

EUROPEAN
CURRICULUM VITAE
FORMAT



PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name Francesca Ceccherini Silberstein
Address Via Bruxelles 53, Rome, 00198, Italy
Telephone number +39-0672596566 Mobile +39-3386719611
Scopus link <https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=55882691600>
Other link <https://orcid.org/0000-0002-6024-5101>
E-mail ceccherini@med.uniroma2.it
Nationality Italian
Date of birth 14.05.1969
Gender F **ORCID:**0000-0002-6024-5101 **Fiscal Code:** CCCFNC69E54H501C

PUBLICATIONS

Total number of publications in peer-review journals: **363** (296 as principal co-author, 67 as group collaborator)
Median Impact Factor (IF): **4.388**
Total number of citations: **9868** (Google Scholar)
H index: **49** (Google Scholar)

FIELD OF INTEREST

WORK EXPERIENCE

- Date *From 2024 to today*
 - Name/address employer University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy
 - Type of business or sector University
 - Occupation or position held Full Professor in the s.s.d MEDS-03/A (previous MED/07) Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, Department of Experimental Medicine, from 2 October 2024.
- Activities & responsibilities
 - Coordinator of the PhD Course in Microbiology, Immunology, Infectious Diseases, and Transplants (MIMIT) from 2019 to 2025.
 - Head of the Chair of Virology, Department of Experimental Medicine, Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, University of Rome "Tor Vergata" from 2017.
 - Research activity, supervision of undergraduates and PhD students, teaching activities.
 - She cooperates with many nationally and internationally recognized scientific researchers through several grants from the Italian National Institute of Health, Italian Ministry of Health, the Ministry of University and Scientific Research, Italian Medicines Agency, the European Community and Industrial Companies.
 - Coordination and promotion of research for the establishment of databases for the study of antiviral drug resistance, virological mechanisms that predict the response to antiviral therapy in chronic diseases particularly as HIV, HBV and HCV, and recently also of SARS-CoV-2 and HDV. Other interests and expertise are on antiviral drugs and strategies, HIV-HBV-HCV drug-resistance, viral pathogenesis, viral tropism, viral evolution and dynamics, genotypic (by Sanger sequencing and NGS), structural and functional analysis of viral proteins (in particular of HIV, HBV, HCV, and SARS-CoV-2); analysis of minority quasispecies of resistance by next generation sequencing (NGS).
- Date *From 2014 to 2024*
 - Name/address employer University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy
 - Type of business or sector University
 - Occupation or position held Associate Professor in the s.s.d MED/07 Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, Department of Experimental Medicine, from 2014, and Qualified as a Full Professor from 2016.
- Date *From 2008 to 2014*
 - Name/address employer University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy
 - Type of business or sector University
 - Occupation or position held Assistant Professor, Department of Experimental Medicine and Surgery, Confirmed on 1/10/2011
- Date *From 2005 to 2011*
 - Name/address employer University of L'Aquila, Italy

- Type of business or sector University
 - Occupation or position held Professor with contract of Virology at the Science Faculty
- Date *From 2000 to 2008*
 - Name/address employer University of Rome "Tor Vergata", Rome, Italy
 - Type of business or sector University
 - Occupation or position held Senior Scientist, Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Experimental Medicine
- Date *From 1996 to 2000*
 - Name/address employer Institute for Molecular Virology, GSF-National Research Center for Environment and Health, Munich, Germany
 - Type of business or sector Research Institution
 - Occupation or position held PhD student
- Date *From 1994 to 1996*
 - Name/address employer Italian National Institute of Health, Rome, Italy
 - Type of business or sector Research Institution
 - Occupation or position held Full-time research assistant in the Laboratory of Organ and System Pathophysiology

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- Date 2020
 - Name organisation training University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy
 - Title of qualification awarded Professional qualification as a Specialist Biologist
 - Classification 50
- Date 2019
 - Name organisation training University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy
 - Title of qualification awarded Degree with honours in Medical Biotechnology
 - Classification *110/110 cum Laude*
- Date 2001
 - Name organisation training University of Munich Ludwig-Maximilians, Munich, Germany
 - Title of qualification awarded PhD in Biology
 - Classification *(Magna cum Laude - Sehr gut – ottimo)*
- Date 1994
 - Name organisation training University of Rome La Sapienza, Rome Italy
 - Title of qualification awarded Degree with honours in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology
 - Classification *110/110 cum Laude*

PERSONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

MOTHER TONGUE

Italian

OTHER LANGUAGES

- Reading ability Excellent
 - Writing skills Excellent
 - Oral expression skills Excellent
- Reading ability flowing
 - Writing skills flowing
 - Oral expression skills flowing
- Reading ability little
 - Writing skills little
 - Oral expression skills good

SCIENTIFIC SKILLS AND COMPETENCES

Author of >500 scientific articles and abstracts of Conference presentations (including 363 full-length articles in international peer reviewed journals; 296 as principal co-author, 67 as group collaborator; > 150 abstracts of conferences published in "peer reviewed" journals (> 100 with Impact Factor).

