

MARGARITA SALAS

We Are going to show you a famous Spanish scientist. Margarita Salas.

Salas was born on 30 November 1938. She graduated in chemistry at the Complutense University of Madrid and after finishing her Ph.D. theses, in August of the year 1964 she travelled to the United States to work with Severo Ochoa.

Severo Ochoa was also a very important Spanish researcher who won the Nobel Prize in 1959.

She returned to Spain in 1968, Salas and her husband established a laboratory to research molecular biology at the Center for Biological Research in Madrid. Salas was a professor of Molecular Genetics at the Complutense University from 1968 to 1992. She was responsible for promoting Spanish research in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology.

Biochemistry is the study of chemical processes relating to living organisms. Biochemists research molecules that produce illnesses and look for cures that go directly to our cells.



Salas won the L'Oréal-UNESCO Awards for Women in Science in its first year, 2000. She was a member of Spanish Royal Academy of Sciences, European Academy of Sciences and Arts, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, American Academy of Microbiology, United States National Academy of Sciences, and the Severo Ochoa Foundation. Salas was the first scientific woman ever elected in the Real Academia Española.

She has been the teacher and mentor of famous relevant Spanish scientists like María Blasco, Marisol Soengas or Jesús Ávila.

She died on 7 November 2019 in Madrid at age 80.



