



IIT MADRAS



**2022-23  
REPORT**

# **WOMEN LEADING IITM HALF YEARLY REPORT**

2022-2023

## MESSAGE FROM DIRECTOR



**Prof. KAMAKOTI VEEZHINATHAN**

Director, IIT Madras

"IIT Madras, in the 63 glorious years of its journey, has been scaling new heights of success and excellence. This is reflected in many ways including in its exemplary performance for six years in a row, on the National Institute Ranking Framework released by the Ministry of Education, Government of India. Chosen as one of the Institutes of Excellence, IIT Madras has established several Research Initiatives in various fields of contemporary relevance showcasing the commitment towards fostering world-class research. In this continuing pursuit of academic and research excellence, we will continue to embrace innovative practices while promoting efficient, and effective governance through AI-driven hyper-automation. The outpouring of generous support we have received in the past year from well-wishers such as yourself has been humbling. On behalf of the Institute, I offer you our deepest gratitude for keeping IIT Madras strong. I am confident that we will continue to make many positive strides and leaps forward with renewed vigour to achieve the goals that we have set out for us. Together, with your support, we are confident of creating an IIT Madras with a diverse group of faculty and staff pursuing nationally relevant and globally recognized research. If this past year has taught us anything, it's that it takes a dedicated and committed community to keep us moving forward — and far beyond. Thank you"

## MESSAGE FROM DEAN

"Our aim to provide continued solutions to social problems on a global scale is realized through the sustained support of alumni & well-wishers. We thank you for your contribution as we present a report of its impact. We hope to receive your help and support for our future endeavours to take IIT Madras to the global stage"



**Prof. MAHESH PANCHAGNULA**

Dean, Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations,  
IIT Madras

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# WOMEN LEADING IITM -2022

## About WLI

Education is the most important factor in empowering women. If women's empowerment in the true sense is ever to be realized, it could be only through education. A woman who is educated is able to secure a job for herself and meet her family's everyday requirements. She becomes financially independent and makes her own decisions. Education brings prosperity not only to the woman and her family but also to the nation.

Without education, women's empowerment is a distant dream and there is no way Sustainable Development Goals can be achieved.

IITM has made considerable progress in improving the number of women students/ faculty & creating opportunities for success. IIT Madras launched the '**Women Leading IITM' (WLI) program** on March -08th 2021 to boost women's leadership in science and technology. Launched in 2021, Women Leading IITM is a program to Nurture, Develop and Support women's talent at IITM along with their study/professional careers. This program is being funded by an endowment from some of our US alumni with the overarching goal of achieving a more gender-balanced and nurturing campus.

# THE GOALS OF THE WOMEN LEADING IITM PROGRAM

01

INCREASING THE PERCENTAGE OF WOMEN FACULTY IN ASSISTANT PROFESSORSHIPS TO 20% FROM THE CURRENT 15%

02

GENERATING 30% OF ALL FACULTY APPLICATIONS FROM WOMEN CANDIDATES

03

GRANTEES EXPECTED TO GRADUATE TO LEADERSHIP ROLES WITHIN IITM

04

NEXT-GENERATION AMBASSADORS FOR ENABLING A GENDER-BALANCED IITM

05

ESTABLISH AN AWARD FOR WOMEN FACULTY IN LEADERSHIP (INSTITUTE ALREADY HAS AWARDS FOR STAFF IN LEADERSHIP AND GIVEN THE GOOD PRESENCE OF WOMEN IN STAFF, MANY HAVE BEEN GETTING IT OVER THE YEARS)

# The major objectives of this program



## Attract/Recruit

Conduct outreach programs to visit other institutes to get the word out and recruit women post-doc, visiting women faculty, as well as full-time women faculty. Any other proposal to increase woman faculty recruitment will also be considered, Special focus will be on departments with lower women faculty numbers

## Secure

Run programs that provide physical and emotional safety for women

## Develop/Promote

Create opportunities for women faculty and Postdoctoral Fellowship to do interdisciplinary work that can yield international research recognition Ex: Responsible AI work for non-Computer Science faculty at Robert Bosch Centre for Data Science and Artificial Intelligence (RBC DSAI)

## Nurture

Support admin to deliver a new/ better mentorship program for women faculty as well as to encourage leadership amongst women faculty (HoDs, Chairpersons, Deans, Director)

## Support

Ameliorate hurdles to career growth for a woman faculty member Example: a grant to pay for small-child travel while attending a conference, or a grant to provide for better child care while at work (for children up to age 5).

