





PERSONAL INFORMATION



-  Research Director
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WORK EXPERIENCE

- From 01/01/2021 Research Director of Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Department of Infectious Diseases
- From 15/1/2024 Director of "Microorganisms and host response: research and technological innovation" Unit – Department of Infectious Diseases - Istituto Superiore di Sanità
- From 31/1/1997 to 30/12/2020 Senior Researcher of Istituto Superiore di Sanità - Department of Infectious Diseases
- From 2/3/2012 to 31/7/2017 Director of Anti-Infectious Immunity Unit – Department of Infectious Diseases - Istituto Superiore di Sanità
- From 14/9/1992 to 30/1/1997 Researcher of Laboratory of Virology - Istituto Superiore di Sanità

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 1980-84 October 30, 1984: Laurea in Biological Science with full marks (110/110 et laude); University of Rome, Faculty of Natural Sciences, Mathematics and Physics
- from July to December 1985 and from September to December 1986 Research fellow at the Weizmann Institute of Science (Rehovot, Isreal) in Dr. M. Revel's group to clone mouse 2-5A synthetase cDNAs from different libraries
- from July 1988 to January 1989 and from November 1989 to February 1990 Fellow at the European Molecular Biology Laboratories (Heidelberg, Germany), in Prof. L. Philipson's group, during the tenure of a EMBO short-term fellowship to study the regulation of the gas genes expression
- from October 1991 to October 1992 Fellow at the Pasteur Institute (Paris, France) in the laboratory of Dr. A. Hovanessian to investigate the role of type I IFN on HIV replication.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Research activities

- Analysis of B cell response in Multiple Sclerosis
- Analysis of the host-pathogen interaction to understand how virulence factors modulate antimicrobial immunity and disease; in particular, effect of Mycobacterium tuberculosis and Staphylococcus aureus infection on human dendritic cell differentiation and maturation.
- Analysis of DC-driven immune responses and cytokine expression in the context of bacterial and viral infections
- Analysis of altered innate and adaptive immune response in patients with autoimmune diseases.
- Studies on the IFN-induced gene regulation and transduction pathway in different primary cells, such as T helper type 1 cells, dendritic cells, macrophages, B cells and granulocytes.
- Effects of IFN on the cell growth and differentiation of different primary and transformed leukocytic cells.
- Role of IFN in the induction and maintenance of chronic inflammation with a particular interest of plasmacytoid DC.
- Studies the human innate responses against pathogens, in particular projects of current interest include analysis of the mechanisms induced by the interaction of different pathogens with Toll-like receptors in human dendritic cell subsets (DC1 and DC2).
- Development of in vitro human cell-based methods to test vaccine potency and efficacy to replace animal models.
- Monocyte activation assay to determine the pyrogenicity of the Tick-borne encephalitis virus vaccine.

Teaching activities

- Analysis of TLR agonists as adjuvant for EBOLA vaccine.
 - Antiviral response and Type I IFN signature in SARS-CoV-2 infection and vaccination
 - Setting and development of human primary 2D and 3D cellular models to study the host-pathogen interaction and novel vaccine platform.
 - Single cell transcriptome to investigate the host response to infection and innovative vaccine platforms
- Since AY 2006-2007 Contract Professor of General and Applied Hygiene – Degree Course in Nursing and Obstetric Science, University of Rome “La Sapienza”.
 - AY 2006-2007 and 2007//2008 Invited Professor at University of Reims Champagne-Ardenne (FR).
 - Since AY 2017/2018 Contract Professor in Immunology at the Degree Course of Molecular, Cellular and Pathophysiological Research at “Roma Tre” University.
 - In 2018-2019 Expert in Immunology for distance Learning organized by Istituto Superiore di Sanità (www.eduiss.it) on Vaccine and Vaccine-preventable Diseases
 - Since 2023 Lecturer at Level Master Training Program in Development, Manufacturing and Authorization of Biopharmaceuticals – Università degli Studi di Modena e Reggio Emilia
 - Since AY 2000-2001 Tutor of PhD and Degree Course-

Regulatory activities

- Quality assessor of Phase I clinical trial dossier.
- Expert for Bacterial Endotoxin Working Party at EDQM - European Directorate for the Quality of Medicines
- Assessor of dossier regarding experimental procedures and protocols in animal models
- Expert in the Pyrogenicity testing focus group coordinated by NC3Rs – National Centre for the Replacement, Refinement and Reduction of Animals in Research – UK.

Projects

Coordination as PI or Co-PI of different national and international projects.

Publications

141 international publications
ORCID ID: 0000-0002-1606-2949
Researcher ID: B-4752-2013
Scopus Author Id: 56261264000
H index: 47 (Scopus)
13,715 citations

Rome, 25.03.2026