

AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON NERVE GROWTH FACTOR DEDICATED TO RITA LEVI-MONTALCINI

The 7^o International Conference on Nerve Growth Factor (NGF) and related molecules was held in Modena, Italy from 15 to 19 May, 2002. This Biannual International Conference was dedicated to Rita Levi-Montalcini, who received the Nobel Prize in Physiology and Medicine in 1986 and discovered NGF, the first growth factor. Over 200 scientists working in the field of growth factors participated at the Conference discussing their findings dealing with the role of neurotrophins on nerve and immune cells, and in neurological and non-neurological disorders.

The Conference was organized by Luigi Aloe, a close collaborator of Rita Levi-Montalcini during the last 35 years, Research Director at the Institute of Neurobiology and Molecular Medicine and by Laura Calzà, Professor of Veterinary Anatomy at the University of Bologna. We are grateful to Archives Italiennes de Biologie and particularly to the Editor-in Chief Prof. Ottavio Pompeiano who gave us the possibility to publish in this issue the open lecture of Prof. Rita Levi-Montalcini and a small number of manuscripts written by her collaborators who participated at the NGF Conference in Modena.

