

Rosa Devés, Ph.D.

Professor, Biochemistry, Vice President, Academic Affairs
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Professor Rosa Devés graduated in Biochemistry from Universidad de Chile in 1974, and received a Ph.D. degree in Biochemistry from the University of Western Ontario, Canada. After graduation in 1978 she pursued postdoctoral studies at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles with the support of a postdoctoral Fogarty Fellowship

In 1980 she joined the Department of Physiology and Biophysics at the Faculty of Medicine, Universidad de Chile and became an independent researcher in the field of membrane transport. Her work has involved developing kinetic theory for the study of transport processes in biological membranes and applying this theory to the investigation of transport mechanisms. At the Faculty of Medicine she has taught at the undergraduate and graduate level in cell physiology and participated actively in the development of graduate education including the founding of an influential Ph.D. Program in Biomedical Sciences which she directed for two periods of 5 years. She also contributed to the establishment of the Institute for Biomedical Sciences that resulted from the merge of twelve departments of basic and preclinical sciences. She was vice-director of the institute from 1997 to 2000.

Alongside her scientific and academic career she has been engaged in the improvement of science education at the schools, collaborating between 1999 and 2002 with the Curriculum and Evaluation Unit at the Ministry of Education as coordinator of the science teams that were developing the new curriculum. In collaboration with the US and French Science Academies she initiated, in 2003, with Prof. Jorge Allende the establishment of the ECBI Program (Inquiry based Science Education Program) which was started in 6 schools public schools with 1000 children. The program expanded to encompass 250 schools in all regions of the country that worked in partnership with twelve universities, the districts, the Ministry of Education and the Academy of Sciences with the aim of bringing high quality science education to all children.

In 2006 she became Graduate Director at the University of Chile, and between 2010 and 2014 she served as Pro-rector. She is currently Vice-President of Academic Affairs. From these positions she has lead two main University projects which are related to the development of Education – teaching and research - as a strategic area for the University and the strengthening the equity and inclusion with the aim of generating more opportunities for students coming from underprivileged contexts and a richer learning environment for all. A new entry pathway to 40 undergraduate programs has been created and changes are being introduced to improve teaching and learning with a perspective that values diversity. More recently she has participated in the Council for the Education Reform in Higher Education at the Ministry of Education.

Since 2003 she has been a member of the Chilean Academy of Sciences.