



WOMEN IN OCEAN SCIENCE

Fundraising Campaign and Programme Overview

ADVANCING EXCEPTIONAL
WOMEN SCIENTISTS TO
PROTECT THE OCEAN



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OUR RATIONALE



THE NEED FOR WOMEN IN OCEAN SCIENCE (WIOS)

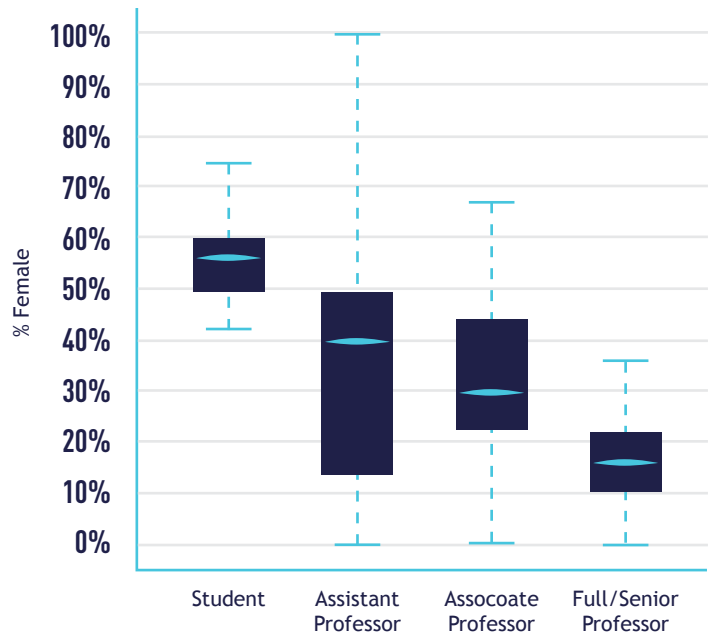
Whilst progress has been made over the last 30 years in terms of women's representation within the scientific community, the discipline of ocean science remains hugely unequal in terms of women entering at professional levels vs their progression to key positions within academia. The proportion of women receiving graduate oceanography degrees between 1966 and 2001 rose from 2 percent in the early 1970s to 38 percent in 2001 (NSF, 2004), yet this increase in women in ocean science is not translating to women in upper ranking roles.

Funding and collaborations with leading counterparts are areas that limit the potential of all scientists and we believe we can improve this opportunity for women in ocean science, hence the WIOS programme.

The purpose of WIOS is:

“to advance women in ocean sciences to become world-leading professionals, by developing a cohort and network of WIOS coming through the ranks to push the frontiers of science”.

WIOS will create a network of ocean scientists with a multi-disciplinary foci on coral reefs and tropical ecosystems. The programme seeks to identify individuals who can raise the profile and improve leadership for women in ocean science. The 7-year programme will: offer needed recognition within the ocean science community; provides research funding for key scientists; supports internships for early career scientists; and creates a community of WIOS across the globe.



Box-and-whisker plot of the median, upper and lower quartiles, and maximum and minimum female representation in student population and associate, and full/senior professors for major oceanography programs in the United States

WIOS AND CCMI

CCMI is the Caribbean's leading research, conservation and education facility, based on the 'remote' island of Little Cayman. With stunning reefs, less than 8 people/km² and over 20 years of baseline data at our finger tips, CCMI can provide a tangible opportunity for ocean scientists to study the drivers of resilience that can support vibrant oceans and healthy coral reefs.

CCMI has a history of supporting early career scientists and has an informal network of women scientists from major institutions around the world who remain under-represented within the ocean science disciplines. An excellent opportunity has emerged today to formalize this organic theme by launching WIOS to support dynamic, innovative, women in ocean science, with a shared vision of promoting real solutions to declining ocean health and protecting our oceans for future generations.

OUR PROGRAMME



The WIOS programme is proposed to be a 7 year programme that will directly impact researchers and interns who will collectively help find solutions to some of the greatest questions facing the ocean and our society today. Individually, the awardees will work toward advancing the frontiers of science while also progressing their careers, in a supportive and specific environment. The programme will also reach women across major institutions globally who will be invited to attend the workshops and join the WIOS community, improving contacts, sharing knowledge and creating solidarity.

HOW WILL THE PROGRAMME BE DELIVERED?

A Panel of WIOS professionals will guide the programme. The panel will also set the agenda for the workshops and the communications strategy.

A Project manager will oversee building the network, recruiting the awardees, supporting the programme deliverables, planning and facilitating the activities.

Over the duration of the programme, 6 WIOS Fellows and 24 Interns will receive awards. The following programme deliverables have been identified:

- A 2-year research Fellowship will be awarded to 2 scientists over 3 cohorts (6 WIOS Fellows) over the duration of the project, who are free to conduct innovative research on topics of their choice but related to coral reef and ocean science.
- Internships per year will be awarded to support each Fellow on their research, exposing young scientists to cutting edge research (4 interns per year, 6 cohorts, 24 interns in total) and;
- 2 workshop retreats for selected research fellows (30-40 people) will be delivered during the programme (Year 2 and 5). The workshop seeks to develop a network between key ocean science researchers who will work together to generate grant proposals and publications while also discuss new topics relating to ocean science. Participants will include early career scientists all the way through to faculty heads.

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