# MARIA PIA ABBRACCHIO-Biosketch

**Maria P. Abbracchio** was born and studied in Milan. She obtained her Master degree in Pharmacy in 1979, her specialization degree in Toxicology from the University of Milan in 1984, and her PhD degree in Experimental Medicine in Rome in 1988. She has been working as a scientist for about 30 years at research Institutions like the University of Milan, the University of Texas at Houston (post-doctoral fellow in 1980-81) and the University College London, UK (Honorary Research Fellow from 1992 to 1993). She is currently full professor of Pharmacology and responsible scientist of a group of 12 researchers at the University of Milan. She has been encharged of various Institutional research duties at her local University and in 2014 she has been nominated by the Rector President of the Research Observatory of the University of Milan.

Author/coauthor of about 180 full-length scientific publications on international Journals with referee and impact factor (**H-index: 63**, InCites, Thomson Reuters 2015). She has acted and currently acts as a Principal Investigator or Coordinator of research grants from private and public Institutions and patients Foundations, and has presented her scientific results in about 100 oral presentations or seminars in Italy and abroad, as well as in press-releases to the public (Italy, 2006, 2008, 2009, 2011, and Atlanta, USA, in 2006).

She has been mentor for 60 Master degree theses, 18 PhD theses (including an international one), and responsible scientist for approximately 20 post-doctoral fellows.

She acts as a referee for the Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research, and as an independent expert for the European Commission (both as a remote referee and as an acting Committee member and rapporteur in Bruxelles) for the evaluation of grant applications in the "Health" area.

She studies the pathophysiological roles of purinergic signaling molecules with special focus on their role in cell growth, survival and differentiation. She has identified a new purinergic receptor involved in the differentiation of adult brain and heart stem-like cells, and is currently working at setting up novel neuroreparative approaches for acute and chronic degenerative diseases, like brain trauma, stroke, myocardial infarction, Alzheimer's and multiple sclerosis.

In 2009, Thomson Reuters nominated her a **"Highly cited scientist"**, a definition based on the number of article citations that identifies the most influential scientists worldwide in all disciplines (less that 0.5% of all publishing scientists); in 2014, President Giorgio Napolitano nominated her *motu proprio* **Commander of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic** (the highest ranking honor order in Italy) for her scientific merits.