



EUROPEAN VISION AWARD 2009 GOES TO ITALY

Dr. Valeria Marigo from the Department of Biomedical Sciences at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia in Italy was selected as the European Vision Awardee 2009. By this vote the external referees acknowledged her excellent scientific contributions to the field of Vision Research & Ophthalmology within the recent years.

Dr. Marigo devotes her research to the study of inherited eye diseases. She conducts basic research on murine models and on in vitro cell cultures with the aim to elucidate molecular mechanisms underlying the pathogenesis of genetic eye diseases. Her work in the past years have contributed to a better understanding of pathogenetic events leading to blindness allowing the identification of key factors that can be envisaged as targets for therapeutic development. She has also developed culture conditions for in vitro generation of rod photoreceptors as perspective therapeutic tool in retinal transplants.

Dr. Marigo started her training with PhD studies in developmental and cellular biology. She then moved her interest to genetics during her post-doctoral training at the Department of Genetics, Harvard Medical School. As group leader at the Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine in Milan and later in Naples she focused the study of her laboratory to eye inherited diseases and this is still her research area after her move to Modena.

As a result of her excellent professional activities Dr. Marigo has been able to receive numerous national and international grants and awards.

The European Vision Institute

The European Vision Institute European Economic Interest Grouping (EVI EEIG') was legally constituted under European law in the late year 2003. The major objectives of EVI are to encourage cross-border cooperation in Vision Research with special emphasis on supporting research, training, health information, dissemination and other programs in the areas of blinding eye diseases, visual disorders, mechanisms of visual function, preservation of sight as well as the special health problems and requirements of the blind and visually disabled.

The members of EVI are vision scientists, research institutes/institutions, universities, private companies and patient organisations. At present, the chairman is Prof. E. Zrenner, Germany, who is supported by the Steering Committee, consisting of Profs. J. Cunha-Vaz, Portugal, P. Luthert, UK, J. Sahel, France, A. Wenzel, Switzerland and N. Pfeiffer, Germany. The Board of Trustees is formed by the Profs. C. Reme, Switzerland, T. van Veen, Sweden and E. Luetjen-Drecoll from Germany.

EVI was not formed for the purpose of making profits for itself. Its function is to carry out activities ancillary to those of its members, including but not restricted to research, technological development, organisation, management, fundraising and publicity pertinent to the defined aims to safeguard the procedures for high-quality Vision Research throughout Europe and worldwide.



**European
Vision
Institute** EEIG

*The Voice of
Vision Research in Europe*



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