

2 Tec professors among top 25 female scientists in LATAM in 2023



Tec de Monterrey professors María Luisa del Prado and Mirna Alejandra González have been selected by the **3M** company to form part of the third **25 Women in Science: Latin America** list because of their contributions to **science**.

This year, more than **1,700 projects** were received, of which only **300** were chosen as finalists.

Candidates' experience, as well as the potential direct or indirect social impact of the project submitted and the level of innovation, feasibility, and maturity of the idea were taken into account in order to be selected as one of the **25 Women in Science**.

The names of the winners were announced on February 11, the **International Day of Women and Girls in Science**, and included 8 Mexican women.



Cutting edge nanobiotechnology

Dr. **María Luisa del Prado** has conducted many research projects, including work on **biopolymeric nanoparticles** as a **treatment for neurodegenerative diseases**, burns and to stimulate healing.

*“My role is to **reduce the gender gap** and make the projects that women do in Mexico and in Latin America, in this case, visible,”* explained the Mexico City campus professor.

Her contributions to the scientific community have earned her numerous awards and prizes, including the **Dr. George Rosenkranz Prize for Medical Research** for her work on **nanocarriers**.

*“During my post-doc, I began to develop **nanosystems** to control the release of **biomolecules** which could be used as non-conventional treatments for certain illnesses.*

*“I’m now working on projects **to encapsulate drugs within nanocarriers** and creating nano, micro, and macro platforms for sustained release,”* she added.

“My role is to reduce the gender gap and make the projects that women do in Mexico visible.” - María Luisa del Prado.

Constructing 3D cultures using aqueous two-phase systems

Mirna Alejandra González, from the Monterrey campus, explained that she is working on a **bioengineering platform** that allows cells to grow in a **microenvironment** which is more representative of physiological conditions.

*“We’re specifically working with **breast cancer cells**, which will allow us to develop 3D in-vitro models through which we can study tumor microenvironments.*

*“It will also allow us to study **drugs for the potential** development of personalized medical treatments,” said Mirna González.*

Professor González works at TecSalud within the School of Medicine and Health Sciences and one of her motivations is **to popularize science for young people.**

*“It’s a great honor to have been chosen as one of the third group of **25 Women in Science: Latin America** by the 3M company.*

*“It’s a great opportunity to **promote the research** we do at Tec de Monterrey, and to be able to motivate and inspire my female students to continue in the world of science,” said the professor.*



Who provides this recognition?

The **3M** company put out a call to recognize 25 women who have excelled in **science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.**

This American company is dedicated to **researching, developing, and commercializing technology** through various services and products such as cleaning and office supplies, pharmaceuticals, and chemicals, to name but a few.

- **The winners**

1. Andrea Barrera / Chile
2. Andreina García / Chile
3. Bárbara Ribeiro / Brasil
4. Carolina Ojeda / Chile
5. Caroline Bezerra / Brasil
6. Diana Acevedo / Colombia
7. Dominique Santos / Brasil
8. Érika del Carmen Sevilla / México
9. Esmeralda Zúñiga / México
10. Giana da Silveira Lima / Brasil
11. Jocelyn Dunstan / Chile
12. Katherine Bolaños / Colombia
13. Larissa Cardoso / Brasil
14. Lina Anaya / Colombia
15. Lizeth Pedraza / Colombia
16. María del Carmen Sánchez / México
17. **María Luisa del Prado / México**
18. María Zenaida Saavedra / México
19. Mariela Méndez / Costa Rica
20. **Mirna Alejandra González / México**
21. Nadia García / México
22. Patricia Severino / Brasil
23. Renata Libonati / Brasil
24. Rocío Aguirre / México
25. Valeria de Oliveira / Brasil

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