



Press release

Paris, 7 October 2009

The L'Oréal Corporate Foundation and UNESCO are delighted at the announcement of a Nobel Prize in Chemistry for Professor Ada Yonath

In 2008, Professor Ada Yonath had received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award For Women in Science for Europe

Ada Yonath today was announced as recipient of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, together with Professors Venkatraman Ramakrishnan and Thomas Steitz.

The L'Oréal Foundation and UNESCO warmly congratulate Professor Yonath. In 2008, she received the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award For Women in Science in recognition of her structural studies of the protein biosynthesis system and its disruption by antibiotics.

Béatrice Dautresme, Director General of the L'Oréal Foundation, said:

« We are very happy and very proud that Professor Ada Yonath will receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. This announcement, coming just two days after that of Professor Elizabeth Blackburn, not only fills us with joy but reinforces our commitment to the promotion of science and the place of women in science. For 12 years, our goal has been to promote exceptional women in science by the annual L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards. That an institution as prestigious as the Nobel Prizes recognizes in turn the excellence of these two women scientists is, for us, a major encouragement.»

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

“We are very happy to learn that a 2008 laureate of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award For Women in Science, Professor Ada Yonath, will receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry. She represents for all women in science a model of courage and persistence. She has spoken to us of the difficulties she encountered on her path outside traditional roles. She has just achieved the summit and we congratulate her.”