Prof. SANDRO GRELLI

CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Information

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CURRENT POSITION

Full Professor in Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.
Founding member of the Tor Vergata Centre of Excellence in Oncoscience Research (TOR).
Consortium founded in 2018 by (DR 1407/2018, protocol 0024695/2018) to promote oncology research by creating a hub that strengthens Rome's leadership and visibility at the international level. Within the Consortium, Prof. Grelli's activities on microorganism-host interaction to understand viral infections and the mechanism involved in the etiopathogenesis of associated chronic diseases.

HEALTHCARE ACTIVITIES

From January 1, 2018 to date, the position for healthcare service purposes (Art.5 of DLGs. 517/99) as Head of Unit Virology, at the "Policlinico Tor Vergata" Foundation, within the Complex Operative Unit of Laboratory Medicine, Aggregate Functional Area of Laboratory Medicine afferent to the Department of Integrated Care Processes.

The Virology Unit (VU) performs serological and molecular virology investigations related to the main viral infections, performing qualitative and quantitative tests. In particular:

a) In serological diagnostics, VU uses automated systems for the detection of major hepatitis viruses (A, B, C, Delta and E) to detect the presence of acute, chronic infection, co-infection, or superinfection and direct subsequent therapeutic courses; uses fourth-generation testing of human immunodeficiency virus infection (HIV) and confirmation testing of major transmissible infections in pregnancy (TORCH) with further use of serological testing to assess the period of infection, if any; of infectious mononucleosis virus (EBV), parotitis virus, and those of exanthematous diseases (Parvovirus B19, Measles, Varicella/Zoster) and by 2020 of SARS-CoV-2.
b) The VU provides the performance and validation of serological tests required in routine diagnostics, such as the detection of antibodies from Treponema pallidum, Chlamydiae, Helicobacter pylori and Mycoplasma pneumoniae antibodies.
c) In collaboration with occupational medicine, as part of the monitoring and immunological surveillance of workers, checks antibody responses to the Tetanus, Pneumococcal, Rubella, Varicella,

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Mumps, Measles, HBV and SARS-CoV-2 vaccinations and active surveillance with regard to Mycobacterium tuberculosis infection.

d) Second-level antibody testing on serum and CSF using immunoblotting technique for the confirmation of serum antibodies with respect to HIV, HC, and Treponema pallidum.
   Detection of viral and bacterial antigens (Legionella and Pneumococcus) by immunochromatographic and immunofluorescence methods, also using automated systems (Influenza A/B, SARS-CoV-2, RSV).
e) Performs virological molecular diagnostics using ultra-sensitive methods for the detection and quantification from viral nucleic acids of viruses such as HIV, HBV, and HCV. These methodologies make it possible to verify the effectiveness of therapies aimed at suppressing viral replication and to highlight virological failure early, preventing the emergence of drug-resistant strains. They also prove to be essential to verify the success of prophylactic therapies aimed at preventing the reactivation of latent viruses such as cytomegalovirus (CMV) in transplanted patients.
f) Performs genotyping tests for the identification of viral strains and resistance gene detection with sequencing methods such as Sanger or Next Generation Sequencing (NGS) to monitor therapy monitoring in HBV, HCV, HIV and CMV infection, supporting the physician in choosing the most appropriate antiviral therapy in the short and long term, with clinical-therapeutic advantages, cost reduction for both therapeutic appropriateness and hospitalisation time.
g) Performs virological diagnostics that also address the search for the main viral agents responsible for central nervous system infections, such as herpes viruses, enteroviruses, and JC viruses. It investigates viral agents responsible for respiratory and gastrontestinal diseases by using the latest generation of real-time multiplex PCR and performs research and typing of viruses associated with Papillomavirus (HPV) skin and mucosal viral infections. When monitoring transplanted patients, in addition to quantifying the viral load for CMV, it also searches for the possible presence of other viruses such as Epstain-Barr virus, polyomavirus BK, and HHV6. The search for emerging viruses such as West Nile and Dengue is also carried out.
h) Provides constant adjustment of organisational models, transferring to clinical practise the most up-to-date experience and expertise, aimed at the use of resources according to criteria of effectiveness, efficiency, and economy. Promotes and verifies the application of protocols and guidelines, including those related to innovative therapies. Collaborates in the implementation of training courses. Develops specific projects in the field of research.

