



## Peter Higgs: a well deserved Nobel prize



### SISSA congratulates the physicist, whom it assigned a PhD honoris causa

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The Nobel prize in the field of Physics was awarded to Peter Higgs and François Englert, the physicists who theorized the existence of the well-known Boson, the particle whose field gives mass to some fundamental particles of the Universe. The International School for Advanced Studies (SISSA) at Trieste, who only a few weeks ago bestowed Higgs the PhD honoris causa in Theoretical Particle Physics, expresses great satisfaction for this important reward.

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Everyone was expecting it, Peter Higgs himself seemed to be anxiously awaiting this important award, which was announced a few moments ago: the Scottish physicist and the Belgian colleague, François Englert, have earned a well deserved Nobel Prize in physics for their



theoretical work on the Higgs boson, the particle recently revealed by the LHC particle accelerator.

The excitement has been great at SISSA as well, where just a few days ago a PhD *honoris causa* was assigned to Higgs. "The discovery of the Higgs Boson last July thanks to the ATLAS and CMS experiments at CERN is a milestone in the history of Physics". The director of SISSA Guido Martinelli explains. "In 2013 further progress was made in measuring the properties of this particle, and data collected so far confirm that this particle indeed bears the characteristics foreseen by the Standard Model"

Peter Higgs was unable to attend the PhD awarding event, which took place at SISSA this past September 26, and thus the award was accepted on his behalf by Guido Tonelli and Anna Di Ciaccio, the two physicist who respectively represent CMS and ATLAS, the CERN experiments which led to the actual discovery of the particle. On the occasion Tonelli declared that Higgs' story "is a message for the future, we need to take care of the next generation of scientists, such as those studying at SISSA today".

"When Peter Higgs theorized the Boson bearing his name, an experiment able to detect it wasn't even imaginable, given the technology available in the Sixties" Martinelli concluded. "Giant leaps forward were made since then, and today we can celebrate this incredible achievement not just of human intelligence but also of the imagination. We are truly very happy for the Nobel Prize and look forward to Higgs' visit here at SISSA".

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**Image:** a moment during the PhD *honoris causa* celebration at SISSA (credits: SISSA)

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#### **Contatti:**

Ufficio comunicazione:

[pressroom@sissa.it](mailto:pressroom@sissa.it)

Tel: (+39) 040 3787557 | (+39) 340-5473118, (+39) 333-5275592

via Bonomea, 265

34136 Trieste

Maggiori informazioni sulla SISSA: [www.sissa.it](http://www.sissa.it)