



Vladia Monsurro

Date of birth: 03/07/1973 | **Nationality:** Italian | **Sex:** Female | **Phone:**

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● ABOUT MYSELF

Immunology & Translational Medicine Expert Project management | Cancer Vaccines R&D | Scientific Communication | Innovation Expert PhD in Experimental Medicine and Resident in Clinical Pathology offering experience of more than 25 years in biomedical sciences, innovation, and translational R&D at international level. Graduated with merit in MBA program, with 5 years experience in administrative positions in European Institutions, is able to plan and oversee projects from concept to successful conclusion with an analytical approach, conceptualization as well as a strategic vision. From 2014 until 2018 served as Seconded National Expert at the European Research Council, managing Horizon2020 research funding. From 2020 until 2022 served as Seconded National Expert at the DG Research and Innovation, managing the ERC and the scientific opinions of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors. Highly motivated, positive, goal-oriented, flexible, creative, and problem solver, with strong interpersonal communications and diplomatic skills. Multilingual with high proficiency in English and Italian and a good level of French, able to build and lead effective international teams and work collaboratively with others from different educational and cultural backgrounds.

● WORK EXPERIENCE

03/2020 – 02/2022 Bruxelles, Belgium

SECONDED NATIONAL EXPERT DG RESEARCH AND INNOVATION

I have been leader for the joint "[Statement on scientific advice to European policy makers during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)", coordinating a collaboration among the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors, prof Peter Piot (Special Advisor for the President van der Leyen on COVID-19), and the Group EGE (European Group on Ethics in Science and New Technologies, advisory for the President van der Leyen). I have been part of the team that produced, with the same group of advisors, the joint [Opinion on Improving pandemic preparedness and management](#) (Nov 2020).

I have been part of the secretariat of the Group of Chief Scientific Advisors.

I have been working on the preparation of the opinion "[European Adaptation Strategies to climate change and health](#)" (June 2020) and [Cancer Screening in the European Union](#) (March 2022). I have been the content manager and coordinator for the R&I days 2020 open section: "Scientific Advice to inform policymaking, balancing speed with certainty on emerging policy challenges" (September 2020)

I was involved in the ERC program management.

31/05/2014 – 30/05/2018 Bruxelles, Belgium

SECONDED NATIONAL EXPERT EUROPEAN RESEARCH COUNCIL EXECUTIVE AGENCY (ERCEA)

Managing grants from the panels: LS1 Molecular and Structural Biology and Biochemistry, LS2 Genetics, Genomics, Bioinformatics and System Biology, LS3 Cell and Developmental Biology, LS6 Immunity and Infection, LS7 Diagnostic Tools, Therapies and Public Health. The total ERC program budget (17 billion Euro). Total budget for the call I coordinated: approximately 100 million Euro. Project financed in the call I was involved: approximately 50. Number of projects I was responsible for the scientific follow-up: approximately 35 each year for a total budget of about 70 million Euro. In details:

- Coordinate and supervise the evaluation of research proposals, ensure a fair evaluation process and guarantee its quality
- Ensure the scientific monitoring of the results of financed ERC projects
- Coordinated, for the panel LS6, the collection and analysis of data regarding the results of ERC projects for an ex-post impact assessment of the ERC programme (science after the project exercise)
- Support for the Scientific Council in the identification of panel members and independent experts for the scientific areas covered by the panel LS6 "Immunity and Infection"
- Member of the committee for the Proof of Concept programme: assess the scientific eligibility of the submitted projects and evaluate the scientific final reports
- Contribute to networking aspects of the programme and its projects
- Disseminate ERCEA activities by presenting the programme in key scientific events
- Provide scientific consultancy for communication matters

- Provide scientific consultancy for plagiarism matters
- Spot and communicate important projects with policy implications

31/12/2005 – CURRENT Verona, Italy

RESEARCHER/ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF IMMUNOLOGY DEPARTMENT OF MEDICINE, UNIVERSITY OF VERONA MEDICAL SCHOOL C/O POLICLINICO G.B. ROSSI

Research Responsibilities:

I coordinated a research group from 2006 until 2014, managing grants from private and public sectors. I was responsible for grants preparation and submission, for the scientific and financial project management of the projects and the dissemination of results.

