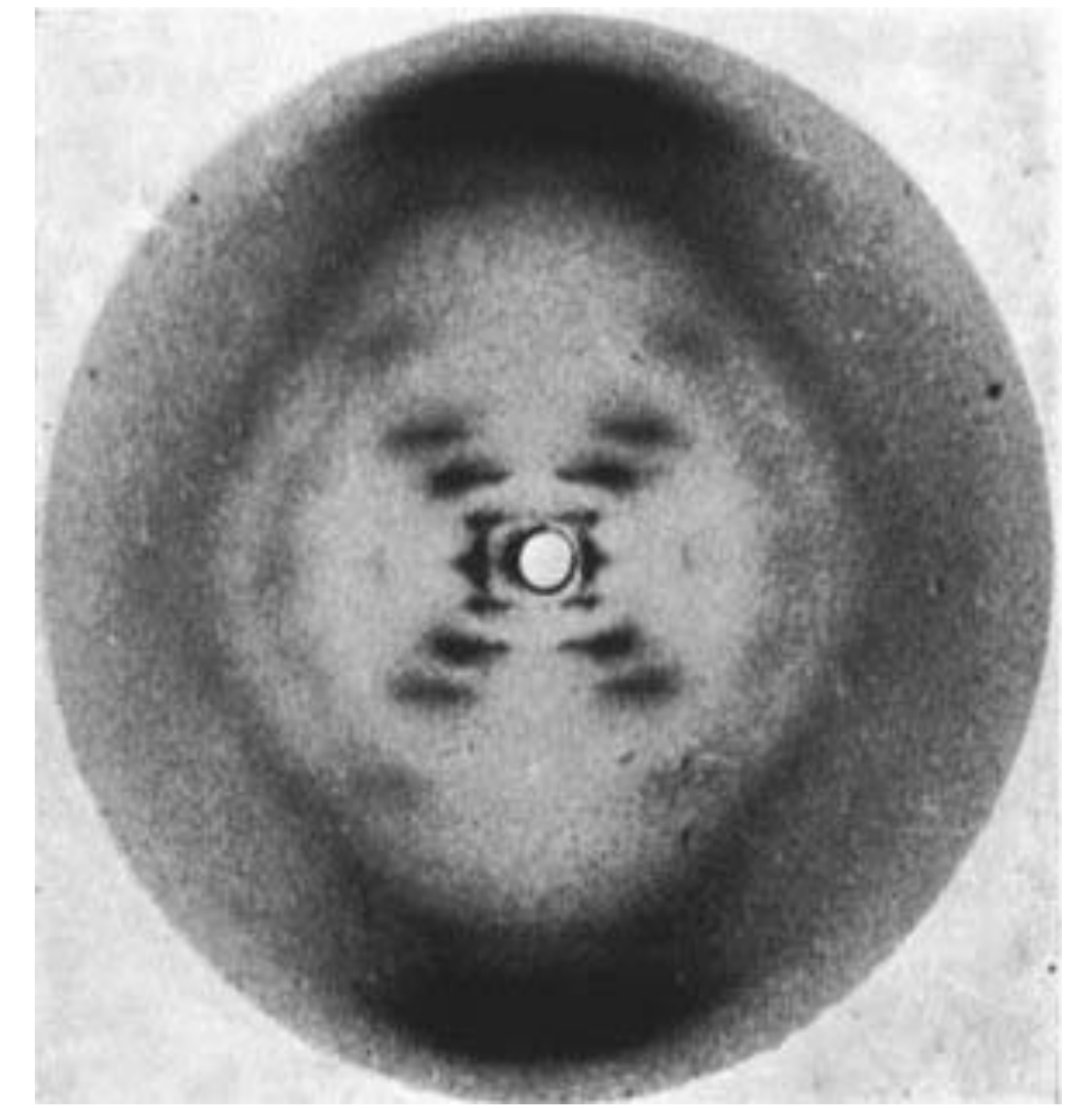


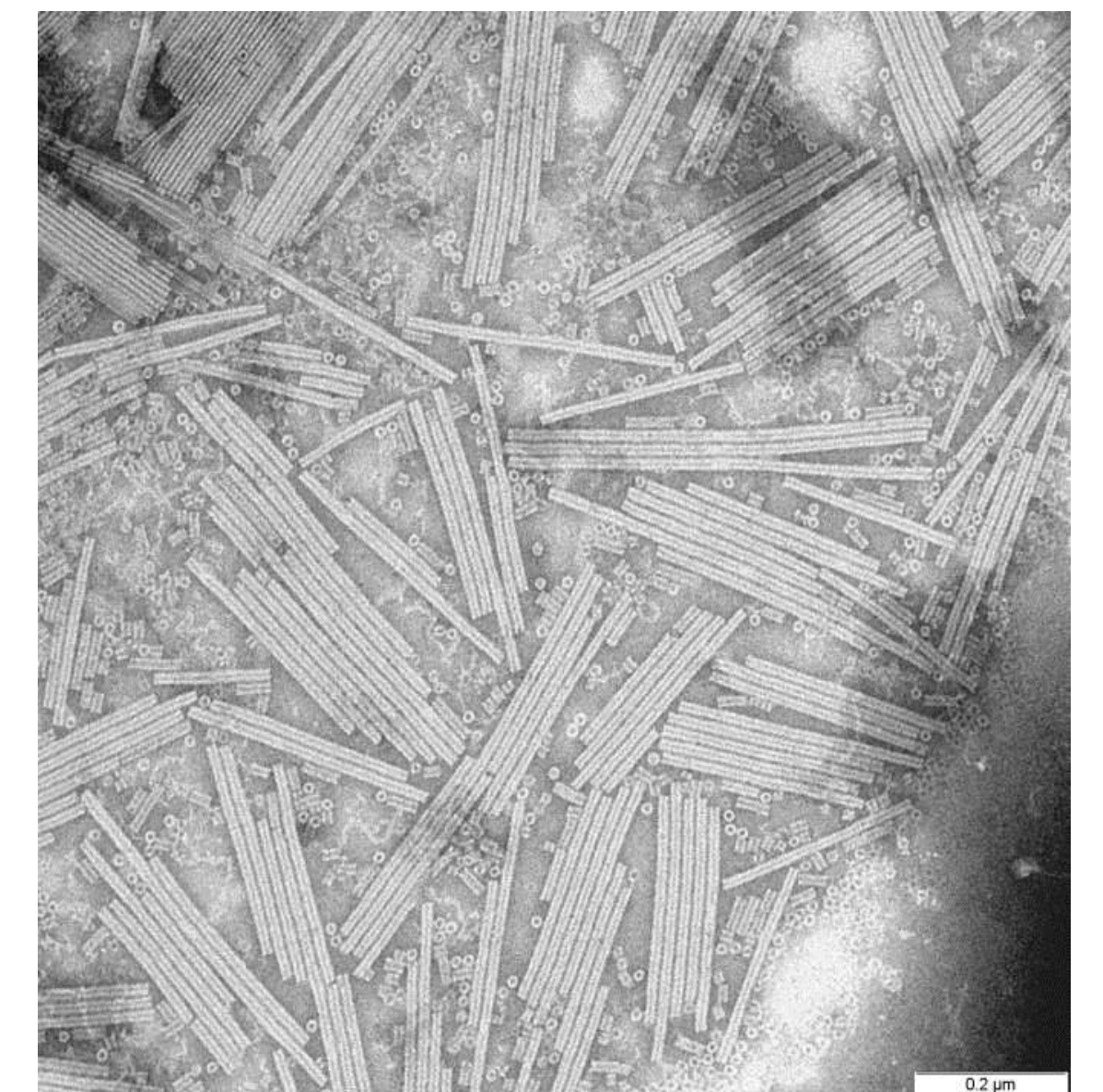
Rosalind Franklin (1920-1958)



Rosalind Elsie Franklin was born in Notting Hill, London, United Kingdom in 1920. She was a biophysicist and X-ray cristallographer, who made relevant contributions to the understanding of different molecular structures such as coal, graphite, viruses, RNA and DNA. She is best known for the photograph 51, a X-ray diffraction image of DNA that provided the critical evidence used by Crick and Watson to formulate the structure of DNA.

