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After a Laurea degree in Physics (University of Rome "La Sapienza"), he obtained a PhD in Physical Oceanography (Institut Universitaire Européen de la Mer, France). He is currently a senior researcher at the Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (Naples, Italy), where his research has focused on the role of ocean physics in global biogeochemical cycles. His main scientific interest lies in understanding the mechanisms that support the structure, evolution, and functioning of oceanic ecosystems and their relationship with ocean physics. To this end, over the last 15 years he has led a series of large-scale, multidisciplinary studies integrating oceanography with ecology, genomics, and chemistry.

He is a scientific coordinator of the international Tara Oceans Consortium (<http://oceans.taraexpeditions.org>). He coordinated the EU project AtlantECO, aimed at assessing and predicting the health of the Atlantic Ocean by combining genomics with oceanography and ecology. He conceived and co-directed the international oceanic expedition Mission Microbiomes (2020–2022), which collected over 27,000 samples—including DNA, RNA, proteomes, and metabolomes—across 168 sampling stations. He also conceived and contributed to the coordination of NEREA, a genomics-enabled augmented ocean observatory in the Gulf of Naples recently endorsed by the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. An invited speaker on numerous international occasions, he has published over 120 peer-reviewed scientific articles, including several in high-profile journals.