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On International Women's Day (March 8, 2021) the first set of grantees was announced in a virtual event attended by over 225 people.

- Total no. of applicants – 51
- No. of Grantees selected – 18
- A total sum of ₹73 lakhs has been allotted

To read the WLI report for 2021-22

[CLICK HERE](#)



## FOR THIS YEAR 2022-23

63

Total no. of  
applicants

24

No. of Grantees  
selected

₹ 74.75

Total Fund allotted

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## THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS - 2022



**Prof. Preeti Aghalayam**  
Chair person  
*Professor, Dept. of CH, IITM*

**Prof. Indumathi M. Nambi**  
Member  
*Chairperson, Women's Forum  
Professor, Dept. of CE, IITM*



**Prof. Ligy Philip**  
Member  
Former Chair person (WLI)  
*Professor, Dept. of CE, IITM*

**Prof. Sheetal Kalyani**  
Member  
*Professor, Dept. of EE, IITM*



**Prof. Shweta Agrawal**  
Member  
*Professor, Dept. of CSE, IITM*

**Prof. Timothy A Gonsalves**  
Member  
*Former Professor, IIT Madras*



**Dr. Louiqa Raschid**  
Member  
IITM Alumni  
*Professor, University of Maryland*

**Ms. Shuba Kumar**  
Member  
*Past President, IITMAA  
Director Natesan Synchrocones Pvt Ltd*



**Ms. Swetha Bhupathi**  
Invitee & Convenor  
*Senior Advancement Officer  
Office of Institutional Advancement, IITM*

# WLI Grantees - 2022



**Donia Savio**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Civil Engineering, IITM*

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**Pooja Hegde**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Ocean Engineering, IITM*

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**Sumana Brahma**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Dept. of Chemistry, IITM*

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**Hemashree G**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*

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**Avilasha Annanya Sandilya**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*

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**Shalini B**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Civil Engineering, IITM*

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**D Madhurima Reddy**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Chemical Engineering, IITM*

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**Dhanalakshmi Padmaraj**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Civil Engineering, IITM*

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**Harija Harikumar**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Chemical Engineering, IITM*

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**Vaishnavi S**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*

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**Divya Rajendran**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*

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**Sindhu K J**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*

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**Menaka K**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Civil Engineering, IITM*

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**Vaishnavi Gujjula**

*Ph.D Scholar*

*Dept. of Mathematics, IITM*

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**Prabavathy S**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Civil Engineering, IITM*  
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**Priyanka Swarnkar**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Mechanical Engineering, IITM*  
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**Sivapriya S**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*

**Della Thomas**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Dept. of Engineering Design, IITM*



**Devapriya A.S.**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Civil Engineering, IITM*  
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**Rajani K**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*  
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**Vidya P Warriier**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Dept. of Biotechnology, IITM*  
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**Anjali P S**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Electrical Engineering, IITM*  
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**Pritha Dey**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Dept. of Physics, IITM*  
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**Monica Joseph**  
*Ph.D Scholar*  
*Civil Engineering, IITM*  
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# FEW ACHIEVEMENTS OF OUR 2022-23 BENEFICIARIES

## Vaishnavi Sivapuratharasan received Best Presentation Award

10/10/2022



Congratulations to Vaishnavi Sivapuratharasan for the Best Presentation Award in the Applied Microbiology Division at the 15th Asian Congress on Biotechnology Conference, Bali, Indonesia. Her seminar covered some joint work between IITM, Chennai, and RWTH Aachen University. The title of her talk was "Lignin Valorization by Metabolic Engineering of Pseudomonas taiwanensis VLB120". Vaishnavi is the first Cotutelle PhD for her supervisors Prof. Guhan Jayaraman and Prof. Lars M. Blank. Further success for your PhD!

