

Curriculum Vitae



Date & place of birth: June 22, 1952 - Fermignano (PU), Italy

Citizenship: Italian

Work address: Section of Pathology, Department of Experimental Medicine, Piazzale Gambuli, Polo Unico Sant'Andrea delle Fratte, University of Perugia, Perugia, Italy

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EDUCATION

1975 Graduated with honours in Biological Sciences from the University of Perugia (Perugia, Italy)

1982 Graduated with honours from the University of Perugia Medical School (Perugia, Italy)

1982 Unrestricted and unlimited license to practice medicine in Italy and in all countries of the European Community

APPOINTMENTS

1976–1980 Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, University of Perugia (Perugia, Italy)

1976 Visiting Scientist at the National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD, USA)

1980-1992 Senior Investigators at the Department of Experimental Medicine and Biochemical Sciences, University of Perugia (Perugia, Italy)

1983-1985 Recipient of a Fogarty Research Fellowship at the Biochemistry Section, National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health (Bethesda, MD, USA)

1992-2001 Associate Professor of Microbiology, University of Perugia Medical School (Perugia, Italy)

2001-2011 Professor of Microbiology, University of Perugia Medical School (Perugia, Italy)

2011 Professor of Pathology, University of Perugia Medical School (Perugia, Italy)

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES AND COMMITTEES

- American Society for Microbiology
- American Association of Immunology
- International Society for Human and Animal Mycology
- Italian Society of Microbiology
- Faculty member of the 8th ASM Conference on *Candida* and Candidiasis (Denver, USA), 2006
- Faculty Member of the International Scientific Committee of the 13th International Congress of Immunology (Rio de Janeiro, Brazil), 2007
- Faculty Member of the International Scientific Committee of the 4th Advances Against Aspergillosis (Rome, Italy), 2010

- Co-chair of the Gordon Research Conference: The Immunology of Fungal Infection (Galveston, Texas, USA), 2011
- Faculty Member of the Fourth FEBS Advanced Lecture Course: Human fungal pathogens: molecular mechanism of host-pathogen interaction and virulence (La Colle sur Loup, France), 2011
- Organizer of the Genomics in Hematology (Perugia, Italy), 2012
- Faculty member of the 17th International Symposium on Infections in the Immunocompromised Host. (Genova, Italy), 2012
- Committee Member "Program for Young Researchers Rita Levi Montalcini" Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca (Rome, Italy), 2012
- Co-chair of the Gordon Research Conference: The Immunology of Fungal Infection (Galveston, Texas, USA), 2013
- Organizer of the Meeting "Fungal diseases in hematology: Translating basic science into clinical practice" (Parma, Italy), 2013
- Editorial Board Member for Scientific Reports of Nature, 2013
- Faculty Member of the 15th International Congress of Immunology (Milan, Italy), 2013
- Organizer of the Satellite Meeting -15th International Congress of Immunology "Fungi in the setting of inflammation, allergy and autoimmune diseases: translating basic science into clinical practice" (Perugia, Italy), 2013
- Organizer of the 63^o National Congress of AIPaCMeM (Italian Association of Clinical Pathology and Molecular Medicine) (Perugia, Italy), 2013
- Faculty Member of the Microbial Pathogenesis and Immunity (Perugia, Italy), 2013.
- Faculty Member of the 6th Advances Against Aspergillosis (Madrid, Spain), 2014
- Advisor Board of PTX3 and Invasive Aspergillosis, 2014
- Editorial Board Member for Infection and Immunity, 2015-2017
- Chair of the Basic Immunology Research in Allergy and Clinical Immunology. 13th EAACI Immunology Winter School. Les Arcs 1800 (France), 2015

AWARDS AND HONORS

2001 Recognized as "Fellow" of the American Academy of Microbiology

2003 Honorary Professor of the Old Herborn University

2007 Award from the Chronic Granulomatous Disorder Research Trust

2010 Recognized Member of the New York Academy of Sciences

2011 Winner of the 2011 "Jon van Rood Award" for the best Transplantation Immunology/Immunogenetics paper published in 2010.

For the paper entitled "Dectin-1 Y238X polymorphism associates with susceptibility to invasive aspergillosis in hematopoietic transplantation through impairment of both recipient- and donor-dependent mechanisms of antifungal immunity" published in 2010 and selected for the 2011 Award, presented by Prof. Kolb.

2012 Winner of the Abraham White Scientific, Humanitarian, and Public Service Award, George Washington University. Washington DC (USA), March 15, 2012

Luigina Romani, M.D., Ph.D., is being recognized for her pioneering studies and scientific contributions which have significantly increased our understanding of the molecular mechanism of action of thymosin $\alpha 1$ and its role in modulating toll receptors and immunity.

2014 Winner of the “Agostino Bassi 2014” Award, FIMUA- Federazione Italiana Micopatologia Umana e Animale. Verona (Italy), November 14-15, 2014

2015 Winner of the “Lucille George” Award, International Society for Human and Animal Mycology. Melbourne (Australia), May 4-8, 2015

The Lucille K. Georg Medal is the Society's most prestigious award for scientific excellence. Two awards are presented every three years at the ISHAM Congress. The medals honour the contributions of the late Dr. Georg, an expert on dermatophytes, a founding member of the mycology laboratory at the CDC, former President of the Medical Mycological Society of the Americas, and one of the world's most productive and influential medical mycologists.

2016 Recognized Top Italian Women Scientist 2016, Milano, May 25, 2016

2016 Ranking 41 out of 91 in the Top Italian Scientists of Via-academy 2016

SCIENTIFIC PROFILE

Luigina Romani received her Ph.D. and M.D. degrees from the University of Perugia, where she also trained in tumour immunology and transplant immunology. She carried out her postdoctoral training at National Institute of Health, Bethesda, Maryland, USA, and she is currently Professor of Pathology and a faculty member of the University Medical School at the University of Perugia.

Luigina Romani is internationally recognized in the area of antifungal immunity — a field in which her major interest is on the comprehension of innate mechanisms of antifungal immunity that lead to the activation of protective and non-protective adaptive immunity. She has been recognized “Fellow” of the American Academy of Microbiology and elected to the American National Academy of Sciences.

She pioneered studies on the role of T cells first (early 80’) and then of the different Th cell subsets (early 90’) in experimental fungal infections. She introduced several novel scientific and translatable concepts which have become popular in the field of medical mycology. Examples are the concept of protective tolerance, the basis of immunotherapy, the use of dendritic cells to develop fungal vaccine, the pathogenetic role of inflammation in infection, the discovery of tryptophan metabolites as potential antifungal strategies and, more recently, the use of functional genomics to predict individual risk for fungal infections in transplanted patients.

Several molecules she worked with have been patented for the use in fungal and viral infections. Examples are PTX3 (2 patents), thymosin $\alpha 1$ (5 patents) and 3-IAID (1 patent). Thymosin $\alpha 1$ is now being used in a clinical trial to restore immunity and tolerance in hematopoietic transplantation.

Luigina Romani has published more than 350 publications (Index H-80 - Google Scholar Universal Gadget for Scientific Publication Citation Counting; Total Impact factor 1741.685 - ISI Web of Knowledge). She participated as “invited speaker” to over 200 Congress and International Seminars.