

A Watch Backward**ERNESTINA PÉREZ BARAHONA: FIRST FEMALE PROFESSOR OF HUMAN ANATOMY IN CHILE****Patricio Abdala Sepúlveda***Applied Neuroscience, School of Occupational Therapy, Faculty of Health Sciences, Universidad Academia de Humanismo Cristiano, Santiago, Chile***ABSTRACT**

Objectives: Make a brief biography of the first female professor of human anatomy in Chile. **Material and methods:** An online literature review was carried out during April and May 2023. **Results:** Ernestina Pérez Barahona was the fourth woman to obtain a baccalaureate of Philosophy and Humanities in 1883, she was the second woman to obtain the title of surgeon in Chile and Latin America in 1887, she was the first woman to carry out specialized medical studies abroad 1888-1890 and was the first female professor of human anatomy for midwives in 1891. **Conclusions:** Ernestina Pérez Barahona (1865-1951) was the first female professor of human anatomy in Chile.

Keywords: *Women in human anatomy, History of anatomy, Chile*

RESUMEN

Objetivos: Efectuar una breve biografía de la primera profesora de anatomía humana en Chile. **Materiales y métodos:** Se efectuó una revisión bibliográfica en línea durante abril y mayo de 2023. **Resultados:** Ernestina Pérez Barahona fue la cuarta mujer en obtener el Bachillerato en Filosofía y Humanidades en 1883, fue la segunda mujer en obtener el título de médico cirujano en Chile y en Latinoamérica en 1887, fue la primera mujer que efectuó estudios médicos de especialización en el extranjero 1888-1890 y fue la primera profesora de anatomía humana para matronas en 1891. **Conclusiones:** Ernestina Pérez Barahona (1865-1951) fue la primera profesora de anatomía humana en Chile.

Palabras clave: *Mujeres en anatomía humana, Historia de la anatomía, Chile*

Ernestina Pérez, was born in Valparaíso on August 8, 1865, she attended secondary education in a private female school in Santiago of Chile, and after three years of study she was the fourth woman to graduate with a baccalaureate of Philosophy and Humanities on January 8, 1883, the death of her older sister prompted her to study medicine and on January 14, 1885 she obtained the baccalaureate of Medicine and Pharmacy and during the first year she had to attend classes accompanied by her mother. She was an outstanding student, she obtained the first prize in Descriptive Anatomy and her anatomical preparations about six preparations of a skull with six serial sections, were publicly exhibited in 1884, which at the request of the Dean of the Faculty of Medicine, were acquired for the anatomical museum. As well as the second prize in Surgery, in the Surgical Clinic Course of Professor Ventura Carvallo Elizalde (1854-1917), the doctor who performed the first appendectomy in Chile in 1896, feeling a great attraction for anatomical studies and dissection (Scholten et al., 2020; Osorio, 2019; Uribe, 2002). Before graduating as a surgeon, she had already published two articles in the Revista Médica de Chile, "Útero Bicornes" in 1885 and "Resección Tarsiana" in 1886 (Osorio, 2019).

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On December 31, 1886, she obtained the Bachelor of Medicine and Pharmacy and her test report was entitled "Elements of popular hygiene", it was published in the magazine "Anales de la Universidad de Chile", and on January 10, 1887, at the age of 21, she obtained the title of Physician-Surgeon from the Faculty of Medicine of the University of Chile, becoming the second Chilean and Latin American woman to receive the title of surgeon, at a time when only England and the United States allowed women to practice that profession (Osorio, 2019).

She set out to study the diseases that specifically affected women and the same year she graduated, she participated in a Chilean government contest to send three doctors to Europe for further training and was selected among nineteen candidates. In 1888 she began her studies in surgery and gynecology at the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität (now Humboldt-Universität) in Berlin with Robert Michaelis von Olshausen (1835-1915), Christian Gerhard Leopold (1846-1911), Leopold Landau (1848-1920) and in 1890 she began her studies in obstetrics, with Pierre-Constant Budin (1846-1907) and Pierre-Victor Alfred Auvard (1855-1940) in Paris (Undurraga and Meier, 2022; Uribe, 2002).

She was the first Chilean doctor to study abroad and the first woman to enter the Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität thanks to a special permit obtained by the Chilean government so that she could attend classes, since women were prohibited from accessing at that University, in classes she was separated by a screen from the male students (Undurraga and Meier, 2022).

In 1891, she returned to Chile and the President of the Republic appointed her as a doctor at the Gynecology Service of San Borja Hospital and professor of courses for midwives, whose study plan lasted 2 years and included 17 subjects including: Descriptive and topographic anatomy of the pelvis and parts soft that covers it (Undurraga and Meier, 2022).

At the Second Latin American Medical Congress, held in Buenos Aires in 1904, she presented the work "Preparations on the anatomy of the skull",

about her preparations in practical work on human anatomy and one of those preparations was exhibited at the Freedrichsbain Museum in Germany, which allowed her the designation as a member of the Berlin Academy of Medicine (Orellana, 2020).

Ernestina Pérez, she died in Valparaíso on June 8, 1951, at the age of 86 (Uribe, 2002).

Conflicts of Interests

None

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Ethical Approval

Not necessary as the present study was performed on a online literature review.

Informed Consent

Not necessary as the present study was performed on an online literature review.

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