Professor Veena Sahajwalla

As a modern day “alchemist” UNSW ARC Laureate Fellow and Professor Veena Sahajwalla is revolutionising the way the world thinks about waste by leveraging high temperature reactions to transform waste into valuable raw materials for production. Her world-first ‘green steel’ process turns waste tyres into commercial quality steel. She’s now turning automotive waste and e-waste into metal alloys, safely and cheaply, with more ‘green materials’ in development.

Science 50:50 is being led by Professor Sahajwalla, and is supported by her ARC-funded Georgina Sweet Fellowship.

Photo credit: Tamara Dean
Science 50:50

A program that aims to inspire young women to pursue degrees and careers in science and technology so they can succeed in an innovation-driven future. Science 50:50 makes the simple point – since half the population is female, why not half the scientists and technologists? By informing and engaging young women with the power of science and technology to solve complex problems and transform lives, and by introducing them to Australian scientists and innovators who are doing just that, Science 50:50 can help recalibrate the gender balance.

We need your support

Do you know an aspiring young scientist who you would like to nominate into the program? Are you an established scientist interested in mentoring a young scientist? Can you host a young researcher in the form of an internship or work experience, or provide other practical support?

What are we doing?

- Creating science and technology internship opportunities for young women
- Launching a New Innovators Competition offering university scholarships to the young women who submit the most innovative ideas for solving real world problems.
- Creating a video series featuring extraordinary women in research, industry, media and politics.
- Engaging girls with science and technology via school visits, videos, the media and online resources.
- Recruiting an expert Advisory Board across Australia’s leading science and technology industries.
- Creating a web portal to showcase Australian innovators and link aspiring young women to dedicated mentors.

science.unsw.edu.au/50-50

Contact Us

Veena Sahajwalla  E: veena@unsw.edu.au  P: (02) 9385 4426
Ms Sarah Terkes  E: s.terkes@unsw.edu.au  P: (02) 9385 8808