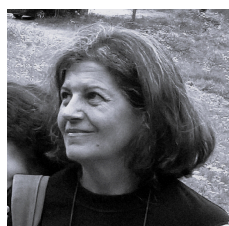





## PERSONAL INFORMATION



## Francesca Pica

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Sex F | Date of birth 18/09/1959 | Nationality Italian

## ACADEMIC POSITION

Associate Professor of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, Department of Experimental Medicine, Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy

## WORK EXPERIENCE

March 14th, 2025

She achieved the National Scientific qualification as Full Professor in the Italian higher education system, in the call 2023-2025 (Ministerial Decree n. 1796/2023) for the disciplinary field of 06/A3 - Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology (Academic recruitment Field 06/A - Pathology and laboratory medicine, according to the national classification).

2002 – present

Associate Professor of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, Tor Vergata University

1995 – 2002

Assistant Professor of Microbiology and Clinical Microbiology, Tor Vergata University

1989 - 1995

Researcher (ex art 36) at the Institute of Experimental Medicine, National Research Council of Italy

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1991

Infectious Diseases Specialist with honors at the University “La Sapienza”, Rome, Italy

1989

PhD in Experimental Medical Microbiology with honors at the University of Rome Tor Vergata, Rome, Italy

1983

Graduated in Medicine and Surgery with honors at the University “La Sapienza”, Rome, Italy

## WORK ACTIVITIES

Research Activity

Head of a Research Laboratory of Microbiology, Virology and Immunology at the Department of Experimental Medicine, Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy.

Fields of research:

1. Microbiology, epidemiology, pathogenesis and clinic of hospital-acquired infections (HAI)
2. Biological and clinical aspects of the host immune response in viral infections and cancer
3. Pathogenetic, diagnostic and therapeutic aspects of herpesvirus infections
4. Immunomodulatory, anti-infectious and anti-tumor activity of natural and synthetic compounds.
5. Inhibition of growth and biofilm formation of *Candida albicans* and other non-*albicans* *Candida* (NAC) species by retinoids (all-trans retinoic acid, trifarotene, and tazarotene).

Relevant roles and competences

Member of the Board of the Department of Experimental Medicine, Tor Vergata University  
Member and Secretary of the Board of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery, Tor Vergata University  
President of the Scientific Committee of the Tor Vergata University Biomedical Library  
Member of the Didactic Commission, Degree Course in Medicine and Surgery, Tor Vergata University  
Member of the Teaching Committee of the Degree Course in Nursing Sciences, Tor Vergata University  
Member of the Interdepartmental Center for Research and Training of Health Professions (CIFAPPS), Tor Vergata University

Grants	Since 1998 to present: Principal Investigator (PI) or Co-PI in numerous Research Projects funded by the Italian Ministry of University and Research (MIUR), Ministry of Health, Istituto Superiore di Sanità (ISS), National Research Council of Italy (CNR)
Scientific Societies and Academies	Ordinary Member : Società Italiana di Microbiologia (SIM) Società Italiana di Virologia Medica (SIVIM) Accademia Medica di Roma
Didactic Activity	Professor and Coordinator of Integrated Courses at the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery of the Tor Vergata University, Rome, Italy: Microbiology - Degree Course in Medicine and Surgery (English) Microbiology - Degree Course in Medicine and Surgery (Italian) General Pathology and Physiopathology - Degree Courses in Nursing and Obstetrics Microbiology and Pathology - Degree Course in Dental Hygiene (up to 2024) Bacteriology and General Microbiology in the following Specialization Schools: "Microbiology and Virology", "Respiratory Diseases", "Pediatric Dentistry" and "Hygiene and Preventive Medicine". Member of the Teaching Staff of the PhD in "Microbiology, Immunology, Infectious Diseases and Transplants" (MIMIT) Teacher in the First Level University Masters: "Nutrition and Cosmetics" and "Epidemiological Surveillance of Infections"

