



Press release

Paris, 6 October 2009

The L'Oréal Corporate Foundation and UNESCO are delighted by the announcement of a Nobel Prize in Medicine to Professor Elizabeth Blackburn

In 2008, Professor Blackburn had received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award For Women in Science for North America

Yesterday, Elizabeth Blackburn was named laureate of the Nobel Prize in Medicine, together with Professors Carol Greider and Jack Szostak.

The L'Oréal Corporate Foundation and UNESCO warmly congratulate Professor Blackburn. In 2008, she had received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award For Women in Science for discovering the nature and maintenance of chromosome ends and their roles in cancer and aging.

Béatrice Dautresme, Director General of the L'Oréal Corporate Foundation, said: *"We are overjoyed at this supreme distinction. In 2008, Professor Blackburn had impressed our jury with her commitment and the excellence of her research. We are happy and proud of this news, which comes shortly before the announcement of the laureates of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for 2010. For 12 years, our goal has been to recognize and promote exceptional women who, by the excellence of their research, contribute every day to making this a better world."*

Elizabeth Longworth, Executive Director of the Office of the Director General of UNESCO, added:

"We are very happy and very proud to learn that the Nobel Prize in Medicine 2009 has gone to Professor Elizabeth Blackburn, laureate of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award For Women in Science 2008. When receiving this award, Professor Blackburn emphasized the marvellous diversity of the mechanisms of life and the necessity of varied approaches in research, taking into account all scientific disciplines, but equally importantly all the diversity of human creativity, that of men and of women."

In 2010, diversity will once again be at the core of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards, which recognize five eminent women scientists from five continents. The wonderful success of Professor Blackburn is a tremendous encouragement to women in science, as well as being a great example for the next generation."

A pioneering program launched 12 years ago



Created in 1998, the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards For Women in Science were the first international scientific awards dedicated to women. Twelve years later, the program has become an international reference of scientific distinction and an inestimable source of motivation and inspiration for women in science.