

# **Tamara Franz-Odendaal**

**Professor, Faculty of Biology, NSERC Chair Women in Science and Engineering- Atlantic Canada;  
Principal Investigator - Bone Development Laboratory at Mount Saint Vincent University**

Halifax, NS, CA

Developmental biologist / Anatomist;

Advocate for the Advancement of Women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Math

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## **Description**

Dr. Tamara Franz-Odendaal graduated from the University of Cape Town, South Africa with a PhD in Zoology and completed her post-doctoral studies at Dalhousie University in Evolutionary-Developmental Biology. Dr. Franz-Odendaal joined the Mount in 2006 as a Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) University Faculty award recipient (2006-2011) and has since launched an active and productive research program as a morphologist and developmental biologist in the field of skeletal biology.

In 2011, Dr. Franz-Odendaal was awarded the NSERC Atlantic Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for the Atlantic Region (WISEatlantic). She is one of five chair holders across Canada that are working to increase the participation of women in science and engineering and to provide role models for women considering careers in these fields. The aim of the WISEatlantic program is to provide girls in junior and senior high school with access to role models active in the sciences and engineering fields through mentorships, webinars, Girls Get WISE Science events and Science Summer Camps. Through WISEatlantic, she also supports women in STEM careers through professional development opportunities, such as the WinSETT Leadership Program workshops and academic advancement workshops. By 2016, her program reached over 13,000 students, teachers, academics, professionals etc., and had directly engaged 3000 youth with almost 200 female role models in STEM.

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## **Industry Expertise**

Biotechnology, Education/Learning, Research, Laboratory Services

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## **Topics**

Morphology, Embryology, Molecular Biology, Anatomy, Genetics, Teaching, Science, Science Outreach to the Public, Girl's and Women's Empowerment, Science technology engineering and mathematics (STEM) undergraduate education, Bone biology and regeneration, bone development, skeleton, evo-devo, Evolution and Development, Developmental Biology, Girls in STEM, STEM careers

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## **Affiliations**

Vice President Nova Scotia Institute of Science

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## **Past Talks**

**Leadership Starts Early: The Impact of Role Models**  
Gender Summit Three

**Strategies to enable girls to interact with role models and to expand their understanding of STEM careers**

Gender Summit Three

**All About Bones: Insights from fossils and embryo's**

WISE NL Statoil Seminar Series

**Call to Action: NSERC Chairs**

Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology Conference

**Promoting Women in Academia Through Career Development**

Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology Conference

**Engaging Young Girls in STEM Throughout Canada**

Canadian Coalition of Women in Engineering, Science, Trades and Technology Conference

**Supporting Women in Chemistry**

Chemical Institute of Canada Conference

**Career intentions, influencers, and STEM career awareness amongst grade 7s.**

Canadian Coalition for Women in Engineering Science Trades and Technology

**Promoting women in academia through career development workshops.**

Canadian Coalition for Women in Engineering Science Trades and Technology

**GIRLS and Science: why it's important and how you can support them**

Nova Scotia Institute of Science

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**Education**

**Dalhousie University**

Post Doctorate Biology

**University of Cape Town**

Ph.D. Biology

**University of Cape Town**

M.Sc. Medicine

**University of Cape Town**

B.Sc. Zoology

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**Accomplishments**

**Chair for Women in Science and Engineering (NSERC)**

Dr. Franz-Odendaal is the current Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) Chair for Women in Science and Engineering for Atlantic Canada.

**Research Excellence Award**

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded Mount Saint Vincent University's Research Excellence Award

**Young Investigator Award in Morphological Sciences**

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded the American Association of Anatomists Young Investigator's Award in Morphological Sciences for her contribution to biomedical research

**Dove's Unstoppable Moms for Unstoppable Girls**

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded the Dove's Unstoppable Moms for Unstoppable Girls for her work engaging girls in science.

**Science Champion**

Dr Franz-Odendaal was awarded a Science Champion award by the Discovery Centre in Nova Scotia, Canada, for her contribution to STEM outreach

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