

Maria A. Blasco

"Santiago Ramón y Cajal" National Research Award in Biology 2010

Madrid, July 14th, 2010 – Maria A. Blasco, Director of the Molecular Oncology Programme at the Spanish National Cancer Research Centre (CNIO) has been granted the *"Santiago Ramón y Cajal"* Spanish National Research Award in Biology for 2010.

According to the Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation, Maria A. Blasco has merited this accolade for her pioneering research on telomere biology, her work with genetically modified mice demonstrating the importance of telomerase, her discoveries of telomeric RNAs and of the role of epigenetic modifications in telomere regulation, as well as the role of telomeres in stem cell biology and organismal ageing.

Maria A. Blasco (Alicante, 1965), a renowned world leader in the studies of telomeres and telomerase and alumni of Carol W. Greider (Nobel Laureate in Medicine or Physiology 2009), has acquired special prominence due to her research demonstrating the importance of telomeres both in cancer and ageing processes.

The Spanish Ministry of Science and Innovation has instituted ten National Research Awards, in ten fields of knowledge, aimed to recognise the merits of those Spanish researchers of outstanding performance in internationally relevant scientific areas, who also contribute to the advancement of science, to a better understanding

of the human condition and to the progress of mankind. There is a call every year for five of the ten Spanish National Research Awards, recognising thus biannually five of the ten subject areas. The awards are received for relevant research in the corresponding field of specialization. Candidates must be Spaniards working actively.