



## AWARDS

### **BUONANNO, DAMOUR AND PRETORIUS AWARDED THE 2021 GALILEO GALILEI MEDAL**

Physicists Alessandra Buonanno, Thibault Damour and Frans Pretorius have been awarded the Galileo Galilei Medal, an award given every two years by INFN with the GGI Galileo Galilei Institute, its National Center for Theoretical Physics in partnership with the University of Florence, to researchers who have made an outstanding contribution to the progress of research in theoretical physics. The Award, announced on 15 February, on the anniversary of the birthday of the great scientist Galileo Galilei, was awarded to Buonanno, Damour and Pretorius “for the fundamental understanding of sources of gravitational radiation by complementary analytic and numerical techniques, enabling predictions that have been confirmed by gravitational wave observations and are now key tools in this new branch of astronom”. Alessandra Buonanno is director of the Department of Astrophysical and Cosmological Relativity at the Max Planck Institute for Gravitational Physics in Potsdam, Germany. Following her studies in Pisa, she has had a brilliant career in the field of gravitational theoretical physics, working in Paris, the United States and subsequently Germany. She has received numerous awards including the Leibniz Prize, the leading research award in Germany. Thibault Damour is a full professor at the Institut des Hautes Études Scientifiques in Paris. A leading figure in the field of theoretical physics at the international level, he has worked in multiple research fields related to gravity, from black holes to cosmology and string theory, and has received numerous awards throughout his career. Frans Pretorius is a professor of physics at Princeton University and director of the Princeton Gravity Initiative. His main research field is General Relativity and he has worked on a variety of topics, including gravitational collapse, black hole mergers, cosmic singularities and black hole evaporation models. ■