

Tamara Franz-Odendaal

Professor, Faculty of Biology, NSERC Chair Women in Science and Engineering- Atlantic Canada; Principal Investigator - Bone Development Laboratory at Mount Saint Vincent University

Halifax, NS, CA

Developmental biologist / Anatomist; Advocate for the Advancement of Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

Biography

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal graduated from the University of Cape Town, South Africa with a PhD in Zoology and completed her post-doctoral studies at Dalhousie University in Evolutionary-Developmental Biology. Dr. Franz-Odendaal joined the Mount in 2006 as a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) University Faculty award recipient (2006-2011) and has since launched an active and productive research program as a morphologist and developmental biologist in the field of skeletal biology. In 2011, Dr. Franz-Odendaal was awarded the NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for the Atlantic Region (WISEatlantic). She is one of five chair holders across Canada that are working to increase the participation of women in science and engineering and to provide role models for women considering careers in these fields. The aim of the WISEatlantic program is to provide girls in junior and senior high school with access to role models active in the sciences and engineering fields through mentorships, webinars, Girls Get WISE Science events and Science Summer Camps. Through WISEatlantic, she also supports women in STEM careers through professional development opportunities, such as the WinSETT Leadership Program workshops and academic advancement workshops. By 2016, her program reached over 13,000 students, teachers, academics, professionals etc., and had directly engaged 3000 youth with almost 200 female role models in STEM.

Industry Expertise

Biotechnology, Education/Learning, Research, Laboratory Services

Areas of Expertise

Morphology, Embryology, Molecular Biology, Anatomy, Genetics, Teaching, Science, Science Outreach to the Public, Girl's and Women's Empowerment, Science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) undergraduate education, Bone biology and regeneration, bone development, skeleton, evo-devo, Evolution and Development, Developmental Biology, Girls in STEM, Stem Careers

Affiliations

Vice President Nova Scotia Institute of Science

Event Appearances

Leadership Starts Early: The Impact of Role Models
Gender Summit Three

Strategies to enable girls to interact with role models and to expand their understanding of STEM careers
Gender Summit Three

All About Bones: Insights from fossils and embryo's
WISE NL Statoil Seminar Series

Call to Action: NSERC Chairs
Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology Conference

Promoting Women in Academia Through Career Development
Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology Conference

Engaging Young Girls in STEM Throughout Canada
Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology Conference

Supporting Women in Chemistry
Chemical Institute of Canada Conference

Career intentions, influencers, and STEM career awareness amongst grade 7s.
Canadian Coalition for Women in Engineering Science Trades and Technology

Promoting women in academia through career development workshops.
Canadian Coalition for Women in Engineering Science Trades and Technology

GIRLS and Science: why it's important and how you can support them
Nova Scotia Institute of Science

Education

Dalhousie University
Post Doctorate Biology

University of Cape Town
Ph.D. Biology

University of Cape Town
M.Sc. Medicine

University of Cape Town
B.Sc. Zoology

Accomplishments

Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (NSERC)

Dr. Franz-Odendaal is the current Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for Atlantic Canada.

Research Excellence Award

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded Mount Saint Vincent University's Research Excellence Award

Young Investigator Award in Morphological Sciences

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded the American Association of Anatomists Young Investigator's Award in Morphological Sciences for her contribution to biomedical research

Dove's Unstoppable Moms for Unstoppable Girls

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded the Dove's Unstoppable Moms for Unstoppable Girls for her work engaging girls in science.

Science Champion

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded a Science Champion award by the Discovery Centre in Nova Scotia, Canada, for her contribution to STEM outreach

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