We specialized in immune monitoring of adaptive therapy trials using molecular biology techniques as well as the study of the functionality of CD8 lymphocytes mostly by microarray analysis and citofluorimetric assays. My group is also working on the molecular identification of the mechanisms that confer to some cancer cells an endogenous interferon signature that confers resistance to oncolytic viral therapies.

Once the mechanism will be explained, our aim will be the design of combinatory therapies to potentiate the effect of those novel anticancer agents. I have authored 42 publications in peer-reviewed journals as well as two book chapters. I served as invited editor

for Journal of Clinical Trials and as an editor for Blood Research and for Frontiers in Immunology. In 2008 I was for 3 months Guest Researcher at the National Institutes of Health.

Didactic Responsibilities:

My main didactic responsibilities are the coordination of dissertations of PhD and under-graduated students. I coordinated an elective course

in translational medicine and the immunology course for the residency of anatomo-pathologists. I'm delivering frontal lectures as well as tutoring small student groups when needed and I'm part of the examination committee for the immunology course in medical school.

Official tasks:

- From September 2024: professor of Immunology and Immunopathology courses at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Trento
- Assistant professor of Immunology, Medical School (2006-2011)
- Adjunct professor of Immunology in course for biotechnology students, Faculty of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Science, University of Verona (2006-2007)
- Tutor for residency courses: "Cytofluorimetric basis and diagnostic applications" (2013-2014)
- Organizer and lecturer of the elective course in Translational Medicine
- Tutor for second level Master Degree in Bioinformatics and Molecular Epidemiology of Infectious Disease (2013)
- Faculty board member for the PhD in translational medicine (from 20-12-2006 to 02-09-2013)
- Faculty board member for the PhD in inflammation immunity and cancer, (2013-2020)

Dissertation supervised:

- MSC dissertation Alberto Ceccon Title: Effetti del preconditionamento con fattori solubili di linfociti CD8 circolanti;
- Master dissertation: Francesca DelVecchio Title: Dendritic Cells and Polyphenols in
- Inflammatory Disease;
- PhD dissertation Enrico Morello Title: INF-gamma induced by PHA stimulation as a new marker for GvHD prediction in patients undergoing allogeneic hematopoietic stem cell transplantation (alloHSCT);
- PhD dissertation Silvia Coin Title: Pancreatic cancer Immunotherapy: search for new tumor antigens;
- PhD dissertation Sijetlana Raus Title: Reversion of Anti-viral status in Human Tumors.

31/12/2011 – 30/05/2014 Verona, Italy

EXTERNAL REVIEWER ITALIAN MINISTRY OF UNIVERSITY AND RESEARCH

Selected as external reviewer for:

- VQR (Valutazione Qualita' della Ricerca-Evaluation of Research Quality. Main activities: scientific papers evaluation from researchers of other Italian Universities with the aim of ranking the Universities.
- ANVUR (Agenzia Nazionale di Valutazione del Sistema Universitario e della Ricerca-National Agency for University system and Research evaluation). Main activities: scientific GRANT evaluation in the framework of the Italian Ministry of University calls with the aim of financing the best submitted projects.

30/04/2004 – 31/12/2005 San Diego, CA, United States

RESEARCH SCIENTIST/DIRECTOR IMMUNE CELL BIOLOGY UNIT COSMO BIOSCIENCE

While at COSMO bioscience I was working in the development of an innovative prostate cancer therapy based on gene therapy.

Under an Immunoglobulin promoter, two antigens were cloned. The construct was transduced in the patient's immune cells in order to stimulate the cells to produce an increased amount of the two specific antigens.

The product was in late phase I and we were preparing in parallel the starting of phase II.

