Rita Levi-Montalcini

Rita Levi-Montalcini Born on 22 April 1909 in Turin, together with her twin sister Paola she was the youngest of four children. Her parents were Adamo Levi, an electrical engineer and mathematician, and Adele Montalcini, a painter.

Her father subscribed to the belief that women should be wives and mothers, but Levi-Montalcini, knowing that she didn't want to marry, pleaded to be allowed to study medicine. When her father relented, she entered the University of Turin. Levi-Montalcini graduated with a degree in medicine and surgery in 1936. She then worked at the university, during which time she learned a technique for silver staining nerve cells that made the cells clearly visible under a microscope.

 Rita Levi-Montalcini together with colleague Stanley Cohen, received the 1986 Nobel Prize in Physiology or Medicine for their discovery of nerve growth factor From 2001 until her death she also served in the Italian Senate as a Senator for Life.
She leaves an extraordinary scientific work; but more importantly is her life as an example of commitment, courage and serenity, always acting in favor of gender equality and the equal dignity of all human beings.

"Invece di aggiungere anni alla vita, è meglio aggiungere vita agli anni"("Instead of adding years to life, it is better to add life to years").

"Non abbiate paura delle difficoltà: il meglio viene da loro" ("Do not be afraid of difficulties: the best comes from them").

"Se istruisci un bambino avrai un uomo istruito. Se istruisci una donna avrai una Donna, una famiglia e una società istruita" ("If you educate a child, you will have an educated man. If you educate a woman, you will have an educated woman, an educated family and an educated society").

Rita Levi-Montalcini died on December 30, 2012