

# Pitt Research Discoveries

## Trailblazing Biochemical and Medical Research

Researcher **Maud Menten, MD, PhD** (March 20, 1879 - July 17, 1960), helped lay the groundwork for modern drug therapy by developing, along with biochemist Leonor Michaelis, the Michaelis-Menten equation—a mathematical means for determining the rate of an enzyme reaction that is still taught in undergraduate biochemistry courses and used in most research laboratories. Prior to the 1913 publication of their results, little was known about enzymes. Without it, the development of most drugs over the last century would not have been possible.

In 1918, Menten joined Pitt's Department of Pathology as an instructor and was also head of pathology at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh. Beyond her work on the famous equation, Menten wrote or cowrote about 100 research papers, many of which are historic contributions. Today, Pitt recognizes Menten with memorial lectures in her honor and a named chair.



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