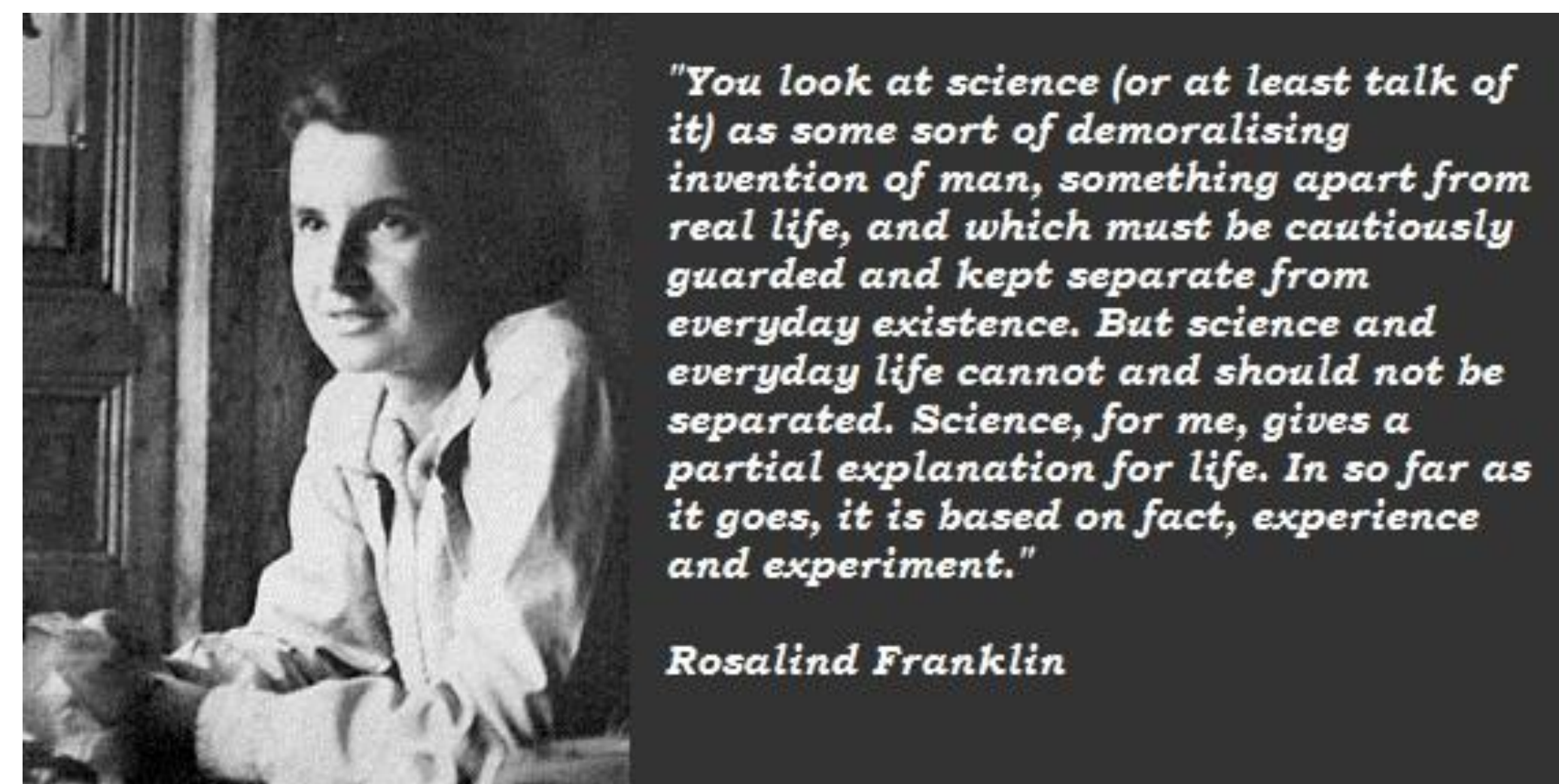
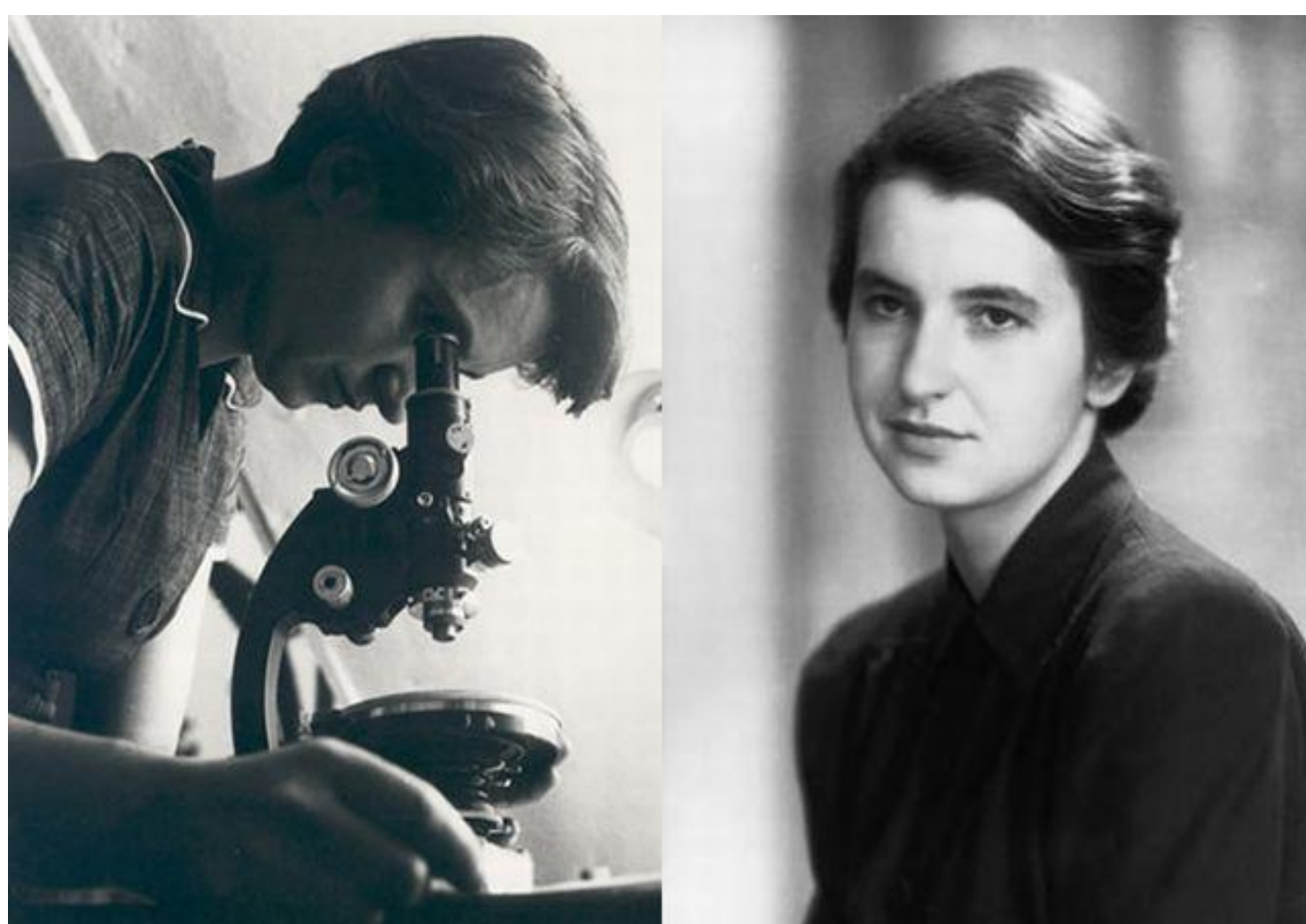
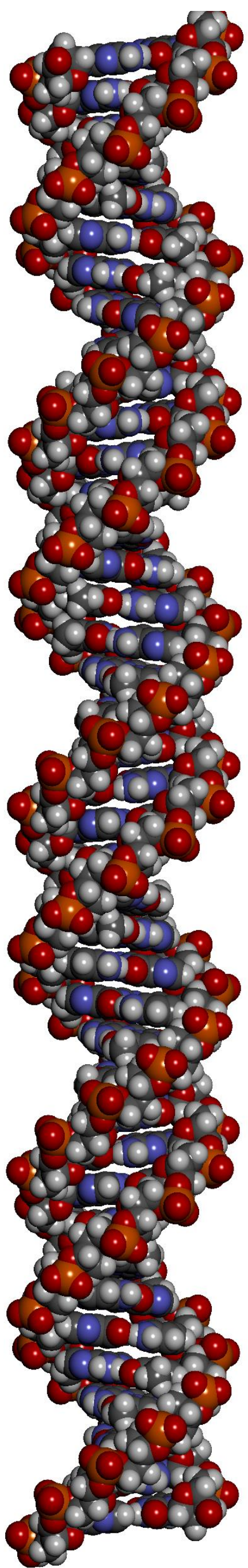


