canaj

Founded in 1997, the Women & Science initiative supports women investigators and their scientific pursuits in myriad ways. This includes funding for research and education, highlighting their many significant contributions, underscoring the importance of basic science in addressing women's health challenges, and encouraging more women to make scientific research a philanthropic priority.

Through the Partners in Discovery Fund, donors to Women & Science have generously raised more than \$50 million in support of graduate and postdoctoral fellowships, recruitment of women faculty, special research initiatives related to women's health, and, through the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund, women-led translational research projects.

Today, approximately 40 percent of Rockefeller's scientists—including graduate students, postdoctoral investigators, research and clinical scientists, assistant and associate professors, and tenured senior professors—are women.

## Core Priorities of the Initiative

### MENTOR THE NEXT GENERATION

The cornerstone of the Women & Science initiative is our fellowship program, which recognizes outstanding women graduate students and postdoctoral scientists. To date, more than 250 of these coveted fellowships have been awarded, and many recipients have gone on to careers in academia, technology, government, education, and medicine.

### PROMOTE WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP

Women & Science has helped to increase representation of women at the university in both the lab and on the board. In the last ten years, the university has hired seven women heads of lab with the support of the Women & Science Fund to Recruit Women Faculty. The number of women trustees has tripled since the initiative was founded, and women now constitute 40 percent of the Board.

### HARNESS THE POWER OF TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund (Kellen WEF) is an innovative program established to encourage more university women scientists to pursue the clinical and entrepreneurial potential of their scientific discoveries.

### RECOGNIZE OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

Women & Science is committed to elevating the visibility of women in academic science and biomedical research. To that end, the initiative features women researchers in presentations on topics related to women's health. Additionally, the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize recognizes the accomplishments of women in biomedical science, and installations on campus showcase women scientists at Rockefeller, past and present.

## Current Women & Science Fellows



Alicia Guemez Gambo and 2016 Women & Science Fellow Krithika Venkataraman

### POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

#### Lina Carlini, Ph.D.

Selma and Lawrence Ruben Laboratory  
of Chemistry and Cell Biology  
Headed by Tarun Kapoor, Ph.D.

#### Shanshan Liu, Ph.D.

Laboratory of Metabolic Regulation  
and Genetics  
Headed by Kivanç Birsoy, Ph.D.

#### Isabel Wassing, Ph.D.

Laboratory of Chromosome and  
Cell Biology  
Headed by Hironori Funabiki, Ph.D.

### GRADUATE FELLOWS

#### Kamryn Graham

Davidson College

#### Jina Lee

University of California, San Diego

#### Sara Omer

Amherst College

#### Lorena Streit

University College London

## Spotlight on Former Women & Science Fellows

### JOSEFINA DEL MÁRMOL, PH.D. • 2010 FELLOW • RUTA LAB

Dr. del Mármol was named a HHMI Freeman Hrabowski Scholar and a 2023 Pew Scholar in Biomedical Research. She was a 2022 Blavatnik Regional Award Winner in the life sciences category. She is now an assistant professor and head of lab at Harvard Medical School.

*“There is a string of amazing female figures at Rockefeller. Seeing how these women have the ability to be trailblazers in their careers and also have a very rich personal life was very impactful.”*

### DIANY PAOLA CALDERON, M.D., PH.D. • 2013 FELLOW • PFAFF LAB

Dr. Calderon received the 2021 Nancy M. and Samuel C. Fleming Research Scholar Award. She is now an assistant professor of Neuroscience in the Brain and Mind Research Institute at Weill Cornell Medical College.

*“Earning a W&S Fellowship gave me the confidence to pursue my ideas and encouraged me to keep applying for funding.”*

### YUKO ULRICH, PH.D. • 2014 FELLOW • KRONAUER LAB

Dr. Ulrich is a principal investigator at the Max Planck Institute for Chemical Ecology. In 2022, she was named the first recipient of the Zukunftskolleg Research Award from the University of Konstanz.

