

**Inspirational Women in Science Series**  
**International Women's Day 8<sup>th</sup> March 2019**  
***#BalanceforBetter***

The RCS asked four female Associate Fellows working in the field of science to answer some questions about their experiences. There is still a great deal of gender bias in the world of science, so we wanted to share the stories of these incredible women to inspire others looking to create better gender balance in the world.

**Yusra Hussain**



**What do you do?**

I work as a technology strategy analyst for Shell Trading. This means that I look at what technology can be brought in to help the traders make more money! This means taking a lot of data and using logical thinking to solve problems.

**Why did you become interested in science?**

Growing up, I had a great interest in science and problem solving. My favourite subjects at school were maths and physics: I really liked finding out how things worked and using science to create new solutions. This encouraged me to study electronic engineering at university.

**Please share your greatest achievement to date.**

At work, I have had the opportunity to start an internal incubator. This is a mechanism through which anyone can come with an idea and interest in technology, and create solutions for work problems. This allows people to learn more about technology and how things work.

**What are your career goals and aspirations?**

I want to use my knowledge of engineering and science to work in Shell's energy access teams to help solve energy problems in different areas across the world.

**What is the biggest challenge you have faced being a woman in science?**

There aren't many women in science or engineering at university level or even in the professional space. Sometimes, you have to make a greater effort to be seen and heard in order to be taken seriously. This effort may make it more difficult sometimes to stay positive, but there is plenty of support in the form of helpful people, and great role-models that show it is possible to reach your potential!

**Do you have any advice for women and girls wanting to become involved in science?**

Follow your passion – do not be scared, it will be hard work but it is definitely worth it! You learn a lot and get to be really creative in many fun environments; studying science opens a lot of different doors to many different industries.

**Who is a woman in science that you admire and why?**

Simone Giertz is a Swedish inventor who has done a great job in helping people understand the importance of science and technology, as well as how fun it can be! She has a lot of great YouTube videos and is super inspirational as she is mostly self-taught – a great role-model for young girls!

**Can you share an interesting fact from your field of expertise?**

You can now 3D print anything – including food like chocolate and pizza!

**Why do you think it's important for women and girls to pursue a career in the sciences?**

When speech recognition was first invented, the devices could not recognize women's voices as they were too high and none of the people working on the devices were women. To really invent, research and continue to make this world a better place, everyone should take part – especially women and girls!