Gerty Cori

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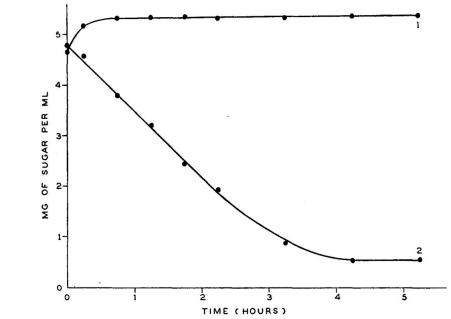

Figure 1. Conversion of fructose to glucose in rat liver cells.

Most Important Contributions

- Gerty's most important contribution to science was uncovering the process of cellular energy and storage release.
- This process was so important it is named after her called the Cori Cycle.
- Using her discoveries she found enzymatic pathways for glycogen and glycogenesis.
- Glycolysis breaks down glucose into smaller molecules freeing energy that the cell can use to make ATP without needing oxygen.
- She also proved that molecular chemistry can and should be applied to mechanisms of biology.

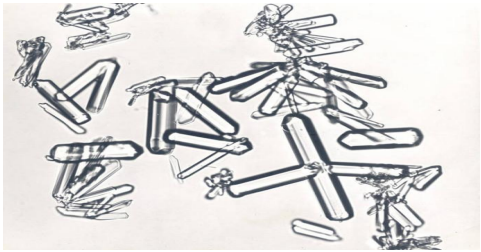

Figure 2. Photomicrograph of glucose-1-phosphate crystals by Carl and Gerty Cori.

Newspaper Script of a Modern Interview with Dr. Cori

- Today I am interviewing Gerty Cori, a trailblazer of science back in the day!
- I just want to say first that you are a huge inspiration to me and many other female scientists and this is a huge honor to get to ask you a few questions.
- So Dr. Cori, what were your biggest inspirations to becoming a scientist since it was uncommon to see women in science at that time?
- What was the biggest challenge you faced as a woman in STEM or what some call a steminist?
- Do you have funny lab stories or was it all business all the time?
- How do you think the role of women in science has changed since the 1950s?
- What did it feel like to be the 1st woman in 1947 to win the Medicine and Physiology Nobel Prize personally and as a huge milestone for women everywhere?
- How do you think your work has impacted women in STEM today?
- I just have to know what was the dynamic like working with your husband?
- How do you think your research has impacted modern medicine?
- Lastly, what advice would you give to young female scientists about pursuing a career in science?

Figure 1. Gerty Cori, 1950

Fun Facts

- Gerty Cori was born in Prague and got her primary education at home.
- Before she got into University she had to take an entrance exam that she deemed the hardest exam she had ever taken.
- She got her PhD from the Medical School of the German University of Prague.
- She chose this school because she wanted more education and was inspired by her uncle who was a pediatrician.
- She did her work with her husband at Washington University of Medicine but it was not easy.
- It took her 16 years for the University to hire her as a professor even though her husband had been employed for years.
- She was one of twelve distinguished women to receive an honorary degree from Smith College in 1951.

References

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