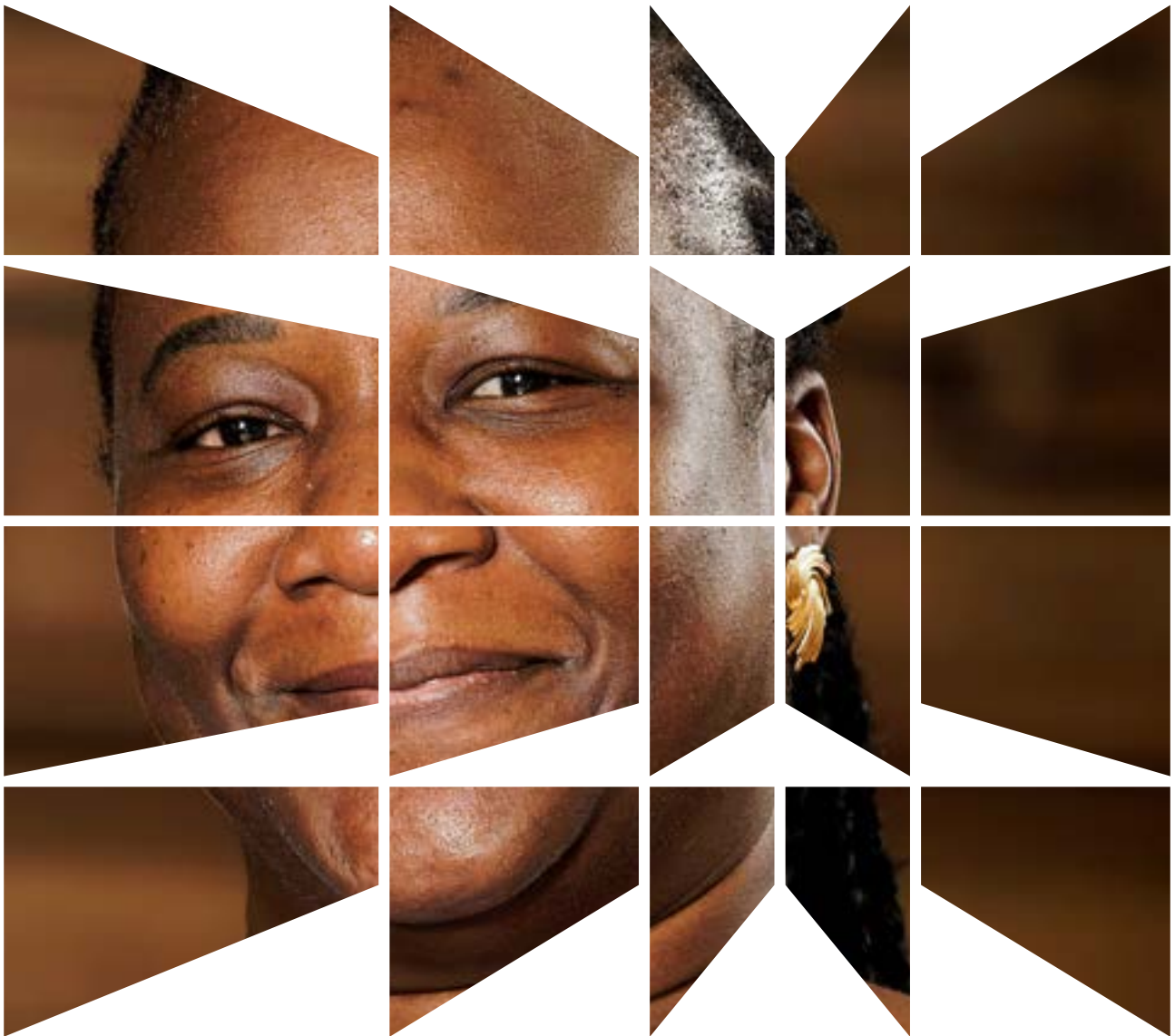


Annual Report 2024

The Elsevier Foundation

20 years of catalyzing impact, inspiring change



Advancing human progress together



Content

I. Foreword	4
--------------------	----------

II. The Elsevier Foundation

1. Our Board and team	6
2. Our purpose.	8
3. 20 years of impact.	12
4. Our work	14
5. Our programs	16

III. Our 2024 partnerships and programs

1. 2024 in numbers	18
2. Inclusive Research	22
3. Inclusive Health	78
4. Matching Gift program	100
5. Financial overview	102

Left Image: Participant of the 2024 training workshop organized for The World Academy of Sciences-Elsevier Foundation Climate Women partnership, hosted by the International Centre for Climate and Environmental Studies (ICCES), China

Cover Image: Dr Yeyinou Laura Estelle Loko, Université Nationale des Sciences, Technologies, Ingénierie et Mathématiques, Benin, 2023 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World winner

Foreword



As we navigate the complexities of our current environment, we remain steadfast in our support of our partners and our vision to serve as a catalyst for inclusive research and health.”



Youngsuk “YS” Chi
President, The Elsevier Foundation



Ylann Schemm
Executive Director, The Elsevier Foundation

As we embark on our 20th year, the grand challenges that our research and health communities are working to address, such as climate change, healthcare disparities, food and energy security, and responsible development of new technologies, underscore the importance of our mission at the Elsevier Foundation. We want to serve as a catalyst for inclusive research and health partnerships that accelerate early-stage interventions and spotlight impact makers, whether individuals or organizations. Ultimately, our ambition is to contribute to positive system change and the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

As part of this commitment, we are resolute in supporting a range of voices and perspectives. For instance, more than 90% of our partnerships now have a gender dimension embedded. This is more important than ever, especially as disparities in access to resources and healthcare continue to disproportionately affect communities in the long wake of Covid-19. By partnering with the Gender Summits, the Falling Walls Female Science Talent program and the OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World, we support dialogue, training and recognition which lead to career advancement and more impactful research and healthcare.

At the same time, we are witnessing the emergence of AI as a transformative force with the potential to either bridge or widen the opportunity gap for many groups. Elsevier’s AI capabilities are enabling researchers and clinicians to find the critical, trusted insights they need and make the right connections to accelerate research, innovation and healthcare. In 2025, the Elsevier Foundation is actively seeking ways to leverage these AI advancements for our partners as they create real-world solutions for research and health challenges.

The urgency of addressing climate change has also never been greater. As we confront environmental challenges that threaten our ecosystems, the role of research becomes increasingly vital for informing policy and health interventions. Over 60% of our partnerships now have a climate dimension including the Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge, which identifies sustainable chemistry solutions for low-income countries. On the health side, our new

Climate Care Champions with Swasti equips front line health workers in India with knowledge and skills to manage the health impacts of extreme weather events for vulnerable populations.

We believe that global collaboration amongst the research and healthcare communities is vital for progress. This is particularly critical at a time when the communities we serve are impacted by geopolitical tensions and economic challenges. This is why we support initiatives that bring together researchers, healthcare professionals, like-minded organizations and policymakers across borders. In 2024, we worked closely with the World Academy of Sciences and the Chinese Academy of Sciences’ Institute for Climate and Environment to develop the Climate Women training program. Our collaboration ensured that 15 women scientists from across the Global South were provided with the resources, training, visibility and networking opportunities to advance their research and contribute to climate action diplomacy across borders.

As we navigate the complexities of our current environment, the Elsevier Foundation remains steadfast in our support of our partners and our vision to serve as a catalyst for inclusive research and health. The journey ahead is challenging, but it is also filled with opportunities. We invite you to join us in this endeavor as we catalyze initiatives and support impact makers that shape human progress to go further, happen faster and benefit all.

Youngsuk “YS” Chi
President, The Elsevier Foundation

Ylann Schemm
Executive Director, The Elsevier Foundation

The Elsevier Foundation Board

The Elsevier Foundation is governed by a Board of 5 external and 6 Ex-Officio members. External Board members serve 3-year renewable terms, and are experts in sustainability, development, innovation, diversity, education, research and health. Ex-Officio members are leaders within Elsevier and RELX, Elsevier’s parent company, who are deeply supportive of the Foundation’s mission.

The Elsevier Foundation Board meets bi-annually to provide strategic guidance on program priorities, new partnerships, emerging issues and best practices as well as sound ethical, financial and legal governance.



Edwidge Thomas
VP, Clinical Solutions,
Northwell Health Holdings



Dr. Michael Makanga
European & Developing
Countries Clinical Trials
Partnership (EDCTP)



Alexandra Brewis
Regents and President’s
Professor, Arizona State
University



Joyeeta Gupta
Professor of Environment
and Development in the
Global South, University
of Amsterdam



Dr. Motoko Kotani
Executive Vice President
for International Research
Strategy, Tohoku University



Kumsal Bayazit
CEO, Elsevier



Youngsuk “YS” Chi
President, The Elsevier
Foundation, Head of
Corporate Affairs, RELX



Esra Erkal
Executive Vice President
of Global Communication,
Elsevier



Márcia Balisciano
Global Head of ESG and
Corporate Responsibility,
RELX



Kevonne Holloway
Managing Director of Global
Content Partners, Elsevier



Jan Herzhoff
President, Health Markets,
Elsevier

The Elsevier Foundation Team

On a day-to-day basis, the Elsevier Foundation is supported by a small core team, as well as a specially appointed Treasurer and Legal Counsel. The Foundation team also regularly draws on the expertise of Elsevier advisors in data science, health informatics, nursing education and inclusion and diversity.

In addition to annual programmatic funding, Elsevier covers the administrative costs of running the Foundation and offers in-kind support through office space, communications, content, data, analytics, expert networks and volunteer support as needed.



Ylann Schemm
Executive Director,
The Elsevier Foundation,
Elsevier



Domiziana Francescon
Partnerships Director,
The Elsevier Foundation,
Elsevier



Maha Rhannam
Partnerships Manager,
The Elsevier Foundation,
Elsevier



Rebecca Clear
Communications Director,
Corporate Responsibility,
Elsevier



Jon Holt
Legal Council, RELX



Michal Jablonka
Treasurer, Elsevier



Mevan Samarasinghe
VP and Chief Technical
Data Scientist, Elsevier
Foundation Advisor,
Elsevier

Our purpose



Our support of the Elsevier Foundation is an integral part of our commitment to help advance science and healthcare to advance human progress. We are humbled to celebrate two decades of impact and to contribute our resources, trusted content, data and analytics, as well as the passion of our colleagues globally, to boost the impact of our inclusive research and health partnerships.”

Kumsal Bayazit, CEO, Elsevier

The Elsevier Foundation has a strategic focus on advancing inclusion in research and health by increasing the participation of underresourced communities. We aim to serve as a catalyst for early stage interventions that are founded in an innovative proof of concept.

Ultimately, our goal is to support partners to bring on new funders, scale up and support systemic change. We believe that our pragmatic and agile approach can have a powerful multiplier effect by adopting and accelerating proven ideas.

We also recognize that the issue of inequity in research and healthcare is a major obstacle to achieving the UN SDGs and that this can only be solved through collaboration. To drive structural change, we need diverse stakeholders to work in partnership, take evidence-based action and measure progress.

We use a 3-pronged approach to achieve this. First, we support impact makers, both individuals and organizations, through early stage interventions. Second, we enable scale-up through partner, alumni and funder communities. Third, we leverage our broad networks across the research and healthcare communities, as well as Elsevier’s cutting-edge capabilities and the support of colleagues around the world who lend their time and expertise to amplify our impact.

Everything we do is rooted in a strong evidence base, rigorous impact evaluation, dedicated reviewers and a deeply engaged Board. The measurable effects of our work include established indicators for successful project implementation, awards and grants to influence career success and networks, as well as new pathways for sustainable funding and knowledge exchange. As we unlock the power of networks and as change agents become role models, the wider benefits of our work include influencing policy and funding decisions with long-term impact on equity for all in the research and healthcare ecosystems.



Kumsal Bayazit, CEO, Elsevier.

Our purpose

We are a catalyst for inclusive research and health partnerships, convening and spotlighting impact makers to accelerate early stage interventions that advance inclusion in research and health.

Our values



Inclusive

We are passionate about inclusion, supporting underresourced groups through partnerships.



Collaborative

We work in partnership with research and health communities to foster knowledge exchange.



Impactful

We are evidence-based and systematically measure our progress.



Innovative

We stimulate early-stage, transformative projects to support scale up.



Sustainable

We support our partners to develop lasting solutions with a community of funders.

“

The Elsevier Foundation’s partnership approach creates a powerful multiplier effect and drives positive outcomes through pragmatic action. Collaboration is key to addressing the complex and often interconnected challenges that affect our communities and our planet.”

Esra Erkal, EVP Global Communications, Elsevier

Falling Walls Female Science Talents participants at the International Fall Gathering in Berlin



20 years of impact



For 20 years, the Elsevier Foundation has been a catalyst for inclusive research and health partnerships, supporting impact makers to accelerate early-stage interventions that underpin long-term change. Our mission remains more relevant than ever as our communities work to address grand challenges facing our world such as the impact of climate change and health disparities.”