Attended at numerous National and International Conferences presenting her work, with more than 80 Invited Lectures, >200 Oral Communications, and >250 Posters, as well as moderator of oral sessions, symposia or poster tours.

Her research interests and expertise are on viruses since 1996. Main interests: on HIV and viral hepatitis infection, antiviral drugs and innovative treatment strategies, drug-resistance, viral pathogenesis, viral reservoir, viral tropism, viral evolution and dynamics, genotypic (by Sanger and NGS), structural and functional analysis of viral proteins. Since the COVID-19 pandemics, her research is focused also in the

developing sensitive tests for accurate diagnosis and adequate monitoring of SARS-CoV-2 viral replication, in presence and/or absence of treatment, discovery of new drugs and research for the reuse of existing approved drugs for other clinical indications, study of pathogenesis, viral sequencing and evolution, genotypic, structural and functional analysis of SARS-CoV-2 viral proteins.

She actively collaborates in the establishment of important networks involving numerous clinical centers and many nationally and internationally recognized scientific researchers with vertical skills from virology to clinical, immunology, biochemistry, structural chemistry and bioinformatics and statistics, through grants from the Italian National Institute of Health, Ministry of Health, Ministry of University and Research, Italian Medicines Agency, the European Community, and pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies.

RELEVANT ROLES AND COMPETENCES

*Coordination and administration
of people, projects and budgets.*

Management-organizational skills

Scientific Director, Co-Founder and Vice-president of Fondazione VIRONET C ONLUS Italian Foundation of HCV Virology Italian Resistance Network Study Group Non Lucrative and Social Usefulness Organization, from July 2017 (<https://www.vironetc.org>).

Head, from 1 October 2017, of the Chair of Virology at the Department of Experimental Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata", one of the main reference centers for the sequencing of viral genomes in Italy, as well as involved in various networks, at national and international level, for the evaluation of drug resistance and validation and standardization of assays for the quantification of virological markers.

Sequencing skills have been developed for a wide variety of viruses, such as the virus human immunodeficiency (HIV), hepatitis B virus (HBV), hepatitis C virus (HCV), virus delta hepatitis (HDV), herpes viruses such as cytomegalovirus (CMV) and herpes simplex virus type 2 (HSV-2), and from 2020 also for SARS-CoV-2.

For these reasons, her (and other members of the chair of Virology) offers its expertise for the execution and interpretation of molecular drug resistance tests performed in the context of the diagnostics of viral infections such as HIV-1, HBV, HCV, and SARS-CoV-2 which belong to the Virology Unit of the Polyclinic Foundation Tor Vergata (PTV), and other hospital centers of the National Health System in Rome and other hospital structures, especially in the Centre-South Italy.

Research coordination (main relevant grants)

2025-today: Leader of Research Unit of the European project VIROMARKERS "Virus related biomarkers to improve management of chronic conditions" financed by HORIZON-JU-IHI-2024-07-03-singe-stage GA n° 101194735.

2025-today: Leader of Research Unit of the Project entitled "Virological and inflammatory signatures interactions in virologically suppressed HIV+ patients" Progetto PRIN 2022 (N° 20227PBPY9).

2024-today: Leader of Research Unit of the Project entitled "A comprehensive toolbox for timely phenotypic characterization of novel SARS-CoV-2 variants (PHENO-BOX)" code RIPREI2023_ad5d6fa48de5, financed by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità as part of the RIPREI 2023 call ; Single Project Code (CUP B63C23001510001).

2023-today: Leader of Research Sub-Unit (with Fondazione Vironet C Onlus; Unit of University of Messina) for the project "Deciphering the key virological determinants underlying the replicative and pathogenetic activity of Hepatitis D Virus (HDV) in treated and untreated Hepatitis B Virus and HDV coinfecting patients" – Grant PRIN 2022 Prot. 2022X2KWRK.

2023-today: Leader of Research Unit of the European project AVITHRAPID " Antiviral Therapeutics for Rapid Response Against Pandemic Infectious Diseases" financed by HORIZON-HLTH-2023-DISEASE-03 Project: 101137192.

