Every year since 1911, the world celebrates International Women’s Day on March 8th. This celebration highlights women’s achievements in many fields including economics, politics and social sciences, and every year there is a different theme. This year’s theme is “Make it Happen.”

Inspired by this commemorative day, the journal, *Life Sciences*, is launching a special issue: *Women in Science*, highlighting work from a selected number of female scientists who are experts – and leaders – in their fields. These women scientists have profoundly contributed to science development in generating new knowledge as well as influencing many students from undergraduate to postgraduate to continue in their research careers, thus, making a difference in science and innovation for future generations. In this commemorative special issue, it is important to emphasize that there have been great efforts made in building equalities between the genders in all scientific fields; however, there is still a gap between male and female scientists. According to UNESCO, just 30% of all researchers worldwide are female, ranging from 20% to 46% depending upon the region. Gender disparity is also related to awards and recognition, which are important markers of job satisfaction and career advancement in academic affairs. The National Academy of Science (NAS) is a far-reaching organization in the United States, consisting of members elected by peers in recognition of distinguished achievements in physical, biological and social sciences. In 2011, the NAS elected only 9 women out of 72 new members. According to the National Science Foundation, merely 25% of scholar award winners are female, particularly in biomedical research fields. Therefore, in an attempt to honor Women in Science, this special issue celebrates female scientists.

This special issue contains 5 mini-reviews and 6 original articles, which expand a broad area of research fields including cardiovascular sciences, metabolism, endocrinology, exercise science, neurosciences, cancer, respiratory biology, reproductive medicine and smooth muscle biology.

We hope that this special issue of *Life Sciences* might open new opportunities for all female investigators, encouraging them to continue their research in an attempt to provide better education and health for the world.

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