Youngsuk “YS” Chi, President, The Elsevier Foundation

\$18,181,000

Total funding allocated



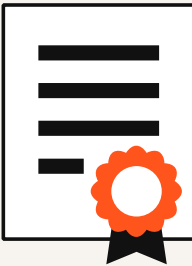
\$3 million+

employee donations
matched since 2006



197

grants and partnerships



122

award winners



53 countries

reached via partnerships
and grants



63%

of programs funded
since 2016 support

Inclusive Research



37%

of programs funded
since 2016 support

Inclusive Health



Starting from 2016

22%

of programs funded support
SDG 3, Good Health and Wellbeing

28%

of programs funded support
SDG 4, Quality Education

31%

of programs funded support
SDG 5, Gender Equality

50%

of programs funded support
SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities

13%

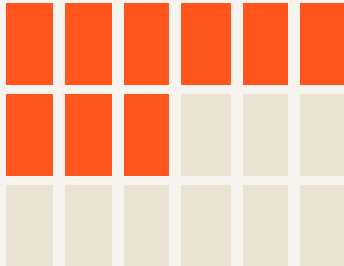
of programs funded support
SDG 13, Climate Action

13%

of programs funded support
SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals

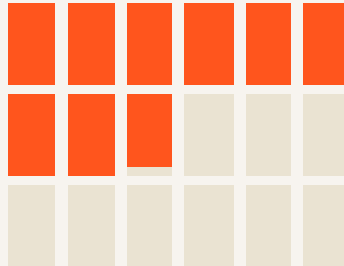
50%

of programs funded
since 2021 include
Climate dimensions



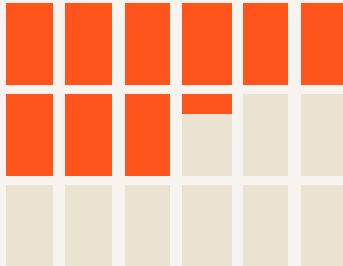
48%

of programs funded
since 2016 include
Socio-economic dimensions



57%

of programs funded
since 2016 include
Gender dimensions



Our work

Since its establishment in 2005, the Elsevier Foundation has contributed over \$18 million in grants to support over 100 partners in more than 70 countries around the world. The Elsevier Foundation works to champion inclusive research and health through partnerships with non-profit organizations that incubate new approaches to catalyze change and contribute toward the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Funded by Elsevier, a global leader for advanced information and decision support in science and healthcare, the Elsevier Foundation is a key part of the company’s commitment to advance inclusive research and healthcare, in partnership with the communities that it serves. In addition to funding, Elsevier supports the work of the Foundation through its networks, data, analytical insights and employee contributions to greatly expand our impact.

In our first decade from 2006-2015, the Elsevier Foundation awarded over 100 grants worth millions of dollars to non-profit organizations across 3 main program areas: the Innovative Libraries in Developing Countries Program focused on library training, education, infrastructure and digitization; the New Scholars program supported the advancement of early career women researchers, and the Nurse Faculty Leadership Program provided training and recognition. Since 2016, the Elsevier Foundation has aligned its partnership driven approach to support challenges outlined by the UN SDGs. In addition, over the past two decades, we have provided a special fund to support disaster relief, match employee donations, stimulate volunteering to enable Elsevier employees to work more closely with Foundation partners.

“

We offer our partners very targeted proof-of-concept funding—giving them the opportunity to show the world that their idea works. We also roll up our sleeves with joint outreach, content and analytics so that they can ultimately make a bigger impact and contribute to real system change.”

Ylann Schemm, Executive Director, The Elsevier Foundation



Our programs

Our programs address key challenges in research, health and underrepresentation identified by the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The partnerships we support are strongly intersectional and highlight

our commitment to supporting communities around the world for better health outcomes and a more sustainable research ecosystem.



Inclusive Research

The future of science requires a robust workforce drawn from all corners of society. Our partnerships support greater participation in the science and innovation endeavor amongst underresourced communities.



Inclusive Health

Our partnerships support organizations working to improve health outcomes in communities around the world, advancing the delivery of health equity for underresourced populations.



Matching Gift

To encourage community involvement and maximize the impact of charitable giving, the Elsevier Foundation contributes to global disaster relief efforts and provides matching funds to eligible charities supported by Elsevier employees.

“

For the past two decades, the Elsevier Foundation has seeded many transformative and highly impactful budding health equity projects in low-income countries—catalyzing grass-root changemakers through cocreation, trust building, networking and knowledge dissemination. The vistas are bright—we can only imagine what the next ten years will bring.”

Michael Makanga, Executive Director, European & Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership (EDCTP)

Participants from the 2024 Asian Scientist-Elsevier Foundation Salon for Leadership in STEM



2024 in numbers

“

What makes the Foundation’s work so special is the focus on supporting what are – at first glance – seemingly small, quiet grass-root efforts. But what is extraordinary is recognizing these as brilliant points of intervention with the potential for profound regional and global transformation.”

Alexandra Brewis, Regents and President’s Professor, Arizona State University

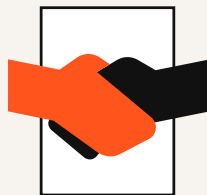
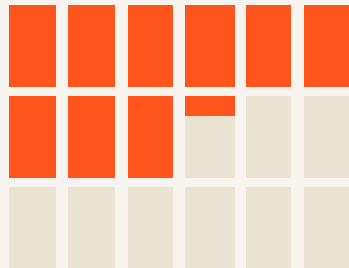
\$1,058,534

Total funding allocated for partnerships



58%

of funding supports programs in **low- and middle-income countries**

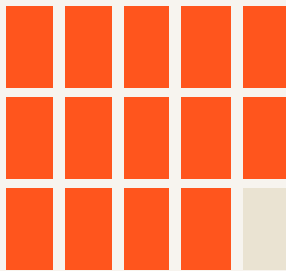


26

partnerships

90%

of programs funded include **Gender dimensions**



30%

of programs funded support **Inclusive Health**



70%

of programs funded support **Inclusive Research**



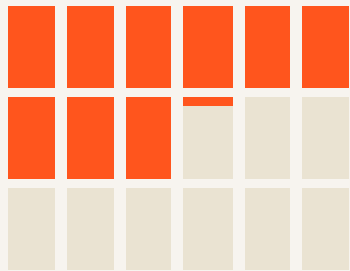
14

Award winners



54%

of programs funded include **Socio-economic dimensions**



63%

of programs funded include **Climate dimensions**



26%

of programs funded support **SDG 3, Good Health and Wellbeing**

82%

of programs funded support **SDG 10, Reduced Inequalities**

26%

of programs funded support **SDG 4, Quality Education**

18%

of programs funded support **SDG 13, Climate Action**

58%

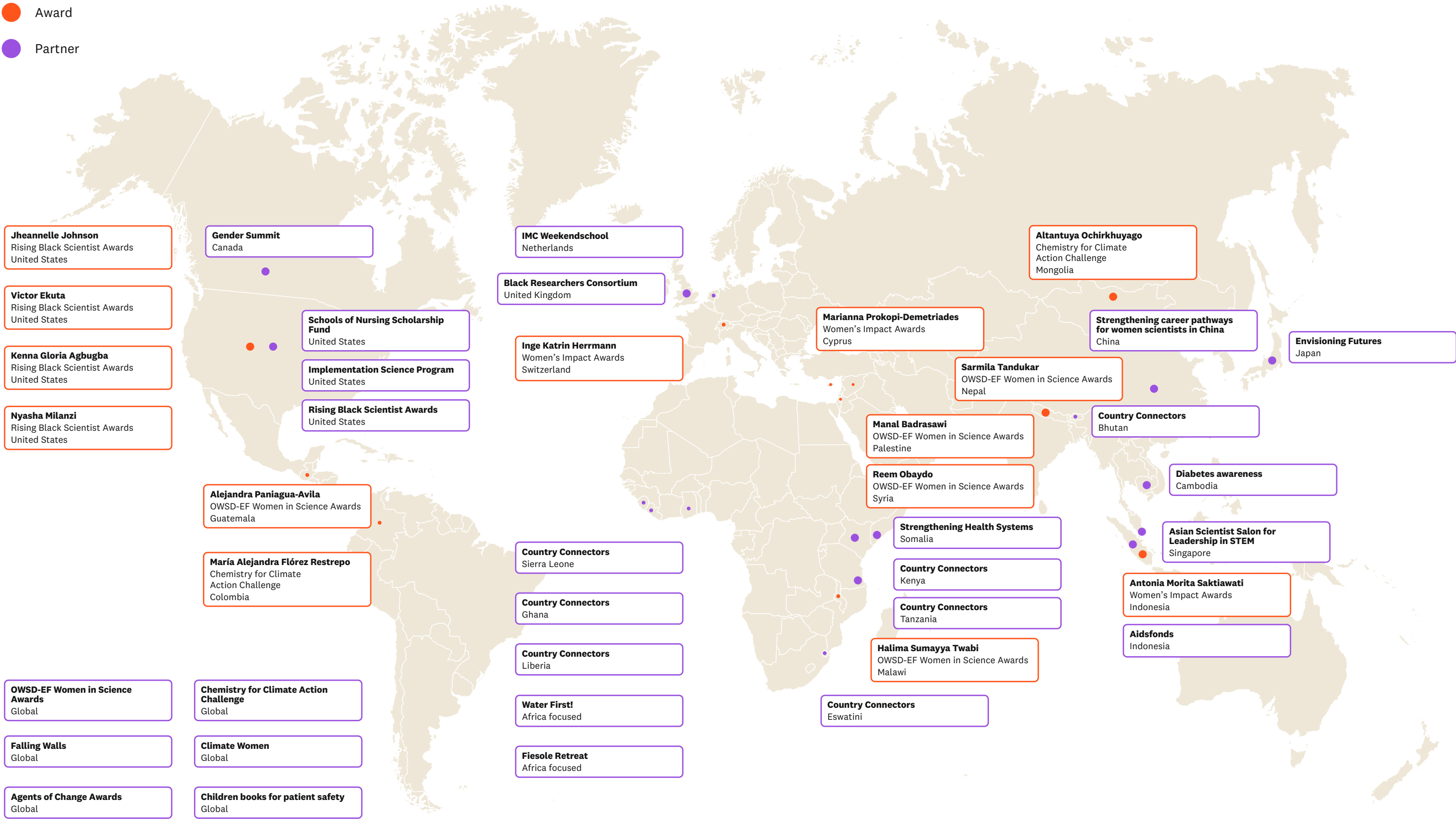
of programs funded support **SDG 5, Gender Equality**

37%

of programs funded support **SDG 17, Partnerships for the Goals**

Map of 2024 programs

- Award
- Partner



Our 2024 partnerships



OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World

Celebrates women researchers across low-income countries for their talent and contributions to sustainability research.



The Elsevier Foundation Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge

Awards innovative green and sustainable chemistry solutions which address climate change research with a gender lens.



Materials Today Agents of Change Awards

Honors initiatives that focus on intersectionality and encourages systemic change in the Material Sciences community.



Cell Press Rising Black Scientists Awards

Recognizes Black researchers' talent and achievements and helps them to grow their networks and opportunities.

Falling Walls Female Science Talents

Inspires and empowers women to take their next career step, and promote female leadership in STEM.



Asian Scientist Salon for Leadership in STEM

Empowers women to take on leadership positions in STEM, tackling underrepresentation of Asian researchers.

RIKEN Envisioning Futures

Maps the journey of senior women scientists in Japan, shedding light on challenges and best practices.





China Women's Association for Science and Technology Supporting Women Scientists in China

Offers networking opportunities, international resources and training sessions in localized workshops for women in science.

Research4Life Country Connectors

Delivers local interventions to improve usage of Research4Life resources and increase research output from low-income countries.



Vitae Black Researchers Consortium

Creates a self-sustaining community of Black researchers in STEM, tackling the under-representation of UK early-career researchers.



Portia Gender Summit

Promotes global dialogue on gender equality in research, bringing together diverse stakeholders for impactful change.



COACH Water First!

Provides expert workshops to build capacity, collaboration and networks to African women scientists working in water research.

ITOCA Future of Libraries at Fiesole Retreat Workshop

Offers travel grants and workshops, allowing early-career librarians from Africa to access valuable professional development opportunities.



The World Academy of Sciences Climate Women




Supports concrete projects led by women scientists from low-income countries to address climate change issues in their communities.



IMC Weekend School Amsterdam STEM Program

Inspires pre-teens from underserved communities to explore STEM careers and pursue their goals.

OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Awards for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World

 Location	 Target group	 Budget
Low- and middle-income countries	Women scientists who have received their PhDs within the previous 10 years	\$60,000 a year (2011, 2013-2018) \$80,000 a year (2019-2021) \$100,000 a year (2022-2024)



Primary outcome

The more diverse the pool of scientists, the more robust and impactful the science. Women scientists from the Global South often make life-changing contributions to advancing the UN SDGs , identifying problems and finding solutions that others have not considered.

Overview

Women scientists from low-income countries often face isolation and a lack of role models. For more than a decade, the Organization for Women in Science (OWSD) and the Elsevier Foundation have addressed these challenges through an awards program for early-career women scientists from low-income countries. Since 2011, 79 researchers from more than 37 countries have been honored.

Winners receive a cash prize and are sponsored to attend major scientific conferences, where they participate in workshops, meet experts, visit labs and network at the Elsevier Foundation awards dinner.



2024 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World winners

In 2021, the awards were re-aligned with the UN SDGs, shifting focus from specific scientific disciplines to broader research areas, welcoming a range of interdisciplinary approaches. The prize also acknowledges the scientists’ commitment to leadership, mentoring and engagement. To date, the 2022 awards focused on climate action, the 2023 awards on Food Security, 2024 on Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene, and 2025 on Inclusive Health.

Goals

- Recognize outstanding women scientists in the Global South, enhancing their visibility and career advancement.
- Inspire and support future generations of women scientists facing indifference and a lack of support in their research environments.

