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# Respiratory medicine is not gender blind

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**Few women are still promoted to leadership positions and there seems to be an unconscious bias that must be changed** <http://bit.ly/2mET3t6>

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Marie Curie is a legendary figure: her research had huge impact on medicine, and she was the first woman to receive a Nobel Prize. In fact, she received two, one in Physics in 1903, and one in Chemistry in 1911, and so early in the history of Nobel Prizes (they were first awarded in 1901) a woman was a laureate. This was before women's suffrage in most parts of the world, and before any notion of gender equality, when few women had a chance to follow a career in science or medicine or get any education, and Marie Curie showed that it was possible. She was admired, respected and a role model for women in science. But still, more than 100 years later, few women have followed her footsteps: Between 1901 and 2018, there have been 902 Nobel laureates and of those, 52 were women [1]. In Medicine, 109 Nobel Prizes have been awarded, to 216 laureates. Of them only 12 were women. It seems that there is something holding women back from excelling. Importantly though, six of those women were laureates in the last 15 years. So hopefully the trend is changing.