

The ASBMB celebrates Scientists of the Americas

2023

Phillip Ortiz is named a Fellow of the ASBMB for his roles in education research and diversity and inclusion efforts.

Sonia Flores is named a Fellow of the ASBMB for her many contributions to the society including her work on the IMAGE grant writing workshop.

2021

Enrique de la Cruz is named a Fellow of the ASBMB for his dedication to teaching and training, especially of underrepresented scientists.

2019

Jorge Torres is awarded the ASBMB's Ruth Kirschstein Diversity in Science Award for contributions to research, mentorship, teaching and advocacy.

2018

Anjelica Gonzalez develops PremieBreathe, a low-cost device to help premature babies breathe.

2015

JoAnn Trejo is awarded the ASBMB's Ruth Kirschstein Diversity in Science Award for championing diversity throughout her career.

2012

Jennifer Holmgren receives the Environmental Protection Agency Presidential Green Chemistry Award for her work in developing sustainable fuels and recycling waste carbon emissions.

2003

Ivar Mendez and his team 3D print a replica of a patient's brain for planning deep brain stimulation surgery.

2001

Susana López Charretón wins the L'Oréal-UNESCO Prize for Women in Science for her work elucidating the mechanisms of rotavirus infection.

2001

Cristián Samper becomes director of the Smithsonian Museum of Natural History. In 2007, he becomes the first Hispanic secretary of the Smithsonian.

2001

José F. Cordero becomes the founding director of the National Center on Birth Defects and Developmental Disabilities.

2001

Helen Rodríguez Trías wins the Presidential Citizen's Medal for her work on behalf of people with HIV/AIDS. She also was the first Latina president of the American Public Health Association.

2000

Evangelina Villegas and colleague Surinder Vasal win the World Food Prize for their development of biofortified maize.

1990

Antonia Novello becomes the first woman and first Hispanic person to serve as surgeon general of the United States.

1989

Raymond L. Rodriguez founds the International Rice Genome Organization, which developed a strategy for sequencing the rice genome.

1987

Ofelia Olivero becomes a postdoctoral fellow at the National Cancer Institute, where she serves as part of the team that first elucidated the genotoxic effects of nucleoside analogues on fetuses.

1984

César Milstein and colleagues win the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the development of hybridoma technology to produce monoclonal antibodies.

1980

Baruj Benacerraf and colleagues win the Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for the discovery of the major histocompatibility complex.

1979

Nitza Margarita Cintrón founds the Biochemistry Laboratory at Johnson Space Center. She later becomes the chief of space medicine and oversaw the Health Care Systems Office.

1978

Lydia Villa-Komaroff, the third Mexican American woman in the U.S. to earn a doctorate, discovers that bacteria can be induced to make proinsulin.

1973

Alonzo Atencio invites Chicano and Native American colleagues to Albuquerque. This gathering was the precursor to the Society for the Advancement of Chicanos and Native Americans in Science meeting.

1970

Luis Federico Leloir becomes the first Spanish-speaking scientist to win the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, which he won for research on the metabolism of carbohydrates.

1960

Jacinto Convit is selected by the World Health Organization to lead a drug development and surveillance program for the treatment of parasitic diseases.

1954

Rebeca Gerschman proposes that oxygen free radicals cause cell damage and aging.

1953

Sarah Stewart discovers the polyoma virus and with Bernice E. Eddy characterizes its ability to transmit tumors between animals.

1951

Luis Miramontes synthesizes norethisterone, the progestin used in many oral contraceptives.

1949

José Reis channels his passion for science communication into the founding of "Ciência e Cultura" magazine, now published by the Brazilian Society for the Advancement of Science.

1948

Bernardo Alberto Houssay earns the 1947 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for his research on the role of anterior lobe of the hypophysis in the metabolism of carbohydrates, particularly in diabetes.

1947

Albert Báez, father of singer Joan Baez, invents the X-ray microscope.

1925

Ynés Mexía starts her professional career, during which she accumulated over 150,000 specimens and was one of the most accomplished plant collectors of her time.

1922

Fernando E. Rodríguez Vargas discovers several species of bacteria responsible for causing cavities and tooth decay.

1922

Carlos E. Chardón discovers that aphids are the vectors of the sugarcane mosaic virus.

1911

Fermín Tangüis develops a disease-resistant cotton. His innovation is credited with saving the Peruvian cotton industry.

1909

Carlos Chagas formally describes the tropical disease that would come to bear his name. He named the parasite that causes it *Trypanosoma cruzi* after his mentor, Oswaldo Cruz.

1907

Isaac González Martínez identifies schistosomes as the cause of schistosomiasis ("snail fever").

1903

Oswaldo Cruz becomes director-general of public health in Brazil. Despite public resistance, he launches a sanitation and mass vaccination campaign to combat smallpox and yellow fever.

1880

José Celso Barbosa earns his medical degree from the University of Michigan, making him the first person from Puerto Rico to earn a medical degree in the United States.

1879

Carlos Finlay originates the theory of yellow fever transmission by mosquitoes.

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