

L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Award for Dr. Dominique Langevin, Associate Editor (Mars 2005)

**Dr Dominique Langevin, University of Paris-Sud, Orsay, France
Associate Editor EPJ E-Soft Matter, has been awarded the
L'ORÉAL-UNESCO Award 2005 Materials Sciences
for her fundamental investigations of detergents, emulsions and foams.**

Selected by an international jury, presided by Pr. Pierre-Gilles de Gennes (1991 Nobel Prize in Physics) five laureates were chosen as distinguished women scientists who contributed to decisive advances in the study of material sciences: Africa (Pr. Zohra BEN LAKHDAR), Latin America (Pr. Belita KOILLER), North America (Pr. Myriam P. SARACHIK), Asia-Pacific (Pr. Fumiko YONEZAWA), Europe (Dr. Dominique LANGEVIN).

Each 2005 award is worth US \$ 100 000. The ceremony took place in Paris on March 03, 2005. The awards were presented by UNESCO Director-General, Koichiro Matsuura and by L'Oréal Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Lindsay Owen-Jones.

Dr Dominique Langevin is an experimenter who is fascinated by surfaces. Throughout her scientific career, virtually all her research activities have been centred on the dynamic behaviour of interfaces, a field that is relatively unexplored due to the lack of easy-to-use experimental techniques. She is recognized as one of the leading scientists in the field of soft matter and surface science, although the impact of her contributions goes far beyond these limits. Over the years, the practical applications of her work have been extremely valuable for industry in a wide range of sectors, from petroleum to laundry detergents, milk proteins, hair products, nuclear waste treatment, and even the construction of a foam module for the International Space Station.

Dominique Langevin began her career in the Physics Laboratory of the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris in 1967, where she studied light scattering at the liquid surface. This was an entirely new area of study, in which she made pioneering advances at the theoretical level and developed much of the experimental method. She then turned to more complex fluids, applying her ideas and methods to liquid crystals. She determined, for the first time, the molecular orientation of liquid crystals at liquid interfaces.

She and her team clarified the unusual wetting behaviour of microemulsions, bringing important insights to the understanding of ultra-low surface tension, which is of particular interest to the petroleum industry for oil recovery. Dominique Langevin's microemulsion studies demonstrated the importance of the surfactant monomolecular layer at the interface between oil and water. In her work on macroscopic water-air and water-oil interfaces, she has performed novel experimental observations and developed theories to interpret them. Since the 1990s she has made many key contributions to the understanding of foams, with numerous applications for industry.

Dominique Langevin is the author of some 200 scientific publications and has received a number of prizes and awards. She has played an instrumental role in developing European level networks and continues to be a scientific leader as well as a scientist.

Cordial congratulations to our Editorial colleague on behalf of the European Physical Journal

Georg Maret, Günter Reiter