

Innovate UK

Infocus Women in Innovation Awards – Ambassadors

We are delighted to announce the following individuals are infocus Women in Innovation Ambassadors.

Tera Allas	Visiting Fellow, McKinsey Global Institute; Governing Board Member, Innovate UK
Sara Bell	Founder and CEO, Tempus Energy
Lucinda Bruce-Gardyne	Founder, Genius Gluten Free
Allan Cook CBE	Chairman, Atkins
Sherry Coutu CBE	Founder, Scale Up Institute
Joyeeta Das	CEO, Gyana LTD
Barbara Domayne-Hayman	Chief Business Officer, Autifony
Prof Dame Ann Dowling	President of the Royal Academy of Engineering; Professor of Mechanical Engineering, University of Cambridge
Nicola Horlick	CEO, Money&Co
Jackie Hunter CBE	CEO, Stratified Medical
Dame Sue Ion	Chairman of the UK Nuclear Innovation Research Advisory Board
Dr Soraya Jones	Board Member, KTN; Former Founder CEO Cambridge Wireless
Ann Kramer	CEO, ElectroSpinning
Fiona Marshall	Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Heptares
Nicola Mendelsohn	VP EMEA, Facebook
Maggie Philbin	Co-founder and CEO TeenTech; Former presenter, Tomorrow's World
Dame Nancy Rothwell	President and Vice-Chancellor, University of Manchester
Phil Smith	Chairman, Cisco UK and Ireland; Chairman, Innovate UK
Jenny Tooth OBE	CEO, UKBAA
Naomi Weir	Assistant Director, Campaign for Science and Engineering
Sarah Wood	Co-Founder and Co-CEO, Unruly
Claire Williams OBE	Deputy Team Principal, Williams Formula One racing team



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We have a selection of quotes from Science Minister Jo Johnson, our Chief Executive Ruth McKernan CBE and our Ambassadors that can be used in editorial pieces about our infocus Women in Innovation campaign:

Science Minister Jo Johnson said:

“Businesses of all sizes, researchers and individuals can play a role in driving innovation that will support new technologies, make lives easier, create jobs and drive economic growth. We want to encourage more women to apply for funding opportunities and this campaign will support them to take their business ideas from the drawing board to market and set a precedent that will inspire future generations.”

Dr Ruth McKernan CBE, Chief Executive of Innovate UK, said:

“There are some excellent innovators in Britain, both male and female. Though the vast majority of our funding applications come from male innovators, we know for a fact that the success rates are just as high for men and women. Because of this, we’re launching the infocus campaign and with it the Women in Innovation awards to encourage more women to get involved and bring their ideas to the table”

The Women in Innovation awards offer the finalists mentoring sessions from some of the most high-profile female innovators in the country, including famed investment manager Nicola Horlick, now CEO of Money&Co, and serial entrepreneur and investor Sherry Coutu CBE, founder of the Scale-Up Institute. These mentoring sessions will help the shortlisted innovators further develop their ideas, while getting advice from women who have had successful careers in innovation of their own.

Professor Dame Ann Dowling OM DBE FREng FRS, President of the Royal Academy of Engineering, said:

“Innovation is crucial to the economic and societal wellbeing of the UK and, as I have found, it can also form the foundation of a hugely rewarding career. As an Academy we are fostering engineering innovation and entrepreneurship through our Enterprise Hub and working hard to promote global development and collaboration. Our schemes include some brilliant women but I am keen to see more coming through and developing their ideas to create thriving new businesses. I hope the infocus campaign and funding will encourage them to do so.”

Fiona Marshall, Founder and Chief Scientific Officer, Heptares

“Women are a huge source of innovative ideas which could generate significant economic value but often they are reluctant to develop these further. I am delighted to be working with Innovate UK to support future women entrepreneurs



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and business leaders by providing them with the support, knowledge and networks they need to develop their ideas either in small start-up companies or larger organisations.'

Jackie Hunter CBE, CEO, Stratified Medical

'I am really pleased that Innovate UK launched the Women in Innovation Awards and am proud to be an Ambassador on the programme. Whilst several barriers to women participating in and leading business have been overcome, many remain to be overcome. These include the conscious and unconscious biases that lead to women having to work harder than men to be seen as credible leaders and the difficulties into established networks.'

If you would like to receive biographies of any of these individuals please contact Rod Alexander on rod.alexander@innovateuk.gov.uk

