



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

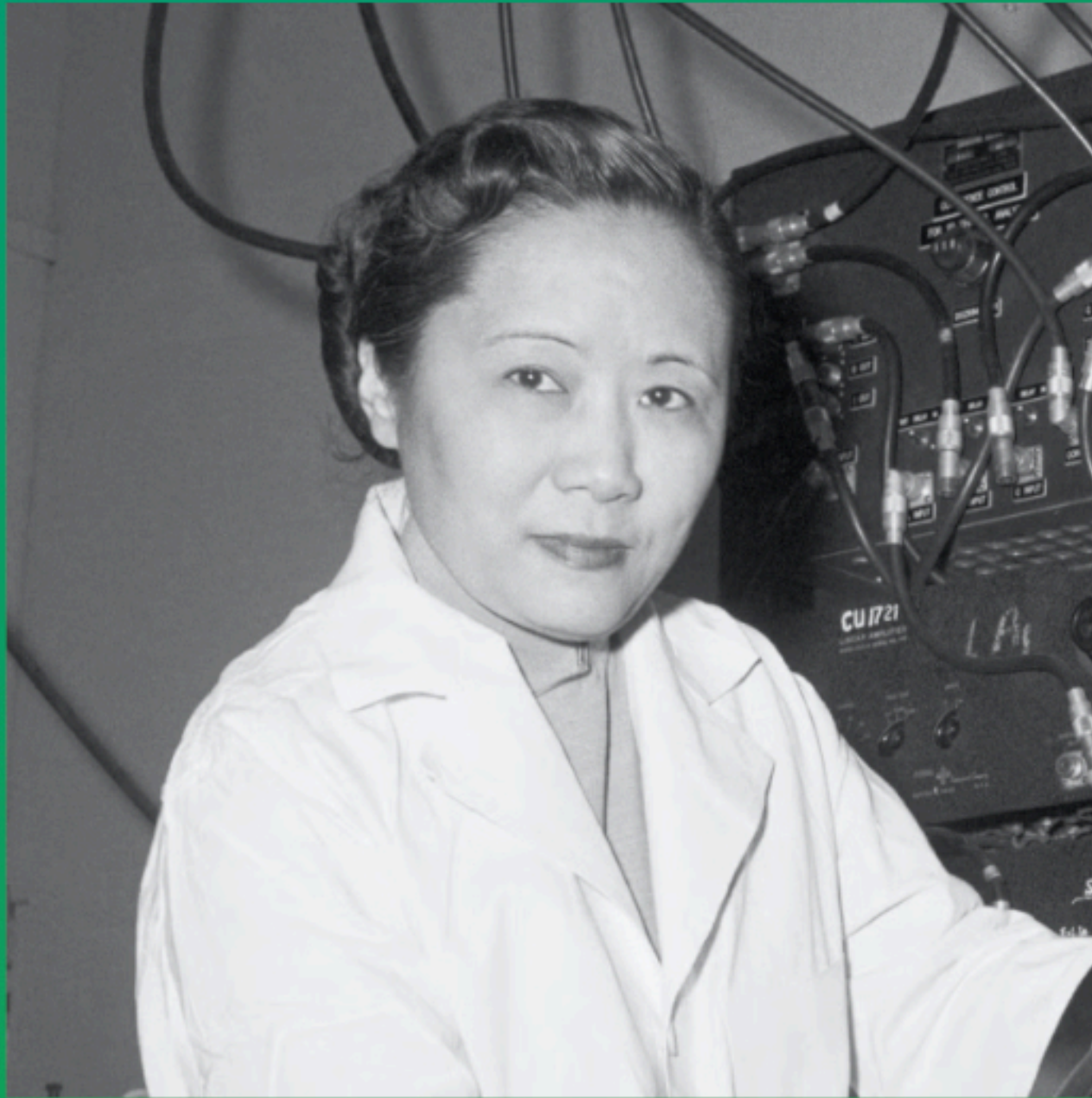
Pt. 4

Chien-Shiung Wu



BESSEr@KIT





Chien-Shiung Wu (1912-1997)

Nuclear and particle physicist

"First Lady of Physics" "Queen of Nuclear Research"

After her studies at Peking University, she earned her Ph.D. in Physics from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1940 and was involved in the Manhattan Project until 1944.



In 1956, she conducted the 'Wu Experiment' and disproved the law of parity, the quantum mechanics law that states two physical systems, such as atoms, are mirror images that behave in identical ways.

