David T. Wong



David T. Wong is a Hong Kong-born American neuroscientist. Dr. Wong was born to a religious Christian family and was inspired to pursue pharmaceuticals due to his family and faith. Although Dr. was expected to run the family machining business, his calling was in medicine. David obtained his B.S. in chemistry at National Taiwan University and Seattle Pacific College, paying for his tuition by cleaning and painting university offices. He studied biochemistry at Oregon State University, and a Ph.D. at the University of Oregon in 1966. He performed his post-doc at U Penn where he lived out of a garage. After his post-doctoral studies, Dr. Wong joined Eli Lilly with a determination to improve lives. In 1987, Dr. Wong discovered the antidepressant fluoxetine, A.K.A. Prozac. Since its invention, fluoxetine has helped over 4.5 M people. He is a current adjunct professor at the University of Indiana.

"I do not see this as a conflict. I believe that mental illness has a biological origin. Medication is one of God's ways to provide a method of healing and at the same time alleviate suffering." – David T. Wong

Kalpana Chawla



Dr. Kalpana Chawla was an Indian-born American astronaut and aerospace engineer. Chawla's passion for aviation originated at a young age from going to local flying clubs to watch planes with her father. She earned a B.S. in aeronautical engineering from Punjab Engineering College, where along her path she was dissuaded by professors due to lack of opportunities of women in India following this career path. Persisting despite this, after becoming a U.S. citizen, Chawla achieved an M.S. from UT-Arlington (1984) and a Ph.D. from the UC-Boulder (1988). Beginning work at NASA upon earning her Ph.D., Chawla performed research on computational fluid dynamics around aircrafts. To provide opportunities for young girls interested in science, Chawla's secondary school was invited to participate in the NASA Summer Space Experience Program. Further, after applying to be an astronaut, she became the first woman of Indian origin to go to space, which she achieved on Space Shuttle *Columbia* (1997) as a mission specialist and primary robotic arm operator. She was also selected for a second flight in 2003, but unfortunately, the crew was killed due to *Columbia* disintegrating upon re-entry into the atmosphere, leading to significant organizational changes at NASA. For her contributions, multiple celestial objects are named after her. Chawla was posthumously awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor. Also, numerous institutions in the United States and India have named buildings in her honor and set up scholarship funds to encourage girls to pursue careers in science.

"I never truly thought of being the first or second someone, or being a small-town girl. This is just something I wanted to do. If you want to do something, what does it matter where you are ranked?"

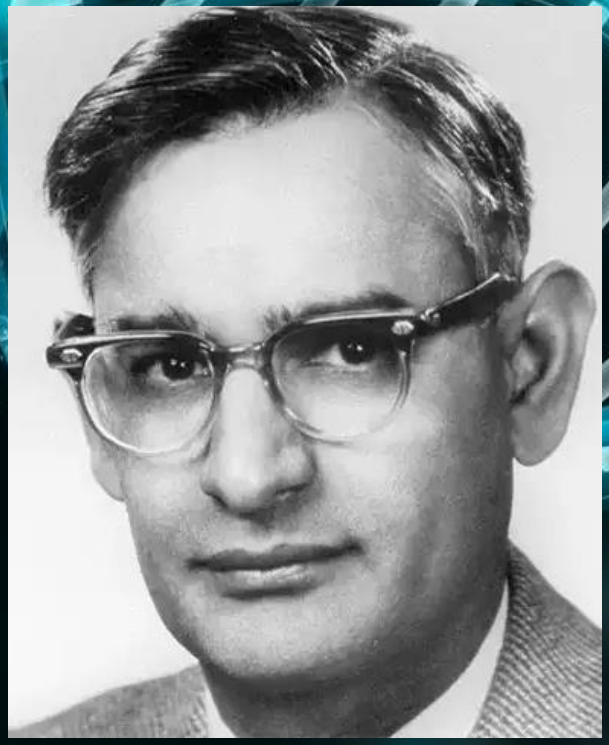
Isabella A. Abbott



Dr. Isabella Abbott was an ethnobotanist from Hawaii. After receiving her undergraduate degree in botany from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and her master's degree in botany from the University of Michigan before becoming the first native Hawaiian woman to receive a PhD in science. As a leading expect on Pacific marine algae, she authored over 150 publications and was credited with the discovery of over 200 species of algae. For all her research work, she was awarded the Gilbert Morgan Smith Medal from the National Academy of Sciences and in 2008, received a lifetime achievement award from the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources for coral reef studies. After her passing in 2010, the University of Hawaii established a scholarship to support research in Hawaiian ethnobotany and marine botany.

