

Two researchers from the Nicolae Simionescu Institute of Biology and Cell Pathology won the L'Oréal-UNESCO Scholarship 2025

The researchers Teodora Barbălată and Mădălina Ghețu, from the Institute of Biology and Cell Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu" of the Romanian Academy, are winners of the L'Oréal-UNESCO Scholarship "For Women in Edition", 2024-2025, section "Skills of Life". The opening ceremony of the 15th edition of this private scholarship program, held in partnership with the Romanian National Commission for UNESCO, opened on Tuesday, December 2, 2025, at the French Institute in Bucharest.

Teodora Barbălată is a postdoctoral researcher in biology, within the Department of Lipidomics, Institute of Biology and Cellular Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu". Her project also proposes the identification of an improved treatment method for nonalcoholic fatty liver disease, a condition with increasing incidence, but which does not yet benefit from a specific treatment. The project is entitled siRNA inhibition of long non-coding RNAs and CRISPR/dCas9-induced overexpression of endogenous genes; a new therapeutic approach for treating non-alcoholic fatty liver disease.

Mădălina Ghețu is a PhD student and research assistant at the Department of Cellular and Tissue Engineering, Nicolae Simionescu Institute of Cell Biology and Pathology. Her project pursues the development of new therapeutic strategies usable in cardiac fibrosis for which, currently, there is no specific treatment. The title of his project is Innovative Antifibrotic Strategies: Evaluating Nanoformulated Natural Compounds in Human Cardiac Organoids. She also proposes to use nanoforms in which she will encapsulate natural compounds with antifibrotic potential and, furthermore, she will test them on miniature heart models (organoisi), an alternative to experimental animal models.

During the editions, the L'Oréal-UNESCO Scholarship "For Women of Steel" was awarded to the following researchers from the Institute of Biology and Cellular Pathology "Nicolae Simionescu" of the Academy of Rome: here. Maya Simionescu (2001), Elena Butoi (2011), Monica Țucurescu (2018) and Raluca Țuțuianu (2022). Precisely that acad. Maya Simionescu was distinguished in 2001 with the UNESCO Special Honor Award for Women in Science.

This year, L'Oréal Romania has awarded 10 scholarships, each worth 10,000 euros. This edition approximately 80 candidates applied for the program, the files being evaluated by a jury consisting of academics, university professors and doctors from the three research areas targeted, life sciences, computer science and computer science.

The L'Oréal-UNESCO national private scholarship program "For Women in Science" was launched in Romania in 2009.





