

## 2021 Hall Medal awarded to Anita Pasotti

**Anita Pasotti** has made significant contributions in areas related to combinatorial designs. Her very first publication is in the *Bulletin of the ICA* and is currently the 14<sup>th</sup> most cited paper out of 957 articles.

One of her most relevant papers is "Combinatorial designs and the Theorem of Weil on multiplicative character sums" (*Finite Fields and their Applications*, 2009; 48 citations on Scopus) which greatly improves R.M. Wilson's bound on the asymptotic existence of elementary abelian decompositions of the complete graph into copies of a given graph, and "Further progress on difference families with block size 4 or 5" (*Designs Codes and Cryptography*, 2010; 44 citations on Scopus) which, so far, is the very last publication on a central topic in design theory.

Anita has become one of the top experts in Heffter arrays which are interesting design theoretic objects having significant applications to topological graph theory. She is leading a group of researchers who have produced six papers on this topic and obtained new results on related problems such as the Buratti-Horak-Rosa conjecture about Hamiltonian paths in complete graphs, the conjectures of Alspach-Archdeacon about partial sums in an abelian group, and a tour problem on a toroidal board.