

Mario Jose Molina Biography 1943-2020

"Collaborating to Create Change"

Mario was originally from Mexico and later had dual citizenship with the US.

Mario Molina received a Nobel Prize in chemistry in 1995 for his work in atmospheric chemistry, particularly concerning the formation and decomposition of ozone. Along with Professor Sherry Rowland at U.C. Irvine, Dr. Molina developed the "CFC-ozone depletion theory" which revealed that the continued release of chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs) into the atmosphere would cause a significant depletion of the Earth's stratospheric ozone layer.

"We published our findings in Nature, in a paper which appeared in the June 28, 1974 issue. The years following the publication of our paper were hectic, as we had decided to communicate the CFC - ozone issue not only to other scientists, but also to policy makers and to the news media; we realized this was the only way to insure that society would take some measures to alleviate the problem."

Today, Dr. Molina is one of the world's most knowledgeable experts on pollution and the effects of chemical pollution on the environment. The Molina Center for Strategic Studies in Energy and the Environment in Mexico City works on tropospheric pollution issues, the problem of rapidly growing cities with severe air pollution problems.

"My current work is related to air quality and global change issues. I collaborate with colleagues from many other disciplines on the problem of rapidly growing cities with serious air pollution problems. My research group in San Diego is investigating chemical properties of atmospheric particles. The goal is to better understand the effect of these particles on clouds and climate."