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

### ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPETENCE

English language competence Level C1

Publications Researchgate Interest Score 1,006 - Citations 2,259 - H-index= 31  
Google Scholar: 163 documents; Total citations =2892; H-index = 33; i10-index = 67  
SCOPUS Author: 99 documents; H-index = 29; Total citations = 1984

## Most relevant publications

1. **Pica F.** Epidemiology, Clinical Microbiology and Antimicrobial Therapy: A Shared Effort Against Infectious Diseases. *Antibiotics* (Basel), 2026 Jan 17;15(1):97. doi: 10.3390/antibiotics15010097.
2. Ingravalle F, Maurici M, Vinci A, Di Carlo S, D'Agostini C, **Pica F**, and Ciotti M. Time Trends in Prevalence and Antimicrobial Resistance of Respiratory Pathogens in a Tertiary Hospital in Rome, Italy: A Retrospective Analysis (2018-2023). *Antibiotics* (Basel). 2025 Sep 15;14(9):932. doi: 10.3390/antibiotics14090932.
3. Navarra A, Cicalini S, D'Arezzo S, **Pica F**, Selli M, Nisii C, Venditti C, Cannas A, Mazzarelli A, Vulcano A, Carrara S, Vincenti D, Bartolini B, Giacomini P, Bocci MG, Fontana C. Vancomycin-Resistant Enterococci: Screening Efficacy and the Risk of Bloodstream Infections in a Specialized Healthcare Setting. *Antibiotics* (Basel). 2025 Mar 16;14(3):304. doi: 10.3390/antibiotics14030304.
4. Ingravalle F, Vinci A, Ciotti M, Fontana C, **Pica F**, Sebastiani E, Donnoli C, Guido Rizzo M, Tedesco D, D'Arezzo S, Cicalini S, Loiudice MT, Maurici M. A Six-Step Protocol for Monitoring Antimicrobial Resistance Trends Using WHONET and R: Real-World Application and R Code Integration. *Methods Protoc.* 2025 Oct 2;8(5):115. doi: 10.3390/mps8050115.
5. Cosio, T, Romeo, Alice, Pistoia, E.S. **Pica, F**, Freni, C, Iacovelli, F, Orlandi A, Falconi M, Campione E, Gaziano R. Retinoids as Alternative Antifungal Agents Against *Candida albicans*: In Vitro and In Silico Evidence. *Microorganisms* 13, Issue 2, February 2025, Article number 237; doi:10.3390/microorganisms13020237
6. Aprile A, Morlino G, Mosconi C, Guarente L, Messina A, Carestia M, De Filippis P, **Pica F**, Maurici M, Palombi L. Survey of Hand Hygiene, High-Touch Device Use, and Proper Habits of Health Care Workers for Infection Risk Prevention: Protocol for a Cross-Sectional Study. *JMIR Res Protoc.* 2025 Apr 29;14:e60450. doi: 10.2196/60450.
7. Cosio T, **Pica F**, Fontana C, Pistoia ES, Favaro M, Valsecchi I, Zarabian N, Campione E, Botterel F, Gaziano R. *Stephanoascus cijferrii* Complex: The Current State of Infections and Drug Resistance in Humans. *J FUNGI* (Basel). 2024 Apr 18;10(4):294. doi: 10.3390/jof10040294. PMID: 38667965; PMCID: PMC11050938.
8. Lorenzi C, Lio F, Mazzetti V, Carosi P, Lamelza S, Pistoia ES, **Pica F**, Gaziano R. Synergistic Effect of Metronidazole and Chlorhexidine against *Porphyromonas gingivalis* Growth: An In Vitro Study. *Dent J* (Basel). 2024 Sep 27;12(10):307. doi: 10.3390/dj12100307.
9. Cosio T, Gaziano R, Fontana C, Pistoia ES, Petrucci R, Favaro M, **Pica F**, Minelli S, Bossa MC, Altieri A, Ombres D, Zarabian N, D'Agostini C. Closing the Gap in Proteomic Identification of *Histoplasma capsulatum*: A Case Report and Review of Literature. *J FUNGI* (Basel). 2023 Oct 15;9(10):1019. doi: 10.3390/jof9101019. PMID: 37888274; PMCID: PMC10607645.
