

WOMEN IN CHEMISTRY HISTORY



KENG HSIEN-SENG
CIRCA 975 CE

Alchemist at the Chinese Imperial Court. As well as distilling alcohol from camphor, she developed a technique for extracting silver from its ore using mercury.



VERA POPOVA
BORN 1867 DIED 1896

One of the first female chemists in Russia and the first Russian woman to author a chemistry textbook. She died in an explosion in her laboratory.



UME TANGE
BORN 1873 DIED 1955

One of the first Japanese women to gain a doctorate in science. Her research focused on vitamins and vitamin deficiencies, particularly vitamin B2.



FLORENCE E WALL
BORN 1893 DIED 1988

Coined the term "canitics" for the science of hair dyeing. She was the first woman to receive the medal of the Society of Cosmetic Chemists, in 1956.



CHRISTINA MILLER
BORN 1899 DIED 2001

Her analytical chemistry discoveries including isolating the first ever sample of pure phosphorus trioxide. She was deaf from childhood and lost an eye in a lab explosion.



MARY FIESER
BORN 1909 DIED 1997

Jointly wrote a number of successful organic chemistry textbooks with her husband, Louis Fieser. They also carried out research on quinones and steroids.



BIRGIT VENNESLAND
BORN 1913 DIED 2001

Researched and compared how enzymes in animals and plants work. She was later a Director at the Max Planck Institute, where she led an eponymous research institute.



EMĪLIJA GUDRINIECE
BORN 1920 DIED 2004

Organic chemist who synthesised furacin, a topical antimicrobial. She was also amongst the first to recognise the potential for the use of vegetable oils as biofuels.



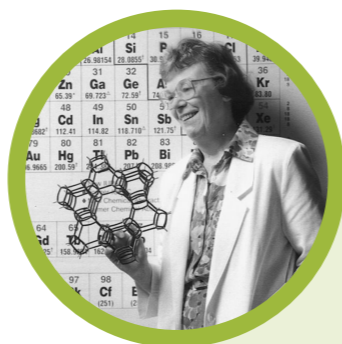
CLARA LIM-SYLIANCO
BORN 1925 DIED 2013

Researched mutagens and antimutagens: compounds that cause or prevent damage to DNA. She also wrote textbooks on organic chemistry and biochemistry.



CECILE HOOVER EDWARDS
BORN 1926 DIED 2005

Carried out nutritional research, proving that nutrition and environment impact on intelligence. She also researched the metabolism of the amino acid methionine.



EDITH FLANIGEN
BORN 1929 DIED 2026

Invented over 200 synthetic substances, including synthetic emeralds. She also researched molecular sieves for separating complex mixtures of substances.



GRACE OLADUNNI TAYLOR
BORN 1937 DIED 2025

Researched heart disease and showed cholesterol levels are affected by diet and exercise, not by race. First African winner of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Award.