*“Beyond the fact that my W&S Fellowship allowed me to pursue ambitious research goals, it made me aware that we were actively, concretely supported by a larger community.”*

## Striving for Gender Parity: The Fund to Recruit Women Faculty



Photo Credit: Scott Rudd Photography

Heads of Labs Amy Shyer, Vanessa Ruta, Cori Bargmann, Agata Smogorzewska, Elaine Fuchs, Viviana Risca, Li Zhao, Priya Rajasethupathy, and Lamia Wahba

Rockefeller's faculty are innovative scientific leaders with visionary research programs that have the potential to transform their fields. These investigators, in turn, attract the best and brightest students and postdoctoral scholars, who come from around the world to train in Rockefeller labs. In the last ten years, Rockefeller has hired seven women heads of laboratory with support from the Women & Science Fund to recruit Women faculty—a demonstration of the university's commitment to fostering a diverse scientific community.

*"From the day you open your lab, you're encouraged to be very bold and risky in your thinking—to really try to address the most fundamental questions you can conceive of. And with all the resources available, it allows you to think about the most impactful and incisive ways to address these questions. That's something I felt as a graduate student here and something that drew me to come back to Rockefeller."*

**Vanessa Ruta, Ph.D. '05**  
*Gabrielle H. Reem and Herbert J. Kayden Professor*  
Laboratory of Neurophysiology and Behavior  
*Investigator*, Howard Hughes Medical Institute

## Women Heads of Laboratory

**Cori Bargmann, Ph.D.**  
*Vice President for Academic Affairs*  
*Torsten N. Wiesel Professor*  
Lulu and Anthony Wang Laboratory  
of Neural Circuits and Behavior

**Jue Chen, Ph.D.**  
*William E. Ford Professor*  
Laboratory of Membrane Biology  
and Biophysics  
*Investigator*  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

**Titia de Lange, Ph.D.**  
*Leon Hess Professor*  
Laboratory of Cell Biology and Genetics

**Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D.**  
*Rebecca C. Lancefield Professor*  
Robin Chemers Neustein Laboratory of  
Mammalian Cell Biology and Development  
*Investigator*  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

**Mary E. Hatten, Ph.D.**  
*Frederick P. Rose Professor*  
Laboratory of Developmental Neurobiology

**Priya Rajasethupathy, M.D., Ph.D.**  
*Jonathan M. Nelson Family*  
*Associate Professor*  
Laboratory of Neural Dynamics  
and Cognition

**Viviana I. Risca, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Laboratory of Genome Architecture  
and Dynamics

**Vanessa Ruta, Ph.D.**  
*Gabrielle H. Reem and Herbert J. Kayden*  
*Professor*  
Laboratory of Neurophysiology and Behavior  
*Investigator*  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

**Amy E. Shyer, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Laboratory of Morphogenesis

**Agata Smogorzewska, M.D., Ph.D.**  
*Professor*  
Laboratory of Genome Maintenance

**Ekaterina V. Vinogradova, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Laboratory of Chemical Immunology  
and Proteomics

**Leslie B. Vosshall, Ph.D.**  
*Robin Chemers Neustein Professor*  
Laboratory of Neurogenetics and Behavior  
*Vice President and Chief Scientific Officer*  
Howard Hughes Medical Institute

**Lamia Wahba, Ph.D.**  
*Assistant Professor*  
Laboratory of Non-Canonical Modes  
of Inheritance

**Li Zhao, Ph.D.**  
*Associate Professor*  
Laboratory of Evolutionary Genetics  
and Genomics

## Women Research Affiliates

### **Elizabeth Campbell, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*  
Laboratory of Molecular Biophysics

### **Marina Caskey, M.D.**

*Professor of Clinical Investigation*  
Laboratory of Molecular Immunology

### **Theodora Hatzioannou, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*  
Laboratory of Retrovirology

### **Ines Ibañez-Tallon, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*  
Laboratory of Molecular Biology

### **Rhonda G. Kost, M.D.**

*Associate Professor of Clinical Investigation and Clinical Research Officer*  
Center for Clinical and Translational Science

