



## Spotlighting Women in STEM: Anne Bendt, PhD

As part of Agilent's Women in STEM series, we're focusing on the experiences and career trajectory of our inspiring female researchers and collaborators.

Dr. Anne Bendt is a principal investigator at the National University of Singapore (NUS) and is responsible for steering clinical implementation at the NUS-Agilent Hub. As a specialist in lipidomics, Anne serves as deputy director of the NUS' Singapore Lipidomics Incubator and contributes regularly to scientific advisory boards and working groups. Anne is one of the brightest minds in the field, and as chair of Females in Mass Spectrometry, she is passionate about progressing women's careers in STEM.

### From lipidomics to diagnostics

Anne's research focuses on studying hundreds and thousands of lipid metabolites. Her aim is to translate lipidomic research methods into clinically useful applications, such as diagnostics.

Passionate about infectious diseases, exercise physiology, and improving human health in general, Anne is using lipidomics to study the lipid metabolite composition of human plasma. One aim of these studies is to discover biomarkers for different health and disease states. Potentially, these could one day be translated into clinical applications.

The five-year collaboration between Agilent and NUS has proven to be hugely valuable in helping Anne achieve measurements that are immensely important in translating her findings into a working application that can be developed to ultimately improve human health. The team was supported with a range of Agilent LC/MS instruments from LC triple quadrupole (LC/TQ) to LC quadrupole time-of-flight (LC/Q-TOF) systems, with the high-throughput Agilent Ultivo LC/TQ having a particularly positive impact on Anne's work.



**"Organizations like Agilent, who have strong female representation in decision-making roles, are turning the tide. It's inspirational and has a big impact on the confidence of women pursuing careers across the board."**

Anne Bendt, PhD  
Principal investigator  
National University of Singapore

## Navigating the world of STEM as a woman

Anne's love for all things science was evident during her childhood. For her, choosing a career in STEM was a natural choice. As the only female senior researcher in a group of twenty-five, Anne has become confident in seizing opportunities and building her network. However, like many women, initially she lacked the confidence to put herself forward.

Anne cofounded the international support network [Females in Mass Spectrometry](#) in 2019. The group's latest project 'Out of the Shadow' is a leadership development program aimed at empowering women in middle management to step out of the shadows and pursue the next steps to advance their careers by giving them tools and access to female role models.

## Hopes for the future

Anne believes that the career trajectory of many women can be shifted by focusing on building confidence skills among junior researchers. By simply inviting them to a seat at the boardroom table, we can inspire them to have a voice, share opinions, and learn to make strategic decisions.

Alongside this, the industry needs to become more generous with offering job shadowing. Highlighting the avenues female junior researchers can take, exposing them to cutting edge technologies, and giving them day-to-day guidance can inspire them to advance their careers. Given that this is a hurdle many women face as they learn to balance between caring responsibilities and their careers, small opportunities like these can have a massive impact.

### Anne's Top Tips

- Don't be shy to talk openly about your goals. You never know what opportunities this may spark with potential mentors and sponsors.
- Create your own brand and learn to 'pitch' yourself and your research. Don't be afraid to promote yourself.
- Help make opportunities accessible for those around you, too. For example, structure networking events during working hours, so those with caring responsibilities aren't taking time out of their personal lives to attend.

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