

Tec researcher awarded the Mexican Academy of Sciences prize



Around **2,500 citations** from her scientific papers, **16 patents**, and **more than 30 graduate students** are part of the background that the **Mexican Academy of Sciences** considered in order to honor Dr. **Janet Gutiérrez** with the “**2020 Research Award**”.

*“I’d been applying for this award since **2016** and **after five attempts they gave me the good news**”,* shares Gutiérrez, who is also **director of the Department of Sciences for the Southern Region** at [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#).

This is the **greatest honor** that the **Academy** awards annually to **researchers under the age of 43** who dedicate their scientific work to Mexico.



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*“I have international collaborations with institutes such as **John Hopkins, Texas A&M**, and very actively with **CECIC, the equivalent of CONACYT in Spain.**”*

Grants with **Colombian universities** and the **business sector** also added to assessment of this researcher’s career.



Ciudad de México, a 12 de noviembre de 2020

Dra. Janet Alejandra Gutierrez Uribe
Escuela de Ingeniería y Ciencias
Instituto Tecnológico y de Estudios Superiores de Monterrey
Presente

Estimada doctora Gutiérrez:

La distinción más importante que anualmente otorga la Academia Mexicana de Ciencias es el Premio de Investigación, destinado a jóvenes investigadores que se han destacado por su trabajo realizado en México.

Me es grato comunicarle que la Comisión de Premios de la Academia, después de haber examinado cuidadosamente y con todo rigor los documentos de cada candidato, decidió otorgar a usted el **Premio de Investigación 2020** en el área de Ciencias Naturales.

En nombre del Consejo Directivo de la Academia y del mío propio, le extiendo la más cordial felicitación por su sobresaliente trayectoria académica.

Al reiterarle mi reconocimiento personal e institucional, hago propicio el conducto para enviarle un cordial saludo.

Atentamente,

Dra. Susana Lizaño Soberón
Presidenta
Academia Mexicana de Ciencias

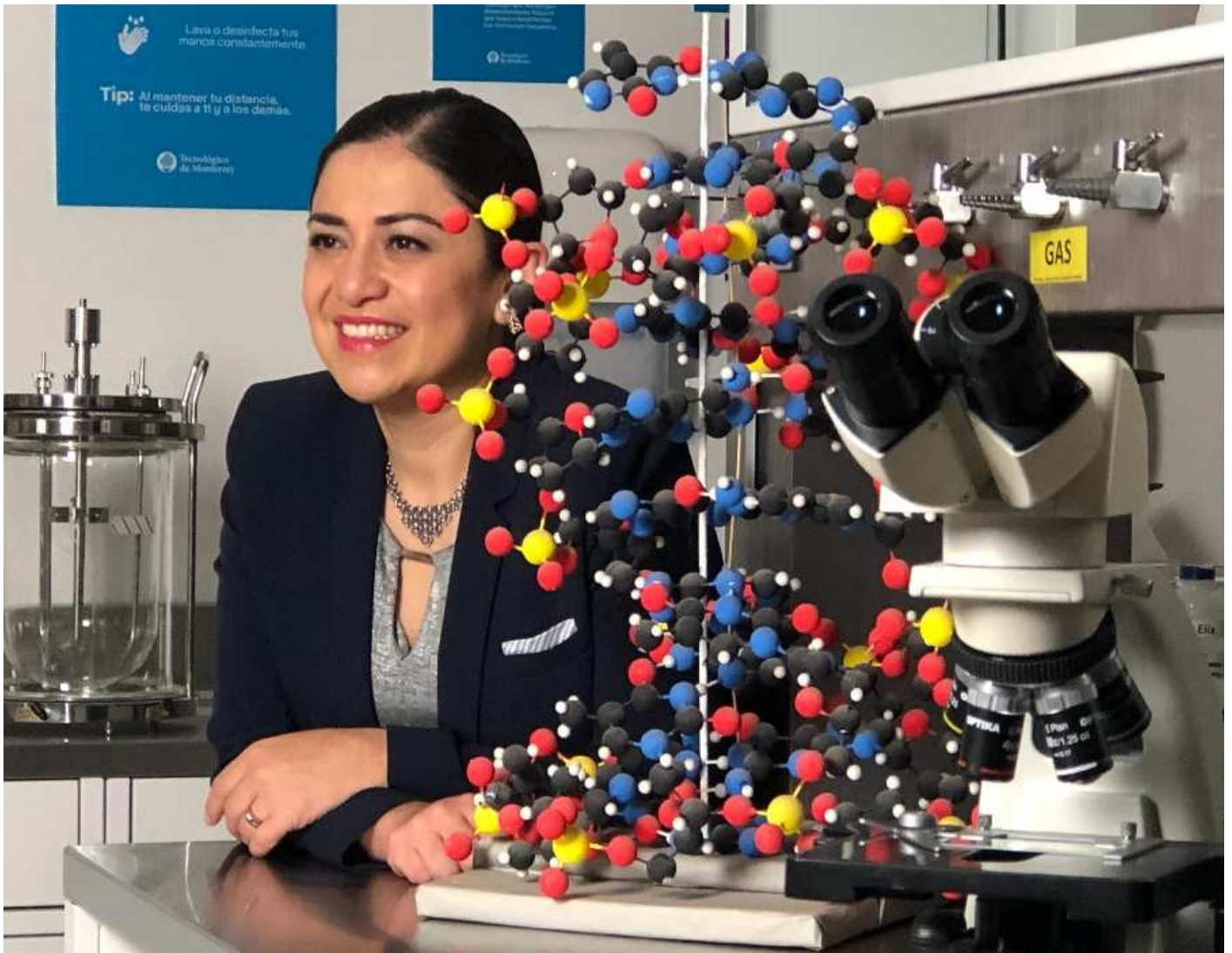
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Merits for the award