30/04/1999 – 29/04/2004 Bethesda, MD, United States

VISITING FELLOW NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

I joined the National Institutes of Health, Bethesda, USA, as a visiting fellow to work in the field of peptide-based melanoma vaccines.

During my 5 years in the group of dr Marincola, I was responsible for the immune monitoring of melanoma patients treated with a peptide-based vaccine. I did an in deep characterization of the tumor-specific CD8 that were generated by the peptide base vaccine and I discovered they kept a quiescent status easily reversible in vitro by adding IL2.

We did genetic analysis and comparison of those cells with the most effective antigen-specific cells deriving from a different autoimmune model in order to understand the dysfunction and explain the paradoxical coexistence of tumor and tumor-specific CD8 lymphocytes in the treated patients. While in NIH I was responsible as well for the production of the MHC-Tetrameric molecule (before they were commercially available). I learned how to master molecular biology techniques as Western Blot, Microarray printing validation, and analysis, RT-PCR, silencing of transcription factors with SH molecules.

● **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

2011 – 2014 Leicester, United Kingdom

MASTER BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION WITH MERIT Leicester University Business School

Thesis: The use of research-based knowledge in the decision-making process of policy-makers in the European Commission: a scientific advisor perspective.

Level in EQF EQF level 7

2006 – 2011 Ancona, Italy

CLINICAL PATHOLOGY SPECIALIST CUM LAUDE Università Politecnica delle Marche Medical School

Thesis: Espressione di geni associati agli interferoni nelle cellule tumorali e la ricaduta sulle terapie oncolitiche.

Level in EQF EQF level 7

2003 – 2006 Chieti, Italy

PHD IN EXPERIMENTAL MEDICINE (MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO) University of Chieti and Pescara Medical School

Thesis: Immunomonitoring of cancer vaccines: in deep phenotype of tumor-specific CD8+ T cells following immunization.

Level in EQF EQF level 8

1996 – 1997

BIOLOGIST QUALIFICATION Italian Board examination

Mark 150/150.

Level in EQF EQF level 6

1996 – 1997 Ancona, Italy

INTERNSHIP FOR BOARD EXAMINATION: University of Ancona

- Laboratory of microbiology and genetic, Dip. Agro-industrial biotechnologies (DIBIAGA), University of Ancona, Faculty of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Science, Italy
- Institute of Human Anatomy and Morphology, University of Ancona Medical School, Italy
- Clinical and Medical Oncology, University of Ancona Medical School, Italy)

1991 – 1996

MASTER DEGREE IN BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES CUM LAUDE University of Ancona, Faculty of Mathematical, Physical and Natural Sciences

Level in EQF EQF level 7

Level in EQF EQF level 3

LANGUAGE SKILLSMother tongue(s): **ITALIAN**

Other language(s):

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken production	Spoken interaction	
ENGLISH	C2	C2	C2	C2	C1
FRENCH	B2	C1	B2	B1	B1

*Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user***PUBLICATIONS****Publications**

Scopus total citations 1972

Scopus h-index 25

Number of peer-reviewed papers: 47

Most significant:

1. Verna G, et al. Deletion of TNF in Winnie-APCMin/+ Mice Reveals Its Dual Role in the Onset and Progression of Colitis-Associated Colorectal Cancer. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2022 Dec 2;23(23):15145. doi: 10.3390/ijms232315145.
2. Giuliani A, et al. F. Circulating miR-320b and miR-483-5p levels are associated with COVID-19 in-hospital mortality. *Mech Ageing Dev.* 2022 Mar;202:111636. doi: 10.1016/j.mad.2022.111636.
3. Mensà E, et al. Small extracellular vesicles deliver miR-21 and miR-217 as pro-senescence effectors to endothelial cells. *J Extracell Vesicles.* 2020 Feb 18;9(1):1725285. doi: 10.1080/20013078.2020.1725285.
4. Delvecchio FR, et al. Polyphenol administration impairs T-cell proliferation by imprinting a distinct dendritic cell maturation profile. *Eur J Immunol.* 2015 Sep;45(9):2638-49. doi: 10.1002/eji.201545679.
5. Raus S, Coin S, Monsurrò V. Adenovirus as a new agent for multiple myeloma therapies: opportunities and restrictions. *Korean J Hematol.* 2011 Dec; 46(4): 229 - 38.
6. Monsurrò V, Marincola FM. Microarray analysis for a comprehensive immunological-status evaluation during cancer vaccine immune monitoring. *J Biomed Biotechnol.* 2011;2011:307297. Epub 2011 Sep 29. PubMed PMID: 21969803; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC3182572.
7. Liikanen I, Monsurrò V, et al. Induction of interferon pathways mediates in vivo resistance to oncolytic adenovirus. *Mol Ther.* 2011 Oct;19(10):1858-66. doi:10.1038/mt.2011.144. Epub 2011 Jul 26. PubMed PMID: 21792178.
8. Monsurrò V. Freedom to choose a cure: how safe is a deadly cancer? *Korean J Hematol.* 2010 Sep;45(3):145-6. Epub 2010 Sep 30. PubMed PMID: 21120198; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2983042.
9. Monsurrò V, et al. Anti-viral state segregates two molecular phenotypes of pancreatic adenocarcinoma: potential relevance for adenoviral gene therapy. *J Transl Med.* 2010 Jan 29;8:10. PubMed PMID: 20113473; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2845551.
10. Monsurrò V, Marincola FM. Gene profiling for the prediction of tumor response to treatment: the case of immunotherapy. *Adv Exp Med Biol.* 2007;593:86-94. Review. PubMed PMID: 17265719.
11. Monsurrò V, et al. Quiescent phenotype of tumor-specific CD8+ T cells following immunization. *Blood.* 2004 Oct 1;104(7):1970-8. Epub 2004 Jun 8. PubMed PMID: 15187028.
12. Monsurrò V, et al. Active-specific immunization against melanoma: is the problem at the receiving end? *Semin Cancer Biol.* 2003 Dec;13(6):473-80. Review. PubMed PMID: 15001166.
13. Monsurrò V, et al. Functional heterogeneity of vaccine-induced CD8(+) T cells. *J Immunol.* 2002 Jun 1;168(11): 5933- 42. PubMed PMID: 12023400; PubMed Central PMCID: PMC2553240.
14. Monsurrò V, et al. Kinetics of TCR use in response to repeated epitope-specific immunization. *J Immunol.* 2001 May 1;166(9):5817-25. PubMed PMID: 11313426.
15. Nielsen MB, Monsurrò V, et al. Status of activation of circulating vaccine-elicited CD8+ T cells. *J Immunol.* 2000 Aug 15;165(4):2287-96. PubMed PMID: 10925318.

● HONOURS AND AWARDS

Honours and awards

- Selected as **Scientific Attaché for the Embassy of Italy in Ankara** (assignment **starting in 2025**)
- **O1 VISA for "extraordinary ability in science"** USA government, from 05-05-2004 to 05-02-2007
- **NIH, CC/DTM postdoctoral Fogarty Fellowship Award**, 1999-2002
- **Extension as "outstanding US government-funded researcher exchange visitor" at National Institutes of Health**, Clinical Center, Department of Transfusion Medicine, Bethesda, MD, USA, dal 01-06-2001 al 05-05-2004
- Selected on a competitive base as **Seconded National Expert** at **European Research Council Executive Agency**, Bruxelles, Belgium, from 01-06-2014 until 30-05-2018
- Selected on a competitive base as **Seconded National Expert** at **DG-RTD**, Bruxelles, Belgium, from 01-03-2020 until 28-02-2021
- Shortlisted by the Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale for the position of Scientific Attache' for the Consolato Generale in San Francisco (22/09/2018)
- National Scientific Qualification (ASN) as Full Professor of the scientific sector: 06A2 General Pathology and Clinical Pathology
- National Scientific Qualification (ASN) as assistant professor of the scientific sector: 06A2 General Pathology and Clinical Pathology (until 09/09/2028)
- National Scientific Qualification (ASN) as assistant professor of the scientific sector: 06N1 Science of Health Professions and of Applied Medical Technologies (until 06/09/2028)
- National Scientific Qualification (ASN) as assistant professor of the scientific sector: 05E2 Molecular Biology (until 11/09/2028)
- National Scientific Qualification (ASN) as assistant professor of the scientific sector: 05F1 Applied Biology (until 04/04/2026)
- MBA (Master in Business Administration) with merit, 15-07-2015
- Residency in clinical pathology with distinction, 19-09-2012
- PhD in Biological Science Cum Laude, highest honor, 1997
- Press release about the results of my research at the annual meeting of the iSBTC (international Society Biological Therapy of cancer), 2002
- Award-winner from La Roche on "molecular oncology", 1999
- Telethon postdoctoral fellowship Immunology laboratory directed by prof. Malavasi, Molinette Hospital, Torino, Italy (Jan-Apr), 1999
- The federal government of Italy/University of Ancona's Scholarship for excellence in study, 1995-1996-1997