From July 2015 to now, he is the **Laboratory Manager of Biosafety Level 3 (BL-3)** within the UC of Laboratory Medicine. In collaboration with the protection and prevention service, he organises and draughts all safety procedures and specialised training courses for operators. In the laboratory, all respiratory specimens (sputum, bronchoaspirate, and broncholavage) from the departments of Infectious Diseases and Pneumology for which Mycobacterium tuberculosis culture is required are processed. Isolations are performed on both solid and liquid mediums, and on liquid medium cultures that test positive, antibiograms for first and second-level drugs are performed.

From March 2020 to date, he has been the Referent of the COVID-19 Laboratory for SARS-CoV-2 Virus Research at the "Policlinico Tor Vergata" Foundation. The laboratory was among the first authorised by the Lazio Region to perform a molecular diagnosis on clinical respiratory samples, according to specific protocols of real-time PCR protocols for SARS-CoV-2 (Prot. no. 0011715-03/04/2020 Ministry of Health). The Laboratory belongs to the CoroNET network of the Lazio Region, which has the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, IRCCS "Lazzaro Spallanzani" as coordinator.

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TEACHING ACTIVITIES

Director of the School of Specialisation in Microbiology and Virology,
President of the Biomedical Laboratory Techniques within the Health Professions Degree Courses of the University of Rome Tor Vergata (Decree no. 2092/2018).
Coordinator of the first year of the Degree Course in Orthoptics and Ophthalmic Care for the three-year period 2011-14.
Professor at the Degree Course in Medicine, Dentistry and Dental Prosthetics, and Health Professions since Academic 1997/98, also holding the position of Integrated Course Coordinator.

Member of the Academic Board of various Ph.D.s and specifically in Laboratory Medicine; Medical Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine; Medical Microbiology, Immunology, and Infectious Diseases; Medical Microbiology, Immunology, Infectious Diseases, Organ Transplantation and Related Pathologies; and currently he is a lecturer of the doctoral course in Microbiology, Immunology, Infectious Diseases, Transplantation (MIMIT) at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH AND LEARNING EXPERIENCES

Since 2005, he has been a professor at **the Università Nostra Signora del Buon Consiglio di Tirana (Albany)** as part of the Collaboration Project between this University and the University of Rome Tor Vergata for the Integrated Course of Microbiology, in the Course of Microbiology and Hygiene (Degree Course in Dentistry and Dental Prosthetics); of the Integrated Course of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, (Degree Course in Nursing Science); Integrated Course of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, C. I. "General Pathology and Microbiology (Bachelor of Science in Physiotherapy).

1994-1998. He collaborated, as an Italian Cooperating Expert, in the **scientific training activities carried out by the Consortium for the Development of Tropical Medicine** (CMT), within the framework of the cooperation project 'Strengthening the Medical Research Institute of the University of Alexandria, Egypt', funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, for the execution of research projects related to the "Study of changes in the T helper of the type 1 and 2 immunological response during Schistosoma mansonii infection in mice' and for the training of young Egyptian researchers.

RESEARCH LINES

The scientific activity of Prof. Sandro Grelli has involved several lines of research over the years, mainly focused on aspects of the host response to infection and the relationship between basic research and the clinical and diagnostic implications of these aspects.

Studies related to SARS-CoV-2 infection and COVID-19 disease.

Following the pandemic emergency caused by SARS-CoV-2 infection, Prof. Sandro Grelli was involved in the management of laboratory care activities as head of diagnostics for SARS-CoV-2 at Tor Vergata Polyclinic. Since then, in collaboration with clinical colleagues and researchers in microbiology and clinical microbiology of the University Department of Experimental Medicine, he has also conducted and participated in several clinical and basic research studies concerning:
Evaluation of assays for the analysis of emerging respiratory viruses and virological monitoring during SARS-CoV-2 infection.
Evaluation of immunological monitoring during SARS-CoV-2 infection
Genomic analysis studies to assess host susceptibility and clinical response

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Study of the involvement of human endogenous retroviruses (HERVs) in SARS-CoV-2 infection

Study of the role of apoptotic cell death in the etiopathogenesis and therapy of human retrovirus infections such as HTLV-1 and HIV

Development of labels for apoptosis analysis in flow cytometry

Role of apoptosis and cellular phenotypes in acquired immunodeficiency virus (HIV) infection

Study of apoptosis and antiviral compounds in HTLV-1 human retrovirus infection.

Development of new tests for human retroviruses, with possible application use in research and diagnostics.

