

EGYPT

Rashika El Ridi

Immunology

Rashika El Ridi is a professor of Immunology in the Department of Zoology of the Faculty of Science at Cairo University.

She won the 2010 L'Oréal-UNESCO Award for Women in Science for devoting much of her research to developing a vaccine to break the life cycle of schistosomes and eradicate schistosomiasis. This tropical disease infects more than 200 million people worldwide, making it one of the world's most devastating epidemics, second only to malaria. Schistosomiasis is caused by parasitic worms in infested water. The real problem comes when the disease becomes chronic, with symptoms such as fever, nausea and ulcers in the intestines.

El Ridi has also studied the problems encountered in the development of a vaccine against the SARS-COV-2 coronavirus, the virus causing the current pandemic.