Activities and milestones

- 2023 Awards: Winners attended Elsevier’s [2024 Global Food Security Conference](#) in Leuven, Belgium, actively participating as speakers, moderators and presenters. They were also featured in an episode of the TABLE Debates podcast, reflecting on their experiences.
- 2024 Awards: Winners participated in the [International Water Week](#) conference in Singapore, as well as the Elsevier Foundation-COACH Water First! Workshop, focusing on success strategies for women in research and policy. Additionally, OWSD winners from Asia were invited to join the [Asian Scientist-Elsevier Foundation Summit for Leadership in STEM](#) as speakers in a dedicated panel.
- Selection Committee: Comprises past winners, SDG experts, early career alumnae, and OWSD Executive Board members, mainly from the Global South.

Sustainability and future plans

2025 winners in SDG 3 inclusive health will participate in a special panel at the [World Health Summit 2025](#).

Spotlight on the 2025 winners
— Global Health

Africa:

- **Halima Sumayya Twabi, Malawi**
Mathematical Sciences.
Research areas: causal inference for maternal and child health and behavioral studies.

Asia Pacific:

- **Sarmila Tandukar, Nepal**
Engineering Sciences.
Research areas: environmental health, waterborne diseases, medical microbiology.

Latin America & the Caribbean:

- **Maria Alejandra Paniagua Avila, Guatemala**
Medical and Health Sciences
Research areas: global mental health, psychiatric epidemiology, implementation science.

Arab region:

- **Reem Obaydo, Syria**
Chemical Sciences
Research areas: public health impact of hazardous chemicals and green chemistry.
- **Manal Badrasawi, Palestine**
Medical and Health Sciences
Research areas: clinical nutrition.



2025 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Award for Early-Career Women Scientists in the Developing World winners
Bottom left: Sarmila Tandukar, Bottom right: Maria Alejandra Paniagua Avila



Top: Halima Sumayya Twab, Bottom left: Reem Obaydo, Bottom right: Manal Badrasaw



The Elsevier Foundation Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge



Location

Low- and middle-income countries



Target group

Green & sustainable chemistry researchers.



Budget

\$55,000 a year (2018-2020)
\$33,000 a year (2021-2027)



Primary outcome

The Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge recognizes projects that use green and sustainable chemistry solutions to tackle some of the Global South's greatest challenges identified by the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

Overview

Climate change is the most important challenge affecting the future of our planet as underscored by the latest Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) reports. The need for sustainable ideas to tackle global issues is now more pressing

than ever, and chemistry can play a key role in finding practical solutions to urgent challenges, advancing the achievement of the UN SDG agenda.

A longstanding collaboration with Elsevier Chemistry journals, the Challenge raises awareness and builds global networks of researchers making crucial progress towards the SDGs. In addition to SDG13 Climate Action, the Challenge also supports SDG5 Gender Equality, recognizing the pivotal role that women play in combating climate change. The winning projects each receive a prize of €25,000.



Elsevier and Elsevier Foundation team with the 2024 Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge winners, and Chair of the Jury Dr. Klaus Kümmerer

Goals

- Highlight innovative green chemistry projects that address issues in low-and middle-income countries, with a strong emphasis on climate resilience.
- Encourages sustainability science, international collaboration, and scientific exchange.
- Support the integration of sex and gender dimensions in chemistry research.

Activities and milestones

- In 2024, a total of 91 applications were received from 41 countries.
- The top 5 finalists, from Colombia, Kenya, Mongolia, Palestine and Uganda pitched their projects at the 8th Elsevier Green & Sustainable Chemistry Conference in Dresden, Germany (13-15 May 2024) and 2 winners were selected.
- The Elsevier Foundation hosted a special panel at the with the 2024 finalists and a 2023 winner of the Challenge to discuss innovative sustainable chemistry solutions and their impact on communities in the Global South.



Spotlight on the 2024 winners

The 2024 winners demonstrated how green and sustainable chemistry offers tangible ways to support Climate Action (SDG13) in their local communities.

- **Dr. Altantuya Ochirkhuyag from Mongolia**
a researcher at the Mongolian Academy of Sciences, received €25,000 for her project “VolcaniBlock: Utilizing Volcanic Rocks for Wastewater Treatment”. This initiative tackles organic-contaminated water sources in Mongolia by employing volcanic rocks such as zeolite, basalt, and perlite, which are rich in microorganisms capable of breaking down pollutants. The project not only seeks to improve water quality but also promotes sustainability in a country facing significant water stress due to climate change.

“ I truly value the Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge as it provides a great opportunity for early career researchers like me to gain local and international visibility. It opens up doors for collaboration, in addition to the financial support provided by the grant.”




Dr. Altantuya Ochirkhuyag,
2024 winner, Mongolia

- **María Alejandra Flórez-Restrepo from Colombia**
a researcher at Universidad de Antioquia, received €25,000 for her project “Innovative Mycelium Biomaterials for Waste Management”. Her project focuses on developing mycelium biomaterials from white-rot fungi, utilizing agro-industrial waste as a substrate. The resulting biomaterials serve as a habitat for bacteria that break down pollutants, providing an eco-friendly alternative to synthetic packaging materials and contributing to a circular economy while addressing the challenges of waste management and climate change.

“ This recognition is a reminder of our collective work to a more sustainable and environmentally friendly future. We want to develop technologies for the change and take real actions for the benefit of our planet. We are going to develop this project towards circular economy and use our biodiversity with the aim of mitigating the effects of climate change.”

María Alejandra Flórez-Restrepo,
2024 winner, Colombia

Materials Today Agents of Change Awards

 Location	 Target group	 Budget
Global	Researchers and professionals in the material sciences community	\$15,000 a year (2023, 2025, 2026)



Primary outcome

Recognize initiatives that focus on intersectionality and encourage systemic change within the materials science research community.

Overview

The 2024 Elsevier [Gender Report](#) highlighted the slow yet steady increase of female researchers in materials science, currently at 32% globally. Despite progress, significant disparities persist.

The Materials Today Agents of Change Awards annually recognize and support initiatives that are taking

practical steps to encourage an actively inclusive materials science research community. Each year, two \$10,000 grants are awarded to individuals or teams making impactful strides in this area. With backing from the Elsevier Foundation, the awards expanded in 2023 to include a dedicated ceremony and gala dinner.

Goals

- Recognize grass roots, department-level, or broader initiatives within the materials science community which drive greater inclusion and prioritize sustainable plans for long-term success.

Milestones from previous winners



Charlotte Berrezueta, Freie Universität Berlin:

- Organized the Nano-Science Summer School @ Yachay (NSSY) in the Galapagos Islands, May 2024, and provided a platform for 111 underrepresented students from 25 countries to connect with global nanoscience experts.
- Used the Agents of Change Award grant to fund 20 full scholarships and expand workshops to multiple islands. Introduced workshops for local children and teachers to foster a dynamic interest in science.
- Plans to continue organizing and expanding NSSY in 2026.
- Charlotte has been selected for the 2025 Falling Walls Female Science Talents cohort, a program supported by the Elsevier Foundation.

Dr. Barbara Rothen-Rutishauser, Alke Fink, and Sofía Martín Caba, University of Fribourg:

- Used the Agents of Change Award to tackle professional confidence issues among women researchers by organizing roundtable discussions, confidence-building workshops and mentoring sessions.
- Held the ‘Done being nice’ workshop with 15 participants and roundtable events reaching over 100 young researchers.
- Noted behavioral changes among female PhD students and postdocs, with increased confidence and networking.

Dr. Vishal Chaudhary, University of Delhi:

- Launched the Happy Mental Health Club in 2020 to address mental health stigma in academia.
- Organized online sessions, awareness programs, conferences and workshops to recognize and respond to mental health issues, emphasizing early intervention.
- Linked his research on environmental factors to mental health with the goal of developing biosensors for real-time stress monitoring.
- Plans to introduce mental health aid clubs in every institution and advocate for mental health awareness in public health policy.

Challenges




The award was paused in 2024 to refresh criteria and guidelines and attract more high-quality nominations. The 2025 awards ceremony will take place at an Elsevier-organized conference to ensure optimum visibility and networking.

Future Plans

- Winners of the 2025 awards will be announced in Q1 2025, selected by a panel of [six judges](#), including past winners and distinguished scientists.
- The 2025 awards ceremony will feature past and present winners at the June 2025 Elsevier Materials Today Conference in Sitges, Spain.

Cell Press

Rising Black Scientists Awards

		
Location	Target group	Budget
U.S.	Black scientists at American institutions at the undergraduate, graduate, or postdoctoral levels from across the life, physical, earth, environmental, health, and data sciences.	\$22,000/year (Feb. 2022-Feb. 2025)



Primary outcome

Recognize US early career Black researchers’ talent and achievements in STEM and provide them with support to grow their networks and opportunities.

Overview

The gaps in support, funding and opportunities are significant for Black scientists in the US, particularly for early-career researchers. The Rising Black Scientist Awards aim to address these challenges by providing recognition and resources to undergraduate and graduate/postdoctoral Black scholars in the life and

physical sciences, recognizing that success in science is driven not only by a combination of talent and motivation but also access to strong support networks, recognition and opportunities during the critical early career stage.

Winners each receive \$10,000 to support their research, a \$500 travel grant and the opportunity to publish their winning essays in high impact journals within Cell Press (such as [Cell](#), [Chem](#), [Joule](#) or [Matter](#), leading flagship journals in the life and physical sciences). Each year, 4 honorable mentions (2 undergraduate students and 2 graduate students/postdoctoral scholars) also receive \$500.



Kenna Gloria Agbugba, 2025 Rising Black Scientist Award winner in Physical Sciences

Goals

- Increase the visibility of rising Black scientists through publication of their essays in widely read and recognized platforms in their field.
- Provide recognition and financial support to the next generation of Black scientists to encourage retention.

Milestones

- Winners were selected from an outstanding pool of hundreds of applicants from across the life, physical, earth, environmental, health, and data sciences.
- Essays from the winners and honorees were published in the journals Cell and iScience on February 6, 2025.



5th edition Rising Black Scientist Award winners and honorable mentions

Spotlight on the 5th edition winners

Life and health sciences:

- **Jheannelle Johnson (Stanford University).**
Her work centers on understanding cell vulnerability in Alzheimer’s disease. In her essay [“The sounds of music: Tracing memories and pathways through research and resistance,”](#) she shares how music offered her a window to connect with her grandmother suffering from Alzheimer’s disease and inspired her research.
- **Victor Ekuta (Morehouse School of Medicine).**
He holds several scholarly appointments, including as a postdoctoral research fellow, a Clark Scholar at Penn Alzheimer’s Disease Research Center and as Health Equity Scholar with the Alzheimer’s Disease Neuroimaging Initiative (ADNI). In [“Retooling science: Transforming tools into instruments of equity as a Black physician-scientist,”](#) he explored the interplay between science and identity, describing how both can drive positive change or misused to perpetuate harm, and how he is using his insights to have a meaningful impact on his community.

Physical, earth and environmental, or data sciences:

- **Kenna Gloria Agbugba (Philander Smith University).**
She has co-led a team to design an award-winning AI-driven literacy-support prototype to assist students in Detroit and has worked on a National Science Foundation project to develop an intelligent learning support AI-powered iOS app. In her essay, [“Bridging worlds: A STEM journey from Nigeria to the U.S. and back,”](#) she shares how she wants to take the skills learned from her research in AI technology to build tools for supporting the advancement of students in her homeland.
- **Nyasha Milanzi (Michigan Technological University).**
Her research centered on building just energy transitions in underserved communities. She has developed affordable, sustainable devices such as air pollution detectors and solar cookers. In her essay, [“Inspiring the next generation of engineers and scientists to be champions of equitable change,”](#) she relays her mission to advance climate action by building cross-disciplinary approaches to address the public health needs of our most vulnerable communities.

An additional four scholars received honorable mentions, and their essays appear in the interdisciplinary open-access journal iScience.

- Post-baccalaureate **Daphna Fertil (National Institute of Biomedical Imaging and Bioengineering)** for her essay [“Healing through innovation: Advancing health equity from lab to community”](#)
- MD PhD student **Darnell K. Adrian Williams Jr. (Albert Einstein College of Medicine)** for his essay [“The Sprained Mind.”](#)
- PhD student **Arona Bender (Duke University)** for her essay [“Beneath the surface: A journey through hidden waters”.](#)
- Undergraduate **Efemena Johnson (George Mason University)** for her essay [“From Nigeria to innovation: A vision for inclusive science.”](#)


“Winning this award is not just a personal achievement—it’s a testament to the power of resilience, representation, and the pursuit of equity in science and medicine. It reaffirms that our stories, our voices, and our work as Black scientists matter and have the power to transform tools into instruments of justice. I carry this honor forward with a renewed commitment to advancing brain health equity and uplifting those who come after me.”

Victor Ekuta, winner

“It feels incredible that my essay highlights the equity work my parents championed in making education accessible to young people from marginalized backgrounds—a mission that directly connects to my journey in environmental justice. Receiving this award not only recognizes my efforts in the environmental field but also serves as a testament to the invaluable contributions of Black international students to science and engineering. I hope it inspires others to confidently pursue unconventional careers that uplift frontline communities and drive meaningful change.”


Nyasha Milanzi, winner

Falling Walls Female Science Talents




Location

Germany, with worldwide participants




Target group

Early career women researchers from academia and industry including PhDs, PostDocs, junior professors, heads of labs



Budget

\$50,000 a year (2022), \$90,000 a year (2023-2024).



