



Women in tech innovation

Paving the path for women in health care innovation

The progress and impact of women in health and science has been immeasurable, but not always fully recognized.

There is a long history of female contributions to science and health care that have been foundational to the incredible gains we have seen over the last 50 years in human health and our ability to fight disease today. I am more optimistic than ever that the contributions of female leaders will accelerate as we look to the future. At Deloitte, I am fortunate to see my team members—including female scientists, clinicians, data scientists, software engineers, health economists, actuaries, and management consultants—consistently innovating and driving value for our clients. This post is the first in a new *Women in Health Innovation* series written by female leaders in our Life Sciences & Health Care practice who inspire me every day.

Recently, a few more bricks were laid on the path of women in science who are driving health innovation. I was thrilled to see five women appointed to the 13-member coronavirus task force in the United

States. Developing a coronavirus strategy is critical to our country's health and economic well-being. These accomplished women include co-chair **Marcella Nunez-Smith, MD**, at the Yale School of Medicine; **Luciana Borio, MD**, at In-Q-Tel; **Celine Gounder, MD**, at the NYU Grossman School of Medicine and Bellevue Hospital Center; **Julie Morita, MD**, at Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, and **Loyce Pace** at the Global Health Council.

But before we look to the future, let's celebrate several of the past contributions of female leaders in science and medicine. From cutting-edge research to breakthrough discoveries, and inventions to lifesaving therapies, the contributions of women in sciences (from health to mathematics to space) have been indispensable throughout history. Their work has transformed the way we see our world and has paved the path to a brighter future.

Women being recognized for their contributions is a more recent occurrence—here are just a few trailblazers who helped shape the face of modern medicine and health care that inspire me (in addition to the 2020 Nobel Prize winners **Jennifer Doudna** and **Emmanuelle Charpentier** who I mentioned in a [previous blog](#)):

- Current research fellow and the scientific lead for the Coronavirus Vaccines & Immunopathogenesis team at the NIH, **Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett**. A viral immunologist by training, Dr. Corbett uses her expertise to propel novel vaccine development for pandemic preparedness. Her work focuses on developing novel coronavirus vaccines, including mRNA-1273, the basis for the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine. Dr. Corbett's team boasts a portfolio that also includes universal coronavirus vaccine concepts and novel therapeutic antibodies. Additionally, Dr. Corbett spent several years working on a universal influenza vaccine.
- Google Science Fair recipient **Kiara Nirghin** (16 years old at the time) for creating a super-absorbent polymer that can retain over 100 times its mass—potentially revolutionizing water conservation and sustaining crops through periods of drought.
- **Marie Curie** became the first woman to win a Nobel Prize and the first person to receive two awards (physics in 1903 and chemistry in 1911). She was recognized for her discovery of the elements radium and polonium, and for the work on radioactivity, which became the foundation of the first mobile X-ray units.

These amazing female scientists and their stories inspire me as they mark the intersection of three topics I'm passionate about: the power of women, humanity's ability to solve tremendous challenges, and the exciting future of health. I feel fortunate that my daily work at Deloitte allows me to operate within this intersection, where we push our boundaries every day to take on the challenges of improving the health care ecosystem in meaningful ways. We launched our innovative product and solutions business [ConvergeHEALTH™](#) nearly seven years ago and have shaped our perspective on the Future of Health™ with this vision in mind. All while being deliberate and purposeful in making sure women are an integral part of our effort in addressing the greatest health care challenges our society faces.

This post will be the first of many to celebrate my female colleagues at Deloitte as we work with our clients to transform health care. The *Women in Health Innovation* series will spotlight innovations in health, including products helping transform organizations for the future of health, and interesting ideas that will define the innovative health care and science of tomorrow. I look forward to reading and sharing these upcoming **#WomeninHealthInnovation** insights. I hope you do too!



Who paved your path to engage in health and scientific innovation?



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