



Ottoline Leyser

Dr. Leyser grew up in a home where ideas and discussion were encouraged. After reading textbooks for school, she became dissatisfied with the answers about how plants worked and decided to tackle the challenge.

She received her BA and PhD in Genetics from Cambridge and went on to work at Indiana University, Cambridge, and the University of York.



Scientific Work

Dr. Leyser became interested in how plant hormones interact with the environment. She first focused on the role of auxin signaling in the regulation of gene expression. After working out the pathway, she turned her attention to the auxin transport network.

Dr. Leyser tries, and encourages others, to expect the unexpected, in order to develop strong hypotheses while keeping an open mind. Experiments that did not turn out as expected are an opportunity to redevelop and refine ideas.

She finds inspiration for her science everywhere in life in all its "forms most beautiful and most wonderful" (Darwin).

Mothers in Science

Dr. Leyser assembled a collection of stories of mothers in science. She was frustrated by the message that it was impossible it was for women to combine a family and a career in science. She knew many women successfully combining their research careers and she wanted to spread that simple message.



She has received numerous awards, including being named Dame Commander of the Order of the British Empire.

Sources

Leyser, Ottoline. "Mothers in Science: 64 Ways to Have it All." Royal Society

"Ottoline Leyser." University of Cambridge.

"Q&A: Ottoline Leyser." *Current Biology* 22:8. R253 - R255. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cub.2012.02.003>

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