

**Maria A. Blasco receives the
Lilly Foundation Preclinical Research Award 2010**

Madrid, March 1st 2010 - Maria A. Blasco, Director of the Molecular Oncology Programme and Vice-Director of the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO) has been awarded the *Fundación Lilly* Biomedical Research 2010 Award for best preclinical research.

This award recognizes outstanding scientists working in Spain and aims to provide further support by funding their current research projects.

Maria A. Blasco (Alicante, 1965) is a world leader in the field of telomeres and telomerase. She began her ongoing focus on telomeres research as a postdoctoral fellow under the supervision of Dr. Carol W. Greider (Nobel Laureate in Physiology or Medicine 2009) at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratories in New York. Blasco will receive 200,000 euros to continue her work to elucidate the role of telomeres and telomerase in cancer and ageing.

In the words of José Antonio Gutiérrez Fuentes, Director of *Fundación Lilly* as well as jury member, the research carried out by Blasco is "original and diverse, well able to expand telomere biology into new fields".

Fundación Lilly annually publishes announcements for Biomedical Research Awards in two categories, preclinical and clinical research. Announcements are decided upon by a jury made up of members of the Foundation's Scientific Advisory Board and other scientific personalities and authorities in the fields under consideration. Mariano Barbacid currently chairs the panel.

The *Fundación Lilly* Biomedical Research 2010 Award for best clinical research was bestowed to Dr. José María Gatell Artigas for his advances in the development of a vaccine against HIV-1.

Fundación Lilly was created ten years ago in Spain by the U.S. pharmaceutical firm "Eli Lilly and Company". The corporation established in Madrid in 1963. The aim of the Foundation is to contribute to developing and improving the health of citizens, conducting programmes and research activities, training, outreach, prevention, consulting, technical assistance and project development in the biomedical field.