10. Maurici M, **Pica F**, D'Alò GL, Ciciarella Modica D, Distefano A, Gorjao M, Simonelli MS, Serafinelli L, De Filippis P. Bacterial Contamination of Healthcare Students' Mobile Phones: Impact of Specific Absorption Rate (SAR), Users' Demographics and Device Characteristics on Bacterial Load. *LIFE* (Basel). 2023 June 8;13(6):1349. doi: 10.3390/life13061349. PMID: 37374131; PMCID: PMC10301942.
11. Matteucci C, Nepravishta R, Argaw-Denboba A, Mandaliti W, Giovinazzo A, Petrone V, Balestrieri E, Sinibaldi-Vallebona P, **Pica F**, Paci M, Garaci E. Thymosin  $\alpha$ 1 interacts with Galectin-1 modulating the  $\beta$ -galactosides affinity and inducing alteration in the biological activity. *INT IMMUNOPHARMACOL.* 2023 May;118:110113. doi: 10.1016/j.intimp.2023.110113. Epub 2023 Apr 5.
12. Maurici M, D'Alò GL, Fontana C, Santoro V, Gaziano R, Ciotti M, Ciciarella Modica D, De Filippis P, Sarmati L, De Carolis G, **Pica F**. Microbiology and Clinical Outcome of Hospital-Acquired Respiratory Infections in an Italian Teaching Hospital: A Retrospective Study. *HEALTHCARE* (Basel). 2022 Nov 12;10(11):2271. doi: 10.3390/healthcare10112271.
13. Pistoia ES, Cosio T, Campione E, **Pica F**, Volpe A, Marino D, Di Francesco P, Monari C, Fontana C, Favaro M, Zampini P, Orlandi A, Gaziano R. All-Trans Retinoic Acid Effect on *Candida albicans* Growth and Biofilm Formation. *J FUNGI* (Basel). 2022 Oct 5;8(10):1049. doi: 10.3390/jof8101049.
14. Gaziano R, Pistoia ES, Campione E, Fontana C, Marino D, Favaro M, **Pica F**, Di Francesco P. Immunomodulatory agents as potential therapeutic or preventive strategies for COVID-19. *EUR REV MED PHARMACOL SCI.* 2021 Jun;25(11):4174-4184. doi: 10.26355/eurrev\_202106\_26061.
15. Ciotti M, Maurici M, Santoro V, Coppola L, Sarmati L, De Carolis G, De Filippis P, **Pica F**. Viruses of Respiratory Tract: an Observational Retrospective Study on Hospitalised Patients in Rome, Italy. *MICROORGANISMS.* 2020 Apr 1;8(4):501. doi: 10.3390/microorganisms8040501.
16. D'Alò GL, Ciciarella Modica D, Maurici M, Mozzetti C, Messina A, Distefano A, De Filippis P, **Pica F**. Microbial contamination of the surface of mobile phones and implications for the containment of the Covid-19 pandemic. *TRAVEL MED INFECT DIS.* 2020 Sep-Oct;37:101870. doi: 10.1016/j.tmaid.2020.101870. Epub 2020 Sep 2.
17. Ciciarella Modica D, Maurici M, D'Alò GL, Mozzetti C, Messina A, Distefano A, **Pica F**, De Filippis P. Taking Screenshots of the Invisible: A Study on Bacterial Contamination of Mobile Phones from University Students of Healthcare Professions in Rome, Italy. *MICROORGANISMS* 2020 Jul 19;8(7):1075. doi: 10.3390/microorganisms8071075.
18. Gaziano R, Campione E, Iacovelli F, Pistoia ES, Marino D, Milani M, Di Francesco P, **Pica F**, Bianchi L, Orlandi A, Marsico S, Falconi M, Aquaro S. Antimicrobial properties of the medicinal plant *Cardiospermum halicacabum* L: new evidence and future perspectives. *EUR REV MED PHARMACOL SCI.* 2019 Aug;23(16):7135-7143. doi: 10.26355/eurrev\_201908\_18759.

