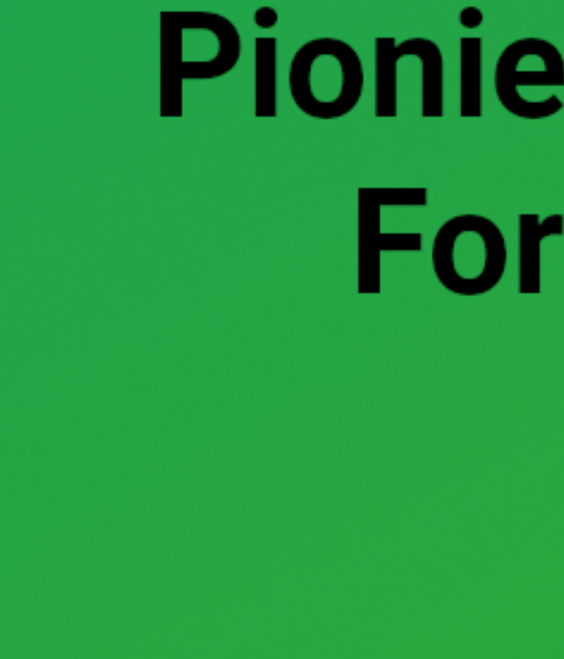
MATILDA EFFECT

Pionierinnen der Forschung

Female Pioneers of Research

Pt. 20

Eva Ramón Gallegos



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Eva Ramon Gallegos

Biomedical Scientist & Nanobiotechnologist

After completing her Bachelor's degree at the University of Veracruz, she obtained her Master's and PhD at the IPN, a large technical university in Mexico City. Immediately afterwards, she took up a professorship there in 2001 and heads several departments.

Her research focuses on the non-invasive treatment of cervical carcinoma, i.e., cervical cancer, caused by human papillomaviruses (HPV).

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Photodynamic therapy (PDT) is used for this purpose.
It is a two-stage treatment.
In stage 1, patients receive a non-toxic drug, a photosensitizer, which accumulates in the cancer cells.

In stage 2, irradiation, usually with a laser, is performed.
The photosensitizer is activated and kills the cancer cells.

This treatment is primarily used for skin diseases and skin cancer.

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The team led by Gallegos succeeded in completely eliminating cervical cancer caused by HPV in 29 women. The remission and recurrence rate within 6 months was also in the groundbreaking range of about 6%.

Furthermore, unlike other invasive methods, fertility was preserved: the treated patients were still able to become pregnant and have children afterwards.

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The World Health Organization (WHO) currently predicts an increase in the mortality rate from cervical carcinoma by 21.1% by 2030, affecting several hundred thousand people.

Gallegos' treatment method is a promising approach to curb this mortality.

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