

# Female neuroscientist of the month:

## Rita Levi Montalcini

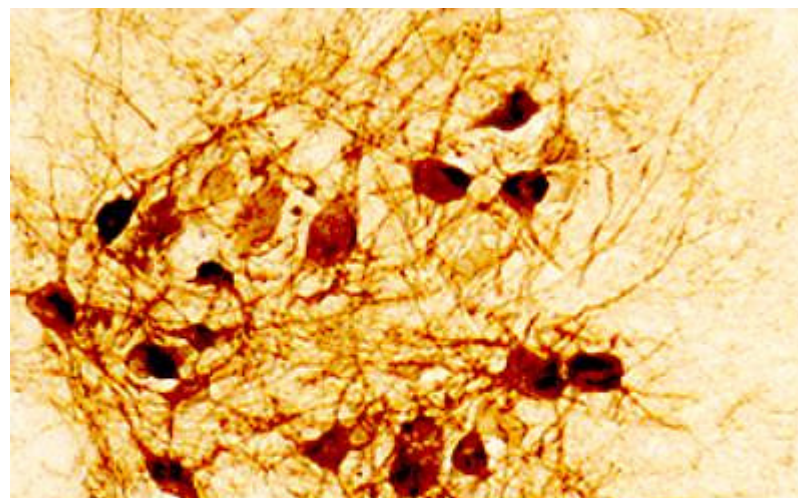
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She and her twin sister Paola were born in Italy, on 1909, within a Jewish family

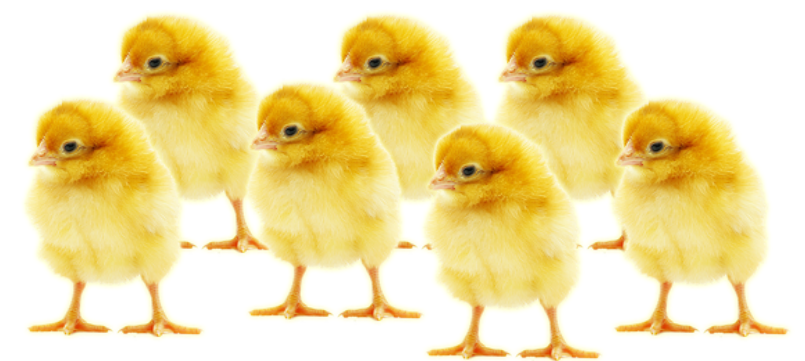
When Mussolini prohibited Jewish people to have an academic or professional career, she set up a laboratory at home, in her own bedroom

Then she finally moved to the USA where she made a very important discovery: cells only grow and proliferate when they have the right signal to do it. And this signal is transmitted by a group of substances called **Growth Factors**



She studied Medicine and Neurosurgery despite her father opposition

She studied the nerve fibers' development using chicken embryos



She described for the first time the **Nerve Growth Factor (NGF)**, which is necessary for neurons development, differentiation, growing and surviving.

She was given the Medicine Nobel Prize in 1986 for her discoveries, together with her colleague Stanley Cohen

"Many of the discoveries attributed to men were really made for his sisters, wives or daughters" - RLM



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