Additional funders

Bayer Foundation, DFG (German Research Foundation), Volkswagen Foundation (since 2024), Klaus Tschira Stiftung (since 2024)



Primary outcome

Inspire and empower women scientists to make their next career step, pursue flexible career paths, build an international network, and promote female leadership in science, business and society.

Overview

The Falling Walls Female Science Talents Programme’s Intensive Track helps promising early career researchers to make the transition from science to industry, offering them an international stage at the Berlin Science Week in November each year,

and providing networks to help them to raise their visibility. The Intensive Track increases the visibility of exceptional talents providing support to help participants achieve personal breakthroughs in their career. The selected champions meet outstanding women leaders and are matched with high-profile mentors. They participate in intensive trainings and are encouraged to build their own international success team for peer learning, peer coaching, and mutual support.

In 2023, the Falling Walls Foundation and the Elsevier Foundation established the inaugural “Women’s Impact Award” award, designed to recognize women



2024 Falling Walls Impact Award winners with Ylann Schemm (Elsevier Foundation) and Dr. Henrike Hartmann (Volkswagen Foundation)

scientists for their visionary research in fields related to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals, while also demonstrating commitment to issues of gender justice and equality in science.

Goals

- Promote a total of 60 champions in 3 years and take 20 talents to the next level of their career each year.
- Build a sustainable community of Talents supporting each other and establish the networking event as an annual fixture for talented young women.

- Build an efficient network of partners to support the programme financially and conceptually.
- Increase the proportion of female participants at the Falling Walls Science Summit.
- Recognize exceptional talents through the Women’s Impact Award, who conduct interdisciplinary, groundbreaking research in their field and contribute to gender equality and diversity in science and academia

Activities and milestones

Female Science Talents:

- The Elsevier Foundation co-hosted the International Spring Gathering in May and the International Fall Gathering in November, together with the German Research Foundation, the Bayer Foundation, VolkswagenStiftung and the Klaus Tschira Stiftung – providing recommendations for mentors, contributors and speakers.
- 20 participants were selected to take part in the Intensive Track in 2024, and attended extensive training, networking events and the Falling Walls conference in November.

Women Breakthrough Award winners:

- Dr. Inge Katrin Herrmann, leading a transformative initiative to close the significant gap in women's health research. Dr. Herrmann was also awarded the title Falling Walls Science Breakthrough of the Year 2024 in the Women's Impact category.
- Dr. Marianna Prokopi-Demetriades, breaking new ground in the field of cancer care through a holistic approach that prioritizes patient well-being
- Dr. Antonia Saktiawati, driving a groundbreaking initiative to revolutionize tuberculosis screening in Indonesia, with a focus on gender equality and diversity in science.

Sustainability and future plans




In the next three years, the Falling Walls Foundation will prioritize sustainability by enhancing impact measurement and community-building efforts. They will implement a pre- and post-programme questionnaire to assess participants' leadership aspirations, allowing for an evaluation of the

effectiveness of their initiatives. Additionally, the Foundation will focus on fostering a strong network by organizing curated networking events for alumni and current participants, ensuring ongoing connections and support. These efforts aim to empower women in science and industry while promoting a culture of female leadership and inclusivity.

2024 Falling Walls Female Science Talents Fall Gathering participants, Women's Impact Award winners, Elsevier Foundation team and Falling Walls Foundation team



Asian Scientist Salon for Leadership in STEM

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Singapore	Southeast Asian region (Singapore, Malaysia, Philippines, Sri Lanka).	\$50,000/year (2022) \$75,000/year (2023-2024)



Primary outcome

Coaching women researchers in Singapore to take on leadership positions in science and technology, and tackle the underrepresentation of Asian women.

Overview

According to Elsevier’s 2024 Gender Report, an estimated 41% of the world’s researchers are women. However, this number declines greatly across Asia and when we look at the percentage of women who have taken up leadership positions in their organizations.

In 2024, the Summit’s goal was to go beyond gender and explore other aspects of a diverse and inclusive STEM community in Singapore. The Summit convened experts from large STEM organizations to share their experiences and insights, enabling participants to join hands-on interactive workshops, and support one another in their professional journeys. The Summit was also supported by the James Dyson Foundation, and participants received science communication training from EurekAlert!, the AAAS news service.



Juliana Chan, Founder and Editor-in-Chief of Asian Scientist Magazine, and 2024 Salon for Leadership in STEM participants

Goals

- Empower early and mid-career women scientists with the skills required to be successful in the academic, industry and policymaking sectors.
- Build a supportive community that enables opportunities for collaboration and a more inclusive pipeline of leadership in STEM.

Activities and milestones

The 2024 Summit was held in Singapore from the 26-27th of June, 2024 and achieved a 60:40 women to men ratio among the 132 participants. It included:

- A keynote on successful leadership from guest of honour Ambassador Prof Chan Heng Chee.
- Workshops on inclusive science communication, and personal branding.
- Discussions on impactful leadership as well as cultivating and sustaining inclusive teams.
- A special panel on Success Strategies from the Global South featuring 2024 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation Women in Science Award winners from the Asian region

Challenges

- Inclusion is a complex, multifaceted concept and during the initial registration phase the EcosySTEM team found that potential participants were struggling to connect its relevance to their personal and professional growth.
- They quickly pivoted their promotional efforts to focus on individual benefits to potential participants, rather than the community impact. This resulted in the highest number of registrations for the Summit across three years.

Sustainability and future plans

- In the next iteration of the leadership Summit, EcosySTEM would like to offer training on the essential skills for being a leader (e.g. conflict resolution/resource allocation), and to introduce more creative discussion formats to increase audience participation.
- In addition to the flagship Summit, EcosySTEM will consider the potential of organizing similar scaled-down satellite events across the APAC region to meet the needs of the wider STEM community.



We know that women scientists are more likely to view natural resources as public goods and the Elsevier Foundation's Climate Women partnership equips talented women scientists to form teams to tackle concrete projects in their communities—fostering the collective action essential for protecting our planet.”




Joyeeta Gupta, Full Professor of Environment and Development in the Global South, University of Amsterdam

2024 Asian Scientist-Elsevier Foundation Salon for Leadership in STEM



RIKEN

Envisioning Futures

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Japan	Early-career women scientists	\$40,000/year (2022-2024)



Primary outcome

Map the journeys of distinguished Japanese women scientists through targeted interviews exploring challenges and best practices in a country with persistently low numbers of women researchers and research leaders.

Overview

Over the past few years, the percentage of female researchers in Japan has risen from 16.9% to 22% according to Elsevier’s 2020 and 2024 Gender Reports. While this is encouraging, it remains low compared to the global average of 41%. At RIKEN, the largest scientific research institute in Japan, the ratio of female researchers in leadership positions is 9%, a far cry from the global standard. Recently, the Japanese government has postponed its goal of reaching 30% women in leadership positions to 2030.



Dr. Yuko Harayama, co-chair of the Board of Directors of the Japanese Association for the Advancement of Science (JAAS) and former Board member of the Elsevier Foundation

Our RIKEN “Envisioning Futures” partnership interviews Japanese women research leaders including principal investigators (PIs) and policymakers, exploring how they acquired leadership and laboratory management skills, and overcame challenges throughout their careers. The interviews provide a special focus on the establishment of management policies through experiential learning and trial and error. By sharing this hard-won, critical experience, Riken hopes to accelerate the growth of Japanese women in leadership positions, raising awareness about intersectional diversity, supporting career progression, and offering policy makers guidance for effective interventions.

Goals

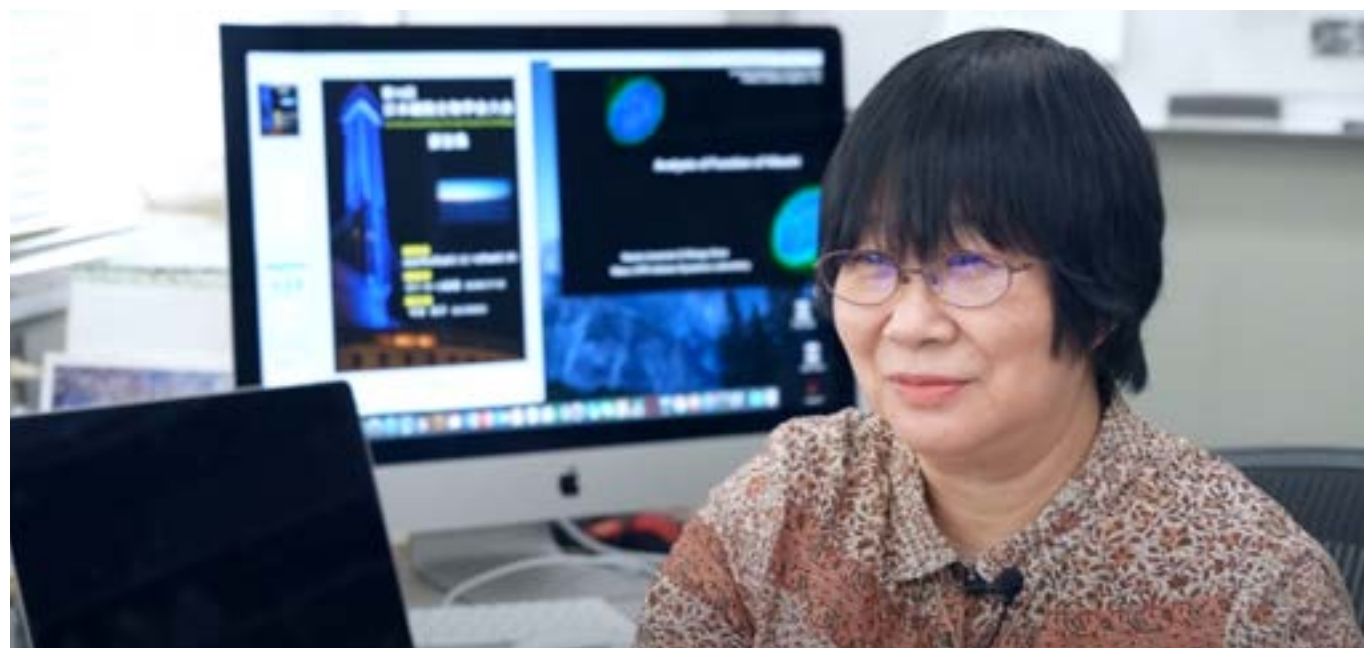
- Capture leadership and management behaviors through interviews with distinguished Japanese women scientists.
- Increase visibility of female research leaders in Japan and the challenges they encounter.
- Address the underrepresentation of female researchers in Japan by accelerating the development of female researchers aiming for leadership positions.

Milestones

- 9 interviews conducted with distinguished Japanese women scientists: Dr. Yukiko Goda, Dr. Reiko Mazuka, Dr. Nobuko Mataga, Dr. Naoko Imamoto, Dr. Mikiko Sodeoka, Dr. Yuko Harayama, Dr. Emiko Hiyama, Dr. Yoshie Otake, and Dr. Makiko Naka.
- RIKEN's [dedicated website](#) is now available in Japanese and English and 6 interviews available in English and Japanese on their website.
- Presentation of the initiative at the 2024 RIKEN Diversity Day, and the RIKEN Wako Open Campus Day.



Top Image: Dr. Yukiko Goda, Team Leader, Laboratory for Synaptic Plasticity and Connectivity, RIKEN Center for Brain Science
Bottom Image: Dr. Naoko Imamoto, Chief Scientist, Cellular Dynamics Laboratory, RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research



Sustainability and future plans

- The sustainability of “Envisioning Futures” will rely on continued support within RIKEN and sourcing additional funding for final rollout.
- Publish the interviews in print-format in both Japanese and English, and deliver a social media campaign.
- Investigate the possibility of panel discussions at national and international conferences, e.g., Science Agora.
- Build on the initial funding to include additional interviews with male professors within and outside of RIKEN.”






Top Image: Dr. Reiko Mazuka, Laboratory Head, for Language Development, RIKEN Center for Brain Science
Bottom Image: Dr. Mikiko Sodeoka, Chief Scientist, Synthetic Organic Chemistry Laboratory, RIKEN Cluster for Pioneering Research



China Women’s Association for Science and Technology

Supporting Women Scientists

		
Location	Target group	Budget
China	Early-to mid-career women scientists	\$15,000 a year (2024-2026)



Primary outcome

Empower Chinese women scientists through targeted workshops that provide international discipline-specific networks, expert insights, resources, and networking opportunities which foster a more inclusive academic environment.

Overview

Despite the narrowing gender gap in the promotion of Chinese researchers, many women still encounter a “glass ceiling” in their career progression, facing significant barriers to senior positions. According to the [Gender report conducted by Elsevier and the National Science Library of the Chinese Academy of Sciences](#), while the proportion of female researchers in China showed a steady increase from 13% in 2005 to 27.7% in 2019, data revealed that as women researchers ascend to higher positions, disparities widen, making it particularly difficult for women to attain senior positions.



Xiqiu Han, Professor of Oceanography, Ministry of Natural Resources and Vice Dean, Ocean College Zhejiang University

To address these challenges, the Elsevier Foundation has partnered with the China Women’s Association for Science and Technology (CWAST) to support early-career female researchers in China through targeted workshops that provide discipline-specific networks, resources, and training, and create pathways for Chinese women researchers as authors, editorial board members for international journals and speakers at conferences.

Goals

- Provide recognition and amplification opportunities for early career women scientists.
- Identify opportunities to support discipline-specific networks.
- Facilitate opportunities for more international multi-sectoral dialogue around gender and science with scientists, policymakers, evaluation institutions, funders and media.