● FRONTIERS IN IMMUNOLOGY

Frontiers in Immunology

Editorial Board Member from 2017

● BLOOD RESEARCH

Blood Research

Editorial Board Member from 2009

● JOURNAL OF CLINICAL TRIALS

Journal of Clinical Trials

Guest Editor 22-05-2012

● INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY BIOLOGICAL THERAPY OF CANCER (ISBTC NOW SITC)

International Society Biological Therapy of Cancer (iSBTC now SITC)

Member from 2002 and Public Relations, Publications and Communications Committee (PRPC) Member from 2008 to 2011

● SOCIETA' ITALIANA DI MEDICINA DI LABORATORIO (SIMEL)

Societa' Italiana di Medicina di Laboratorio (SIMeL)

Member of the "Oncologic Markers" committee from 2010

● GRANTS MANAGED

GRANTS MANAGED

As Scientist:

- 2006-2008 Banco Popolare di Verona-S.Geminiano e S.Prospiero. PI per lo studio "Preclinical Studies to optimize peptide based vaccines for Pancreas Cancer" scientific coordinator (45000 euro-3 anni);
- 2008-2011 Italian Ministry of Health. "Administration of donors' CIK cells in patients with hematological malignancies relapsed after allogenic transplantation", Coordinator of Scientific Unit (390000 Euro total, 80000 to the unit I was coordinating);
- 2008-2013 Fondazione Cariverona. "Applicazioni cliniche di IMMUNOTERAPIA adottiva antivirale/antimicotica in pazienti sottoposti a trapianto ALLOGENICO di cellule staminali emopoietiche e monitoraggio ex-vivo dell'attività antivirale/anti-micotica linfocitaria", Coordinator of Scientific Unit (120.000 Euro);
- 2008-2011 Fondazione Cariverona. "Role of the microenvironment in the "escape" from immune surveillance and in the regulation of tumor growth. Study of mechanisms affecting the response to immunotherapy" Participant (120.000 Euro);
- 2008-2016 Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC). "An integrated approach to chronic lymphoproliferative disorders: B- CLL and virus-related neoplasia" Participant (1.850.000 Euro total grant);
- 2008-2016 Associazione Italiana Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC). "Tumor microenvironment and tumor spread in gastrointestinal cancers" Participant (900.000 Euro total grant);
- 2005-2014 University funds on competitive base (42400 Euro);
- 2007 Bando cooperint 2007 "Rilevanza nello sviluppo di vaccini antitumorali del precondizionamento dei linfociti T citotossici", I received a contribution of 5000 Euro in order to continue the project for 3 months in USA at the National Institutes of Health (in collaboration with John Hopkins University).