2022-2025: Principal Investigator - PI of the study "VIRONET come nuovo modello di rete virologica per l'ottimizzazione del percorso diagnostico-terapeutico in pazienti con co-infezione HBV e HDV" financed by Gilead Fellowship Program 2022.

2021-today: Leader of Research Unit for the European Project EuCARE "European cohorts of patients and schools to advance response to epidemics" funded through HORIZON-HLTH-2021-CORONA-01, grant agreement No 101046016.

2018-2022: Leader of Research Unit for the study "Development of an Italian clinical/diagnostic network focused on the prevention and management of virologic failures in hepatitis C virus (HCV) patients treated with direct antiviral agents (DAAs)". Progetto di Ricerca Finalizzata, financed by the Italian Ministry of Health: RF-2016-02362422

2020-2022: PI for the study "Characterization of innovative viral biomarkers in predicting occurrence of hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) " financed by University of Rome Tor Vergata

2020-2022: Co-PI and Leader of Research Unit of the International Project "Impact of M184V on the virological efficacy to 3TC/DTG" LAMRES study, financed by ViiV

2019-2022: Co-PI of the study "Analisi del reservoir di HIV e dell'attività trascrizionale di retrovirus endogeni e loro correlazione con la risposta viro-immunologica e clinica nei pazienti virologicamente soppressi" financed by Gilead Fellowship Program 2019

2018-2022: Co-PI for the study "In vitro Evaluation of HIV-1 Maturation Inhibition in Human Primary Cells", financed by ViiV

2017-2021: PI of the study "Valutazione dell'impatto della quantità di HIV-DNA e

resistenza archiviata sull'outcome virologico di pazienti che cambiano terapia nel contesto di ottimizzazione della terapia antiretrovirale in real life" financed by Gilead Fellowship Program 2017

2017-2019: Leader of Research Unit for the study "Impact on bone mineral density (BMD) of Tenofovir-sparing antiretroviral regimens in HIV-positive menopausal women affected by osteopenia: the Tenofovir Sparing Strategy (TESS) study". Project financed by AIFA, Prot. FARM12FEXH

2016-2019: Leader of Research Unit for two Studies on prevalence of Doravirine associated resistance mutations "Non-interventional and epidemiological study of genotypic tests performed in HIV-1-infected treatment-naïve patients (1 study) treatment-experienced patients (2 study) in France and Italy, financed by MSD

2016-2018: PI of the Study "HCV variability and resistance in HCV mono and HIV/HCV co-infected patients: efficacy of DAA treatment across different genotypes", financed by MSD

2013-2017: Leader of Research Unit for the study "Studio dei determinanti di resistenza secondaria e primaria di HIV-1 ai farmaci antiretrovirali per il controllo della trasmissione a livello di popolazione" from the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research, PRIN Protocollo: 2012L783TW

2012-2018: Leader of Research Unit "Omics application in the virologic area" from the Italian Ministry of University and Scientific Research. Progetto di Ricerca Bandiera InterOmics Protocollo PB05 1°

2013-2015: PI of the Study "Impact of cellular HIV-1 DNA with short- and long-term response to antiretroviral therapy" financed by Roche Diagnostics

2011-2013: PI of the Study "Characterization of the HCV-NS3 protease variability among different HCV-genotypes in terms of genetic barriers in the generation of resistance mutations to protease inhibitors in advanced clinical development", financed by MSD

2009-2014: Leader of Research Unit for CHAIN, the Collaborative HIV and Anti-HIV Drug Resistance Network, funded by the European Commission Framework 7 Program. Integrated Project no. 223131

2006-2008: Leader of Research Unit for VI Programma Nazionale di Ricerca sull'AIDS 2006, del Progetto "Le resistenze ai farmaci anti-HIV: metodologie diagnostiche innovative e impatto clinico". Convenzione n. 30G.47

Additional Special Assignments

2024-today: Member of the International Scientific Evaluation Committee on Cohorts of ANRS Emerging Infectious Diseases (ANRS-EID, <https://anrs.fr/en/>), French National Institute of Health and Medical Research

2023-today: Member and Scientific PI of the Laboratory Unit of the "Rete Italiana per la sorveglianza genomica del virus SARS-CoV-2 e delle relative varianti", agreement with the Istituto Superiore di Sanità

2023: President of ICAR - the Italian Conference on AIDS and Antiviral Research, Bari 14-16 June 2023

2022-today: Member of the "Faculty of ARCA FACTORY", University of Siena

2022-today: Member of the HIV NGS Italian Network

2021-2022: Member for the European Commission of the "COVID-19 therapeutics subgroup" for writing documents, including the "COVID-19 therapeutics portfolio - list of ten most promising candidates" made public on 22 October 2021