Ms. Vaishnavi S received best presentation award in the 15th Asian Congress on Biotechnology conference, Bali, Indonesia

13 - 17 November 2022

## 2022 IEEE Photonics Conference (IPC)

<https://ipc2022.exordo.com>

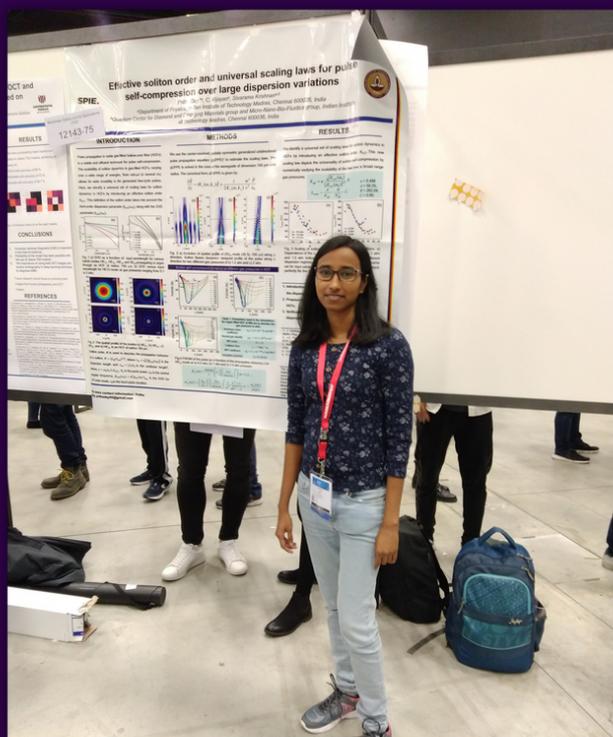
Dear Anjali Prabhakaran Sheela,

Congratulations! The Technical Program Committee for the 2022 IEEE Photonics Conference (IPC) appreciates your submission. I am pleased to inform you that your paper titled "Stability Analysis of Diode Pumped Actively Mode-Locked Thulium Doped Fiber Laser" has been accepted for oral presentation during the conference being held 13-17 November 2022 at the Hyatt Regency Vancouver, Canada.

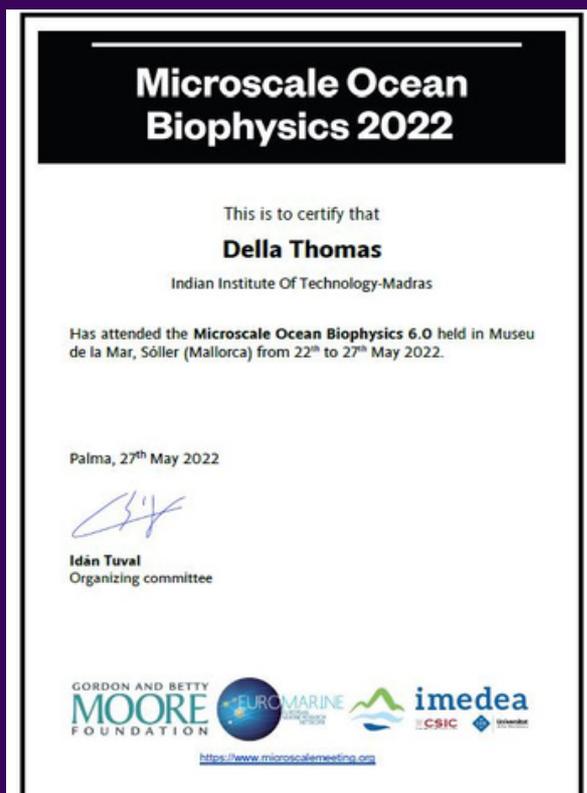
Ms. Anjali PS paper has been selected for oral presentation during the conference at Hyatt Regency Vancouver, Canada



