Honoris causa for the scientist who helped to understand the "sleep hormone"

The highest distinction granted by the house of higher studies was given to the renowned American biologist Russel Reiter. The details of the collaborative work between the outstanding researcher and the scientific area of Mendoza.

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Understanding and unraveling from scientific knowledge how the hormone called **melatonin** works and its intervention in cardiovascular functioning, was one of the great challenges that the American biologist Russel Reiter faced for years. For this reason, this Tuesday, March 28, the National University of Cuyo (UNCuyo) awarded the foreign scientist the highest **distinction** awarded by the house of higher studies, called **Honoris Causa**.

“It is an honor for me to receive this distinction from **UNCuyo**. I am pleased to be part of your community and I hope to continue sharing and collaborating for many more years. I am deeply grateful to them," said the doctor of anatomy and author of more than 800 research articles that made him one of the most influential figures in the field of research on the so-called "sleep hormone" after receiving the recognition.

The ceremony to deliver the distinction for his contribution to academic-scientific knowledge was held simultaneously in person and virtually in the cylinder of the Information and Communication Center of the **National University of Cuyo** (Cicunc). Esther Sánchez, rector of the university, was in charge of delivering the respective diploma, while the members of the Superior Council signed the corresponding resolution. For his part, the dean of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Roberto Miatello, presented the American scientist with the medal.

THE AMERICAN SCIENTIST PRESENTED A TALK AFTER RECEIVING THE DISTINCTION AS HONORIS CAUSA.

In her speech and after mentioning that this award is the highest recognition that the university can grant for its exceptional contributions to academia and society, the rector highlighted Reiter's figure as an internationally renowned scientist. **His research has focused on unraveling the secrets of the pineal gland and melatonin** production to shed light on human physiology and health. All of this has made Reiter one of the most influential scientists in the field of medicine.

During the award ceremony, Sánchez expressed: "Today we have the great honor and joy of joining our community of the institution, and we must tell Reiter that being from UNCuyo is forever**.** " For his part, and after outlining the reasons that motivated the initiative for the distinction, the teacher and researcher at UNCuyo and the National Council of Science and Technology, Walter Manucha, (with whom Reiter has been working for several years), maintained that the scientist who visited Mendoza to receive the distinction is among the most influential in the world in the "understanding of **melatonin** and its basic, translational and clinical aspects, as well as in the field of animal and plant biology".

In September 2022, **UNCuyo** awarded the highest recognition to Carlos Skliar, PhD in Phonology, a benchmark in the field of Educational Philosophy and promoter of the socio-anthropological conception of the deaf community.

The "sleep hormone" scientist

Russel Reiter received a Bachelor's degree in Biology from St. John's University in 1959. Two years later he was awarded a Master's degree in Anatomy and in 1964 he received a PhD in Anatomy (specialty Endocrinology) from the Bowman Gray School of Medicine.

Reiter's scientific career, spanning more than 50 years, focused early on the pineal gland and later on the multiple actions of **melatonin**. In this regard, he made numerous contributions to the field of pineal gland research, including the discovery of the gland's role in the regulation of the circadian rhythm and the function of the immune system.

The substantial contribution of this researcher with a long history and in-depth knowledge in his field was achieved within the framework of collaborative work between the following organizations and scientific areas: Translational Pharmacology Laboratory of the Faculty of Medical Sciences, Imbecu-Conicet, Department of

Cell Systems and Anatomy and UT Health San Antonio Long School of Medicine. In all cases, the guidelines were focused on studying the cardiovascular protective effects of melatonin and vitamin D.

As a result of these efforts, progress was made in the publication of scientific articles of high international impact. Within the framework of the covid pandemic, the foreign expert participated as a keynote speaker in a scientific meeting chaired by Walter Manucha, a professor and researcher at the University and Conicet, with the aim of training both institutions on topics of common interest and also on new therapeutics to tackle the virus.

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