

## **Dr. Peggoty Mutai Awarded the UNESCO-L'Oréal International Fellowship for Young Women in Life Sciences**

The UNESCO-L'Oréal International Fellowship program was created in 2000 to encourage promising women who are working in the life sciences at the doctoral or postdoctoral level. Fifteen International Fellows, three from each UNESCO region, are chosen to continue their research in prestigious institutions outside their home country. The Fellows gain important experience and build networks they can share with others on returning home.

This year, the beneficiaries from Africa were Peggoty Mutai from Kenya, Gladys Kahaka from Namibia and Johannie Marie-Spaan from South Africa. The beneficiaries received their awards during a very colourful ceremony held in Paris, France in March 2012.

The fellowship is for a period of one year and is renewable for a further one year. It gives the fellows an opportunity to visit an institution away from their home institution. Peggoty's project is on Anthelmintic Assays using GPCRs as Drug Targets and will be visiting the Institute of Parasitology, McGill University in Canada.

“I am very excited about this fellowship which gives me a great opportunity to carry out research at McGill Institute and do technology transfer to the University of Nairobi. I look forward to bringing the assays home and having other researchers and students apply these techniques in their research.”