
In this issue

We have four papers from this year's New Zealand Association for Women in the Sciences annual conference in this issue of the *New Zealand Science Review* and an invited paper written subsequently to the conference. All deal with aspects of women's participation in the sciences.

The guest editorial by Emma Timewell, Priscilla Wehi and Esther Haines points out that barriers to women's full participation in science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) fall into three groups.

The first consists of structural issues such as the long training period and the insecurity of early career posts in STEM. The second includes pragmatic issues such as taking time out to care for children or other family members, and managing dual careers. Finally, cultural issues such as unconscious bias and family expectations also act as a significant barrier to the full participation of women in the sciences.

Frankly it is astounding that in the twenty first century such issues continue to present barriers to a woman's career in the sciences. There is simply no justification for this. As pointed out by Nicola Gaston¹, the principles of science deserve to be followed without pride or prejudice.

Finally in this issue we report on the NZAS annual awards – the Marsden Medal for a lifetime of outstanding service to the cause or profession of science, the Shorland Medal for recognition of major and continued contributions to basic or applied research, the Research Medal for outstanding fundamental or applied research by a scientist under the age of 40, and the Science Communicator Award. To each winner of this year's awards we say congratulations.

Allen Petrey
Editor

The converging roles of men and women are among the grandest advances in society and the economy in the last century. These aspects of the grand gender convergence are figurative chapters in a history of gender roles. But what must the 'last' chapter contain for there to be equality in the labor market? The answer may come as a surprise. The solution does not (necessarily) have to involve government intervention and it need not make men more responsible in the home (although that wouldn't hurt). But it must involve changes in the labor market, in particular how jobs are structured and remunerated to enhance temporal flexibility ...²

¹ Gaston, Nicola. 2014. Pride and prejudice: Why science is sexist. *New Zealand Science Review* 71(3): 70–74.

² Goldin, Claudia. 2014. A grand gender convergence: Its last chapter. *American Economic Review* 104(4): 1091–1119.