

Trailblazing Women  
in Vaccine Development

To learn more about other trailblazing  
women in science, technology,  
engineering and math (STEM),  
visit [uab.ca/twis](http://uab.ca/twis).

A stylized illustration of Anne Szarewski, a woman with short, wavy brown hair, wearing glasses and a purple jacket over a white shirt. The background behind her is a vibrant green with abstract white and pink shapes. The text 'Anne Szarewski 1959-2013' is overlaid on the bottom left of the illustration in a bold, dark blue font.

# Anne Szarewski 1959-2013

Dr. Szarewski and her colleagues discovered that human papillomavirus (HPV) was tied to cervical cancer in the 1990s. It was a major advancement that, over the next ten years, promoted the development of a vaccine to prevent HPV and, with it, the majority of cervical malignancies. The vaccines are becoming more widely available around the world, reducing pain and death, making the prospect of eradicating cervical cancer more feasible by the day.

WISEST's mission is to advance diversity while empowering women in STEM. For more information, visit: [www.uab.ca/wisest](http://www.uab.ca/wisest).

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1960-2017

# Judie Alimonti

Dr. Judie Alimonti was a Canadian immunologist who was instrumental in the development of the Ebola vaccine. She managed the Canadian lab for the production of human-grade ebola vaccine to test in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Without Dr. Alimonti's meticulous and dogged efforts, the trial lots might not have been available and ready to test during the West African outbreak of 2013-2016.

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A stylized illustration of Dr. Kizzmekia Corbett. She has long, dark, wavy hair and is looking slightly to the right. The background behind her is a bright yellow circle with various colorful shapes like circles, lines, and dots. She is wearing a light blue top.

# Kizzmekia Corbett

1986-present

Dr. Kizzmekia "Kizzy" Shanta Corbett is an American viral immunologist and is one of the leading scientists whose tireless work helped to develop an mRNA-based vaccine for COVID-19. She is also the Shutzer Assistant Professor at the Harvard Radcliffe Institute and Assistant Professor of Immunology and Infectious Diseases at Harvard T.H. Chan School of Public Health. Dr. Corbett has recently taken on another challenge: tempering vaccine hesitancy by talking about COVID-19 science in communities of colour.

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1904-1960

# Ruby Hirose

Dr. Ruby Hirose was a Japanese-American biochemist and bacteriologist whose research pioneered the creation of polio and hay fever vaccinations. She was one of the few women to be honoured by the American Chemical Society for her contributions in Chemistry back in 1940. Later on, Dr. Hirose also contributed to the development of a vaccine meant to prevent infantile paralysis.

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1933-present

# Ruth Bishop

In 1973, Dr. Ruth Bishop, an Australian virologist, led a team that discovered rotavirus, a highly contagious virus that causes severe diarrhea in children. Dr. Bishop's research has had a tremendous impact for children around the world and it earned her the Florey Medal in Australia, which made her the first woman to ever receive this biomedical research award. Although this vaccine is available, many still lack access to it. Rotavirus causes an estimated 200,000 fatalities worldwide each year.

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