Photograph 51



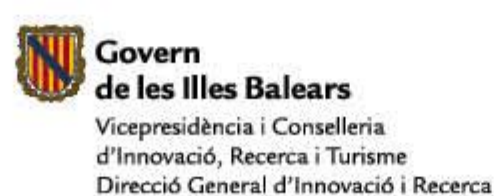
Electronmicrograph of tobacco mosaic virus

- In 1938, she graduated in chemistry at Newnham College, Cambridge, although she did not receive her degree until 1947, when Cambridge started to award the titular B.A. and M.A. to women.
- During the Second World War, her work conducted on coal, at the British Coal Utilisation Research Association, was the basis of her Ph.D. Thesis "The physical chemistry of solid organic colloids with special reference to coal" (University of Cambridge, 1945)
- In 1946, Franklin worked at the Laboratory Central des Services Chimiques de l'Etat in Paris, where she conducted further work on the physical chemistry of coal using X-ray diffraction.
- From 1951 to 1953, she was a research associate in the Medical Research Council, at King's College, in London, directed by John Randall, where she worked on X-ray diffraction of DNA.
- In 1953, Franklin went to Birkbeck College in London where she worked as a senior scientist with her own research group, focusing her work on the RNA structure that constitutes the genome of many viruses as the tobacco mosaic virus. By the end of 1955, Franklin's team completed a model of the TMV.
- She died of cancer in Chelsea, London in April 1958.



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