Activities and milestones

- Workshops were held at 3 Elsevier conferences in 2024, and were attended by 11,000 participants online and in person. The workshops included keynote sessions from distinguished Chinese women scientists including Prof. Qun Xu, Zhengzhou University; Dr Xiqiu Han, Zhejiang University; Prof. Ying Wang, Nanjing University; Prof Yan Zheng, Southern University of Science and Technology.
- [International Congress on Separation and Purification Technology](#) (Zhengzhou, July 2024)
- [ECSA 60 - Implementing Science-Based Solutions and Strategies for Coastal Resilience](#) (Hangzhou, September 2024)
- [Eco-Summit Congress](#) (Zhengzhou, December 2024)
- Actively engaged in initiatives promoting gender equality in science through high profile events, in partnership with CWAST and Elsevier, namely the Sino-Foreign roundtable Summit on Women in Science at the World Science and Technology Development Forum (Beijing, October 2024) and the Forum for Women in Science at the Tengchong Scientists Forum (Tengchong, December 2024)

Panel discussion during the workshop held at the 2024 Eco-summit conference (Zhengzhou, December 17)



Looking ahead

- Building on the successes of our workshops and high-profile events from 2024, the Elsevier Foundation and CWAST team plan to introduce targeted webinars aimed at increasing our reach and impact. Additionally, we will continue to deliver women in science workshops at Elsevier conferences in China in 2025.

“For young people, it’s really important to have mentors. These are people who help you beyond your PhD advice—you need to expand your network. And it’s not just by going to conferences and talking to people but by working with them.”

Professor Yan Zheng, Chair Professor from Southern University of Science and Technology



Top: Professor Dr. Qun Xu, College of Materials Science & Engineering, Institute of Advanced Technology in Zhengzhou University




Top: Participants and speakers of the workshop at the 2024 Eco-summit conference (Zhengzhou, December 17), Bottom: Participants and speakers of the workshop at the 2024 Estuarine & Coastal Sciences Association (ECSA) conference (Hangzhou, September 4)




Vitae

Black Researchers Consortium




Location

United Kingdom




Target group

Black early career researchers



Budget

\$54,500/year (2022, no-cost extension in 2023)
\$57,600/year (2024)



Additional funders

Wellcome Trust, UKRI, Royal Society, Academy of Medical Sciences, British Academy and the Royal Academy of Engineering.



Primary outcome

Create a growing and resilient UK community of Black STEM researchers through a consortium of Black-led UK organizations driving opportunities to improve the recruitment and retention of Black early-career researchers (ECRs).

Overview

Despite the overrepresentation of Black students in higher education (8% overall compared to UK population of 4%), researchers with Black heritage are currently underrepresented in the research environment. At senior levels, Black professors

comprise only 1% of all professors. A lack of inclusive workplaces also creates an environment which impacts Black ECRs and has negative implications for research outcomes and the economy. With support from the Elsevier Foundation, CRAC-Vitae commissioned special advisor Dr. Lenna Cumberbatch, Director of Diversity & Inclusion Strategic Change at Inclusive Perspective, to review best practice in tackling the underrepresentation of Black ECRs in the UK.

Dr. Cumberbatch’s research was conducted with Black researchers and Black-led organizations highlighting the barriers for ECRs. As a response to feedback from the community, the scope of the project was refocused on establishing the Black Researchers Consortium



Black Researchers Consortium team, together with Elsevier and Elsevier Foundation team

(BRC) with sustainable funding in order to drive change and bridge the gap in resources and opportunities for Black researchers in the UK.

Goals

- Address the gaps in support for UK Black researchers, including opportunities for networking, mentorship, and skill development.
- Enhance access, opportunities and training for UK Black researchers across academia, industry, government and other sectors.
- Serve as a valuable resource for organisations, research institutions and universities seeking expert advice on fostering inclusivity and diversity in research environments.

Activities and milestones

- October-December 2023: First consortium workshop meeting held, facilitated by Dr. Lenna Cumberbatch. Discussions centred around legal structure, business models and an opportunity to provide a voice to organizations with experience in this field.
- January-April 2024: Development of a business plan with sustainable funding to establish the BRC.
- May-September 2024: Development and secretariat support of the Founding Interim Board.
- September-December 2024: Securing a consortium of UK funders to ensure a sustainable operating base for the BRC for the coming 3-5 years. Elsevier

colleague Lesley Thompson played a significant role in supporting CRAC-Vitae to build a strong coalition of support amongst UK research funders.

- December 2024: Elsevier hosted a soft launch at its London office for committed partners to celebrate the establishment of the BRC as a legal entity.
- April 2025: Official launch of the BRC.


Challenges

- The project underwent rescoping in 2023 due to Advisory Board feedback. This reprioritization required the projected timeline to be revised with a no-cost extension.
- Dr. Lenna Cumberbatch engaged with each researcher organization individually and collectively, ensuring their involvement at every stage of the BRC’s formation. Maintaining the trust of these organizations has required more time than anticipated, but has improved the impact and credibility of the project.


Future plans

The Elsevier Foundation funding concluded in 2024. BRC will receive continued funding from the four National Academies (Academy of Medical Sciences, British Academy, Royal Academy of Engineering and Royal Society), plus UK Research and Innovation (UKRI) and Wellcome Trust. Together, their funding secures the future of the BRC until at least 2030.


COACH Water First!



Location
Africa



Target group
Early-to mid-career African women scientists specialized in water research and policy.



Budget
\$70,000 per year (2019, 2023, 2024)



Primary outcome

Capacity building and leadership workshops to support networks of African women working in water research and policy.

Overview

In sub-Saharan Africa, a significant 45% of the population still do not have access to running water, with women four times as likely as men to bear the responsibility of water collection, conservation, domestic cleaning, crop production and food preparation. However, women also have restricted access to resources to manage water scarcity – such as land, agricultural inputs, finance and credit. Few are in leadership positions in the water resources area, and lack of representation in decision-making roles further exacerbates the existing disconnection between policy and implementation.



Elsevier and Elsevier Foundation team with participants of the 2024 Water First! workshop, Singapore

Established by the University of Oregon’s COACH organization to support the advancement of women scientists, Water First! aims to increase the number and success of women in STEM with workshops and networks. Three initial Water First! conferences (Morocco in 2015, Namibia 2016 and Rwanda 2017) were funded by the U.S. State Department and served as a model for the series supported by the Elsevier Foundation which were subsequently held in Ghana in 2019, at the Stockholm World Water Week in Sweden in 2023 and Singapore International Water Week in 2024.

Goals

- Foster a network of women researchers to increase international water research and collaborative activities.
- Develop innovative and cross-disciplinary strategies for advancing research and the educational activities of women scientists.



Top and Right Bottom: Participants of the 2024 Water First! workshop, Singapore

Activities and milestones

- The third and final workshop of this partnership was held at the Singapore International Water Week (SIWW) Conference on June 20-23, 2024.
- Working in collaboration with the Elsevier Foundation’s partner Organization for Women in Science for the Developing World (OWSD), we were able to convene 12 women water researchers from 12 different countries in Africa.
- COACH supported the participation of 6 African women and OWSD supported an additional 6 award winning women scientists to attend both the SIWW Conference and the COACH Workshop.
- At SIWW, training was provided by Deirdre Dunne, Elsevier Executive Publisher, Chemical Engineering and Water Research on Global Water Topics together with 3 editors from the journals Water Research, Environmental Chemical Engineering and Journal of Membrane Science, who gave insights on research trends, as well as the publishing and review process.
- Sherry Yennello, Regents Professor in Chemistry at Texas A&M University and COACH Facilitator, presented Empowering Women Leaders to Engage in Water Issues along with break out discussions of Global Water Issues.

- The instructors also facilitated a hands-on discussion on the involvement of women in water issues and policy in their respective countries.
- Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, indicating how the workshop has proven instrumental in advancing their careers and providing critical networking opportunities, to establish multiple contacts within their fields.

Challenges

Co-locating the COACH workshop with the SIWW conference in Singapore created budget constraints, with only 6 COACH participants supported with travel grants. However, through the Elsevier Foundation’s longstanding OWSD partnership, it was possible to double the number of participants who could benefit from the workshop.

Sustainability and future plans

- Maintain and foster engagement among the workshop participants via ongoing surveys, and community building through COACH WhatsApp groups.
- Participants from the 2023 and 2024 cohorts expressed interest in getting published by creating a book, which is now ready for review and publication.




“

I’m proud of the Elsevier Foundation’s continued commitment to leveling the playing field by investing and supporting initiatives in Nursing, library science, and women researchers.”

Edwidge Thomas, VP Clinical Solutions, Northwell Holdings



The World Academy of Sciences Climate Women

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Low- and middle-income countries	Women researchers and communities where the projects take place	\$100,000/year (2021-2026)



Primary outcome

Provide project grants to women scientists tackling concrete problems in climate change through collaboration and interdisciplinary research.

Overview

The application of scientific research often struggles to be relevant to real-life situations, especially in the Global South which in turn hinders progress. Significant improvements can be achieved when research involves local populations and knowledge is shared within communities. UN Women reports that a quarter of economically active women globally work

in agriculture, facing climate challenges and unequal burdens of care.

Launched in 2021, our partnership with The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) supports women researchers in climate action and builds on a previous collaboration (2015-2019) to bridge the North-South sustainability research divide through PhD travel grants, visiting professors, case study competitions and sustainability symposia at the TWAS General conferences.

Climate Women focuses on the implementation of sustainability science by empowering women researchers to lead concrete climate action projects



Participants of the 2024 training workshop hosted by the International Centre for Climate and Environmental Studies (ICCES)

with a grant of \$25,000 over three years for projects with potential to address climate change in local communities.

Goals

- Promote gender equality by creating opportunities for women in climate action projects.
- Respond to and tackle communities’ needs in line with the principles of sustainable development and focusing on those experiencing the brunt of climate change.
- Effectively transfer knowledge from scientific research to real-life scenarios for practical and tangible change under the umbrella of SDG 13: Climate Action.

Activities and milestones

- To date, 15 Grants of \$25,000 each have been awarded to teams of 2-5 women. These were announced at both the COP 27 and 28 conferences through special events at the UNESCO Pavillon.
- One of these projects was made possible through additional funding from Elsevier’s Energy and Economics journal, to support an investigation of women in leadership, gender-responsive climate change adaptation, and food security in Zimbabwe.
- A special 5-day training workshop was hosted in Beijing by the International Centre for Climate and





Environment Studies (ICCES) on September 2-6, 2024 for 14 of the 15 Climate Women project leads. The workshop was made possible through intensive collaboration with TWAS, the Chinese Academy of Sciences-TWAS Centre of Excellence for Water and the Environment, the TWAS East and South-East Asia and the Pacific Regional Partner (TWAS-SAPREP) and the Elsevier Foundation.

- An additional 5 TWAS fellows from Thailand, Laos, Kazakhstan and Viet Nam were hosted by ICCES to include Asian perspectives and another 15 China based TWAS fellows working in Climate action fields were also invited to maximize networking and impact.
- The workshop included presentations from senior climate and water researchers, monitoring and evaluation experts and policymakers. In addition, a special science communication and stakeholder mapping workshop was let by Elsevier’s longstanding partner Tracey Brown, Executive Director of Sense about Science.

Future plans

The 15th project lead, Heyddy Calderon, 2022 OWSD-Elsevier Foundation awardee in water research resigned from the program due to her responsibilities as Nicaragua’s Minister of the Environment. The remaining project funds will be redirected to an additional convening opportunity in 2025 for the remaining 14 Climate Women leads.

Research4Life Country Connectors

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Moldova, Senegal, Sierra Leone, United Republic of Tanzania, Uganda, Ukraine	Cohort of Research4Life Country Connector trainers, ambassadors, and Research4Life users	\$70,000/year (2022-2027)
		
Additional funders		
Springer Nature, Wiley Foundation, Taylor & Francis, American Chemical Society		



Primary outcome

Boost research quality and output in global South countries by supporting local interventions to enhance information management, improve access, awareness and usage of Research4Life resources.

Overview

Research4Life was launched over two decades ago to provide access to critical peer reviewed resources and support research, teaching, practice and policymaking among researchers, faculty, scientists and healthcare practitioners in the global South. Since 2022, the Research4Life Country Connectors (CCs) program has

worked to establish national country focal points to build local capacity and teach critical research skills within institutions. By fostering awareness and skills-building, CCs seeks to grow committed networks of users and mentors, ensuring regional and global coordination and significantly impacting research, practice and policymaking, going far beyond the original Research4Life objective of providing access to published research.

Country Connectors is being implemented across 14 countries using 4 languages (English, French, Spanish, Portuguese) and developing national, regional and global networks for maximum impact.



Participants at a workshop organized by the Research4Life Country Connectors in Sierra Leone

Goals

- Deep engagement and capacity building to increase usage and impact of Research4Life.
- Extensive training for users to develop research skills and evidence-based decision-making through local investments.

Activities and milestones

Progress and expansion:

- Additional Countries: Kyrgyzstan, Uganda and Angola joined CCs in 2024, with Honduras finalizing membership in 2025. CCs target of reaching 15 countries by the end of 2025 is on track.
- KPIs: Key Performance Indicators have been established in all the participating countries, except for Uganda and Angola which joined in the second half of 2024.
- Associate status: Ukraine and Uganda were awarded associate status, i.e., they are operating without direct financial support from CCs but are achieving similar targets.

