

TRACK RECORD

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name **MARIA GRAZIA CUSI**
Address **VIA B. BUOZZI, 61, 53100 SIENA**
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Nationality **Italian**

Date of birth **30 SEPTEMBER, 1958**

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Dates (from – to) 2002-PRESENT: ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SIENA,
2005-2006: DIRECTOR OF THE MICROBIOLOGY LAB AT THE “POLICLINICO LE SCOTTE” IN SIENA,
1990-2001: RESEARCH SCIENTIST AT THE UNIVERSITY OF SIENA
- Name and address of employer University of Siena, Via Banchi di Sopra , 55 53100 Siena
- Type of business or sector Virology, vaccinology
- Occupation or position held 2002-present: Associate professor;
1990-2001: Research associate at the Department of Molecular Biology, Section of Microbiology.
2010-2015: Director of the Infectious Diseases Specialty School of Medicine at the University of Siena
2014-: Chairman of the Committee of the Master School in Medical Biotechnologies at the University of Siena
2013- present: Director of the Microbiology and Virology Unit of “S. MARIA ALLE SCOTTE” HOSPITAL in Siena
- Main activities and responsibilities Research in Virology, Professor of Microbiology at the Medical School of the University of Siena,
Teaching activity
· Courses, lectures and seminars on topics related to Virology and Clinical Microbiology in the Schools of Medicine, Biotechnology, and in the Postgraduate Schools of Infectious Diseases and Microbiology, at the University of Siena.
· Supervisor of students of the Schools of Medicine, Biotechnology, Biological Sciences for the preparation of experimental dissertations in Virology and Clinical Microbiology.
· Tutor in the PhD School in Medical Biotechnology (European PhD School) at the University of Siena.
· Editorial board memberships: “Medical Science Monitor”, “The Open Virology Journal” (ISSN 1874-3579), BMC Infectious Diseases
· Reviewing activity for scientific journals: Research in Virology (Ed. Dott. J. Content), Biotechniques (Ed. T.J. Stevens), Journal of Preventive Medicine and Hygiene ” (Eds. P. Crovari e R. Gasparini), Journal of Medical Virology (Ed. A.J. Zuckerman), Vaccine (Ed. RE. Spier), Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy (Ed. R.O. Williams), Expert Opinion on Biological Therapy (Ashley Publications Ltd.), Journal of Infectious Diseases (Ed. Hirsch M.S.), Journal of Hepatology (Ed. Rodès J.), Microbes and Infection

(Ed. Kaufmann H.S.E.), Journal of Controlled Release (Ed. K. Kataoka), Journal of Virological Methos (Ed. A.J. Zuckerman), Journal of General Virology (Ed. P. Staeheli), European Journal of Clinical Microbiology & Infectious Diseases (Ed. A. van Belkum), Epidemiology and Infection (Ed. N. Noah).

Referee, as an expert, for the Committee of the Ministry of Health concerning the ECM program

Member of the Italian Microbiological Societies (SIM, AMCLI, SIV), International Society for Neurovirology

Reviewing and advisory activity for Funding Agencies/awards:

Expert evaluator for some projects submitted to the FP-7 Health of the European Committee

Italian National Institute of Health

Italian National Ministry of University and Research

International Science Foundation of Washington

Austrian Science Fund

Medical Research Council (UK)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dates (from – to)

• Name and type of organisation providing education and training<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Principal subjects/occupational skills covered
• Title of qualification awarded
• Level in national classification (if appropriate) | <p>1989-1991: fellowship at the Wistar Institute in Philadelphia, USA</p> <p>1988-89: ENI fellowship for the study of the efficacy of some synthetic influenza vaccines</p> <p>1984-85: research assistant at the Microbiology Institute of the University of Siena</p> <p>1982-83: Department of Social Security (Tuscany region) fellowship for an investigation of viruses involved in neurological diseases</p> <p>1981: degree with full marks and honour (110/110 e lode) in Biological Sciences</p> <p>University of Siena-Department of Molecular Biology, section of Microbiology;</p> <p>Wistar Institute of Philadelphia, USA</p> <p>Principle studies included: Biology, Clinical Studies, Microbiology, Virology, vaccinology and Scientific Research Techniques.</p>
<p>Degree with full marks and honours (110/110 e lode) in Biological Sciences</p> |
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**PERSONAL SKILLS
AND COMPETENCES**

Acquired in the course of life and career but not necessarily covered by formal certificates and diplomas.