Analysis of the transcriptional activity of endogenous retroviruses as markers associated with the HIV reservoir and their correlation with the viro-immunologic and clinical response in virologically suppressed patients

Immunomodulatory role of the thymic hormone Thymosin α1 (Tα1) and prostaglandin E2 in infectious and cancer processes

Studies on the Immunomodulatory Role in Oncology and Infectious Deseases

Drug repositioning computational analysis study

Studies on the role of the immunomodulatory activity of prostaglandin E2 (PGE2)

Studies on apoptosis and other innate defence mechanisms in other infections and complex pathologies associates such as herpes virus infection, hepatitis virus infection, Schistosoma mansoni infection, Helicobacter pylori infection

Proapoptotic and antiproliferative effects of newly synthesised compounds and natural compounds

Role of endogenous retroviruses in neurodevelopmental disorders and cancer

SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION IN RESEARCH PROJECTS

The research activities were carried out in collaboration with numerous research groups and Italian and foreign institutions, including, in particular, the groups led by: Prof. Antonio Mastino at the University of Messina; Prof. Beatrice Macchi, University of Rome Tor Vergata; Dr. Stefano Vella, Higher Institute of Health; Prof. Allan L. Goldstein, of the George Washington University School of Medicine. The activity carried out is documented by numerous scientific publications and by the participation in numerous national and international congresses where he was also a speaker.

The activity was carried out mainly as members of an operational research unit and in some cases as manager, in the context of numerous research programmes to which funding was granted by the Ministry of University and Research (in the past, by the Ministries that managed its responsibilities), by the National Research Council, by the Ministry of Health, by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, by Foundations and Research Institutes.

SCIENTIFIC PUBLICATIONS (last 5 years)

The research experience of Prof. Sandro Grelli is documented by 109 scientific papers published in full in national and international journals and more than 250 extracts from conference proceedings in Italy and abroad.

1. Fanelli M, Petrone V, Maracchioni C, Chirico R, Cipriani C, Coppola L, Malagnino V, Teti E, Sorace C, Zordan M, Vitale P, Iannetta M, Balestrieri E, Rasi G, **Grelli S**, Malergue F, Sarmati L, Minutolo A, Matteucci C. Persistence of circulating CD169+monocytes and HLA-DR downregulation underline the immune response impairment in PASC individuals: the potential contribution of different COVID-19 pandemic waves. Curr Res Microb Sci. 2023 Dec 12;6:100215. doi: 10.1016/j.crmicr.2023.100215. eCollection 2024.

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3. Balestrieri E, Corinaldesi E, Fabi M, Cipriani C, Giudice M, Conti A, Minutolo A, Petrone V, Fanelli M, Miele MT, Andreozzi L, Guida F, Filice E, Meli M, **Grelli S**, Rasi G, Toschi N, Torcetta F, Matteucci C, Lanari M, Sinibaldi-Vallebona P. Preliminary Evidence of the Differential Expression of Human Endogenous Retroviruses in Kawasaki Disease and SARS-CoV-2-Associated Multisystem Inflammatory Syndrome in Children. Int J Mol Sci. 2023 Oct 11;24(20):15086. doi: 10.3390/ijms242015086.
4. Marino-Merlo F, **Grelli S**, Mastino A, Lai M, Ferrari P, Nicolini A, Pistello M, Macchi B. Human T-Cell Leukemia Virus Type 1 Oncogenesis between Active Expression and Latency: A Possible Source for the Development of Therapeutic Targets.Int J Mol Sci. 2023 Sep 30;24(19):14807. doi: 10.3390/ijms241914807.
5. Minutolo A, Gismondi A, Chirico R, Di Marco G, Petrone V, Fanelli M, D'Agostino A, Canini A, **Grelli S**, Albanese L, Centritto M, Zabini F, Matteucci C, Meneguzzo F. Antioxidant Phytocomplexes Extracted from Pomegranate (Punica granatum L.) Using Hydrodynamic Cavitation Show Potential Anticancer Activity In Vitro. Antioxidants (Basel). 2023 Aug 4;12(8):1560. doi: 10.3390/antiox12081560.
6. Nicolai E, Sarubbi S, Pelagalli M, Basile V, Terrinoni A, Minieri M, Cennamo O, **Grelli S**, Bernardini S, Pieri M. Performance Evaluation of the New Chemiluminescence Immunoassay CL-1200i for HBV, HIV Panels. Diseases. 2023 Jun 8;11(2):83. doi: 10.3390/diseases11020083.
7. Piermatteo L, D'Anna S, Bertoli A, Bellocchi M, Carioti L, Fabeni L, Alkhatib M, Frazia S, Lichtner M, Mastroianni C, Sanctis G, Marignani M, Pasquazzi C, Iapadre N, Parruti G, Cappiello G, Vecchiet J, Malagnino V, **Grelli S**, Ceccherini-Silbertein F, Andreoni M, Sarmati L, Svicher V, Salpini R. Unexpected rise in the circulation of complex HBV variants enriched of HBsAg vaccine-escape mutations in HBV genotype-D: potential impact on HBsAg detection/quantification and vaccination strategies. Emerg Microbes Infect. 2023 Dec;12(1):2219347. doi: 10.1080/22221751.2023.2219347.
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9. Piermatteo L, D'Anna S, Bertoli A, Bellocchi M, Carioti L, Fabeni L, Alkhatib M, Frazia S, Lichtner M, Mastroianni C, Sanctis G, Marignani M, Pasquazzi C, Iapadre N, Parruti G, Cappiello G, Vecchiet J, Malagnino V, **Grelli S**, Ceccherini-Silbertein F, Andreoni M, Sarmati L, Svicher V, Salpini R. Unexpected rise in the circulation of complex HBV variants enriched of HBsAg vaccine-escape mutations in HBV genotype-D: potential impact on HBsAg detection/quantification and vaccination strategies. **2023 Emerg Microbes Infect.** Dec;12(1):2219347. doi: 10.1080/22221751.2023.2219347. PMID: 37288750; PMCID: PMC10251786. **IF: 13.2**
10. Petrone V, Fanelli M, Giudice M, Toschi N, Conti A, Maracchioni C, Ianetta M, Resta C, Cipriani C, Miele MT, Amati F, Andreoni M, Sarmati L, Rogliani P, Novelli G, Garaci E, Rasi G, Sinibaldi Vallebona P, Minutolo A, Matteucci C, Balestrieri E, **Grelli S.** Expression Profile of HERVs And Inflammatory Mediators Detected In Nasal Mucosa As Predictive Biomarker of COVID-19 Severity. **2023 Front**