One of the requirements to deserve the **Academy's award** is for **young scientists** to be at **level 2 or 3 of the National Research System (SNI)**, with **clarity when it comes to their projects, productivity, and international impact.**

Thus, Dr. **Gutiérrez**, with the certification of **SNI Level 3 researcher**, which she received this **year**, added one more point in order to obtain the award.

The award has been granted for 50 years and it's the second time that a member of the Tec de Monterrey community has received it. This hadn't happened since 2010, with Eduardo Rodríguez Oreggia y Román, award winner in the area of Social Sciences.



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Research in **biology, biotechnology, sustainable development, ecology**, and other areas of **Natural Sciences** strengthened Dr. **Gutiérrez's** **résumé**.

*“When I received the news, **my mentors and the people that trained me as a scientist came to mind, as well as all my graduate students**”.*

The professor points out that **the building of her career has gone hand in hand with her postdoctoral students**, scientists belonging to the **SNI**.



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*“I also began to think, **who among them would continue on this path, and how can I help so that all the human resources I’ve developed over my career as a researcher can be deserving of this award?**”*

Breaking down obstacles

Dr. **Gutiérrez** mentions that one of the “**small**” difficulties when applying for the recognition was assembling the folder with the evidence of her scientific work.

*“It’s a very good exercise, because even if you already have it in order, previously in physical format and now in digital format, **you realize what you’ve done** and you wonder, when did I do all of this?”*



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This year alone, Dr. Gutiérrez has worked on **16 papers and managed to obtain a patent**, as well as working on a research proposal.

*"It's a commitment as a leader of professors and a demonstration of **how to be efficient with time management and to prioritize things that have an impact on students and society.**"*

Janet Gutiérrez obtained her PhD in 2006 and since then she's made herself accumulate **more and better scientific work** every year.



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The winner of **the Research Award** announced that her plan for the future is to continue her work and **to win those awards to which consolidated researchers aspire.**

Training young people for the scientific and technological development of Mexico is also part of her plan.

“I’m proud of it. It’s a way of telling Mexico that we do research at Tec de Monterrey, that we’re committed to the transformation of the country, and that we inspire the careers of many young scientists with the best educational model.”



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Finally, Dr. **Gutiérrez** referred to her students and colleagues who are just starting out on the path to science and research.

*“Maybe I won’t win a **Nobel** because of my age, for that you work from your twenties and you should know that what you did works by your thirties. You guys have the commitment that in the next 10 or 15 years at the Tec, **just as we have this national recognition, we might also have winners of the Nobel Prize.**”*

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