



ITALY

# Fabiola Gianotti

## Particle physics

Since 1994, Fabiola Gianotti has been working as a research physicist at CERN, the world's largest laboratory for particle physics.

She was involved in several CERN experiments, among which ATLAS at the Large Hadron Collider (LHC). She was the ATLAS project leader when the Higgs particle was discovered in 2012 by the ATLAS and CMS experiments at the LHC. This very special particle is related to the mechanism allowing the elementary particles, which are the most fundamental building blocks of matter and the visible universe, to acquire a mass.

Her in-depth knowledge of particle physics, combined with her vision of CERN as the world's leading particle accelerator laboratory, led to her election as CERN's Director General, a position she took up in 2016. Fabiola was the first woman to hold this position.

In 2013 she was awarded the Enrico Fermi Prize of the Italian Physical Society and the Special Breakthrough Prize in Fundamental Physics. In 2014 she was appointed Cavaliere di Gran Croce al Merito della Repubblica Italiana.



MEDNIGHT

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