



Meet

Nathalie Tufenkji, PEng, PhD

Treasurer for the Canadian Society for Chemical Engineering (CSCHE), which publishes the Canadian Journal of Chemical Engineering.

We asked Nathalie

How or why did you choose Engineering as a career path / area of study?

I chose engineering as a career path because I enjoyed the technical challenges and project development, but also because it was field where I felt my work could have a positive impact on society and the environment.

What inspires you about Engineering?

I'm inspired by the breadth of the field – from nanotechnology to biotechnology, environmental remediation to space exploration, engineers are making an impact on all aspects of our lives. With a solid academic foundation and the willingness to learn and push oneself, the possibilities are limitless.

What challenges do women face in the Engineering professions / academia?

A challenge that women face is the obliviousness of the general population to the existence of unconscious bias against women and other minorities in the field. Only when this unconscious bias is better understood and actively acknowledged will women have equal opportunities.

What is the ratio of female to male in your workplace / faculty?

5:12

What is the most exciting thing about your job?

Making new discoveries that have the potential to make the world safer and healthier.

What does a typical day in your job involve?

Every day is different. Some days, I spend a lot of time writing about my research ideas. Other days, I spend meeting with my students and collaborators to discuss research plans and results. I also spend my time presenting our research findings to other researchers at conferences and other universities. Of course, I also love teaching undergraduate and graduate students in and outside the classroom.

What would you say to girls in school / college who may be considering Engineering as a career choice / study option?

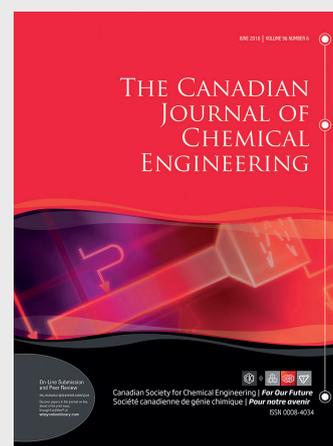
—Engineering is an amazing career choice! It involves teamwork, develops leadership and strong problem solving skills. You can do anything with an engineering degree.

Do you think the perception of Engineering as a male-dominated career can be changed, and if so, how?

Yes, with the active participation of the entire population. Men AND women have to work together towards changing this culture.

Read more inspirational stories

<http://news.wiley.com/engineeringwomen>



#inspirationalengineers

