



Viviana Grădinaru is a Romanian-American neuroscientist who is Professor of Neuroscience at the California Institute of Technology. She develops technologies for brain imaging, including optogenetics and CLARITY, to understand reward and sleep. She has been awarded the Presidential Early Career Award for Scientists and Engineers and the National Institutes of Health Director's Pioneer Award. In 2019 she was a finalist for the Blavatnik Awards for Young Scientists. In 2020 she was awarded a Vilcek Prize for Creative Promise in Biomedical Science by the Vilcek Foundation.



Florica Topârceanu is an Antarctic researcher, best known for her work on Antarctic aquatic viruses and for developing the Antarctic scientific community in Romania. She was the first Romanian woman biologist to study life in Antarctica, and the first Romanian woman expert to the Antarctic Treaty. Topârceanu's research interests are Antarctic aquatic viruses and her research expertise focuses on the life sciences, people and the biosphere. She is a founding member and the Scientific Secretary of the National Commission on Antarctic Research (NACR) Romania.



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Mioara Mandea is Programme Manager for the Solid Earth Observation at the Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales. She won the 2018 European Geosciences Union Petrus Peregrinus Medal and has previously served as their General Secretary. She is best known for her work on geomagnetic jerks, sub-decadal changes in the Earth's magnetic field. Mandea leads the collection and analysis of geomagnetic data. She was the first to recognise the sub-decadal fluctuations in the Earth's magnetic field known as geomagnetic jerks. Mandea has designed new data acquisition and analytical platforms to understand geomagnetic data



Veronica Vaida is a Romanian-American Chemist and Professor at the University of Colorado Boulder. She is an expert in environmental chemistry and aerosols. Vaida developed jet cooled absorption spectrometry to analyse the lifetimes of reactive systems, where excited state dynamics were complicated because of diffuse absorption and limited fluorescence. She worked on an excimer laser that could allow her group to study transition metal complexes. Vaida recognised that her studies of model compounds could be useful in atmospheric chemistry. Her group went on to study atmospheric ozone, water clusters, and photochemistry



A neuropsychiatrist with medical studies at Harvard University, Florica Bagdasar was the first woman minister in Romania. This happened in one of the most troubled periods in the country's history. The Health Minister between 1946-1948, during a time of epidemic diseases, mass shortages of food and basic goods, Florica Bagdasar succeeded the impossible. She obtained international support, including from Sweden and the United States of America, while the newly installed communist government from Romania was completely isolating the country from the Western world.