Examples of impact:

- Training: Conducted workshops in Tanzania, Kyrgyzstan and Moldova, improved research data management in Ghana, established evidence user networks in Kenya.
- Infrastructure: Initiated collaborations in Liberia and El Salvador to bridge infrastructure gaps; supported local publishing in several countries.
- Development: Trained CCs and Ambassadors, developed work plans and engaged local publishers; accredited course in partnership with DOAJ to improve the visibility of research from the global South.
- Publishing: Supported researchers to publish in open-access journals, increasing the accessibility of their research.
- Visibility: Delivered presentations on Research4Life at key national, regional and international meetings and conferences.



Research4Life Country Connectors in El Salvador

Challenges

Limited budget for physical interactions and capacity building, still represents a need in most CCs countries. This has been mitigated by providing small grants for local ambassadors and holding an annual in-person gathering at the Research4Life General Partners meeting to share progress and best practice.

Future Plans

- **Long-term expansion:** Aim for a comprehensive CCs network in 40 countries within 6 years, supporting over 1,775 institutions. New countries will be added as existing ones transition to “emeritus” status.
- **Emeritus status:** CCs anticipate that Tanzania, Bhutan and Ghana will achieve emeritus status by 2026, creating opportunities for new countries to join.

- **South-South collaboration:** Enhance partnerships and knowledge exchange among Global South countries to improve research initiatives and shared learning.
- **Collaboration:** Build capacity by leveraging AI tools and training for research and resource management, ensuring libraries and institutions are equipped to tackle modern challenges.
- **WIPO partnership:** Support researchers in understanding intellectual property to drive innovation and enhance knowledge economies.
- **Focus on women scientists:** Strengthen initiatives and partnerships to promote growth and opportunities for women researchers.

Elsevier’s unique contributions to Research4Life

Over the past two decades, [Research4Life](#) has worked to bridge the digital divide, providing free or low-cost access to research for publicly funded institutions in the world’s least resourced countries. As a unique public-private partnership between UN agencies, universities and publishers, it aims to reduce the knowledge gap, stimulating productive and effective research, and promoting international collaborative research.

Research4Life is a key part of Elsevier’s commitment to making research accessible. As a founding and driving partner, Elsevier contributes 13% of the peer reviewed resources in Research4Life, encompassing databases such as Science Direct, Scopus, Clinical Key, Mendeley and Embase. In addition, Elsevier provides in kind support through strategic, communications, research analytics and technical expertise and the Elsevier Foundation has contributed more than \$500,000 in training grants through partnerships such as Country Connectors and Librarians without Borders.



232,000+
total resources



11,500+
registered institutions



41,000+
journals



125+
countries



205,000+
books



200+
publishers partners



160+
databases



5
UN Agencies

According to 2024 data from [WIPO](#), access to research through Research4Life spikes research output by up to 75% in low- and middle-income countries. By 2030, the goal is to significantly increase the participation of researchers as both consumers and producers of research – providing the necessary capacity building through local networks and partnerships to significantly elevate voices and the presence of researchers from lower-income countries to the forefront of global dialogue.

After two years as Chair of the Research4Life Executive Council 2020-2022, Ylann Schemm, Executive Director of the Elsevier Foundation, continues to serve on the Executive Council. Domiziana Francescon, Elsevier Foundation Partnerships Director, served as Co-Chair of the Communications & Marketing team 2018-2022, and as Co-Chair of the Eligibility team from 2024. In addition, colleagues throughout Elsevier are involved in a range of Research4Life taskforces including fundraising, technology, metrics and training.

To respond to [Research4Life’s](#) unmet resource needs and scale up capacity building, Friends of Research4Life was established as charitable organization to serve as fundraising vehicle and accelerate Research4Life’s goals to:

- Provide much-needed access to peer-reviewed research
- Expand training initiatives that help level the playing field for researchers in lower- and middle-income countries
- Significantly increase awareness and usage of the resources offered by the Research4Life publishing partners
- Facilitate the research communication process




“ Research4Life is an incredible community: so many likeminded partners and dedicated trainers committed to ensuring that resources reach the users who need them — advancing research equity.”

Ylann Schemm, Executive Director,
The Elsevier Foundation

Participants of a Research4Life workshop in Myanmar



Portia Gender Summit

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Global	Individuals and institutions. Individuals include speakers (60-80 per event) and participants (350-900 per event) who represent researchers, innovators, practitioners, policy and decision makers. Institutions include universities, funders, civil society organizations, industry and other sectors	\$45,000/year (2024-2026)



Additional funders

The German Research Foundation (DFG) contributed 20,000 euros towards the 24th North American Gender Summit.



Primary outcome

Advance equity for all in research and innovation by leveraging the global Gender Summit platform to facilitate multistakeholder dialogue and achieve consensus on critical interventions at the national, regional and institutional levels.

Overview

Since 2011, the Gender Summits (GS), initiated by Portia and held globally, have significantly impacted the international research community. To date,

these events have facilitated 50 days of discussions, featuring more than 1,200 speakers and engaging over 9,000 participants.

The GS uses new research to foster dialogue on science participation. They address gender gaps in research and strive to improve the societal impact of science, catalyzing resources to create gender action plans to establish integrated, multiyear strategy plans to tackle gaps.

With support from the Elsevier Foundation, the 2023 GS in Africa and the 2024 GS in North America both adopted a hybrid format, creating regional in-person



Ann Gabriel (third from left), SVP Global Strategic Networks at Elsevier, during the Gender Summit North America in Ottawa. Second from right, Dr. Elizabeth Pollitzer, architect of the Gender Summits and Elsevier I&D Advisory Board member

hubs for 40-60 participants, along with an online program. This reduced travel, promoted inclusion through wider geographic coverage, and offered flexibility for audience engagement. For the 2025 GS in India and the 2026 GS in Africa, this will require Portia to further support the development of in-country organizational processes, and mobilize national partnerships, steering committees and sponsors.

Goals

- Enhance multistakeholder engagement to examine how gender biases affect research outcomes.
- Promote cross-disciplinary and multi-institutional collaboration for joint action.
- Expand the global presence and capacity of the GS platform through a hybrid approach.

Activities and milestones

- The 2024 GS consisted of online (May 22-23) and in-person (November 19) components. The online program had over 1000 registrations and focused on new research, fresh analytical approaches and evidence-based practices to better understand when, how and why biological, gender and social inequalities impact negatively on quality of research

outcomes. The in-person event was attended by 60 experts at the University of Ottawa and focused on policy. Elsevier speakers from the academic relations group, energy journals, Cell Press, the Lancet and the Elsevier Foundation shared insights including the [2024 Elsevier Gender Report](#) benchmarking the progress of women researchers across 20 countries and regions.

- As a direct outcome of the 2024 GS, Portia partnered with the University of Ottawa and George Washington University to submit a successful NSF application to create a new Roadmap for Action 2.0 for North America which will provide a critical refresh of the existing 2013 Roadmap. To achieve this, GS partners will conduct a series of 15 global consultations, with the first one hosted by Elsevier in New York on February 27, 2025.

Sustainability and future plans




- Consider meaningful expansion to a GS Arab World, following a successful event at the 2017 World Science Forum.
- Set the hybrid format as a permanent feature by refining organizational processes, forming partnerships and securing funding for upcoming GS.

ITOCA

Future of Libraries at Fiesole Retreat Workshop



Participants of the Librarians Workshop at the Fiesole Retreat conference during the LEGO Serious Play session

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Cape Town, South Africa	14 early-career librarians from Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, South Africa, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe	\$20,000/year (2024, pilot grant)



Primary outcome

Support underresourced early-career librarians from low- and middle-income countries through participation in the Fiesole Retreat conference and a dedicated pre-conference workshop, enhancing skills, networking and careers within the global research community.

Overview

Many research libraries are actively redefining their roles to align with their universities’ societal impact goals. Part of the Elsevier Foundation Future of Research Libraries program, the partnership with

Information Training & Outreach Centre for Africa (ITOCA) aims to contribute to the diverse perspectives essential for greater equity in research.

This pilot supported early-career librarians’ participation at the Fiesole Retreat conference “Connecting Global North and Global South: African Perspectives in scholarly communications” (May 7-8, 2024 in Cape Town, South Africa), and offered a dedicated workshop “Empowering Early Career Research Librarians from the Global South”, to provide critical networking, mentoring and competence-building skills.

Goals

- Foster a dynamic and innovative approach to competence development for early-career librarians
- Develop creative ideas, enhance collaboration and networking opportunities.

Activities and milestones




- Convened the ITOCA-Elsevier Foundation Workshop as a pre-conference event to the Fiesole Retreat. Session included:
 - Understanding the role of research librarians through lectures, case studies, group discussions and a panel with experienced librarians.
 - Using LEGO Serious Play for competence building, including hands-on activities and group reflections to explore and develop innovative ideas, share insights, and collectively brainstorm strategies for improving collection development in their respective libraries.
- The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Charlotte Wien, Vice President of Library Relations at Elsevier, and Lisa Hinchliffe, Professor for Research Professional Development in the University Library at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in the US.

- Workshop participants were featured at the Conference Reception, optimizing their networking opportunities with Fiesole retreat speakers and delegates.

Sustainability and future plans

- Create a proposal for a series of knowledge exchange workshops at key library conferences. such as the 2025 Collection Development in Africa (CDiA) Conference in South Africa, September 21-23, 2025.
- Continue refining the workshop format to boost the involvement of underrepresented early-career librarians.

IMC Weekend School Amsterdam STEM Program

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Amsterdam, The Netherlands	10 -14-year-olds from underserved communities	\$25,000 a year (2016-2024)



Primary outcome

Inspire students from under-resourced neighbourhoods about potential career perspectives and provide training to develop competencies in science, health and technology to pursue their future goals.

Overview

Encouraging careers among young people from communities with limited educational resources and few professional role models is crucial for better integration and equity. For the past 25 years, the IMC Weekendschool (IMC) has offered an enrichment program for children in underprivileged

neighbourhoods across the Netherlands. Over the course of the 3-year IMC curriculum, teachers, professionals, and volunteers coach students ages 10–14 years to a wide range of disciplines while helping them to develop communication and conflict resolution skills, build character development and enable them to connect more fully to society and improve their future career prospects.

Since 2015, the Elsevier Foundation has supported the Science and Health programs at the Amsterdam West location of the IMC Weekendschool. The proximity to the Elsevier office has enabled colleagues to volunteer over the years. From 2019–2021, the Foundation further expanded its commitment by funding the development



Participants of the IMC Weekend School health class

of a new Technology program, broadening educational opportunities and equipping students with vital skills for the digital age.

Goals

- Expose children from underserved communities to the fields of technology, science, and healthcare, with a particular emphasis on encouraging girls to engage with technology.
- Enhance children’s understanding of these disciplines by providing access to role models through guest lecturers, thereby inspiring and motivating them.
- Foster holistic development in children by broadening their perspectives about future opportunities, boosting self-confidence, strengthening social connections, and cultivating essential skills such as presentation, teamwork, and collaboration.

Activities and milestones

- The Elsevier Foundation supported 3 modules in 2024 for a total of 12 weekend classes focused on Technology, Science and Health.
- Health module: focus on medical professions and how innovative technology can help in diagnosis and treatment. Students were introduced to pediatrics (anatomy lesson), obstetrics (childbirth), and practical first aid interventions.
- Technology module: focus on computational thinking, coding, artificial intelligence, ethics, 3D modelling and game design.
- Science module: focus on stimulating curiosity, creativity and logical reasoning by conducting tests and experiments, including a focus on climate science where students explore climate change and conduct hydrological experiments on surface infiltration.
- In 2024, 23 first-year students attended both the Science and Health program, and 30 second-year students attended the Technology one. 27 voluntary guest teachers were involved across the 3 modules.

Looking ahead

In 2025, the IMC Weekendschool will concentrate on four strategic themes to ensure the sustainability of its programs:

- The implementation of the ToekomstExpeditie (Future Expeditions) educational concept across all locations and within the alumni program –exposing children to diverse career perspectives, fostering personal growth, and essential life skills such as teamwork and communication.
- Increasing societal support through enhanced collaboration with partners and alumni.
- Innovating the educational concept for schools without a dedicated IMC Weekendschool coordinator.
- Investing in a professional and enjoyable work culture for employees.

- “Technology is trying out new things and using them differently.”

Yulisa, student
- “Can we make a mathematical model of dreams?”

Mikail, student (10) during a science course
- “Through programming one can move robots and let them play football.”

Mustafe, student



Participants of the IMC Weekend School health class



Our 2024 partnerships



Concern Worldwide Health System Strengthening in Somalia

Strengthens capacity to provide a timely, effective response to surges in cases of children with acute malnutrition.



Aidsfonds Tanya Marlo

Provides accessible HIV-related information, counselling and lifesaving care for youth and minority groups in Indonesia.

BBRI Implementation Science Program

Increases the rapid adoption of evidence-based interventions to improve health equity for all.



Historically Black Colleges and Universities Schools of Nursing Scholarships Fund

Adresses health disparities by promoting greater representation in the nursing workforce.

Kidshelp Diabetes Prevention and Management in Cambodia

Tackles the diabetes crisis by providing localized education, screening and ongoing support to patients in their diabetes management.



World Patients Alliance Patient Safety Children Books




Empowers the community to act for safer care through the education of children, by developing a book series about patient safety.

