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Renowned Milan neuroscientist recognised at palace for inspiring young scientists

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A LEADING Italian scientist internationally respected for her work in neuroscience has been recognised for inspiring a future generation of young scientists, receiving the 2013 *Nature* Award for Mentoring in Science.

Michela Matteoli (University of Milan) was presented today with the mid-career award and €10,000 prize at the Quirinal Palace by the President of the Italian Republic, Giorgio Napolitano; Editor-in-Chief of *Nature* Philip Campbell; and chair of the judges Luciano Maiani. She was honoured alongside physicist Giorgio Parisi and chemist Vincenzo Balzani, who jointly received the lifetime achievement award and €5,000 each.

Matteoli is a professor of pharmacology at the University of Milan and started her own research laboratory at the CNR Institute of Neuroscience in 1992. She received her PhD from the University of Pisa in 1989 and from 1989 to 1991 was a postdoctoral fellow at the Yale University School of Medicine, and a visiting scientist at the University of Virginia School of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience.

Former student, Alberto Bacci, is just one of the many researchers from across the world who has been inspired by Matteoli's teaching. Alberto now holds the prominent position of the director of research at the Institute of Brain and Spinal Cord in Paris. "Michela has been an inspiration to me in choosing to pursue a career in science, following my PhD thesis in her laboratory," he says. "I think I was really lucky to have had the opportunity to work with a person whose professional standing absolutely lives up to her reputation."

Senior CNR researcher, Claudia Verderio, said: "Michela is always open to innovative approaches, and has a unique capability to successfully interact and collaborate with key neuroscientists around the world. Moreover, she is an outstanding teacher, able to attract to the laboratory the best and more enthusiastic students."

Launched in 2005, the annual *Nature* Awards for Mentoring in Science recognize outstanding scientific mentorship and focus on a specific country or countries each year, and 2013 focused on Italy. *Nature* is the leading weekly, international scientific journal.

Editor-in-Chief of *Nature*, Philip Campbell, said: "In an era when laboratories are under great pressure to be competitive, it is essential that they maintain the technical robustness and ethical integrity of their science, while also empowering creativity. Thus the mentoring of young researchers has never been more important. And good mentoring by laboratory heads is not a skill that can be taken for granted. That's why I am so delighted this year to celebrate outstanding mentoring within an illustrious scientific culture: that of Italy."

More information about the *Nature* Awards for Mentoring in Science is available at www.nature.com/nature/awards/mentorship/.

Photos of the award ceremony will be available from 25 November
All requests to Alex Jackson (Alex.jackson@nature.com)

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