

The Remedios Caro Almela Prize for Research in Developmental Neurobiology

On June 29th, the international Scientific Committee commissioned to award the fifth Remedios Caro Almela Prize for research in developmental neurobiology, met to assess the work of talented and active European researchers in the field of nervous system development, looking for particularly outstanding work in this field carried out over the past few years.

The committee, composed of Dr Stephen Wilson, winner of the 2009 prize, from the University College of London, Research Vice-Dean of the Faculty of Life Sciences; Dr. Paola Bovolenta, head of the Dept. Regulation of Nervous System Morphogenesis at the Cajal Institute; Dr. Patrick Charnay, Head of the Nervous System Development team at the Ecole Normale Supérieure in Paris, France; Constantino Sotelo, current holder of the Remedios Caro Almela Chair; Juan Lerma, Director of the Instituto de Neurociencias and Josep Xavier Barber, Joint Vicechancellor for Research and Innovation for the rector of the UMH, decided to present the prestigious award to Dr. Christine E. Holt, Professor of Developmental Neuroscience in Cambridge University (U.K.).



Christine Holt has made big contributions to our comprehension of a fundamental aspect of developmental neurobiology: the mechanisms by which axones navigate towards their objectives inside the brain. By using innovative technical approaches, Christine Holt has helped reveal the complex nature of the decisions that are taken to correctly orientate an axon during its growth. She pioneered the idea of that proteins synthesize and degenerate at a local level in the cone of growth, and in a convincing manner, she demonstrated that this process is necessary for a response to the orientation signals liberated by other cells. These important findings open new perspectives on the problem of central axone regeneration in relation to traumatic injuries of the nervous system.

Her work has received wide international recognition, in recent years she has been invited to lecturer in major international congresses dedicated to the study of the development of the nervous system. The jury has emphasized the innovation, and solid quality of her contributions, and the high productivity of her present research team.

Professor Holt was born in Wylam (U.K.) in 1954, She graduated in Biological Sciences from Sussex's University and read her thesis in Zoology at the MRC, Kings College, London. After postdoctoral stays in the United States and Germany, she continued her research in the Cambridge University, where in 2003 she was made Professor in Developmental Neuroscience. She is a member of numerous scientific societies including: EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organization), the Royal Society (FRS), the Medical Sciences Academy (FMedSci); reviewer for many prestigious publications in the field and author of 96 articles in leading publications.

The Remedios Caro Almela Chair of Developmental Neurobiology, was created in the year 2000 as a result of a philanthropic initiative by Fernando Martínez Ramos and his family, to honor the memory of his deceased wife Remedios Caro Almela.

The Chair was established at the Institute of Neurosciences, joint centre of the Spanish Scientific Research Council and the Miguel Hernández University, with the aim of promoting research of the nervous system in its molecular, cellular and organ levels, both in normal and pathological conditions, with a focus on the study of nervous system development. The Remedios Caro Almela Prize in Developmental Neurobiology was created in 2006 as part of the Chairs activities, and has an unrestricted award of 20.000€. The Prize Ceremony will be held on October 28th, 2011, at the Instituto de Neurociencias. The previous prize winner Dr. Stephen Wilson, will open the ceremony with the Remedios Caro Almela lecture.

in its fifth edition awarded to

Dr Christine E. Holt
of Cambridge University