### **Sarah F. Leibowitz, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*

### **Orna Levran, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*

### **Margaret R. MacDonald, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*  
Laboratory of Virology and Infectious Disease

### **Svetlana Mojsov, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*

### **Erin Norris, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor*  
Patricia and John Rosenwald Laboratory of Neurobiology and Genetics

### **Alison North, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor and Senior Director*  
Frits and Rita Markus Bio-Imaging Resource Center

### **Hilda Amalia Pasolli, Ph.D.**

*Research Associate Professor and Director*  
Electron Microscopy Resource Center

### **Sarah J. Schlesinger, M.D.**

*Associate Professor of Clinical Investigation and Senior Attending Physician*  
Laboratory of Chemical Biology and Signal Transduction  
*Chair*  
The Rockefeller University Institutional Review Board

### **Shen-Ying Zhang, M.D., Ph.D.**

*Associate Professor of Clinical Investigation*  
St. Giles Laboratory of Human Genetics of Infectious Diseases

## Recent Highlights from our Exceptional Women Scientists

### **MARY E. HATTEN, PH.D.**

In 2023, Mary E. Hatten, the Frederick P. Rose Professor, and head of the Laboratory of Developmental Neurobiology, was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, honoring her pioneering research investigating how the brain develops. Dr. Hatten joins a cohort of 21 current Rockefeller colleagues that have been inducted into this storied institution. Established in 1780, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences honors excellence and leadership across disciplines.

### **ELAINE FUCHS, PH.D.**

Cell biologist Elaine Fuchs was awarded the 2023 Benjamin Franklin Medal in Life Science, one of the oldest and most venerable honors in the United States. First presented by The Franklin Institute in 1824, the Benjamin Franklin Medals annually recognize individuals for outstanding achievements in science, engineering, and business leadership.

### **VIVIANA RISCA, PH.D. AND AMY SHYER, PH.D.**

Viviana Risca and Amy Shyer received the prestigious NIH Director's New Innovator Award. The New Innovator Awards support exceptionally creative early career investigators who propose innovative, high-impact projects. Viviana and Amy are among 13 Rockefeller scientists who have received this award.

### **EKATERINA VINOGRADOVA, PH.D.**

Ekaterina Vinogradova was one of six recipients of the 2022 Damon Runyon-Rachleff Innovation Award. Dr. Vinogradova's research on how the lung tumor microenvironment suppresses immune responses has the potential to guide new therapeutic strategies for cancer patients.



## The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund

**The Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Women's Entrepreneurship Fund** (Kellen WEF) was established to inspire more women to develop the translational and entrepreneurial potential of their research. In addition to a competitive grants program, the Kellen WEF supports a speaker series and educational workshops featuring industry leaders. The Kellen WEF is central to Rockefeller's robust translational research ecosystem and ensures that all university investigators have the funding, scientific resources, and entrepreneurial programming to take their discoveries from the lab to the clinic.

The Kellen WEF was established with gifts from Women & Science donors and endowed by a generous gift from the Anna-Maria and Stephen Kellen Foundation at the recommendation of Michael and Denise Kellen.

### EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS

<b>JULY 2023</b>	<b>Managing Science &amp; Scientists: A Workshop for Early-Career Researchers</b> Led by Harvard Business School and Berkeley Haas Faculty Underwritten by Elena and Roger Matthews
<b>MARCH 2023</b>	<b>A Guide for the Biotech Adventurer: Interactive Workshop on Drug Discovery</b> Led by the Traverse Biotech Team
<b>SEPTEMBER 2022</b>	<b>Candid Conversations: Illuminating the Tenure-track Pathway</b> Shruti Naik, Ph.D.; Ekaterina V. Vinogradova, Ph.D.
<b>DECEMBER 2021</b>	<b>Pathways in Bioscience: Four Perspectives Beyond the Bench</b> Karen Akinsanya, Ph.D.; Leigh Baxt, Ph.D.; Jeanne Farrell, Ph.D.; Jessica Hopfield, Ph.D., '91
<b>MARCH 2021</b>	<b>Demystifying the Therapeutic Development Ecosystem: A Roadmap of What You Need to Know</b> Brandy Houser, Ph.D.

## Kellen WEF Grant Program

The Kellen WEF grants program fosters translational projects from women scientists and supports collaborative ventures where a woman is one of the team leaders. This grants program complements the existing translational opportunities on campus, funding projects ranging from early-stage exploratory research to translational science entering clinical trials. Since its launch in the fall of 2020, more than 23 Kellen WEF grants have been awarded.

### RECENT GRANT RECIPIENTS

#### GUADALUPE ASTORGA • RESEARCH ASSOCIATE

**Perceptual processing in autism:** Basic research in the Gilbert lab has shown that vision is an active process involving facilitation of task relevant stimuli and suppression of irrelevant background elements at the level of individual neurons across the visual pathway. Individuals with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) may have difficulty suppressing irrelevant visual information. Dr. Astorga is developing a set of computer-based tasks to measure perceptual ability in children with autism.

#### ILANA KOTLIAR • GRADUATE FELLOW

**Multiplexed diagnostics platform to detect serum anti-GPCR autoantibodies in pre-eclampsia and autoimmune diseases:** This pilot award is enabling the research team to validate and benchmark their diagnostics platform using serum samples from human subjects with various chronic autoimmune disorders.

#### AGATA SMOGORZEWSKA • HEAD OF LAB

**Helicases as therapeutic targets in medulloblastoma and other cancers:** This project focuses on BRCA2, a protein that is essential for cellular DNA repair. Mutations in the gene that produces BRCA2 can lead to breast, ovarian, prostate, and pancreatic cancers, as well as pediatric brain tumors called medulloblastomas.

## Portrait of Discovery

FIVE ROCKEFELLER TRAILBLAZERS WHO MADE SCIENTIFIC HISTORY



Photo Credit: Robert Lowell

*Five Trailblazing Women Scientists at The Rockefeller University*  
Brenda Zlamany, 81 x 100 ¼ inches, oil on canvas, 2021

In 2019, Women & Science and the student-led organization, Women In Science at Rockefeller (WiSeR), collaborated on a monumental project: **The Women & Science Portrait Initiative**. Brooklyn-based painter Brenda Zlamany was commissioned to create a portrait of five pioneering women scientists from Rockefeller's early decades. This groundbreaking portrait—the university's first depicting women scientists—Florence R. Sabin, Louise Pearce, Rebecca C. Lancefield, Gertrude E. Perlmann, and Marie M. Daly (above, left to right), researchers who held significant tenures at Rockefeller or went on to have distinguished careers at other institutions. All were among the first women in their respective fields and are recognized for their pioneering contributions to science.

This portrait was unveiled in 2022 as part of the 25th anniversary celebration of Women & Science and now hangs above the fireplace in Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall.

## Pearl Meister Greengard Prize

RECOGNIZING OUTSTANDING WOMEN IN BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH

