

## Dr. Rita Levi-Montalcini

### 1986 Nobel Laureate for Medicine

Monday 26 February 2007, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Room 8046, Arzanah Building  
The Petroleum Institute



Nobel Laureate, Rita Levi-Montalcini was born April 22, 1909 in Turin, Italy. She received her medical degree from the University of Turin in 1936.

Levi-Montalcini completed residency in neurology and psychiatry, and was on staff in Turin before and after World War II. In 1947, at the invitation of Viktor Hamburger, she joined Washington University School of Medicine as a research associate in Zoology. She spent the next 30 years in St. Louis, joining the faculty as an associate professor in 1956. She became a full professor in 1958 and retired in 1977. In 1969, she became director of the Institute of Cell Biology of the Italian National Council of Research, in Rome. Upon retirement from this position in 1979, she became a guest professor of the same institute.

Levi-Montalcini's research focused on the development of the vertebrate nervous system. In 1951, she discovered nerve growth factor (NGF), a humoral factor that plays an essential role in the growth and differentiation of sensory and sympathetic nerve cells. For the next 30 years, she continued her research on the function of this protein and other specific growth factors. With her colleague, Stanley Cohen, she was awarded the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1986 for the discoveries of NGF and epidermal growth factor.

*For additional information on this seminar you may contact the CAO Office (x5-104)*