"I call the endemic plants the first Hawaiians. Gingers and heliconias will grow elsewhere. The endemic plants will not. This is their home. It's like the Hawaiian people - they belong here." – Isabella Abbott

Har G. Khorana



Dr. Khorana was an Indian-American biochemist who obtained his B.S. (1943) and M.S. (1945) degrees from Punjab University and went on to earn his doctorate in organic chemistry at the University of Liverpool (1948). After his post-doctoral work, he accepted a position at the Institute for Enzyme Research at UW-Madison. Khorana became known as the first scientist to chemically synthesize oligonucleotides, the world's first synthetic gene. He was also the first scientist to completely synthesize a functional gene outside a living organism (1972), which led to the development of processes such as PCR in the future. Among many awards, Khorana was awarded the 1968 Nobel Prize for Physiology or Medicine and the National Medal of Science in 1987.

The scientist who built the world's first synthetic gene.

Uma Chowdhry



Throughout her career, Chowdhry made major contributions to ceramic catalysts, conductors, and superconductors at DuPont. She studied physics at the University of Mumbai, then obtained her PhD in Material Science at MIT. At DuPont, she joined the R&D department and helped develop ceramic pastes used in photovoltaics and electronic packaging. Although hesitant to give up lab work, Chowdhry pursued an early opportunity to join management as a lab director, and she eventually led as DuPont's Chief Science and Technology Officer. Chowdhry was elected as an American Ceramic Society Fellow and member of the National Academy of Engineering.

"I had the courage to dream the impossible."

John Pham



John Pham was born in the Florida in the late 1970s. Pham obtained his bachelor's degrees in biochemistry and music at Bates College before earning his Ph.D. at Northwestern. Pham completed post docs at Harvard and Bringham and Women's Hospital. His research focused on RNA splicing and RNA interference to modify cellular protein production. In 2008, Pham joined the advisory board for *Molecular Cell* where he improved data transparency and archiving. In 2018, Pham became the Editor-in-Chief of *Cell* Journal. So far Pham has pushed to expand *Cell*'s coverage to immunology and genomics. Pham has also improved diversity at *Cell,* growing the advisory board from 20% to 50% women and reviewers from 18% to 33% women. Pham is an LGBTQ+ activist and has spoken at Elsevier Pride and WorldPride NYC.

Editor-in-Chief of *Cell* journal.

Fe Del Mundo



Dr. Fe Del Mundo (1911-2011) was a Filipina pediatrician. Del Mundo's passion for pursuing a medical career originated from her childhood, as ignorance around pediatric health led to most of her siblings passing away as children. Motivated by grief, del Mundo studied medicine and earned her medical degree as the valedictorian at the University of Philippines (1933). Former President Manuel Quezon offered to pay for her further medical training anywhere in the United States. In the U.S., she earned an M.S. in bacteriology (1940) and completed a research fellowship at Harvard Medical School's Children's Hospital (1939 – 1941). Immediately after her fellowship, she returned to the Philippines motivated to work towards improving pediatric health care. Unfortunately, Japanese occupation of the country delayed her plans to start her practice, as she instead cared to children at an internment camp at the University of Santo Tomas. Caring for over 400 children and earning the moniker "The Angel of Santo Tomas", the Mayor of Manila invited her to run a children's hospital in the city. After her term as the hospital's director from 1943 to 1948, she became the director of the Department of Pediatrics at Far Eastern University. During this time, del Mundo studied cures for conditions such as dengue fever and jaundice and improved accessibility to health care for impoverished families. Later in 1957, she opened her own hospital in Quezon City, which has continued to grow and thrive until today. For her contributions towards the medical field, she was the first Filipino woman to be declared a National Scientist of the Philippines. Dr. del Mundo was also an honorary member of the American Pediatric Society and a consultant for the World Health Organization.

"I feel that if you give the world the best that you can, the best will always come back to you."