Calendar 2018

Women Scientists

by Anna Daskopoulou
January

Elizabeth Britton

Born: January 9, 1858
Died: February 25, 1934

Elizabeth Britton was an American botanist and philanthropist who helped organize the creation of the New York Botanical Garden. Her research on lichens and mosses laid the foundation for conservation work in the field.
Alice Hamilton

Born: February 27, 1869
Died: September 22, 1970

Alice Hamilton was a physician whose time at Hull House, a settlement house in Chicago, led her to study and write about industrial health and medicine, working especially with occupational diseases, industrial accidents, and industrial toxins.
March

Caroline Herschel

Born: March 16, 1750
Died: January 9, 1848

Caroline Herschel was the first woman to discover a comet. Her work with her brother, William Herschel, led to the discovery of the planet Uranus. She also discovered new nebulae in 1783: Andromeda and Cetus and later that year, 14 more nebulae.
Rita Levi-Montalcini hid from the Nazis in her native Italy, prohibited because she was a Jew from working in academia or practicing medicine, and started her work on chicken embryos. That research eventually won her a Nobel Prize for discovering nerve growth factor, changing how doctors understand, diagnosis and treat some disorders like Alzheimer's Disease.
May

Inge Lehmann

Born: May 13, 1888
Died: February 21, 1993

Inge Lehmann was a Danish seismologist and geologist whose work led to the discovery that the earth's core is solid, not liquid as previously thought. She lived until 104 and was active in the field until her last years.
Virginia Apgar was a physician best known for her work in obstetrics and anesthesia. She developed the Apgar Newborn Scoring System, which became widely used to assess a newborn's health, and also studied the use of anesthesia on babies. Apgar also helped refocus the March of Dimes organization from polio to birth defects.
Rosalind Franklin had a key role (largely unacknowledged during her lifetime) in discovering the helical structure of DNA. Her work in X-ray diffraction led to the first photograph of the double helix structure, but she did not receive credit when Francis Crick, James Watson, and Maurice Wilkins were awarded the Nobel Prize for their shared research.
Gerty T. Cori

Born: August 15, 1896
Died: October 26 1957

Gerty T. Cori was awarded the 1947 Nobel Prize in medicine or physiology. She helped scientists understand the body's metabolism of sugars and carbohydrates, and later illnesses where such metabolism was disrupted, and the role of enzymes in that process.
Dixy Lee Ray

Born: September 3, 1914
Died: January 3, 1994

A marine biologist and environmentalist, Dixy Lee Ray taught at the University of Washington. She was tapped by President Richard M. Nixon to head the Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) where she defended nuclear power plants as environmentally responsible. In 1976, she ran for governor of Washington state, winning one term, then losing the Democratic primary in 1980.
October

Laura Maria Caterina Bassi

Born: October 31, 1711
Died: February 20, 1778

Professor of anatomy at the University of Bologna, Laura Bassi is most famous for her teaching and experiments in Newtonian physics. She was appointed in 1745 to a group of academics by the future Pope Benedict XIV.
Marie Curie

Born: November 7, 1867
Died: July 4, 1934

Marie Curie was the first scientist to isolate polonium and radium; she established the nature of radiation and beta rays. She was the first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize and the first person to be honored in two different scientific disciplines: physics (1903) and chemistry (1911). Her work led to the development of the X-ray and research into atomic particles.
Augusta Ada Byron, Countess of Lovelace, was an English mathematician who is credited with inventing the first rudimentary system of computation that would later be used in computer languages and programming. Her experiments with Charles Babbage's Analytical Engine led to her developing the first algorithms.
Hypatia project has received funding from the European Union’s Horizon 2020 Framework Programme for Research and Innovation (H 2020-GERI-2014) under the grant agreement No. 665566. This calendar reflects the views of the author, and the European Union cannot held responsibility for any use which might be made of the information contained therein.