



A Celebration of Women in Radio Science over the 100 Year History of Commission B

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On February 11, 2021, the United Nations celebrated the sixth annual International Day of Women and Girls in Science, a recognition of the critical role of women in science and technology communities and a call to action to remove the barriers of gender bias [1]. Within the URSI community, 2021 also marks a six-year milestone: the Radio Science Bulletin published its first “Women in Radio Science” column, edited by Prof. Asta Pellinen-Wannberg (Umea University, Sweden), in 2015 [2]. Over the past six years, the column has served as a forum for highlighting the research successes of women in URSI. This past year, the United States National Committee of URSI launched the first Women in Radio Science Chapter, chaired by Prof. Reyhan Baktur (Utah State University, USA).

Women have received one of seven Booker Gold Medals awarded since 2002, three of 13 Issac Koga Gold Medals awarded since 1984, one of three Santimay Basu Prizes awarded since 2014, and one of 19 John Howard Dellinger Medals since 1966 [3]. The United States National Committee of URSI just elected Prof. Jamesina Simpson (University of Utah, USA) as the chair-elect – only the second woman to hold this leadership role in the committee’s history, with Prof. Susan Avery (University of Colorado-Boulder, USA) being the first back in 1997. This invited retrospective will look back over the 100 year history of URSI Commission B advances to highlight the trailblazing women around the world who have pursued research careers, as an underrepresented group, in electromagnetic theory and applications.

References

- [1] United Nations, “International Day of Women and Girls in Science, 11 February,” February 2021. [Online]. Available: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/women-and-girls-in-science-day/> [Accessed February 12, 2021].
- [2] A. Pellinen-Wannberg, “Women in Radio Science Column,” *Radio Science Bulletin*, No. 354, September 2015.
- [3] URSI, “URSI Awards: Lifetime and Research Achievements,” [Online]. Available: <https://www.ursi.org/awards.php#tab-section3> [Accessed February 12, 2021].