

press release

Novo Nordisk launches global-first Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize in Australia to champion the next generation of women in STEM

New AUD\$50,000 Prize to spotlight Australia's emerging female researchers in science and medicine

Sydney, Australia, 18 August 2025: Early to mid-career Australian women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) can now apply for the inaugural [Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize](#), launched by global healthcare company [Novo Nordisk](#) to recognise significant contributions to science and medicine.

Named after Dr Marie Krogh (1874–1943), a pioneering Danish physician and co-founder of Novo Nordisk, the Prize honours her legacy as one of the first women in Denmark to earn a doctorate in medicine. Alongside her husband, Nobel Laureate August Krogh, she played a key role in developing insulin treatment protocols, helping transform diabetes – a chronic condition she herself lived with – from a fatal diagnosis into a manageable condition.

With only 37% of university STEM enrolments and 15% of STEM jobs in Australia held by women¹, the launch of the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize is a deliberate investment in Australia's scientific and medical future.

Supporting early to mid-career women in science and medicine through national recognition, funding, and induction to alumni network

The Prize includes a cash prize of \$50,000 for one winner and \$5,000 for each of seven finalists. Finalists will be honoured at a Parliament House reception and awards dinner in Canberra in November 2025, when Professor Kathryn North AC, Director of Murdoch Children's Research Institute, will deliver the inaugural Marie Krogh Oration.

"Supporting the next generation of women in science and medicine isn't just about equity, it's about excellence. The Marie Krogh Prize highlights the kind of innovation and leadership that drives meaningful change in health outcomes, and I'm honoured to help recognise these future leaders," said **Professor Kathryn North AC**, Director of Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

Finalists will also gain national recognition for their research and leadership and be inducted into The Marie Krogh Alumni network, creating a lasting peer alumnus for collaboration, visibility and support.

The Prize has attracted an esteemed judging panel:

- **Dr Ana Svensson**, VP of Clinical, Medical, Regulatory, Novo Nordisk Oceania.
- **Dr Robyn Littlewood**, CEO, Health and Wellbeing Queensland.

¹ Department of Industry Science and Resources, [the state of STEM gender equity in 2024](#)

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- **Dr Rolf Gomes**, Founder, Heart of Australia.
- **Professor Sharon Goldfeld AM**, Director of the Centre for Community Child Health, Royal Children's Hospital; and Theme Director, Population Health, Murdoch Children's Research Institute.

"Marie Krogh's pioneering work in human metabolism and diabetes laid the foundations for Novo Nordisk's commitment to improving the lives of people with serious chronic diseases through science. The Prize continues her legacy by investing in the next generation of women in STEM, so that future pioneers of science and medicine in Australia are recognised and supported," said Dr Ana Svensson, Novo Nordisk Oceania VP of Clinical, Medical and Regulatory.

"By elevating the voices and work of early to mid-career researchers who are driving innovation and improving health outcomes, we aim to contribute to an environment where women in STEM are not an outlier, but celebrated as significant contributors to Australia's medical innovation," she added.

Applications for the inaugural Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize are now open. Eligible early to mid-career researchers working in science or medicine are encouraged to apply via www.mariekroghprize.com.au.

Full details, including submission deadline, eligibility criteria and terms and conditions, are available on the website.

About Novo Nordisk

Novo Nordisk is a leading global healthcare company founded in 1923 and headquartered in Denmark. Our purpose is to drive change to defeat serious chronic diseases built upon our heritage in diabetes. We do so by pioneering scientific breakthroughs, expanding access to our medicines and working to prevent and ultimately cure disease. Novo Nordisk employs about 78,400 people in 80 countries and markets its products in around 170 countries.

Novo Nordisk has been operating in Australia since 1976. We deliver medicines to more than 1.5 million patients in Australia for the treatment of diabetes, obesity, rare diseases and other serious chronic diseases. For more information, visit www.novonordisk.com.au

About the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize

The Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize is a prestigious award that aims to recognise and celebrate outstanding women in science and medicine who embody the core pillars of Innovation, Impact and Leadership. It aims to highlight groundbreaking scientific research that demonstrates originality and advances knowledge through creative approaches and novel solutions.

The Prize also aims to honour contributions that have a measurable impact on healthcare – improving patient outcomes, shaping public health policies or transforming clinical practices and

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seeks to acknowledge exceptional leadership and community engagement, particularly in fostering collaboration, mentoring future leaders and empowering young women in science and medicine. Through these pillars, the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize seeks to inspire a legacy of excellence and transformation in health research and beyond. www.mariekroghprize.com.au

Quotes attributable to the Marie Krogh Young Women in Science Prize judging panel

"Women are driving some of the most transformative health innovation in this country - but too often, their contributions go unrecognised. The Marie Krogh Prize is a bold step in changing that narrative, and I'm proud to support a platform that elevates women's voices in science and public health." - *Dr Robyn Littlewood, Chief Executive Officer, Health and Wellbeing Queensland*

"It's critical we create systems that support and celebrate women in research - especially those working at the intersection of science, policy and public health. The Marie Krogh Prize helps shine a light on the kind of leadership our sector needs more of." - *Professor Sharon Goldfeld AM, Director of the Centre for Community Child Health, the Royal Children's Hospital*

"Great innovation doesn't happen in isolation - it takes great people to drive it. The Marie Krogh Prize recognises the leadership and skill of women who drive change, and those whose work will define the next era of science and medical care in Australia." - *Dr Rolf Gomes, Founder, Heart of Australia*

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