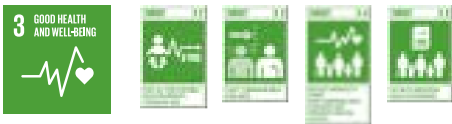
“

Over the past five years, I have been proud to help build the Elsevier Foundation’s new portfolio of partnerships ranging from HBCUs nursing scholarships to building the basis for a new Black Researcher Consortium in the UK. It’s helped build greater awareness, indicators and approaches across all of the Foundation’s partnerships.”

Keystone Holloway, Managing Director of Global Content Partners, Elsevier

Concern Worldwide Health System Strengthening in Somalia

 Location	 Target group	 Budget
Mogadishu, Banadir, and Gedo Regions, Somalia	Regional health management teams, information officers and healthcare workers in 12 health facilities across 5 districts	\$50,000 (2023, pilot) \$100,000 per year (2024-2026)



Primary outcome

Capacity building to provide a timely, effective response to surges in cases of children with acute malnutrition in Somalia.

Overview

Seven million Somalis, close to 50% of the population, face crisis-level food insecurity driven by conflict and a prolonged drought, further exacerbated by climate change. As the drought intensifies, the number of children suffering from malnutrition continues to rise.

Healthcare facilities are facing surges driven by many complex and overlapping factors, such as the pre-harvest hunger gap and increased incidence of malaria and diarrhea during the rainy season. It is during these caseload surges that the potential to save lives is greatest, yet government health systems are often not able to provide a timely, effective response.

Concern Worldwide works together with the Somali Ministry of Health to improve the capture of quality data, enabling health care workers track, target cases and respond to fluctuations without compromising service. Based at the Banadir Hospital Stabilization

“

The Elsevier Foundation’s inclusive health partnerships with organizations like Concern and Aidsfonds exemplify our commitment to inclusive healthcare. From an Elsevier Health perspective, we are proud to bring our insights, expertise and innovative products to bear, supporting our partners as they tackle health disparities within their communities, ensuring a healthier future for all.”

Jan Herzhoff, President of Health Markets, Elsevier



Panel discussion held at AHAIC 2025 with Bishar Osman Hussein, Somalia Health and Nutrition Program Coordinator at Concern Worldwide

Centre, the project builds on the successful 2023 pilot to scale up data improvement and management through the CMAM Surge Approach (Community Management of Acute Malnutrition). This innovative approach ensures timely and accurate information sharing and coordination between communities, health facilities and district Health teams in 12 facilities across 5 districts of the Banadir and Gedo regions in Somalia.

Goals

- Improve data management and utilization through capacity building of health managers.
- Scale up the CMAM Surge Approach gains achieved during the pilot by training healthcare workers in outbreak detection, prevention, and control, enhancing their ability to manage and respond to infectious disease threats.

Activities and milestones

- 28 District Health Management Team members trained on the WHO application to enhance data visualization and quality management.
- 40 frontline health workers received training on the CMAM Surge model to improve their ability to manage malnutrition trends effectively.
- Successfully scaled and secured gains achieved during the pilot phase to Bandar health centre in Gedo region
- Enabled health facilities to proactively identify and respond to surges in Severe Acute Malnutrition (SAM) cases, adjusting facility resources as needed.
- Continued support provided to district health management teams through regular monthly and project coordination meetings, including NGOs delivering essential health and nutrition services in the project area.

Hamda Hussein (19) pregnant with her first child speaks to a Health worker at the Weydow Health centre. Hamda Hussein lives in an IDP site near Mogadishu where she moved to with her family 2 years ago, after they had to leave their farm due to conflict in the area. © Mustafa Saeed/Concern Worldwide



“ We couldn’t monitor caseloads before and what usually happened is that the cases would increase while many staff were on leave or attending training, leading to other staff becoming over stretched, which in turn impacted patient care. But with the CMAM surge approach, it became easier for us to monitor case thresholds, understand contributing factors and plan ahead. The CMAM surge approach has also improved relationships with the district health management team and the community, ensuring a stronger health system”.

Healthcare worker

Looking ahead

Our partnership will extend through 2026 to scale up and strengthen the CMAM surge approach across 15 health facilities in the Banadir and Gedo regions. By building robust collaboration with local health authorities and integrating the project strategy into existing health frameworks, Concern aims to establish a solid foundation for continuous improvements. The project will also facilitate national-level discussions by leveraging lessons learned throughout the program.




“ Before, the staff did not know at which time of the year they would experience a peak in malnutrition cases. The cases would increase, there would be a lot of sick children in the centre, and they would run out of supplies. This resulted in children suffering more severe malnutrition and staying longer at the centre. (...) Since the CMAM surge training, the number of deaths at the centre have decreased, compared to the months before the staff were trained on this approach.”

Masud Mohamud, Health and Nutrition Project Coordinator, Concern, Somalia

Healthcare workers at one of the targeted health centres



Aidsfonds Tanya Marlo

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Indonesia	Sexually active youth, including the LGBTQI community, who are vulnerable to STI or HIV infection.	\$50,000/year (2022) \$70,000 (2023) \$90,000 (2024)



Primary outcome

Empower vulnerable Indonesian youth and minority groups to take control of their health through accessible sexual and reproductive health (SRHR) and HIV-related information, counseling, and care.

Overview

HIV-related deaths in Indonesia have surged by 60% since 2010, contrary to the declining global trend, with access to SRHR information under pressure from growing conservatism. According to UNAIDS, approximately 540,000 people are living with HIV in Indonesia, yet only one-third receive PrEP (preexposure prophylaxis), a lifesaving treatment.

The Tanya Marlo project, or “Ask Marlo” in Bahasa Indonesia, targets youth providing easy access to information and care via a web-based platform and



Participants of the training week conducted by Aidsfonds to strengthen the Tanya Marlo program



chatbot. These tools offer tailored, youth-friendly information using the internationally proven Stepped Digital Care Model for Sexual Health, linking users to counselors and service directories. To increase reach and impact, the Tanya Marlo team co-creates content together with local partners and young people, linking audiences with the care they need.

Goals

- Deliver comprehensive, non-judgmental and sex-positive HIV- and SRHR-services.
- Promote self-care and enhance young people’s agency to seek information and services online and offline.
- Build a coalition of digital health partners to increase reach and impact.

Activities and milestones

- Created health education messages for social media based on user interaction and focus group results. Topics included SRHR/HIV issues, stigma, and medication adherence.
- Engaged influencers for online marketing and published regular content, including videos and articles.
- Raised awareness among university students about HIV, SRHR and mental health through the ‘Tanya Marlo Goes to campus’ initiative.
- Recruited four new youth-led organizations to the coalition. They joined mental health NGO Sehat Jiwa (partner since 2023), and are: JIP (advocacy for needs & rights of young people with HIV), YIM (youth health promotion & empowerment), PKBI (education

- & services on SHRH, sexual violence & family planning) and Inti Muda (meaningful engagement focusing on young key population & advocates for their rights).
- Conducted 5 focus groups with youth to explore SRHR needs and engaged with 10 community-based organizations, facilitating co-creation workshops.
- Provided additional training to counselors on SRHR topics, behavioral change and systematic development in health promotion.
- Held a training week with ca. 20 partners providing a Discovery Workshop to map organizations, platforms and services for young people in Indonesia, and a training on Intervention Mapping.
- Designed a redevelopment plan for the Tanya Marlo online platform in collaboration with partners.

Challenges

- Navigated restrictive policies while respecting cultural sensitivities around sexual health educational content.
- Adoption of the Stepped Care approach took more time than anticipated, but as of February 2025 is running smoothly with partners collaborating closely.

Sustainability and future plans

Address fragmentation in sexual health, STI, and HIV testing services in Indonesia by developing and implementing an advanced clinic finder next year.

“ There are still many people who lack education about how HIV is transmitted and other important details about it. By understanding HIV better, I can interact and socialize with people living with HIV without fear or avoidance. The HIV education provided during the Goes to Campus activity offers valuable insights into understanding and addressing HIV.”

Student from the Universitas Muhammadiyah Jakarta


Participants of the training week
Bottom: The Tanya Marlo team with Domiziana Francescon, Director of Partnerships at the Elsevier Foundation




Participants of the training week




BBRI Implementation Science Program




Location
North Carolina, U.S.



Target group
Faculty and Students
(undergraduate and graduate) at
North Carolina State University



Budget
\$100,000 a year
(2020-2022) with no cost
extensions (2023-2025).



Additional funders
ViiV Healthcare



Primary outcome

Facilitate the rapid adoption of evidence-based interventions to address health disparities in underresourced communities.

Overview

According to the National Institutes of Health’s U.S. Library of Medicine, on average it takes 17 years for new evidence-based information to make its way into the routine practices of most clinicians. Patients with diseases that disproportionately affect underresourced populations may be even slower to benefit from new findings.

To bridge this gap, the Julius L. Chambers Biomedical Biotechnology Research Institute (BBRI) at North Carolina Central University (NCCU) conducts



Dr. Deepak Kumar (Scientific leader of NCCU’s JLC-BBRI), Kevonne Holloway (Managing Director, Global Content Partners at Elsevier), Ylann Schemm (Executive Director of the Elsevier Foundation) and Dr. Claudia Alberico (Program Manager at NCCU)

multidisciplinary and inter-institutional research focused on health issues that disproportionately affect minority and underserved populations. Their Implementation Science Education and Training (ISET) program, funded by the Elsevier Foundation, supports new and early-stage investigations focused on health disparities research by providing graduate students with training and mentoring in implementation science (IS), submitting successful IS-focused grants, addressing IS gaps in health disparity research, and developing a culture of IS across NCCU at all levels.

Goals

- Increase the number of health disparity researchers who are conducting implementation science research and dissemination.
- Organize outreach and networking activities within the NCCU community.
- Develop faculty expertise in implementation science and expand capacity at NCCU.



Dr. Deepak Kumar and team at JLC-BBRI, Right: Claudia Alberico, Kevonne Holloway, Ylann Schemm, Dr. Kumar and BBRI Researcher Charity Watkins.

Activities and milestones

- Awarded a new pilot grant to researcher Dr. Lamis Jomaa, whose work centres on the adoption of nutrition guidelines used in food pantries in both rural and urban counties in North Carolina, and their impact on diet quality and nutrition security of children and adolescents in low-income families.
- Developed course modules for NCCU students on implementation science.
- Hosted a 2024 Implementation Science Symposium, with the participation of local institutions including the University of Duke, UNC Chapel Hill, [RTI International](#), and the Elsevier Foundation.
- Established community advisory boards and focus groups to build relationships and engage communities in underserved counties across North Carolina.
- Organized workshops on how to efficiently deploy evidence-based findings in clinical settings and held NCCU faculty workshops in nursing, social work, psychology and public health on how to integrate IS best practices across disciplines.

Looking ahead

- Gather insights from the pilot research grants' final reports to understand scaling strategies and evaluate the overall program's effectiveness, guiding future decisions as current funding draws to a close.
- BBRI's commitment to promoting evidence-based interventions in minority and underserved communities remains strong, with plans to sustain and expand initiatives at NCCU and beyond.

“ I really enjoyed working on the Implementation Science Fellowship Training Program. I had not realized how closely implementation science aligns with my everyday work. I plan to incorporate its frameworks into my own programs and research.”

Jasmine Benner, Community Health Educator involved in the Food Pantry research project






Group photo of Ylann Schemm and Domiziana Francescon with BBRI staff and researchers during a campus visit.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities Schools of Nursing Scholarships Fund



Students at the Clinical Learning Resource Center of the North Carolina Central University School of Nursing

		
Location	Target group	Budget
United States of America (Alabama, North Carolina, Virginia).	Nursing students in 5 Historically Black Colleges and Universities.	\$50,000 a year (2020-2024).



Primary outcome

Ensure that nursing students experience a more level playing field while pursuing higher education, and ensuring improved healthcare by promoting a nursing workforce representative of the population it serves.

Overview

Springboarding off the National League of Nursing/ Elsevier HBCU Excellence in Technology Innovation programs, the Historically Black Colleges and Universities Schools of Nursing Scholarship Fund aims to to address pervasive health disparities.

Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs) are on the front lines of this challenge, laying the groundwork for thriving careers and supporting healthcare for a range of communities. With 107 HBCUs across the U.S., these academic institutions allow African American students to experience inclusive learning opportunities that extend beyond the classroom to professional development and community building through a shared mission and sense of belonging.

Since 2020, the Foundation has worked closely with education and nursing institutions to promote equity in learning and practice. The Elsevier Foundation’s HBCUs Schools of Nursing Scholarship Fund supports that commitment through an annual contribution to five HBCUs across the U.S. By giving each school \$10,000 a year for 5 years to distribute at their discretion, they have been able to create targeted scholarships to alleviate financial burden, reward service participation, and aid students in other ways.

Activities and milestones

+90 scholarships awarded across 5 Historically Black Colleges and Universities (HBCUs)

- Winston Salem University Nursing School
- Tuskegee University School of Nursing and Allied Health
- North Carolina A&T University School of Nursing
- Hampton University
- North Carolina Central University School of Nursing




“ This scholarship is a vital step forward in achieving that dream. Since I was 15, I have worked hard to support myself, and this award brings me one step closer to realizing my full potential. Once again, thank you for your generosity and support. I am deeply honored to be chosen for this scholarship, and I look forward to making the most of this opportunity”

Nursing student from North Carolina A&T University School of Nursing

“ This scholarship significantly alleviates my financial burden, allowing me to focus more fully on my nursing studies. I sincerely appreciate your efforts in securing these opportunities for nursing students, as they make a meaningful difference in our academic journey. Thank you for your continued support of students like myself!”

