

Meet the Mexican who's helping to detect cancer in the Netherlands



Photo: courtesy of Agustín Enciso

“What motivates me every day is knowing that I can do something to help my community.”

So says **Agustín Enciso**, a **Mexican researcher** who's been working on the non-invasive **detection and treatment of cancer** since 2013.

The [Tecnológico de Monterrey](#) graduate, **who is currently** a researcher at the [University of Twente](#) in the **Netherlands**, has discovered biomarkers that facilitate the **early stage detection** of the disease.

Part of his **work** is focused on **metastasis**, which involves looking for the factors that cause cancer to spread in the body and **how to stop it** by using drugs.



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Agustín started studying at **PrepaTec Zacatecas** in 2006. Due to his high level of academic performance, he was able to access **different scholarships and research opportunities** during his undergraduate studies.

In 2009, he began studying for a degree in **Biomedical Engineering** at the **Tec's Monterrey campus**. During his degree, the Tec allowed him to carry out **research stays** both in Mexico and abroad.

"I think of myself as someone who's very curious, who wants to learn all the time. I always want to know why things happen," Agustín shared with CONECTA.

"I had the opportunity to participate in different extracurricular activities offered by the Tec, which helped me a lot to grow both personally and professionally," said Agustín.

Some of his stays were at the **Monterrey Unit of Cinvestav**, the [MD Anderson Cancer Center](#) in Houston, and the **University of Twente** in the Netherlands.



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His journey to Europe

*“Using engineering to solve medical problems was what piqued my interest, so the biomedical engineering degree allowed me to **combine both of these interests**,”* said the Zacatecan.

In 2014, after finishing his degree at Tec de Monterrey, Agustín decided to continue his professional education by studying for a master’s degree at [KU Leuven](#) in Belgium.

During his master’s degree, he focused on identifying different **biomarkers** of cancer in the blood, **monitoring therapies** through non-invasive methods, and **improving diagnosis**.

In 2016, he then began studying for a **doctorate** at the **University of Twente** in the Netherlands, specializing in **cancer** and researching new methods for diagnosing and monitoring this disease.

He currently works at the university, undertaking **postdoctoral** research on **cancer behaviors**.



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“In reality, a post-doc isn’t like going to school: we go to the lab instead. We do experiments, we interpret the data, we draw our conclusions, and we publish them,” he added.

*“The advice I would give is to find a way you can contribute to our world by doing something you like, no matter how small, and to always try to **make changes that will have an impact on peoples’ lives**,*” concluded Agustín Enciso in an interview for CONECTA.

“Guty distinguished himself as an excellent student who was very responsible and focused on reaching each of his goals. He has always shown integrity in everything he does,” added **Isabel Escobedo**, who was his teacher at PrepaTec.

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