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12. Favaro M, Zampini P, Pistoia ES, Gaziano R, **Grelli S**, Fontana C. Rapid System to Detect Variants of SARS-CoV-2 in Nasopharyngeal Swabs. **2023 Viruses.** Jan 26;15(2):353. doi: 10.3390/v15020353. PMID: 36851567; PMCID: PMC9966895. **IF: 4.7**
13. Marino-Merlo F, Klett A, Papaianni E, Drago SFA, Macchi B, Rincón MG, Andreola F, Serafino A, **Grelli S**, Mastino A, Borner C. Caspase-8 is required for HSV-1-induced apoptosis and promotes effective viral particle release via autophagy inhibition. **2023 Cell Death Differ**. Apr:30(4),885-896. doi: 10.1038/s41418-022-01084-y. PMID: 36418547. **IF:12.4**
14. Cipriani C, Giudice M, Petrone V, Fanelli M, Minutolo A, Miele MT, Toschi N, Maracchioni C, Siracusano M, Benvenuto A, Coniglio A, Curatolo P, Mazzone L, **Grelli S**, Garaci E, Sinibaldi-Vallebona P, Matteucci C, Balestrieri E. Modulation of human endogenous retroviruses and cytokines expression in peripheral blood mononuclear cells from autistic children and their parents. **2022 Retrovirology.** Nov 30;19(1):26. doi: 10.1186/s12977-022-00603-6. PMID: 36451209; PMCID: PMC9709758. Citato 1 volta. **IF: 3.3**
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16. Fanelli M, Petrone V, Buonifacio M, Delibato E, Balestrieri E, **Grelli S**, Minutolo A, Matteucci C. Multidistrict Host-Pathogen Interaction during COVID-19 and the Development Post-Infection Chronic Inflammation. **2022 Pathogens.** Oct 18;11(10):1198. doi: 10.3390/pathogens11101198. PMID: 36297256; PMCID: PMC9607297. Citato da 2. **IF: 3.7**
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21. Costanza G, Paba P, Ciotti M, Ombres D, Di Carlo S, Marcuccilli F, Bertoli A, Di Traglia L, Mozzani M, Piredda L, Petrone V, Fanelli M, Paganelli C, Cortese B, Balestrieri E, Bernardini S, Andreoni M, Matteucci C, Minutolo A, **Grelli S**. Infection Rate of Respiratory Viruses in the Pandemic SARS-CoV-2 Period Considering Symptomatic Patients: Two Years of Ongoing Observations. **2022 Biomolecules.** Jul 15;12(7):987. doi: 10.3390/biom12070987. PMID: 35883543; PMCID: PMC9313449. Citato da 2. **IF: 5.5**
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