## **INFN News**

## AWARDED TO CARLO RUBBIA THE INFN MEDAL DURING THE CELEBRATIONS IN HIS HONOUR AT CERN



On October 18<sup>th</sup> at CERN, the fundamental physics community celebrated the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Carlo Rubbia and the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Nobel Prize awarded to him in 1984 for the discovery, a year earlier, of the W and Z bosons, with a symposium dedicated to his extraordinary scientific career. The celebrations were opened by Fabiola Gianotti, director general of CERN. Memories and testimonies from colleagues of the great scientist

followed, tracing his main contributions to fundamental physics: from Chris Llewellyn Smith to Gerardus't Hooft, from Samuel Ting to Lyn Evans, from Luciano Maiani to James Rohlf, from Amalia Ballarino to Hamid Ait Abderrahim, from Hesheng Chen to Antonio Zoccoli who, during the event, awarded the INFN Medal to Carlo Rubbia. This is the prestigious award that INFN confers to those who have made an outstanding contribution to building the history of the Institute.

"This is a double celebration: the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Nobel Prize for the discovery of the W and Z bosons and the 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Carlo Rubbia, a brilliant scientist who has made his mark on the history of physics", comments Antonio Zoccoli, INFN president. "It was an honour and pleasure to deliver, on behalf of our entire community, the INFN medal to Carlo. The contribution he brought and continues to bring to fundamental physics and to the scientific activities of our Institute is unique and extraordinary".

Carlo Rubbia received the Nobel Prize in physics in 1984 for his discovery, the previous year, of the W and Z bosons, the particles mediating the weak interaction. Rubbia's role in this discovery was crucial not only because he led the UA1 experiment to success, but also because he had the decisive intuition for its accomplishment: converting CERN's accelerator at the time, the Super Proton Synchrotron, into a higher-energy collision ring where protons and antiprotons collided.

With his brilliant insights, Rubbia has not only marked the history of CERN and accelerator physics, but also the history of INEN: one for all the ICAPUS experiment which he designed and dedicated to neutrino physics, operating

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d today at Fermilab in the United States where it

scientific contributions: from 1989 to 1993, nal and institutional history, he has received ns of responsibility at many prestigious in 2013.

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