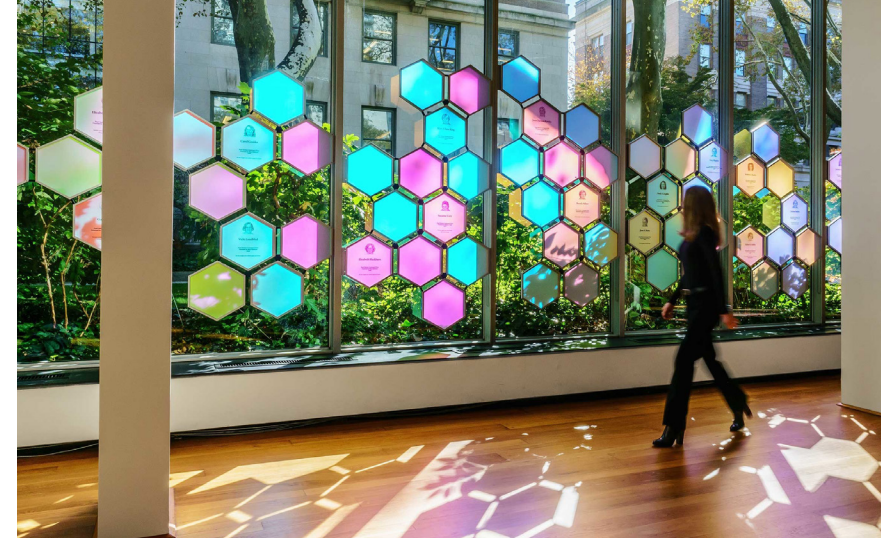


Photo Credit: C + G Partners

**The Pearl Meister Greengard Prize**, a major international award, recognizes the accomplishments of outstanding women in biomedical science. The Prize was established by Nobel laureate Paul Greengard (1925–2019), and his wife, sculptor Ursula von Rydingsvard. Dr. Greengard donated his entire monetary share of the 2000 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine to Rockefeller and, in partnership with generous supporters of the university, created this annual award.

An exhibit recognizing the Pearl Meister Greengard Prize recipients was installed in the Abby Aldrich Rockefeller Hall in 2021. Composed of translucent, color-shifting hexagons, each with an etched portrait and citation, the exhibit spotlights the outstanding women scientists who have received the prize.



## Recent Women & Science Programs

<b>MAY 2023</b>	<i>Spring Lecture and Luncheon</i> <b>Skin Stem Cells: Coping with Stress, Inflammation, and Cancer</b> Elaine Fuchs, Ph.D.
<b>APRIL 2023</b>	<b>Hardwired for Song and Dance: The Neurobiology of Language and Movement</b> Eric Jarvis, Ph.D., and Constantina Theofanopoulou, Ph.D.
<b>OCTOBER 2022</b>	<b>New Insights into Rheumatoid Arthritis: How Self-Testing Could Revolutionize the Fight Against Autoimmune Diseases</b> Dana Orange, M.D., M.Sc.
<b>MAY 2022</b>	<i>25th Anniversary Lecture and Luncheon</i> <b>Unlocking the Science of Memory</b> Priya Rajasethupathy, M.D., Ph.D.
<b>APRIL 2022</b>	<b>A Portrait of Discovery: Five Rockefeller Trailblazers Who Made Scientific History</b> An Unveiling Celebration
<b>NOVEMBER 2021</b>	<b>Why Are Diseases of Affluence and Age Rising?</b> Kate Jeffrey, Ph.D. (Former W&S Fellow)
<b>MAY 2021</b>	<b>Nature vs. Nurture: Exploring the Building Blocks of Social Behavior</b> Vanessa Ruta, Ph.D. '05
<b>MARCH 2021</b>	<b>From Beach to Bench and Beyond: Venom's Therapeutic Potential for Pain and Cancer</b> Mandë Holford, Ph.D. '03
<b>NOVEMBER 2020</b>	<b>The Brain on Stress: A Pandemic of Depression, Diabetes, and Dementia</b> Natalie L. Rasgon, M.D., Ph.D.

Videos of past programs are available here:  
[youtube.com/user/RockefellerUniv](https://youtube.com/user/RockefellerUniv)

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*As of November 2023*

TO LEARN MORE AND MAKE A DONATION:

[rockefeller.edu/women-and-science](https://rockefeller.edu/women-and-science)



**Laurel Birch**

*Senior Director, Women & Science*

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