

Borinqueña celebrates Women's History Month-Part II ^[1]

Submitted by [Greetchen Díaz-Muñoz](#) ^[2] on 28 March 2014 - 9:08am



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Borinqueña emphasizes the contribution of Puerto Rican and Hispanic women in science and technology and provides a space to discuss topics of interest about the empowerment of women. In this Women's History Month we present Borinqueña Global. In this section we will highlight successful women scientists that can offer their experience of the impact of science on a worldwide scale.

Is Women's History Month, and our Borinqueñas celebrate the life and achievements of women scientists and engineers who impacted our world and their own lives with their careers. Here the first four women who inspire. Share these images using #WHM #womensday #Borinqueña

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"Above all, don't fear difficult moments. The best comes from them." –**Rita Levi-Montalcini**

"That her father did not think women should go to college did not stop Rita from pursuing an education. When Mussolini's fascist government declared that Jews could not hold academic or professional careers, Rita established a neuroscience laboratory in her bedroom. Her pioneering spirit led her in 1952 to discover and isolate Nerve Growth Factor, a small protein with a big role in the growth, maintenance and health of neurons, and the reason for her 1986 Nobel Prize Physiology with Stanley Cohen. Not one to rest on her laurels, Rita continued to publish scientific papers until past 100 years of age! Same as Rita, it was the wonder of how something as complex as the brain develops that motivated me to pursue my career in science."

- Giovanna Guerrero

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Women's History Month

Celebrating the contributions of women to our society



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“Dr. Candace Pert was a recognized pharmacologist that discovered the opioid receptor while she was a graduate student. I heard about Dr. Pert for the first time when I read her book *Molecules of Emotion*. The story of her scientific career stayed with me because it put into perspective the underrepresentation of women in science. Dr. Pert did her doctoral work at Johns Hopkins University, under the supervision of Dr. Solomon H. Snyder, who obtained the Lasker Award in 1978 for the discovery of the opioid receptor. Dr. Pert was not invited to share the award. After her doctorate, Pert began to work at the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH). At the NIMH she had a long career and became Chief of the Brain Biochemistry section. During her professional life Dr. Pert was not only a great scientist, but also an avid advocate of women in science.”

-Reyna Martínez de Luna

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Marie Curie was a physicist and chemist (1867 -1934) who devoted her life to the study of radioactivity being the pioneer in this field. She was the first woman to win two Nobel prizes, for which she literally gave her life. She was also the first woman professor at the University of Paris. Today, around 80 years after her death, her research documents are so radioactive that can't be handled without special equipment. Her legacy and knowledge in physics and chemistry includes the theory of radioactivity, techniques for isolating radioactive isotopes, and the discovery of two elements, polonium and radium. Curie's experiments were often performed under difficult conditions and poverty, having to undertake much teaching to earn a livelihood. However, this did not stop her to keep going and establish the Curie Institute in Paris, a leading center for biological and medical research in the world. Marie Curie, a quiet, dignified and unassuming woman whose contributions remain invaluable for recent treatment advances. Let keep in mind one of her quotes: "Nothing in life is to be feared, it is only to be understood"

-Kimberly Cabán

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"**Olga González-Sanabria**, a chemical engineer, is for me an inspiration and a role model. Olga is from Patillas, Puerto Rico and was the Engineering Director of the NASA-Glenn Research Center in Cleveland, Ohio. At the Research Center she managed a team of more than 400 employees. Engineer Sanabria is the author of multiple technical reports and in 1998 she received the R&D 100 prize (considered the Oscars for research innovation) for her work of developing a high performance nickel and hydrogen battery that allowed the development of the energy system for the international space station. Olga has received many distinctions for her work including a Presidential Award and awards from the most important Hispanic organizations in the United States. In 2007 the magazine Hispanic Business named her as one of the top 100 most influential Latinos. Olga is the top ranking Hispanic in NASA-Glenn and has been immortalized among a select group of women that belong to the Women's Hall of Fame in Ohio."

- Greetchen Díaz-Muñoz

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