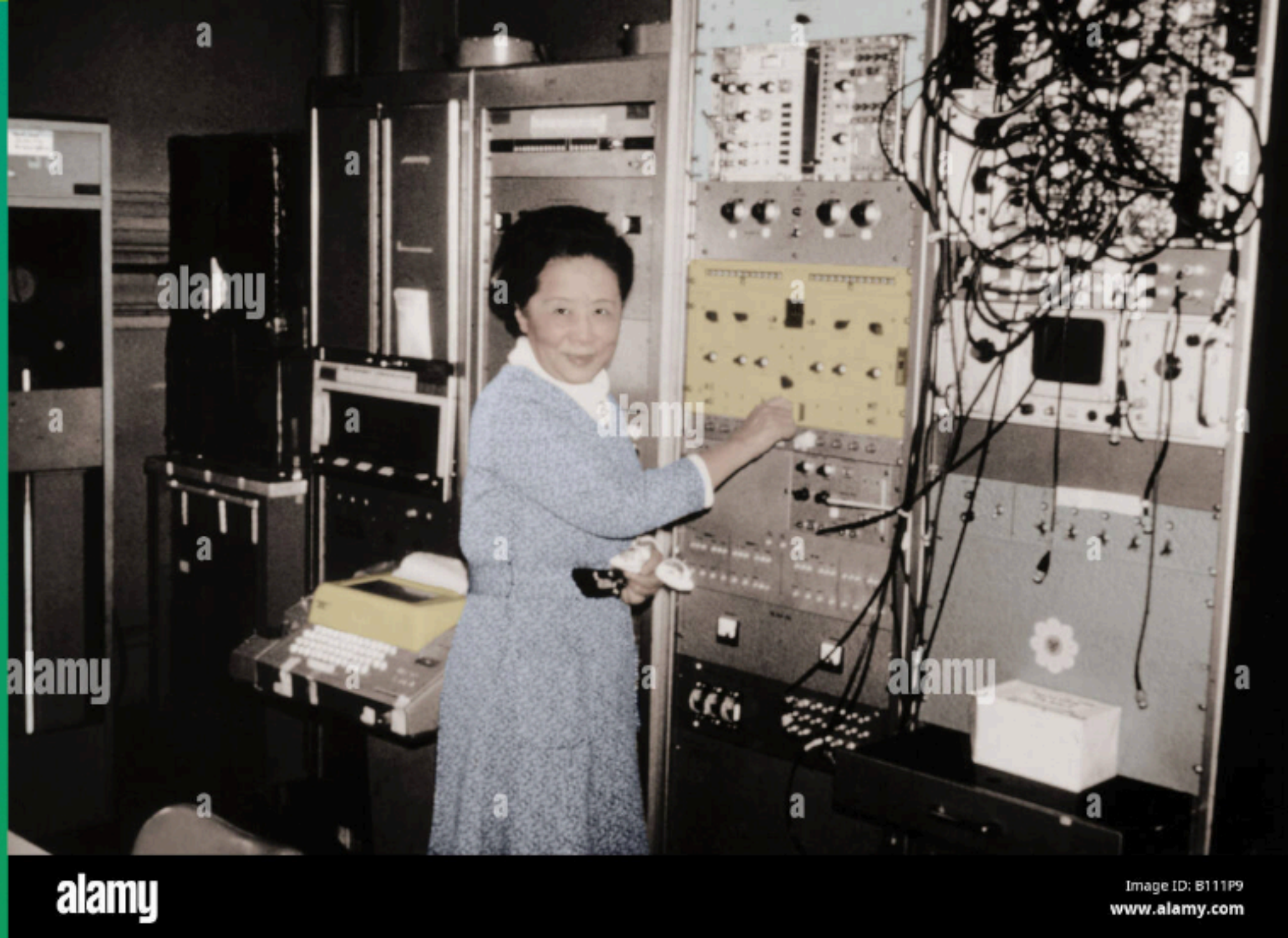
She investigated the beta decay of cobalt-60 atoms and found that the electrons were preferentially emitted in one direction, which contradicted the assumption of parity symmetry."



Although the experiment was a milestone in physics and led to a deeper understanding of the fundamental forces in nature, it was not Wu but her two male colleagues who were awarded the Nobel Prize in 1957.

At a symposium at MIT, she simply said about it..





"I wonder whether the tiny atoms and nuclei, or the mathematical symbols, or the DNA molecules have any preference for either masculine or feminine treatment."

