

Marie Curie

1867-1934

Marie Curie, through her seminal work investigating radioactivity and isolating the radioactive elements, contributed to the science of x-ray imaging and its application to medical diagnosis and therapy. The first woman to be awarded a Nobel Prize, she was awarded two, one shared in Physics and one in Chemistry. She did not patent the radium isolation process she developed in order to facilitate its scientific use. She was an advocate for the medical uses of radioactivity working to establish mobile radiography units during World War I. She was the first woman to hold the position of Professor at the Sorbonne. Much respected in the scientific community, she became a member of the Committee of Intellectual Co-operation of the League of Nations in 1922. She published numerous scientific papers, including the Recherches sur les Substances Radioactives (1904), L'Isotopie et les Éléments Isotopes and the Traité' de Radioactivité (1910).