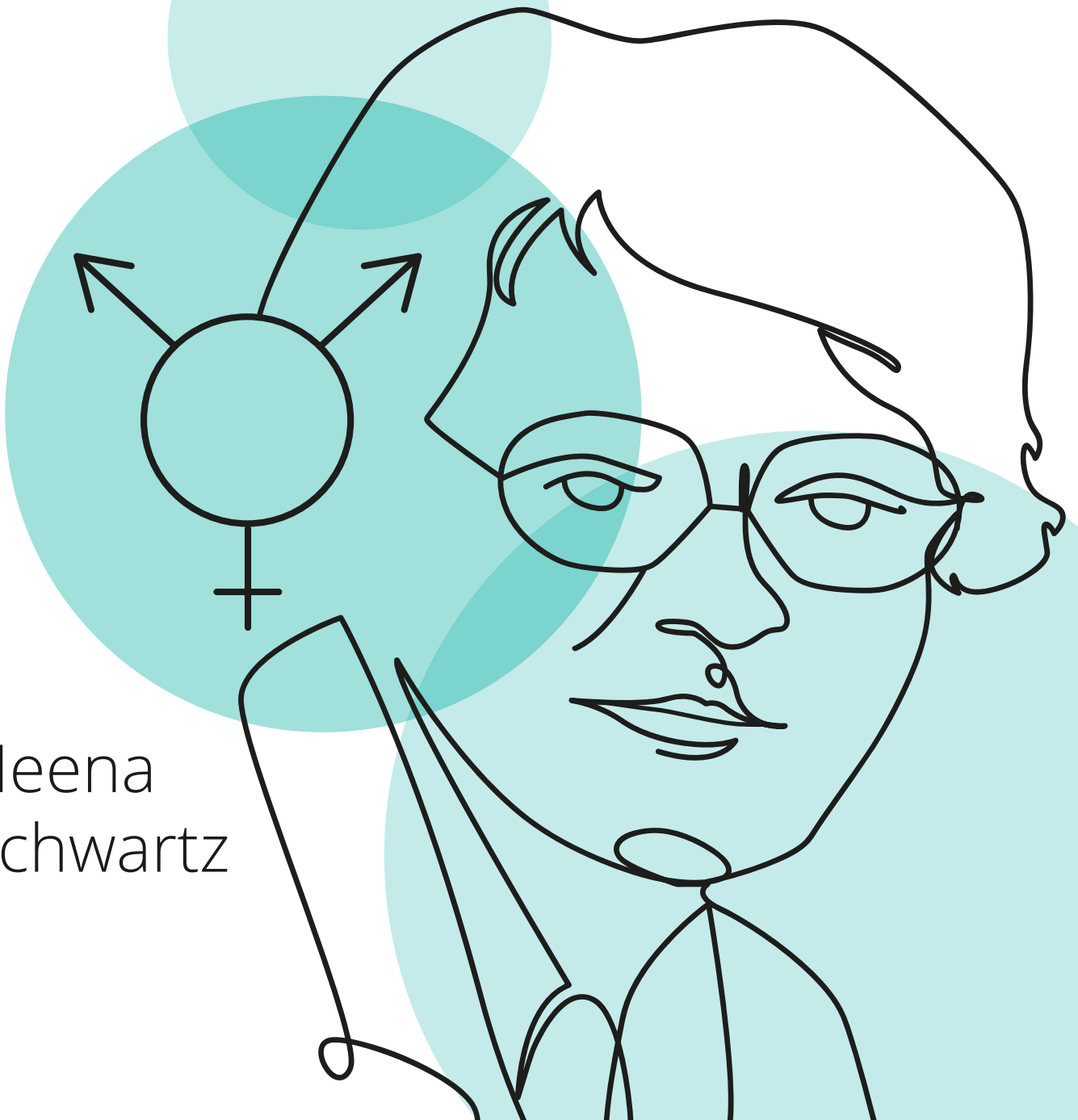


A Scientific
Spotlight on...

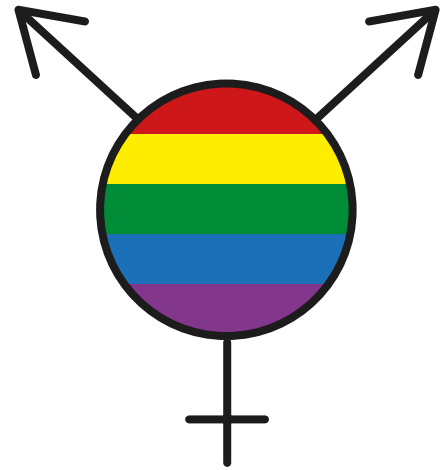
 **Pride
Month**



Neena
Schwartz

A Scientific
Spotlight on...

Neena Schwartz



Neena was an American endocrinologist, feminist and LGBTQ+ advocate. She is best known for her research in female reproductive biology and hormones. In the 1970s Schwartz and her research team were able to identify a new hormone called inhibin from their research on laboratory rats. It was found that inhibin plays a role in both female and male hormone signalling and fertility. There are two types of inhibin which are inhibin A and inhibin B. Pregnant women can be tested for their levels of inhibin A; if the patient has high levels of the hormone along with other hormone indicators (such as decreased estradiol), it can be an indication that the foetus has Down Syndrome. It can also be used as a marker for ovarian cancer.

As well as being a brilliant endocrinologist, Schwartz was also a huge advocate for women in science. In 1971, she was the first president and organiser of Association for Women in Science (AWIS), which advocates for

an increase in the number of women in senior academic positions within science. She was also president of the Society for the Study of Reproduction and the co-founder of Women in Endocrinology.

To document her experience working as a female scientist, Schwartz wrote a memoir called 'A Lab of My Own'. In this book she wrote about how she was treated by the male scientists, who often assumed she was only there to pour the tea. Neena wrote this memoir in order to document the female movement in science and she also used it as an opportunity to discuss her relationship with her sexuality. In the book she came out as lesbian and hoped that her work, and her book, would continue to inspire young female scientists and young gay scientists to go after possibilities and success.

Colours of the Rainbow

The LGBTQ+ Pride flag is made up of rainbow colours. Every answer to these statements is a colour of the rainbow. When you know the answer, colour in the question box. For example, if the answer is red then colour the question box in red.

1. The sea looks this colour because this colour of light reflects off it.

2. The colour of the safety flame of a Bunsen Burner.

3. This the is colour of chlorophyll.

4. This is the colour of the flame test when potassium is present in a solution.

5. The haemoglobin in your blood is this colour.

Solve the riddle!

Write down the answer for each of these questions. The first letter of each answer will spell out the answer to the riddle.

1. If an element at room temperature is not a solid or a liquid, it must be a _____.
2. The element _____ has an atomic number of 3 and an atomic mass of 7.
3. Inhibin ___ can be used as a marker for ovarian cancer.
4. The Sun is not a planet it is a _____.
5. Neena Schwartz was the president of American Women in _____.

The riddle:

If a blue house is made out of blue bricks, a yellow house is made out of yellow bricks and a pink house is made out of pink bricks, what is a green house made of?
