

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Name: Claudia La Rocca, PhD

Position/Title: Postdoctoral research fellow

Education

Institution and Location	Degree	Year Conferred	Field of Study
Liceo scientifico Salvatore Di Giacomo” Scientific High School” (NA-Italy).	Baccalaureate	2004	
Biology Degree, " <i>summa cum laude</i> ", Università di Napoli “Federico II”, Napoli, Italy.	Bachelor Degree	2009	Immunology
PhD program in " Molecular Pathology and Physiopathology”, Università di Napoli “Federico II”, Napoli, Italy.	PhD	2011-2014	Molecular Pathology and Physiopathology
Postdoctoral research fellow, in research program “ERC GRANT n. 310496- menTORingTregs” at the laboratory of Immunology, Istituto di Endocrinologia e Oncologia Sperimentale (IEOS-CNR), Napoli, Italy.	PhD research fellow	2014-present	Immunology

Research and Professional Experience**Positions and Employment**

2009	Degree in "General biology and applied", <i>summa cum laude</i> , defending her thesis in Immunology. Supervisor: Prof. Giuseppe Matarese.
2011-2014	PhD in Molecular Pathology and Physiopathology, Department of Cellular and Molecular Biology and Pathology of “Federico II” University of Napoli, Italy, defending the thesis: ” <i>In vivo effects of metreleptin treatment on immune system of females with acquired hypoleptinemia</i> ”. Supervisor: Prof. Giuseppe Matarese.
2014-present	Postdoctoral research fellow, in research program “ERC GRANT n. 310496-menTORingTregs” at the laboratory of Immunology, Istituto di Endocrinologia e Oncologia Sperimentale (IEOS-CNR), Napoli, Italy.

Research Experience

2011-2014	PhD-Program under the supervision of Prof. Giuseppe Matarese. In that period Dr. La Rocca focused her attention on the role of leptin in the modulation of immune response. More specifically, she investigated the role of recombinant-human leptin in women affected by acquired hypoleptinemia. She collaborated for this project with Prof. Mantzoros from Harvard University, USA.
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2014-2015 Postdoctoral research fellow at the laboratory of Immunology in the Istituto di Endocrinologia e Oncologia Sperimentale (IEOS-CNR) Napoli, under the supervision of Prof. Giuseppe Matarese. In this period, Dr. La Rocca is focusing her attention on the effects of metabolism on immune system in autoimmune diseases, such as multiple sclerosis. In particular, she studies the metabolism of patients with multiple sclerosis compared to healthy controls and the effects of a common therapy for this disorder, that is the interferon-beta 1a treatment, on immunometabolism. She focuses her attention also on the role of nutritional status and metabolism on susceptibility to *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* (Mtb). In this project, she studies whether nutritional status and leptin are able to affect susceptibility to Mtb in mice, using two different strains of mice: DBA/2 mice, a strain susceptible to infection versus resistant C57BL/6.

Professional Memberships:

- Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (SIICA).
- Superior School of Immunology “Ruggero Ceppellini”, directed by Prof. Serafino Zappacosta and by Dr. Silvia Fontana.
- Italian Association of NeuroImmunology (AINI).

Honors and Awards

- Winner of a PhD fellowship in Molecular Pathology and Physiopathology at the University of Naples “Federico II”, Naples, Italy.
- Winner of the best abstract for the study of metabolic profile of RRMS patients (XXIV AINI Congress 2014).

Meetings

- Advanced courses of Immunology, organized by School Superiore of Immunology “R.Cappellini” (Sorrento, settembre 2009).
- Course of BD FACSCanto II (Milano, marzo 2010).
- 14th multiple sclerosis lab retreat. (Lucignano, 18-21 gennaio 2012).
- Advisory Board dal titolo "Implantation"; Merck-Serono. (Baronissi-SA 23 luglio 2012).
- Advisory board “Ovarian sensitivity to Controlled Ovarian Stimulation (COS) according to patient genetic and immunological profile”; Merck-Serono. (Roma 15 novembre 2012).
- Advanced courses of Immunology, organized by School Superiore of Immunology “R.Cappellini” (Sorrento 2012).
- Seahorse XF Training. (Copenhagen 2013).
- 15th multiple sclerosis lab retreat. (Sinalunga, 30-01/02-02-2013).
- XVII Convention Scientifica Telethon. (Riva del Garda, marzo 2013).
- XLIV (Società Italiana di Neurologia)-SIN. (Milano, novembre 2013).
- 16th multiple sclerosis lab retreat. (Sinalunga, 2014).
- The BD Horizon Tour, New insights for multicolor panel design. CEINGE, Naples, Italy. Chairman: Prof. Luigi Del Vecchio. 2014.
- 17th multiple sclerosis lab retreat. (Sinalunga, 2015).
- XXIV AINI Congress 2014.

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- Course of cytometry of circulating endothelial cells. Pol University of biomedical campus, (Rome- Italy 2015).