



MUSEUM OF SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY'S RESIDENT PHYSICIST DR. OLIVIA CASTELLINI SELECTED AS AAAS IF/THEN® AMBASSADOR

CHICAGO (September 9, 2019)—The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI) is proud to announce that Senior Exhibit Developer and resident physicist Olivia Castellini, Ph.D., has been selected as an AAAS (American Association for the Advancement of Science) IF/THEN® Ambassador. IF/THEN®, a national initiative of Lyda Hill Philanthropies, seeks to further women in science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) through empowering current innovators and inspiring the next generation of pioneers.

“We’re thrilled to share that Olivia has been chosen to join a group of ambassadors dedicated to making STEM fields accessible to girls and women across the country,” said Patricia Ward, director of science exhibitions and partnerships at MSI. “We’re proud to have her represent the Museum of Science and Industry and further the Museum’s mission to inspire the inventive genius in everyone.”

Dr. Castellini has translated fundamental science and cutting-edge research into compelling museum experiences on a variety of topics. She was part of the core creative team behind *Science Storms*, MSI's 26,000 square-foot exhibition about the amazing science that underlies natural phenomena. Dr. Castellini is also active in research into public understanding of science and nanotechnology, which has resulted in several journal publications, conference proceedings and invited talks. Dr. Castellini earned her Ph.D. in physics from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

The goal of the IF/THEN® Initiative is to shift the way our country—and the world—think about women in STEM and this requires changing the narratives about women STEM professionals and improving their visibility. To successfully change the culture and inspire more girls to consider STEM careers, IF/THEN® has developed an ambitious game plan, crucial to empowering a sustainable movement, with four key elements: IF/THEN® Ambassadors, IF/THEN® Coalition, IF/THEN® Collection and IF/THEN® Grants. For more information, visit www.ifthenshecan.org.

“We firmly believe that IF we support a woman in STEM, THEN she can change the world,” said Lyda Hill, founder of Lyda Hill Philanthropies. “We’re thrilled that Dr. Castellini has been chosen as an AAAS IF/THEN® Ambassador and know that she will be a tremendous asset to the IF/THEN® Initiative.”

IF/THEN® is proud to recognize talented women STEM professionals across a variety of industries as IF/THEN® Ambassadors who will serve as high-profile role models for middle school girls. In partnership with AAAS, IF/THEN® created the AAAS IF/THEN® Ambassadors Program that brings together 100+ of these innovators for specialized media and communications training. Using a talent agency model, IF/THEN® will support the Ambassadors and their inspiring work by showcasing them on a national platform.

AAAS IF/THEN® Ambassadors were selected through a rigorous selection process. Candidates were evaluated for overall excellence with a focus on the following:

- Contributions to their STEM-related field, commensurate with their career stage
- Demonstrated experience and abilities in STEM communication and public engagement via media, classroom, and public programs
- Commitment to inspiring middle school girls to be the next generation of STEM pioneers

For a complete list of Ambassadors, go to www.ifthenshecan.org/ambassadors.

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The Museum of Science and Industry, Chicago (MSI), one of the largest science museums in the world, offers world-class and uniquely interactive experiences that inspire inventive genius and foster curiosity. From groundbreaking and award-winning exhibits that can't be found anywhere else, to hands-on opportunities that make you the scientist—a visit to MSI is where fun and learning mix. Through its Welcome to Science Initiative, the Museum offers a variety of student, teacher and family programs that make a difference in communities and contribute to MSI's larger vision: to inspire and motivate children to achieve their full potential in science, technology, medicine and engineering. Come visit and find your inspiration! MSI is open 9:30–4 p.m. every day except Thanksgiving and Christmas Day. Extended hours, until 5:30 p.m., are offered during peak periods. The Museum is grateful for the support of its donors and guests, who make its work possible. MSI is also supported in part by the people of Chicago through the Chicago Park District. For more information, visit msichicago.org or call (773) 684-1414.

ABOUT IF/THEN

IF/THEN® is part of Lyda Hill Philanthropies' commitment to fund game-changing advancements in science and nature. IF/THEN® seeks to further advance women in STEM by empowering current innovators and inspiring the next generation of pioneers. Rooted in a firm belief that there is no better time to highlight positive and successful female professional role models, IF/THEN® is designed to activate a culture shift among young girls to open their eyes to STEM careers by: (1) funding and elevating women in STEM as role models, (2) convening cross-sector partners in entertainment, fashion, sports, business and academia to illuminate the importance of STEM everywhere, and (3) inspiring girls with better portrayals of women in STEM through media and learning experiences to pique their interest in STEM careers. To learn more, visit www.ifthenshecan.org or follow IF/THEN® on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

ABOUT LYDA HILL PHILANTHROPIES

Lyda Hill Philanthropies encompasses the charitable giving of founder Lyda Hill who believes that “science is the answer” to life's most challenging issues and is committed to funding transformational advances in science and nature. To learn more, visit www.lydahillphilanthropies.org.

ABOUT AAAS

The American Association for the Advancement of Science ([AAAS](#)) is the world's largest general scientific society and publisher of the journal [Science](#), as well as *Science Translational Medicine*; *Science Signaling*; a digital, open-access journal, *Science Advances*; *Science*

Immunology, and *Science Robotics*. AAAS was founded in 1848 and includes more than 250 affiliated societies and academies of science, serving 10 million individuals. *Science* has the largest paid circulation of any peer-reviewed general science journal in the world. The nonprofit AAAS is open to all and fulfills its mission to “advance science and serve society” through initiatives in science policy, international programs, science education, public engagement and more.