Nursing student from North Carolina A&T University School of Nursing

Kidshelp Diabetes Prevention and Management in Cambodia

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Phnom Penh, Cambodia	Underserved rural communities	\$4,800 (2024)



Primary outcome

Empower female nursing students and improve health outcomes for diabetic patients in rural Cambodia through targeted education and community engagement.

Overview

Cambodia is currently facing one of the highest rates of diabetes in Southeast Asia, with many individuals unaware of their condition or lacking the knowledge to manage it effectively. Official statistics indicate a diabetes prevalence of approximately 10% in Cambodia; however, a recent study revealed that a staggering 55% of Cambodians living with diabetes are undiagnosed.

In response to this pressing health challenge, the Elsevier Foundation, in collaboration with Kidshelp,



Participants of diabetes screening camps in Cambodia

equipped eight female nursing students with comprehensive training in diabetes management through Clinical Key, Elsevier’s evidence-based health support platform. With the expert guidance of Natasha Gulati, Elsevier’s Customer Success Team Manager, the students launched community-based health initiatives in a village near Phnom Penh. They conducted diabetes screening drives, identified patients, and provided personalized coaching on lifestyle and medication management, demonstrating the transformative power of education and support, illustrating how informed individuals can take proactive steps toward better health outcomes.

Goals

- Enhance patient knowledge and awareness of diabetes management and healthy lifestyle choices.
- Improve health outcomes through personalized coaching and ongoing support for diabetic patients.
- Equip healthcare students with essential skills and hands-on experience in community health initiatives.

Activities and milestones

- Completed training for eight female healthcare students on diabetes management and community engagement
 - Created a range of new educational collateral in Cambodian, including visually engaging posters, informative banners, and a compelling video. The resources were designed to facilitate knowledge sharing with villagers, aiming to raise awareness about diabetes prevention, management, and the significance of regular health check-ups.
 - Conducted screening camps where healthcare students actively engaged with the community to identify individuals with high blood glucose levels in January 2024. The camps served as a low threshold, but vital entry point for early diagnosis and intervention, allowing for timely referrals to appropriate healthcare services.
- Implemented a series of bi-weekly visits and personalized coaching sessions for patients from February to July 2024. These sessions focused on lifestyle modifications, such as dietary changes and physical activity, as well as medication adherence, and providing ongoing support and motivation to patients.
 - Patients reported a significant improvement in their understanding of lifestyle modifications and the critical importance of adhering to prescribed medications. Notably, individuals like Sin Hak, a war veteran, and Seng Sokhoun, an elderly woman, experienced a renewed sense of agency in managing their health. Their stories underscore the profound impact of education, support and compassion in transforming lives towards better health outcomes.

Participants of diabetes screening camps in Cambodia



Looking ahead

The project aims to ensure sustainability through continued training and support for healthcare students and patients, enhancing community health outcomes in the region. Plans to translate children’s safety books into Khmer will further empower the community to advocate for safer healthcare practices.

“Kidshelp Kambodcha is doing fantastic work in bringing education to a country that was devastated by genocide. Thanks to their dedicated efforts, thousands of young minds have successfully completed master’s degrees in professional fields and are now making significant contributions to their society. Elsevier is proud to support Kidshelp with our health teaching initiatives and infrastructure development, helping to empower the next generation of leaders in Cambodia. Together, we are fostering a brighter future and transforming lives through the power of education!”

Natasha Gulati, Elsevier’s Customer Success Team Manager



World Patients Alliance

Patient Safety Children Books

		
Location	Target group	Budget
Global	Children	\$4,000 per year (2024-2025)



Primary outcome

Teaching fundamental patient safety principles to children through educational children's books.

Overview

Patient safety is a pressing global concern, with the World Health Organization reporting that 134 million adverse events occur annually in hospitals in low- and middle-income countries, resulting in at least 3 million deaths due to unsafe care. As one of the leading causes of death and disability worldwide, it is crucial to address these issues early on. By educating children about patient safety principles, we can help establish

a culture of safer healthcare practices for future generations.

In response to this urgent need, [the World Patients Alliance \(WPA\)](#), Elsevier, and the Elsevier Foundation partnered in 2024 to develop a 5-part series of children's books to instil fundamental patient safety concepts in children aged six to twelve. The initiative was led by Lais Junquiera, Elsevier's Quality, Patient Safety and Innovation Manager who was able to build a strong coalition of supporters to produce this unique series. The books not only raise awareness but also serve as a valuable educational resource for families and educators. Through captivating stories and accessible content, the patient safety books



Pages from the Doctor Safety Book series

empower children to understand and discuss important health and safety topics, ultimately fostering a safer healthcare environment for all.

Goals

- Develop a series of engaging children's books that educate young readers about fundamental patient safety principles, namely the importance of hand hygiene, medication safety and fears about visiting healthcare professionals.
- Raise awareness within communities, hospitals, schools, and among educators about the critical importance of teaching patient safety to children.

Activities and milestones

- Successfully published and launched 3 of the 5 children's books on patient safety, available in both English and Portuguese. Audiobooks and video books have also been produced to enhance accessibility.
- Officially introduced the series at the World Patients Alliance Congress in October 2024 and the Brazilian Patient Safety Society Congress in November 2024, generating significant engagement and interest. A total of 450 copies of the books were printed and distributed at these events.

- Established partnerships for additional translations and promotional efforts, collaborating with organizations such as NAidvar Trust in Ghana and Kidshelp in Cambodia to broaden the initiative's impact.
- Launched an Instagram account for "Doctor Safety", fostering a community focused on patient safety education among a diverse audience.

Looking ahead

- The partners behind the patient safety books will focus on expanding the reach and impact of the series through additional translations, targeting communities worldwide to foster inclusivity and accessibility.
- The remaining 2 books of the 5-part series will be completed covering other essential patient safety topics, ensuring comprehensive education for children.
- In addition, partnerships with educational institutions and healthcare organizations will be strengthened to facilitate the integration of these resources into national school curriculums and community programs.

Our 2024 partnerships



“ We see the Foundation’s Matching Gift program as a way to empower Elsevier colleagues. With an annual personal matching budget of \$1000 and unlimited ability to contribute to office fundraisers, the fund equips Elsevierians with the opportunity to contribute to the causes they really care about, whether in their communities and globally.

Ylann Schemm, Executive Director,
The Elsevier Foundation, Elsevier

To support community engagement, the Elsevier Foundation provides annual matching funds to charitable organizations supported by Elsevier employees. Each year, we earmark \$200,000 to match employee’s individual and group donations to eligible non-profit organizations around the world. Our fund is also used to support global disaster relief efforts championed by Elsevier colleagues. By matching employee gifts, both employee and Foundation resources are leveraged for maximum community benefit, ensuring that colleagues can connect to the world around them through donations.

Since early 2022, the Elsevier Foundation joined the RELX divisions’ Employee Giving Program (Lexis Nexis Legal and Professional, Risk Solutions and Reed Exhibitions), migrating our Matching Gift offering to the Benevity platform for charitable donation-management. Our program, which complements RELX’s efforts to stimulate employee volunteering, has benefited from economies of scale that include direct payroll giving, companywide fundraising campaigns, centralized reporting and most, importantly, a greatly expanded geographic reach across the majority of Elsevier locations.

“ As a RELX Cares Champion it is wonderful to organise events and know that the Elsevier Foundation will match all the funds through our new platform Benevity. Benevity is quick and easy to use and you can track your match easily for the charity and get real time updates on donations. I really love my role as a RELX Champion, it brings our community together for good in this hybrid working environment.”

Beck Stockdale, RELX Cares Champion, Elsevier

Elsevier colleagues from the Amsterdam office during a clean up organized by the local Green Team

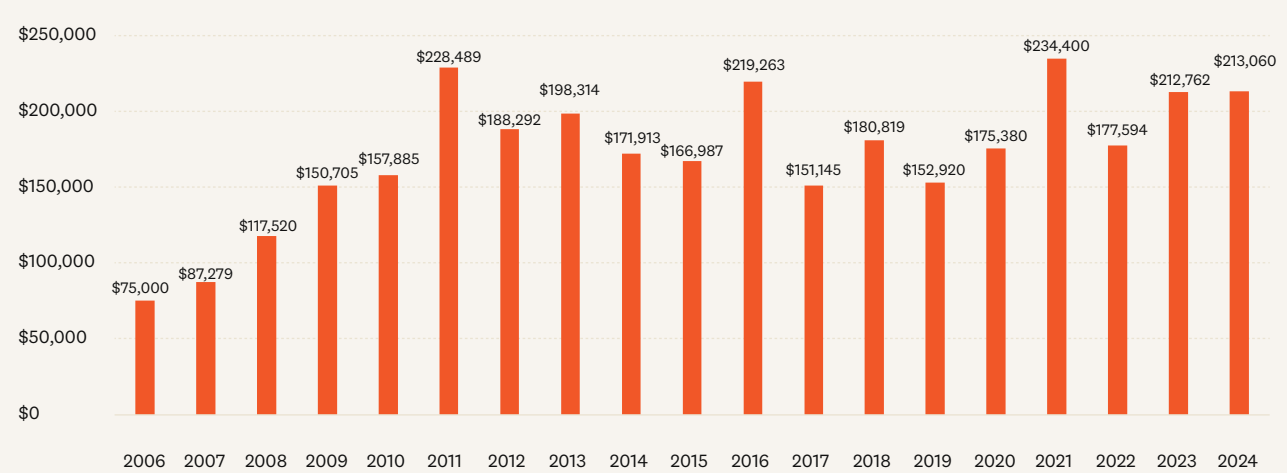


Elsevier colleagues from Oxford during a clean up activity organized by the local Green Team

The graph presents an overview of over fifteen years of Gift Matching. The spike in 2011 reflects a large-scale response to the earthquake and Fukushima disaster relief efforts in Japan; while the spike in 2016 was due to an additional \$20,000 in disaster relief to the Red Cross for the Louisiana flooding. In March 2022, a high volume of donations to relief for the conflict in Ukraine was supported through the new Benevity platform.

\$3,259,727
donations matched since 2006

Overview of Matching Gift expenditures 2006 – 2024



Financial overview

2022-2024 Program allocation

		2022	2023	2024
Inclusive Health				
Aidsfonds	Tanya Marlo	\$50,000	\$70,000	\$90,000
Amref Health Africa	Leap mLearning	\$50,000	-	-
Concern Worldwide	Health Systems Strengthening	-	\$50,000	\$100,000
HBCUs	Schools of Nursing Scholarship Fund	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000
Julius L. Chambers Biomedical Biotechnology Research Institute	Implementation Science Program	\$100,000	No cost extension	
Kidshelp Cambodia	Diabetes community awareness	-	-	\$4,809
MSF/Epicentre	Niger Research Center	\$100,000	-	-
National League for Nursing	NLN/Elsevier HBCU Innovation in Technology Excellence program	\$100,000	-	-
Sansum Diabetes Research Insititute	Latino Diabetes Community Scientists	\$100,000	-	-
Word Patients Alliance	Patient Safety children's books	-	-	\$4,125
Inclusive Research				
Asian Scientist	Summit for Leadership in STEM	\$50,000	\$75,000	\$75,000
Cell Press and Cell Signalling Technologies	Rising Black Scientist Awards	-	\$22,000	\$22,000
COACH (University of Oregon)	Water First! workshops	-	\$70,000	\$70,000
CWAST	Strengthening career pathways for women scientists in China	-	-	\$15,000
Elsevier Chemistry Portfolio	Chemistry for Climate Action Challenge	\$33,000	\$33,000	\$33,000
Elsevier Materials Science	Agents of Change Awards	-	\$15,000	-
Falling Walls Foundation	Female Science Talents	\$50,000	\$90,000	\$90,000
Girls Inc. of New York	Pre-G3 Data Analytics program	\$75,000	\$75,000	-
IMC Weekend School	Amsterdam	\$25,000	\$25,000	\$25,000

		2022	2023	2024
Inclusive Research				
ITOCA	Fiesole Retreat workshop	-	-	\$20,000
Medical Library Association	Librarians without Borders/ Research4Life training	\$50,000	-	-
NUS	Transforming University Libraries Leadership & Innovation Programme	-	-	\$32,000
OWSD	Awards for Women in Science	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Portia	Gender Summits	-	-	\$45,000
Research4Life	Country Connectors	\$70,000	\$70,000	\$70,000
Riken	Envisioning Futures	\$40,000	No cost extension	
TWAS	Climate Women Grants	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$155,000
Vitae	UK Black researchers in STEM	\$54,500	No cost extension	\$57,600
OWSD	Awards for Women in Science	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
Matching Gift		\$228,456	\$212,762	\$213,060
TOTAL		\$1,425,956	\$1,057,762	\$1,271,594

2022-2023 Overview of programs and costs

	2022	2023	2024
INCLUSIVE HEALTH	\$550,000	\$170,000	\$248,934
INCLUSIVE RESEARCH	\$647,500	\$675,000	\$809,600
MATCHING GIFT*	\$228,456	\$212,762	\$213,060
ADMIN	\$100,000	\$100,000	\$100,000
TOTAL	\$1,525,956	\$1,157,762	\$1,371,594

* Contribution paid directly by Elsevier on behalf of the Elsevier Foundation.

The Elsevier Foundation

20 years of catalyzing impact, inspiring change

For more information about the Elsevier Foundation, visit elsevierfoundation.org



Copyright © 2025 Elsevier B.V. April 2025