Ms. Prabhavathy S has participated in the International Association for Computer Methods and Advances in Geomechanics (IACMAG) conference, Turin, Italy



Ms. Pritha Dey has submitted her presentation SPIE Photonics Europe 2022, Strasbourg, France



Ms. Della Thomas has attended the Microscale Ocean Biophysics 6.0 program in Museu de la Mar, Sóller (Mallorca)

# ABOUT EVENT

The Women Leading IITM program for the year 2022-23 was held on virtually International Women's Day 8th March 2022. At the event the objectives of the program, Application analysis of the current year, last year's beneficiaries' feedback, and the announcement of WLI awardees for the year 2022-23 shared.

 **WOMEN LEADING IITM (WLI)**  
A program to launch pathbreaking initiatives at IITM

We invite you to join us in the celebration of  
Women's day & WLI Grants Announcement

**March 8, 2022 - 9:00 pm to 10:00 pm IST**

*Programme*

21:00	Welcome Address by Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, Dean, A&CR
21:03	Women Leading IITM (WLI) - Initiatives and impact by Prof. Preeti Aghalayam, IITM
21:08	Testimonials of WLI 2021 awardees
21:13	Address by Ms. Rohini Chakravarthy, Board Member, IITMF
21:18	Address by Prof. V. Kamakoti, Director, IIT Madras
21:23	IIT Women in Leadership Program by Ms. Nirupama Subramanian, Cofounder, GLOW
21:28	IIT Women in Leadership Program by Mr. Naveen Unni, Managing Partner, McKinsey & Co.
21:33	Grants Announcement for 2022-23 by WLI committee
21:48	Closing Remarks & Vote of Thanks by Prof. Indumathi Nambi, Chairperson, IITM Women's forum

Zoom  
<https://cutt.ly/wAoyOoH>



March  
8

## Event Invitation

To watch the event

[CLICK HERE](#)

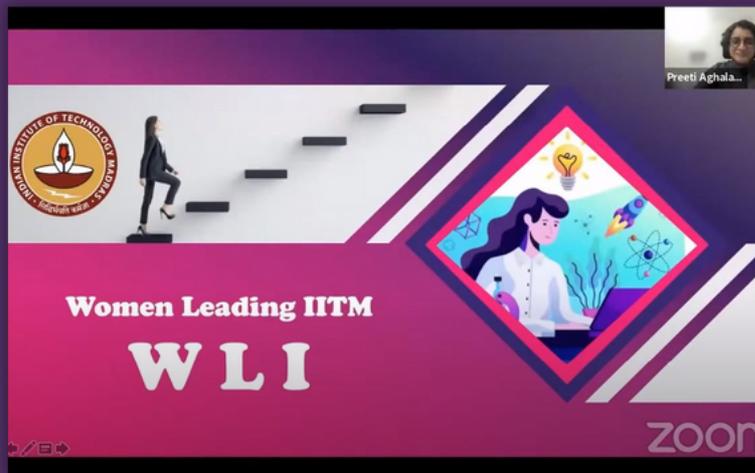




WLI 2022-23 event held virtually on 8 Mar 2022



Welcome address by Prof. Mahesh Panchagnula, Dean, Alumni & Corporate Relations, IITM



Initiatives and Impact by Prof. Preeti Aghalayam, IITM



Testimonials of WLI 2021 Beneficiaries



Address by Prof. Kamakoti Veezhinathan, Director



Announcement of 2022-23 batch Beneficiaries



*We would like to take this opportunity again to express our heartfelt gratitude to all those who made benevolent contributions towards the growth and development of IIT Madras.*



**Indian Institute of Technology Madras, Chennai – 600036**

**[www.iitm.ac.in](http://www.iitm.ac.in)**

**For more information, please contact:  
Office of Alumni and Corporate Relations  
T: +91-44-2257 8390 | [acr.iitm.ac.in](http://acr.iitm.ac.in)**

