WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY HISTORY

MARIE-ANNE PAULZE LAVOISIER
BORN 1758 DIED 1836

Married chemist Antoine Lavoisier and received training in chemistry. Worked with Lavoiser editing and drawing his methods so they could be understood.

MARIE SKŁODOWSKA CURIE
BORN 1867 DIED 1934

Carried out pioneering research on radioactivity. The first woman to win a Nobel Prize, and the only person to win a Nobel Prize in two different sciences.

ALICE AUGUSTA BALL
BORN 1892 DIED 1916

Developed an injectable oil which was the most effective treatment for leprosy until the 1940s. She died before the results of her work were published.

GERTY THERESA CORI
BORN 1896 DIED 1957

Helped establish how glycogen is broken down in muscles then remade and stored as an energy source (the Cori Cycle). She jointly won a Nobel Prize for her work.

IDA EVA NODDACK
BORN 1896 DIED 1978

She was the first person to propose the idea of nuclear fission, which she suggested in 1934. She was also the co-discoverer of rhenium, in 1925.

IRÈNE JOLIOT-CURIE
BORN 1897 DIED 1956

Daughter of Marie Curie. A joint Nobel Prize in Chemistry winner in 1935 with Frédéric Joliot-Curie for their discovery of and work on artificial radioactivity.

KATHLEEN LONSDALE
BORN 1903 DIED 1971

Pioneered use of X-rays to study crystals, and also used the technique to confirm that a benzene ring is flat. A form of carbon, Lonsdaleite, is named after her.

DOROTHY MARY HODGKIN
BORN 1910 DIED 1994

Used X-ray crystallography to determine the structure of vitamin B_{12}, for which she won a Nobel Prize. She went on to decipher the structure of insulin.

GERTRUDE BELLE ELION
BORN 1918 DIED 1999

Developed numerous drugs, including the first immunosuppresive drug used for organ transplants. Jointly won the 1988 Nobel Prize in Medicine or Physiology.

ROSALIND FRANKLIN
BORN 1920 DIED 1958

Made X-ray diffraction images of DNA, crucial in allowing DNA's structure to be discerned. This contribution wasn't fully acknowledged until after her death.

MARIE MAYNARD DALY
BORN 1921 DIED 2003

Thought to have been the first Black American woman to earn a PhD in chemistry, in 1947. She later researched effects of cigarette smoke on the lungs.

STEPHANIE KWOLEK
BORN 1923 DIED 2014

Developed the polymer Kevlar and won many awards for her work on polymer chemistry. Also developed the 'nylon rope trick' chemistry demonstration.

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