● BOOK CHAPTERS

Book Chapters

- **Vladia Monsurrò**, Francesco M Marincola (2007). Gene profiling for the prediction of Tumor Response to treatment:The case of Immunotherapy". In: -. MICROARRAY TECHNOLOGY AND CANCER GENE PROFILING. p. 86-94, Landes Bioscience and Springer, ISBN: 9780387399775
- Dirk Nnagorsen, **Vladia Monsurrò**, Francesco M Marincola (2008). Characterization of tumor-directed cellular immune responses in humans. In: -. Selected Aspects of Cancer Progression: Metastasis, Apoptosis and ImmuneResponse, Cancer Growth and Progression. vol. 11, p. 157-167, SPRINGER, ISBN:9781402067280, doi: 10.1007/978-1-4020-6729-7_10

● POSTER PRESENTATION

CURRENT

Poster Presentation in International Meetings

- Poster presentation. Annual Meeting American Association of Immunologists Modulation of vaccine-specific T-cell frequency and TCR repertoire during epitope-based vaccination. Author(s): Monsurro, V et al. FM FASEB JOURNAL Volume: 14 Issue: 6 Pages: A1139-A1139 Supplement: S Published: APR 20 2000 Accession Number: WOS:000086643101335 ISSN: 0892-6638, dal 20-04-2000 al 20-04-2000;
- Poster presentation. Federation of Clinical Immunology Societies (FOCIS) 2nd Annual Meeting: Sponsored by the Clinical Immunology Society and The Clinical Immunology Committee of the International Union of Immunological Societies. Functional heterogeneity of vaccine-induced CD8+T cell subsets. Author(s): Monsurro, V; Rosenberg, S; Marincola, F CLINICAL IMMUNOLOGY Meeting Abstract: 296 Volume: 103 Issue: 3 Pages: S97-S98 Supplement: S Part: 2 Published: JUN 2002 Accession Number: WOS:000176439600297 ISSN: 1521-6616, dal 01-06- 2002 al 01-06-2002;
- Poster presentation. 18th Annual Scientific Meeting of the International-Society-for-Biological-Therapy- of-Cancer Conference Date: OCT 31-NOV 02, 2003 Conference Location: BETHESDA, MARYLAND Title: Quiescent phenotype of tumor-specific CD8+T cells following immunization Author(s): Monsurro, V, et al., JOURNAL OF IMMUNOTHERAPY Volume: 26 Issue: 6 Pages: S31-S31 Published: NOV-DEC 2003 WOS:000186191100099 ISSN: 1053-8550, from 31- 10-2003 to 02-11-2003;
- Poster presentation. Society for immunotherapy of cancer (iSBTc) 25th Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. Immune Performance Profile in Pancreatic Adenocarcinoma Patients Author(s): Coin, S; Malleo, G; Farronato, M; Brutti, N; Paolinelli, F; Bassi, C; Pederzoli, P; Monsurro, V JOURNAL OF IMMUNOTHERAPY Volume: 33 Issue: 8 Pages: 868- 869 Published: OCT 2010 Accession Number: WOS:000282131800041, from 01-10-2010 to 01-10- 2010;
- Poster presentation. Society for immunotherapy of cancer (iSBTc) 25th Annual Meeting Hyatt Regency Washington on Capitol Hill, Washington, D.C. Sub-cloning and Antiviral Phenotype Segregation in Pancreatic Cancer Cell Line Subpopulations Author(s): Paolinelli, F; Marzioni, D; Coin, S; Farronato, M; Lorenzi, T; Brutti, N; Innamorati, G; Castellucci, M; Monsurro, V JOURNAL OF IMMUNOTHERAPY Volume: 33 Issue: 8 Pages: 906-906

Published: OCT 2010 Accession Number: WOS:000282131800159 ISSN: 1524-9557, from 01-10-2010 to 01-10-2010;

- Poster presentation.15th ICI (International Congress of Immunology), 22–27 August 2013, Milano, Italia. Immune system modulation during cytokine-induced killer cells adoptive therapy in hematologic patients S. Coin; I. Cavattoni; V. Artusi; A. Pievani⁴; I. Pusceddu; E. Tagliafico; S. Cortelazzo; A. Rambaldi; M. Introna; V. Monsurro, from 22-08-2013 to 27-08-2013.