

## LE RAGIONI DI UNA DEDICA

*Le «Conferenze Lincee», che si tengono di solito il giovedì nella seconda settimana del mese, sono dedicate ad un Linceo scomparso, italiano o straniero, nell'intento di mantenere viva e tramandare anche ai più giovani la memoria di quegli studiosi che hanno saputo estendere i confini delle conoscenze scientifiche ed umanistiche nel costante desiderio di continuare ad apprendere, nel solco dell'esortazione impartitaci dal Presidente Luigi Einaudi, uno dei rifondatori dell'Accademia e convinto sostenitore della «filosofia lincea».*

*Non dimenticare mai i nostri ascendenti che hanno fatto crescere la cultura e la scienza del nostro Paese e il suo ruolo nella civiltà del sapere è infatti un lascito fondamentale della tradizione dell'Accademia che vogliamo in questo modo onorare.*



## ACCADEMIA NAZIONALE DEI LINCEI

### «CONFERENZE LINCEE»



MARTIN J. REES

Conferenza “Franco Pacini”

8 novembre 2018 – ore 17



PALAZZO CORSINI in una incisione di J. Barbault (1763)

ROMA - VIA DELLA LUNGARA, 10

**FRANCO PACINI** (1939-2012). Member of the Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei since 1984, full professor of Astrophysics at the University of Florence, Pacini was an internationally recognized authority in the field of high energy astrophysics. His early studies, at the IAP in Paris and at Cornell University (Ithaca), focused mainly on neutron stars. The results of his researches on a rotating magnetized neutron star and associated energy emission appeared on «Nature» in 1967 and were soon confirmed by the discovery of pulsars when the magnetic oblique rotator provided the basic model for the interpretation of this new class of objects. Pacini also derived the basic features of the electrodynamic of the oblique rotator model, considering the possibility that the Crab Nebula was energized by a hidden pulsar. This was confirmed as the pulsating source NP 0532 was eventually associated with the Crab Nebula. For his achievements Pacini was recognized as a leading expert in this field of research.

In 1978 he became full professor at the University of Florence and Director of the Arcetri Astrophysical Observatory, sited on the same hill as Galileo Galilei's famous villa "Il Gioiello". Here Pacini - nicknamed the "King of Arcetri" - promoted wide-ranging innovative research into many areas of astrophysics that were crowned by the Italian-participated construction of the impressive Large Binocular Telescope (LBT) of Mt. Graham International Observatory (Arizona).

Easy-going and informal, yet very determined and exacting, Pacini played a crucial role in reshaping Italian astronomy, strongly supporting Italy's plea to become member of the European Southern Observatory, a goal eventually achieved in 1982.

President of the ESO (1991-93) Pacini was also President of the IAU (2001-2003), Associate Member of the Royal Astronomical Society, member of the Academia Europaea, of the American Astronomical Society and many other institutions. A keen science communicator and educationalist, Pacini received many distinguished awards, among which that of Commendatore dell'Ordine al Merito della Repubblica Italiana. The asteroid 25601 *Franco Pacini* was named in his honour.

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**Giovedì 8 novembre 2018**

**alle ore 17**

**MARTIN J. REES**

**terrà la Conferenza "Franco Pacini"**

## ***FROM MARS TO THE MULTIVERSE***

Martin John REES, Linceo, Astronomer Royal, Professor Emeritus of Cosmology and Astrophysics at the University of Cambridge.

**Le rivolgo il cordiale invito ad intervenire.**

**Il Presidente**

*Giorgio Parisi*