

Women in Medicinal Chemistry: Ad Maiora!

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Journal of Medicinal Chemistry is proud to share the release of its first special issue dedicated to “Women in Medicinal Chemistry”, jointly published with *ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters*.

We were overwhelmed at the level of interest following the Call for Papers for this special issue.¹ The number of submissions received was high, far more than we anticipated. We interpret this large response in two ways. First, we believe that the female medicinal chemistry community has an enduring enthusiasm to be more visible and to support initiatives that foster the career development of women in medicinal chemistry. This is a positive sentiment, especially in a time where securing a realistic amount of funding to do high-level research is harder than ever all over the world. Second, this is a sign that the issues of gender balance and, more appropriately, gender equity in our field remain a hot topic. Thus, on behalf of the *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, we express our sincere thanks to all the female authors who commit their time and knowledge to advancing medicinal chemistry and whose outstanding research is showcased in this issue.

At the same time, our appreciation goes to all the others, especially the young investigators who did not have the chance to be included in this issue, due to either the preliminary nature of their work or insufficient time to complete the necessary revisions after review assessment. We are confident that they will use reviewers’ suggestions to mature and elevate their eventual research output to higher standards. We want to remind them that they are highly valued; we encourage them to remain in the field and want to support systemic changes needed to ensure women have the opportunity to thrive across every stage of their career.

The capacity to beat the odds and bounce back despite failures is recognized as one reason for both men and women to succeed in such hard but wonderful careers like ours.²

The numerous articles selected and published in this issue cover a wide range of therapeutic areas, from oncology to CNS and infectious diseases. Perspectives and a Drug Annotation are also important contributions in this issue. A special mention goes to the Miniperspective published by five graduate students from the Department of Medicinal Chemistry of the University of Minnesota.³ The lucid and profound analysis they have made from the peculiar point of view of graduate researchers is a true inspiration to the whole community.

We also thank all male medicinal chemists who contributed to this issue either with their scientific works or with assisting us in the review process as editors and referees.

Helping male mentors to understand the experience women scientists face so that they can more effectively guide them in their careers was one of the main triggers of our initiative.⁴ As highlighted by Carole Greider in her Nobel prize interview, supportive male mentors can impact not only individual woman’s careers but also an entire field.⁵

It is evident from this special issue that women are contributing more and more to solving the many challenges that our field faces and are playing a key role in leading breakthrough research in many areas of medicinal chemistry. Everyone in our scientific community is aware of and knows that scientific talent is not gendered. Academia, industry, funding agencies, scientific organizations, journals, and individual laboratory leaders around the world are all working to address this problem and close the gap. We are glad to be at the forefront!

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Notes

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