



MATILDA

EFFECT



Pionierinnen der Forschung **Female Pioneers of Research**

Pt. 27

Maria-Elena Torres-Padilla



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Maria-Elena Torres-Padilla (*1975)

Epigeneticist & Stem Cell Biologist

Born in Mexico, she first studied at the *National Autonomous University of Mexico*, obtaining her Ph.D. at the *Pasteur Institute* in Paris in 2002.

Until 2008, she then worked as a post-doc at the *University of Cambridge*.

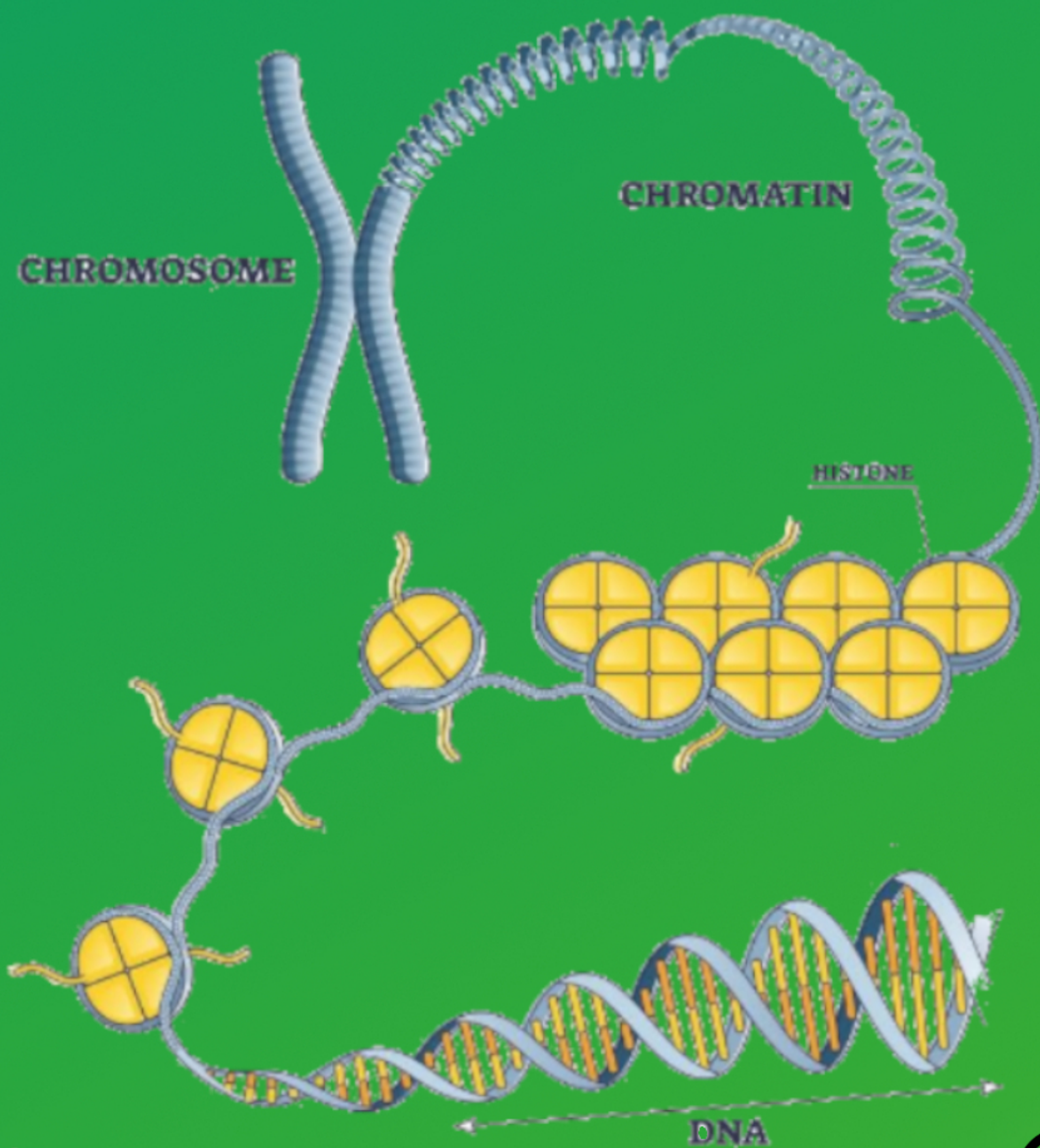




Since 2008, she has led her own research group at the Institute of Genetics, Molecular and Cellular Biology in Strasbourg, and since 2016, she has headed the Institute of Epigenetics and Stem Cells at the Helmholtz Center Munich. Her research focuses on epigenetic mechanisms, i.e., changes in gene expression that do not rely on changes in the DNA sequence, under the aspect of cellular plasticity, which is the ability of cells to differentiate into different cell types.



In this context, it was shown that histones and other chromatin modifiers play important roles in the reprogramming of cells, especially for therapeutic cell replacement therapies.





Für ihre Forschung erhielt sie unter anderem den Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz-Preis 2025 der Deutschen Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)

For her research, she received, among other awards, the 2025 Gottfried Wilhelm Leibniz Prize from the German Research Foundation (DFG).

