



Mario José Molina



Date of Birth 19 March 1943

Place Mexico City (Mexico)

Nomination 24 July 2000

Field Atmospheric Chemistry

Title Professor, Nobel laureate in Chemistry, 1995

Most important awards, prizes and academies

Awards: Tyler Ecology and Energy Prize (1983); UNEP-Sasakawa Prize (1999); Esselen Award (1987); Newcomb-Cleveland Prize (AAAS) (1988); Nobel Prize in Chemistry (1995). **Academies:** National Academy of Sciences; Institute of Medicine, USA; American Chemical Society; American Physical Society; Fellow, American Geophysical Union; National College of Mexico.

Summary of scientific research

Prof. Molina predicted in 1974 (together with F.S. Rowland) that CFC gases being used in spray cans, as refrigerants and solvents, etc., would eventually deplete the ozone layer. This laid the ground for the discovery of the 'ozone hole' over the Antarctic. Subsequent work in large measure explained the mechanism by which ozone depletion over the poles comes about.

Main publications

Author or joint author of over a hundred articles and essays, including: Molina, M.J. and Rowland, F.S., Stratospheric sink chlorofluoromethanes-chlorine atom catalysed destruction of ozone, *Nature*, 249, p. 810 (1974); Molina, M.J., Tso, T.L., Molina, L.T. and Wang, F.C.-Y., Antarctic Stratospheric chemistry of chlorine nitrate, hydrogen chloride, and ice: release of active chlorine, *Science*, 238, p. 1253 (1987); Molina, M.J., Lipson, J.B., Elrod, M.J., Beiderhase, T.W. and Molina, L.T., Temperature dependance of the rate constant and branching ration for the OH+C1O reaction, *J. Chem. Soc. Farady Trans.*, 93, p. 2665 (1997); Molina, M.J., Zhang, R. and Molina, L.T., Development of an electrostatic ion guide in chemical ionisation mass spectrometry, *Rev. Sci. Instrum.*, 69, p. 4002 (1998); Molina, M.J., Koop, T., Ng, H.P. and Molina, L.T., A new optical technique to study aerosol phase transitions: The nucleation of ice from H₂SO₄ aerosols, *J. Phys. Chem.*, 102, p. 8924 (1998); Molina, M.J., Zhang, R., Broekhuizen, R., Lei, W., Navarro, R. and Molina, L.T., Experimental Study of intermediates from OH initiated reactions of toluene, *J. Am. Chem. Soc.*, 121, pp. 10225-6 (1999); Molina, M.J., Lipson, J.B., Beiderhase, T.W., Molina, L.T. and Olzmann, M., Production of HC1 in the OH+C1O: Laboratory measurements and statistical rate theory calculations, *J. Phys. Chem.*, 103, p. 6540 (1999); Molina, M.J., Koop, T., Bertram, A.K. and Molina, L.T., Phase transitions in aqueous NH₄HSO₄ solutions, *J. Phys. Chem*, 103, pp. 9042-8 (1999); Molina, M.J., Lee, S.H., Leard, D.C., Zhang, R. and Molina, L.T., The HC1+C1ONO2 reaction rate on various water ice surfaces, *Chem Phys. Lett.*, 315, pp. 7-11 (1999); Molina, M.J., Salcedo, D. and Molina, L.T., Nucleation rates of nitric acid dihydrate in 1:2 HNO₃/H₂O solutions at stratospheric temperatures, *Geophys. Res. Lett.*, 27, p. 193 (2000).