2020-2021: Guest Editor for a special issue of *Viruses* "Viral Resistance in HCV Infection"

2020-today: Member of the SARS-CoV-2 Italian Research Enterprise (SCIRE) Collaborative Group

2018-2022: Member of the Editorial board in *BMJ Sexually Transmitted Infections*

2018-today: Member of the "IAS-USA HIV Drug Resistance Mutations Panel" for the drafting of the update list of resistance mutations in HIV and their role in the clinic

2018-2022: Member of the Organizing Committee and PI for Italy of "SHARED, Surveillance of Hepatitis C Antiviral Resistance, Epidemiology and Methodologies"

2018-today: Member of the Italian HIV-DNA Network for the validation and clinical use of the quantification of HIV-DNA in clinical samples

2016-today: Consultant for medical-legal issues in the virological field

2017-2019: Member of Data and Safety Monitoring Board (DSMB) for the ANRS 170 QUATUOR trial "Essai multicentrique, en ouvert, randomisé en 2 groupes parallèles, évaluant la non-infériorité d'un traitement de maintenance à 4 jours consécutifs sur 7 versus la poursuite du traitement antirétroviral en continu, chez des patients en succès thérapeutique sous ARV"

2012-2017: Member of DSMB for the ANRS 146 OPTIMAL trial "Optimized Phase III Trial of Immuno-stimulation with Maraviroc, a CCR5 antagonist, combined with Anti Retroviral Therapy (cART) in advanced, Late diagnosed HIV-1 infected patients with an AIDS-defining event and/or CD4 counts below 200 cells/mm³"

2014-2017: Member of the Coordinator and Scientific Comity of the Italian Association of Liver Study (AISF)

2013-today: Member of the World Health Organization Surveillance Drug Resistance Mutations Working Group

2013-today: Member of the Editorial board in PLoS ONE and AIDS Reviews
2012-2017: Member of the Faculty at The advance training in the clinical interpretation of drug resistance testing results, Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium
2012-2021: Member of the Faculty at the Residential Course on Clinical Pharmacology of Antiretrovirals, University of Torino
2012-today: Member of the Secretary Committee of the Italian Cohort of Antiretroviral-Naïve Patients (ICONA Foundation)
2010-today: Member of the European HIV Drug Resistance Guidelines Panel
2010-today: Ad hoc Consultant and Speaker for several pharmaceutical and diagnostic companies (Abbvie, Bristol Myers Squibb, Gilead, Merck, Janssen, Roche, ViiV, and others) in the fields of virology, clinical virology and infectious diseases
2010-today: Member of the Scientific Organization Secretary of ICAR, Italian Conference on AIDS and Retroviruses; and in the Scientific Organization Committee of the European Workshop on HIV & Hepatitis - Treatment Strategies & Antiviral Drug Resistance
2006-today: Member of the Scientific Committee of the Italian Cohort of Antiretroviral-Naïve Patients (ICONA Foundation)
2006-today: Reviewer for peer reviewed journals (as J Clin Microbiol, Clin Microbiol Infect, J Ant Chem, Antiv Ther, J Infect Dis, AIDS Rev, Retrovirol, Eur J Clin Micr & Infect Dis., PLoS Path, HIV Med, PLoS ONE, J of Virol, J of hepatology).

Awards

Research Winner area viral hepatitis of the Gilead Fellowship Program 2022
Research co-Winner area HIV of the Gilead Fellowship Program 2019
Research Winner area HIV of the Gilead Fellowship Program 2017
G.B. Rossi 2008 prize for the best publication in the HIV-field in 2007-2008 (Ceccherini Silberstein et al, J Virol. 2007)
G.B. Rossi 2009 prize for the best publication in the HIV-field in 2008-2009 (Svicher et al., AAC. 2009); Readfiles 2008 prize for the best publication in the HIV-field in 2007-2008 (Svicher et al., JID. 2008)

Affiliations to scientific associations in progress and over the years

Associazione Italiana per lo Studio del Fegato (AISF)
Società Italiana di Virologia (SIV)
Società Italiana di Microbiologia (SIM)
Società Italiana delle Malattie Infettive (SIMIT)
American Society for Microbiology (ASM)
European Association for the Study of the Liver (EASL)

According to law 679/2016 of the Regulation of the European Parliament of 27th April 2016, I hereby express my consent to process and use my data provided in this CV

Rome, 7th January 2026

Signature

Francesca Ceccherini-Silberstein
