

# Flossie Yee Ching Wong-Staal

(August 27, 1946-July 8,  
2020)

**Molecular Biologist,  
Virologist**

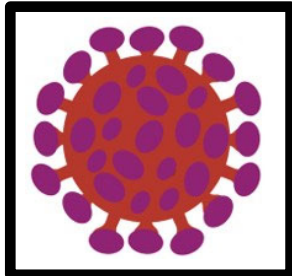
## Chinese American

### Place of Birth:

Guangzhou, China

**Place of Death:** La Jolla,  
California

**Invention:** Process to  
Clone and Analyze HIV



Richard Choi (SFSU 2024)

Flossie and her family fled China in 1952 during the Chinese Civil War. She attended a Hong Kong Catholic school before leaving at age eighteen to the United States. Flossie graduated from the University of California, Los Angeles with a PhD in Molecular Biology. In 1985, she was the first person to discover HIV virus anatomy. She cloned it, determined how it evades the immune system, and proved HIV is the cause of AIDS. Flossie was selected in 1990 by the Institute of Scientific Information as the top woman scientist of the previous decade. She was inducted into the National Women's Hall of Fame in 2019.