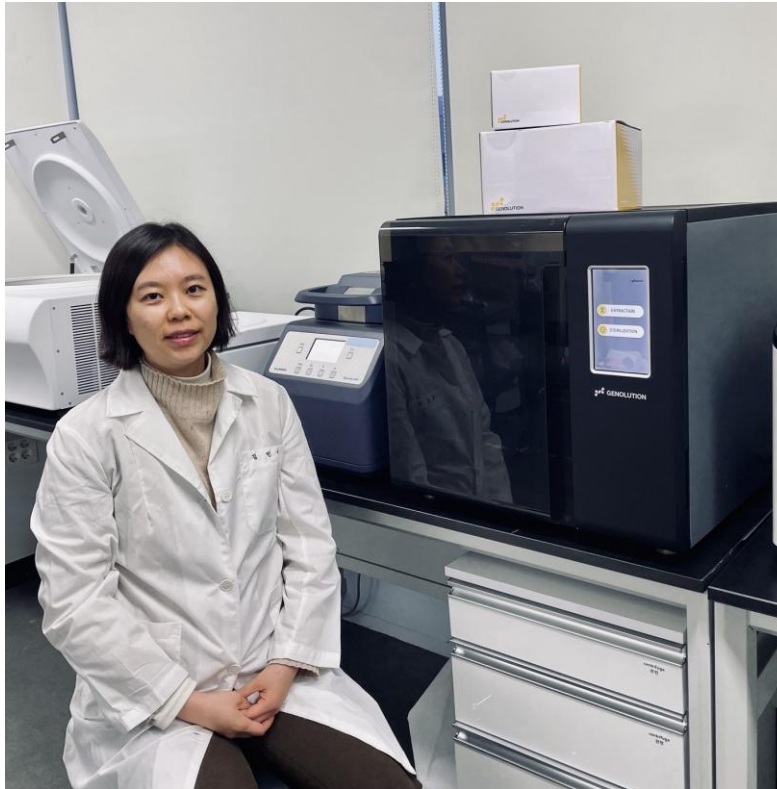


*'I am committed to empowering female scientists to step into leadership roles within their teams and groups.'*

**-Minlee Kim-**



**1. Please introduce yourself and give us an overview on your research focus and expertise.**

My name is Minlee Kim, and I am the Chief Technology Officer at Genolution Inc. in Seoul, Korea. My Ph.D research centered on the role of microRNAs in cancer. Currently, I lead a diverse portfolio of R&D projects spanning agricultural biotechnology, molecular diagnostics, and biomaterials, with a particular emphasis on nucleic acids (DNA and RNA).

**2. What are your main interests outside of your job? How do you maintain your work-life balance?**

As a working mom, my primary focus outside of my career is spending quality time with my 4-year-old son and ensuring he feels secure and settled in his daily routine without me. Our quality time usually involves family activities on weekends, like visiting theme parks, going to the zoo, or exploring nature. To maintain a healthy work-life balance, taking care of my physical and mental well-being is essential. For that reason, I make time for regular physical activity to stay energized and grounded.

**3. Have you witnessed positive changes or initiatives aimed at fostering a more inclusive environment for female researchers?**

While the percentage of women in executive roles has been increasing in Korea over the past few years, the representation remains extremely low. As the only female executive in my current company, I am committed to empowering female scientists to step into leadership roles within their teams and groups.

In Korea, there is a foundation called WISSET, which supports women in STEM by providing funding, mentorship, and educational opportunities. One of the female scientists at my company is currently receiving support from this foundation, and I believe other countries also have similar organizations that offer additional resources to help women in STEM grow and succeed globally.