SCIENCE IN FEMININE II

IMB-CNM Science Communication and Gender Perspective Contest

1.Justification

Data on gender equality in science shows that, although progress has been made toward greater participation by women in scientific education, their presence gradually declines as they advance in their research careers.

In Spain, according to the 2025 report *Científicas en Cifras* (Women in Science by the Numbers), prepared by the Women and Science Unit of the Ministry of Science, Innovation, and Universities (MICIU), **women currently account for 50.2% of those earning doctoral degrees.** However, this representation does not hold true in positions of greater responsibility: women hold 27% of professorships and 26.1% of research professor positions in public research organizations.[1]

This gradual decline in female representation highlights that achieving balanced participation in the early stages of scientific training does not, in and of itself, guarantee balanced representation throughout an entire research career.

Gender equality in science is not only a matter of justice and equal opportunity, but also of **ensuring that the scientific system can attract, develop, and retain all available talent.** Spanish legislation on science itself establishes gender equality as a cross-cutting principle and provides for specific measures to support women's advancement in research careers, prevent them from leaving the field, and promote their presence at the highest levels.

With the aim of helping to highlight the work, careers, and experiences of the women who are part of the center, **the IMB-CNM Equality Committee is announcing the second edition of the "Science in the Feminine" Contest.**

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The contest aims to combine science communication with a gender perspective, providing participants with a space to explain their research and reflect on what it means to conduct research as a woman in the scientific field.

2. Contest objectives

- To highlight the work and career paths of the women who are part of the IMB-CNM.
- To encourage reflection on the gender perspective in science and research.
- To highlight different experiences and paths to a scientific career.
- To promote new and creative ways of communicating science.
- To bring the research conducted at the IMB-CNM to a general audience using accessible language.

3. Characteristics of the presentation

3.1. General Requirements

Participants must prepare a scientific monologue that meets the following conditions:

- Duration: 4 minutes maximum.
- Content: It must explain some aspect related to the participant's research, work, or field of expertise in a way that is understandable to a general audience.
- Gender perspective: It must be substantially incorporated into the presentation, accounting for approximately 15% to 30% of its content. Possible approaches are detailed in section 1.2.
- Language: The presentation may be delivered in Catalan, Spanish, or English.
- Format: The presentation must conclude with a couplet (a stanza of two lines that rhyme—either in consonance or assonance—and are of similar length) that creatively summarizes one of the ideas, concepts, or reflections presented during the monologue.

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- Language: The presentation must be clear, precise, and accessible, avoiding the unnecessary use of technical terms or explaining them when absolutely necessary. It must also be tailored to a general audience, requiring no prior specialized knowledge.

3.2. Incorporating gender perspective

The gender perspective can be addressed through various approaches, including:

- Incorporating a gender perspective into the research itself.
- Existing gender differences or inequalities in the scientific field related to the participant's work.
- The personal experiences of women in science.
- Women's career paths and opportunities in the relevant field.
- The role of female role models in science.
- Gender stereotypes, barriers, or biases present in the research.
- Any other reflections related to women, science, and gender.

The gender perspective does not need to be directly related to the participant's research topic. It may also be incorporated through a reflection on their professional experience or on the scientific context in which they carry out their work.

4. Eligibility requirements

Eligible participants are those who:

1) Identify as women, either fully or partially (cisgender women, transgender women, and non-binary individuals).

2) Are members of the IMB-CNM between the announcement of the call for entries and the date of the competition and the announcement of the results.

3) Fall into one of the following categories:

   o Currently pursuing a Ph.D.,

   o Have completed a Ph.D. no more than three years prior to the date of the competition,

- Working as cleanroom or laboratory technicians or engineers with less than 5 years of experience.

4) Have not been winners in the previous edition.

Each participant may submit only one proposal.

5. Prizes

- First Prize: Registration and travel expenses (up to 900 €) to a major conference in the winner's field of research. This conference may be interdisciplinary and, subject to justification regarding its contribution to the winner's research career, will be selected by the winner.
- Second Prize: Enrollment in a mentoring program (to be selected by the committee).
- Third Prize: A specialized training course in science communication and outreach (to be selected by the committee).

The prizes must be redeemed within the calendar year following the contest's conclusion. Under duly justified circumstances, an extension of up to 6 months may be considered.

6. Dates and registration deadline

The registration deadline is **November 25, 2026, at 11:59 p.m.**

The contest will be held on **December 2, 2026, at 11:00 a.m., in the IMB-CNM Auditorium.**

7. Submission of applications

Interested individuals must submit their application by filling out the following registration form, on which they must provide their name and the title of their presentation. Participation is binding; therefore, if you are unable to attend on the day of the contest, please notify us in advance and provide a valid reason.

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The committee reserves the right to cancel the contest if there are fewer than 8 participants.

8. Evaluation criteria

The jury will evaluate the proposals according to the following criteria:

1. **Understanding and Communication of Scientific Content (35%):**

- Clarity of the explanation.
- Ability to make the content understandable to people without specific scientific training.
- Correct use of scientific concepts.
- Ability to select and prioritize relevant information.
- Connection between the different ideas in the presentation.

2. **Incorporation of a gender perspective (35%):**

- The presence of genuine reflection on gender and science.
- The ability to relate the gender perspective to scientific content, the discipline, or professional experience.
- The depth and relevance of the reflection.
- The ability to highlight situations, experiences, inequalities, role models, or issues related to women in science.

The evaluation will not focus solely on the presence of explicit references to women or equality, but rather on how the gender perspective is integrated and developed within the proposal.

3. **Communication skills (15%):**

- The clarity and natural flow of the oral presentation.
- The use of voice, rhythm, pauses, and body language.
- The ability to convey enthusiasm and interest in the topic.
- The ability to capture and hold the audience's attention.
- Interaction with the audience, when appropriate.

4. **Originality and creativity (10%):**

- The use of narrative, visual, or theatrical elements that aid understanding.

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- The ability to find a personal and unique way to communicate science.

5. Couplet/Poem (5%):

- Its relevance to the content of the presentation.
- Its ability to summarize an idea, concept, or reflection presented during the presentation.
- The creativity and appropriateness of the resource in relation to the presentation as a whole.

9. Judging panel and contest results

The judging panel will consist of five members:

- Three members of the Equality Committee who perform research-related duties.
- One person from another institution who performs research-related duties.
- One expert in the field of equality.

The jury will evaluate the presentations according to the criteria set forth in these rules and will select the winners. The decision will be announced on the same day the contest is held.

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