MOTHER TONGUE

ITALIAN

OTHER LANGUAGES

- Reading skills
- Writing skills
- Verbal skills

ENGLISH

excellent
excellent
excellent

SPANISH

- Reading skills
- Writing skills
- Verbal skills

basic
basic
basic

**SOCIAL SKILLS
AND COMPETENCES**

*Living and working with
other people, in multicultural
environments, in positions
where communication is
important and situations
where teamwork is essential
etc.*

Well organised person
Good abilities for synthetic and global views over concrete situations
End-oriented work capacity
Problem-solving attitude
Responsibility, Self-respect and self-reliance
Strong referential values of fairness, equity and dignity
Ability to establish and maintain good working relations with people of
different national and cultural backgrounds. Regularly integrating new
technological tools, agile methods and collaborative processes, to accomodate
different communication contexts and challenges.

Delivery of numerous presentations to varied audiences in English and
Italian: project teams, university students, Board of Directors, Consultative
committees, school board administrators, national and international
conferences.

**ORGANISATIONAL SKILLS
AND COMPETENCES**

*Coordination and
administration of people,
projects and budgets at work*

As research advisor, active and responsible team member on various projects.
Establish work processes to facilitate distributed team work. As project
coordinator, hired team members, defined mandates and oversaw work and
team collaboration and defined budgets.

Scientific consultancies and collaboration:

BERNA Biotech
PEVION biotech
CHIRON
NOVARTIS Vaccines

**TECHNICAL SKILLS
AND COMPETENCES**

*With computers, specific
kinds of equipment,
machinery, etc.*

Virological diagnosis; molecular virology; development and implementation
of surveillance programmes and contingency plans; Laboratory
response to outbreaks, to emerging and reemerging infectious diseases
(virological field), vaccinology, immunotherapy in oncology. Ability to work
in biosafety level II-III labs and animal facility. Skills include, but are not

limited to: recombinant protein expression and purification, PCR, proteomics, nucleic acid and protein electrophoresis, cloning, biochemical assay development, and broad range of molecular biology methods; use of FACS, real-time PCR, ELISPOT, sequencing apparatus, electrophoresis apparatus. Advanced proficiency levels with most medical and scientific software applications currently in use in the facility. Also posses advanced skills with Microsoft Office (all applications), Windows XP and Sigma Stat.

- Patents

Inventor in 7 (5 international) patent applications related to diagnostics, vaccine and immunotherapy: (1997) "An Influenza enveloped DNA vaccine" (PCT/EP98/03050), (1998) "Nucleoproteina ricombinante del virus Toscana" (EP 0955367), (2000) "Toscana virus vaccine" (PCT/GB00/02031), (2002) "PTH-rP peptides" (US 2005/0033023 A1), (2005) "Peptide poliepitopico derivato dalla timidilato sintetasi avente attività immunologia e antitumorale e composizioni farmaceutiche relative." (PCT/IT2006/000078), (2003) "Peptidi epitopici immunogenici del CEA da utilizzare nella chemio-immunoterapia del carcinoma del colon-retto e della mammella." (RM 2003 A000173), e (2005) "Virosoma dell'influenza immuno-ricostituito (IRIV) contenente il gene per il CD40L come immunoprotettore tumorale CEA-specifico e usi immunogenici di esso" (RM2005A000148).

Invited speaker for talks or seminars:

1994-Conference on Molecular Approaches to the Infectious Diseases, Cold Spring Harbor (USA)

1996-Smith&Kline Beecham Biologicals, Bruxelles, (B)

1999- Gordon Research Conference-New London, NH, USA

2001- ISS, Roma, Italy

2004-SIM, Milan, Italy

2009- ECCMID Helsinki, Finland

PUBLICATIONS

112 papers published or in press in peer-reviewed journals (PubMed).

115 abstracts at National and International Conferences