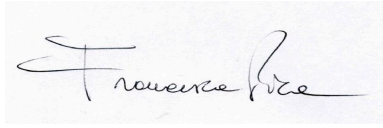
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20. Cipriani C, Ricceri L, Matteucci C, De Felice A, Tartaglione AM, Argaw-Denboba A, **Pica F**, Grelli S, Calamandrei G, Sinibaldi Vallebona P, Balestrieri E. High expression of Endogenous Retroviruses from intrauterine life to adulthood in two mouse models of Autism Spectrum Disorders. *SCIENTIFIC REPORTS* 2018 Jan 12;8(1):629. doi:10.1038/s41598-017-19035-w. PubMed PMID: 29330412; PubMed Central PMCID:PMC5766538.
21. **Pica F** Gaziano R, Casalnuovo IA, Moroni G, Buè C, Limongi D, D'Agostini C, Tomino C, Perricone R, Palamara AT, Sinibaldi Vallebona P, Garaci E. Serum thymosin alpha 1 levels in normal and pathological conditions. *EXPERT OPIN BIOL THER*. 2018 Jul;18(sup1):13-21. doi: 10.1080/14712598.2018.1474197. PubMed PMID:30063864.
22. Matteucci C, Argaw-Denboba A, Balestrieri E, Giovinazzo A, Miele M, D'Agostini C, **Pica F**, Grelli S, Paci M, Mastino A, Sinibaldi Vallebona P, Garaci E, Tomino C. Deciphering cellular biological processes to clinical application: a new perspective for Tα1 treatment targeting multiple diseases. *EXPERT OPIN BIOL THER*. 2018 Jul;18(sup1):23-31. doi: 10.1080/14712598.2018.1474198. PubMed PMID:30063863.
23. Mandaliti W, Nepravishta R, **Pica F**, Vallebona PS, Garaci E, Paci M. Potential mechanism of thymosin-α1-membrane interactions leading to pleiotropy: experimental evidence and hypotheses. *EXPERT OPIN BIOL THER*. 2018 Jul;18(sup1):33-42. doi: 10.1080/14712598.2018.1456527. PubMed PMID: 30063856.
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29. A Volpi, **F Pica**, M Maurici, M Ciotti, P Nardi, S Bondanini, P Rogliani, C Buè. HSV positivity in bronco-alveolar lavage fluid and clinical outcome in hospitalized patients. *INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES* 2016, 45, 327-328.
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31. Mandaliti W, Nepravishta R, Sinibaldi Vallebona P, **Pica F**, Garaci E, Paci M. Thymosin α1 Interacts with Exposed Phosphatidylserine in Membrane Models and in Cells and Uses Serum Albumin as a Carrier. *BIOCHEMISTRY*. 2016 Mar 15; 55(10):1462-72. doi: 10.1021/acs.biochem. 5b01345. PubMed PMID: 26909491.
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36. Garaci E, **Pica F**, Matteucci C, Gaziano R, D'Agostini C, Miele MT, Camerini R, Palamara AT, Favalli C, Mastino A, Serafino A, Sinibaldi Vallebona P. Historical review on thymosin  $\alpha 1$  in oncology: preclinical and clinical experiences. *EXPERT OPIN BIOL THER*. 2015; 15 Suppl 1:S31-9. doi: 10.1517/14712598.2015.1017466. Epub 2015 Jun 22. PubMed PMID: 26096345.
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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

A rectangular image showing a handwritten signature in black ink on a light-colored background. The signature is written in a cursive style and reads "Francesca Pica".

Prof.ssa Francesca Pica