

The ETH Women Professors Forum

..... is an independent association that is registered in the commercial register of Canton Zurich. WPF is financed by membership fees, donations and other contributions.

..... unites women professors from ETH Zurich and EPFL and female researchers of the ETH Domain's research institutions holding a professor title at a Swiss Higher Education Institution.

..... is a representative and competent "Sounding Board" in the area of promoting women in science for the ETH Board as well as for the decision makers at EPFL, ETH Zurich and in the ETH Domain's research institutions.

..... creates a platform for exchange through its regular scientific meetings, which are open to all women professors, from young assistant professors to experienced full professors.

..... is committed to promoting the next generation of female scientists and engineers.

..... networks with organizations in Switzerland that have similar objectives.

eth wpf
WOMEN PROFESSORS FORUM

EPFL
ÉCOLE POLYTECHNIQUE
FÉDÉRALE DE LAUSANNE

ETH zürich

PAUL SCHERRER INSTITUT
PSI

eawag
aquatic research o.o.o

Empa
Materials Science and Technology

WSL

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Women Professors rise to the Challenge.

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WOMEN PROFESSORS FORUM

ETH Zurich and EPFL employ over 800 professors, but only one out of seven professorships is occupied by a women. Very few women in Switzerland choose a profession in science or engineering. We are taking the opportunity to change this situation.

Members of the ETH Women Professors Forum

.....as leading examples, acquaint young women with the appeal of studying and pursuing a career in science or engineering. They encourage and inspire graduates in the fields of science.

..... support related Swiss initiatives in favour of equal opportunity among the sexes and promote such initiatives.

..... maintain and exchange knowledge and experience with one another. They make their expertise available within and beyond the institutions of the ETH Domain, providing a corporate culture and a work environment in Switzerland that paves the way for women to reach strategic positions up to the highest management level.

The Challenges

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 “When a woman excels at her job, both male and female co-workers will remark that she may be accomplishing a lot but is ‘not as well liked by her peers’. She is probably also ‘too aggressive’, ‘not a team player’, ‘a bit political’, ‘can’t be trusted’ or ‘difficult.’”

Sheryl Sandberg

COO of Facebook
 (“Lean-In”, 2013)

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 Although women start with the same qualifications and the same commitment to their professional lives as men, comparatively few make it to the senior ranks:

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 “The first hurdle is your existing network – companies tend to prefer candidates who are already part of their network. The second hurdle is in women’s minds – as a general rule a woman usually asks herself at least once if she’s up to the task before she throws herself into it. I’m no different, but sometimes I just have to roll up my sleeves and fight through it.”

Christine Lagarde

Director of IWF
 (Keynote at World Economic Forum 2013, Credit Suisse News, 28.01.2013)

The Opportunities

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 “When men and women pursue their careers, this means that both can live out their individual dreams. Both can demonstrate their abilities to the fullest and receive recognition for it. This brings joy! In addition, a double income gives a family more security in times of hardship.”

Ursula Keller

Director of NCCR MUST and Professor of Physics at ETH Zurich

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 “With the experience of its members, the ETH Women Professors Forum wants to help attract the best female professors in the world to ETH Zurich and EPFL and keep them.”

Janet Hering

Director of EAWAG and Professor of Environmental Biogeochemistry at ETH Zurich and EPFL

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 “The knowledge and experience of women professors at EPFL and ETHZ represent an untapped resource that could help design effective policies to encourage women to pursue careers in science and engineering and, more generally, to boost the number of women in leadership positions.”

Rizlan Bernier-Latmani

Professor of Environmental Microbiology at EPFL and Member of the EPFL Equal opportunities steering board.