



## November 2018 Her Story ENewsletter Nobel Laureates

Very exciting news came in October 2018 - women were going to share the Nobel Prize in Chemistry and the Nobel Prize in Physics! Donna Strickland, one of the trio to be awarded the 2018 Nobel Prize in Physics works at the University of Waterloo in Canada. Her prize is being awarded for discovering how to amplify the intensity of laser light in ever-briefer pulses. This work paved the way for precision eye surgery and cancer therapy, among other advances. Dr. Strickland becomes the first woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Physics since American Maria Goeppert-Mayer in 1963. Fran Arnold will receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry for her work on the directed evolution of enzymes. Dr. Arnold is only the fifth woman to receive the Nobel Prize in Chemistry - the first two were Marie Curie followed by her daughter, Irene Joliet-Curie. 2018 is the first time that a woman has received a Nobel Prize in each of chemistry and physics. Dr. Strickland and Dr. Arnold join previous female Nobel Laureates including Toni Morrison, the first black woman of any nationality to receive a Nobel Prize. Morrison, an American, received the 1993 Nobel Prize in Literature. Let's learn about Gerty Cori and Gertrude Elion, two scientific Nobel Laureates described in our book.



**Gerty Cori**

Biochemist Gerty Cori was the third woman and the first American to receive a Nobel Prize in the sciences when she received the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine, for her discovery of how food becomes energy for the body. That process is today known as the Cori cycle and the catalyzing compound is called the Cori ester. Gerty Cori and her husband Ferdinand worked together during their careers; their successful partnership flourished at Washington University in St. Louis and six of the scientists they mentored have themselves won Nobel Prizes. An inductee into the National Women's Hall of Fame, Cori has a crater named after her on the moon and on the planet Venus. Also, a U.S. postage stamp has been issued featuring her.



**Gertrude Elion**

Biochemist and pharmacologist Gertrude Elion was determined to develop pharmaceutical drugs, after watching her beloved grandfather die a slow and painful death from stomach cancer. Her successful career at Burroughs Wellcome included the 1988 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for important discoveries in the development of drug treatments. She developed the first drug used to successfully treat childhood leukemia, as well as the first immunosuppressant drug that allowed organ transplants. Her additional contributions include drugs for gout, malaria, cancer, bacterial infections and AIDS. Elion has been inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame and has received the National Medal of Science. She was the first woman inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame.

Gerty Cori and Gertrude Elion are among the more than 850 women profiled in our book *Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*. Women's accomplishments continue to inspire and encourage us. Continue to help us tell women's stories!

Charlotte Waisman and Jill Tietjen  
*Her Story: A Timeline of the Women Who Changed America*  
[www.herstoryatimeline.com](http://www.herstoryatimeline.com)  
8547 E. Arapahoe Road, PMB J189  
Greenwood Village, CO 80112-1430

STAY CONNECTED:

