



Correspondence

Kudos for female Antarctic researchers

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Women scientists were banned from Antarctica until Soviet marine geologist Maria Klenova began her research there in 1956. Despite their contributions since, women comprise only 11% of medal winners from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. Our aim is to raise the profile of influential female researchers to inspire the roughly 60% of early-career polar scientists who are women.

Notable contributions by women researchers include the discovery of potential methane reservoirs beneath Antarctica (5 female authors out of 13: J. L. Wadham *et al. Nature* **488**, 633–637; 2012); the finding that snow melting accelerated in the twentieth century (4 of 9 authors: N. J. Abram *et al. Nature Geosci.* **6**, 404–411; 2013); and insights into life in the deep Southern Ocean (12 of 21: A. Brandt *et al. Nature* **447**, 307–311; 2007). The directors of the two largest polar institutes, the British Antarctic Survey and the Alfred Wegener Institute in Germany, are women.

To boost recognition of such achievements, we are writing referenced biographies for prominent female Antarctic scientists (see www.scar.org/women/wikibomb). We have so far received 170 nominations from 30 countries (see go.nature.com/2aogpet). Examples include In-Young Ahn, the first Asian woman to lead an Antarctic station, and Lois Jones, who in 1969 led the first all-female Antarctic research team.