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Prof. Dr. Gabriel Macaya Trejos

Gabriel Macaya Trejos studied Chemistry at the University of Costa Rica (UCR) and earned his Ph.D. in Science from University Paris 7. From 1971 to 1978, he served as Vice President for Research and, from 1992 to 1996, as Director of the Center for Research in Cell and Molecular Biology at the University of Costa Rica. His work in molecular biology has focused on the structure of DNA and the hepatitis B virus, as well as on the development and improvement of methods for fractionating DNA using biophysical techniques. In 1976, he received Costa Rica's National Science Award "Clodomiro Picado Twight."

He held the position of Vice President for Research at the University of Costa Rica from 1981 to 1988 and as President of the University of Costa Rica from 1996 to 2004. From 2006 to 2014, he served as President of the National Academy of Sciences. From 2015 to 2018, he was Ambassador of Costa Rica to France, based in Paris. He is a Knight of the Order of Academic Palms, a distinction awarded by the French government.

Macaya has addressed the issue of state funding for public universities extensively in his publications from his various perspectives. In his articles, he argues that the state has a constitutional obligation to fund education and warns against political interference. He also criticizes excessive bureaucracy at universities, which he considers an obstacle to international cooperation.