

Supporting women scientists

China Women's Association for Science and Technology



Location

China



Target group

Early- and mid-career women scientists



Budget

\$15,000
a year (2024-2026)



SDGs

SDG 5 (target 5.5)

Synopsis

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.

Program description

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 and they struggle to attain senior positions.

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.



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Advancing human progress together

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 research with scientists, policymakers, evaluation institutions, funders and media.

Activities and milestones

- Organized an in-person workshop at Elsevier Measurement, Sensor Systems and Applications Conference (August 2025) with high-level speakers, including Prof. Gao Bo (CWAIST representative and Deputy Director of the Chinese Academy of Sciences Institute of Technical Physics), Dr Yandan Jiang, Associate Professor at Beihang University and Professor Paolo Carbone, President of IMEKO (International Measurement Confederation), IEEE Fellow, Editor-in-Chief of Measurement, and co-Chair of the conference.
- Developed a new webinar series hosted by Elsevier's China Researcher Academy, to offer accessible, high-quality virtual learning resources for thousands of researchers. 3 webinars were held, bringing together experts from Elsevier, including editors and publishers and senior leaders within CWAIST, who shared tips and insights for early-career researchers in China.
 - Peer Review Demystified: Building Your Expertise as a Researcher (September 2025 – language: Chinese)
 - Pathways to becoming an Editor (October 15, 2025 – language: Chinese)
 - Breaking Barriers: Career Journeys of Senior Women Scientists (November 2025 – language English)

Looking ahead

Building on the strong engagement to date, our partnership will continue to evolve its webinar series to address timely topics such as research confidence, SDG-aligned work and international collaboration. We aim to further leverage the Elsevier Researcher Academy platform and explore opportunities for joint outreach and discipline-specific sessions with leading journals and editorial teams to increase visibility and access to global networks.

