



**Armenian Association of Biochemists**  
Constituent Member of the  
Federation of European Biochemical Societies (FEBS)  
& Associate Adhering body of the  
International Union of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (IUBMB)

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## Report

### Event's details

Two days Forum dedicated to “Promoting Women Leadership in Biosciences” has been organized by the Armenian Association of Biochemists (AAB) through October 15-16, 2024 in Yerevan, Armenia. The Forum was sponsored by the Biochemical Society, UK, in the frame of “Diversity in Science” initiative. The goal was to provide an open platform for discussions and practical sessions related to carrier development for girls and women educated and working in the field of Biosciences.

The event took place at a prestigious Ibis Yerevan Centre, and attended by 40 participants. Running inspirational quote was **“It doesn’t matter if you are a woman or a man, the important thing is your determination”** by Milko Duno.

Opening the Forum Dr. Varduhi Knaryan, AAB Chair, emphasized that women at all times made an invaluable contribution to the health and well-being of people, being a role model for future generations. In Armenia, the number of women employed in Life Sciences is the majority, yet more efforts are required for them to reach leading positions.

Invited speakers from universities and academic institutes, who had already attained leading positions and shared key aspects of their carrier, carried out Women Talks. Invited speakers were Profs Alvard Antonyan (H. Buniatian Institute of Biochemistry), Ashken Hovhannisyan (Russian-Armenian (Slavonic) University), Anna Poladyan (Yerevan State University), Armine Mkhitaryan (National Institute of Labor and Social Research), all from Yerevan, Armenia, and Prof. Elene Zhuravliova (Ilia State University) from Tbilisi, Georgia.

Three Panel discussion sections were devoted to different aspects of carrier development. Participants were divided into groups having one leading panelist in each. Topics for discussions concerned with personal motivation, team leading capacity, productivity, time management, etc. The leading panelists summarized and presented the discussed topics to auditorium. Then four Practical sessions were focused on challenges in carrier development, including leadership, communication skills, overcoming fears, etc. The best practices were held by Prof. Anahit Sahakyan (Faculty of Sociology, Yerevan State University), and Neuroscience research group leader Dr. Flora Sarukhanyan (H. Buniatian Institute of Biochemistry).

Promoting Women  
Leadership in Biosciences  
FORUM 2024  
YEREVAN, ARMENIA



“It doesn't matter if you  
are a woman or a man, the  
important thing is your  
determination.”

MILKA DUNO



15-16  
OCTOBER



## **Feedbacks**

- The event's success, productivity and goal achievement were positively evaluated by 90% of participants.
- The format of Panel discussions as a new creative approach and informal atmosphere in a whole were much appreciated.
- Average rating of the Forum organization, venue, program, topics, best practices, and creativity was 4.9 out of 5.0.

## **Suggestions**

- Continue Women carrier development and leadership events in Armenian constituency
- Improve managing, teamwork, communication and time-management skills through learning and training opportunities (books, conferences, workshops, etc.)

The activity and creativity of participants during Panel discussions, Practical sessions, particularly young generation, indicated the need of such events for Armenian constituency.

Photos from the forum are attached. The participant's permissions received before submission.