

CURRICULUM VITAE

Lorenzo Mortara, PhD
Associate Professor



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<https://www.scopus.com/results/authorNamesList.uri?name=name&st1=mortara&st2=lorenzo&origin=searchauthorlookup>

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Associate Professor since **December 27th, 2018** to present in
General and Clinical Pathology
University Researcher since **November 1st, 2002** to December 2018
in **General and Clinical Pathology**
Immunology and General Pathology Laboratory – Department of
Biotechnology and Life Sciences (DBSV) – University of INSUBRIA
Monte Generoso street #71, 21100 VARESE, IT

Citizenship: Italian

Place and date of birth: Genova, Italy, 31/12/1968

URL for web site: <https://www.uninsubria.it/hpp/lorenzo.mortara>

Education:

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|--------------------|--|
| 05/1999 | Ph.D. Immunology, University of Paris 7, Paris, France (with honors) |
| 07/1997 | Specialization in Allergology and Clinical Immunology, University of Medicine, Genova, Italy (50/50 with honors) |
| 1994 | Qualifying examination for Professional Biologist (Esame di Stato) |
| 04/1993 to 04/1994 | Training Biologist for Professional Activity, Genova, Italy |

03/1993 Laurea degree in Biological Sciences (108/110), University of Science, Genova, Italy

Awards

04/2002 European Doctor in Biotechnology, from Higher Education in Biotechnology (HEduBT), Supervisor Prof. Franco Celada*, University of Genoa, Italy

05/1999 Prize Roche, XXVIIth National Conference of Italian Society of Immunology (SI), Udine, Italy, June 16-18, 1999

11/1997 Prize Associazione Nazionale per la Lotta contro l'AIDS (ANLAIDS), XVth National Congress of Italian Society of Immunology and Immunopathology, Genova, Italy

*Bryce CF, Aghion J, Bos P, Celada F, Griffin M, Hull R. European doctorate in Biotechnology: Added value for european academia and industry. *Biochem Mol Biol Educ.* 2004, Sep;32(5):352-7. PMID: 21706754.

Dr Mortara has published 105 articles from 1995.

From Scopus Last Mortara's h-index: 34.

Qualified for Full Professor in General and Clinical Pathology, from 09/09/2024 to 09/09/2035

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale (ASN), Bando D.D. 1532/2016, Settore Concorsuale 06/A2 – Patologia Generale e Patologia Clinica per Prof. Ordinario – (art. 16, comma 1, Legge 240/10).

Qualified for Full Professor in General and Clinical Pathology, from 09/09/2019 to 09/09/2029

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale (ASN), Bando D.D. 1532/2016, Settore Concorsuale 06/A2 – Patologia Generale e Patologia Clinica per Prof. Ordinario – (art. 16, comma 1, Legge 240/10).

Qualified for Associate Professor in General and Clinical Pathology, from 04/04/2017 to 04/04/2023

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale (ASN), Bando D.D. 1532/2016, Settore Concorsuale 06/A2 – Patologia Generale e Patologia Clinica per Prof. Ordinario – (art. 16, comma 1, Legge 240/10).

Qualified for Associate Professor in Applied Biology, from 04/04/2017 to 04/04/2023

Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale (ASN), Bando D.D. 1532/2016, Settore Concorsuale 05/F1 – Biologia Applicata per Prof. Associato – (art. 16, comma 1, Legge 240/10).

Contract holder for a Junior Research Fellowship for 12 months (2024-2025)

Subject: Research activity contract pursuant to article no. 22 of the law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, at University of Insubria, Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences, for a post-Doc in Mortara's Laboratory. Research title: **“Targeting of multiple myeloma with therapeutic antibody conjugated with aminobisphosphonate: triggering of antitumor immune response”**.

Contract holder for a Junior Research Fellowship for 12 months (2023-2024)

Subject: Research activity contract pursuant to article no. 22 of the law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, at University of Insubria, Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences, for a post-Doc in

Mortara's Laboratory. Research title: **“Assessment of anti-cancer therapy using immunocytokines and immune checkpoint inhibitors combined with oncosuppressor RNASET2 in immunocompetent mouse models”**.

Holder of a **MIUR National Fund for Basic Research (FFABR) 2017 (Researcher)**.

Collaborator in National and International Projects

2023-2025: 20225AZ22F MIUR PRIN: (LuCamiR) Development of a microRNA-based test for the screening of lung cancer. Component collaborator of the Paola Campomenosi's Unit.

Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences (2-years), Univ. Insubria, Varese. Scientific coordinator: Prof. Michela Alessandra Denti, University of Trento.

2019-2022: 2017NTK4HY_001 MIUR PRIN: RNASET2 as new player in the modulation of the innate immune system in cancer and autoimmunity: potential diagnostic and therapeutic implications.

Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences (3-years). Scientific coordinator: Prof. D.M. Noonan. Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Univ. Insubria, Varese.

2010-2011: 2009XZEPR_004 MIUR PRIN: Genes and molecules of the immunity of invertebrates. Structure, function, evolutionary precursors and transferability into applied research. Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences (3-years). Scientific coordinator: Prof. L. Ballarin, Scientific manager: Prof. M.A. De Eguileor, 1-2-2013/1-2-2016. Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences, Univ. Insubria, Varese.

2008-2010: 2008WXF7KK MIUR PRIN: New strategies of vaccination and immunotherapy against tumors based on the optimal stimulation of CD4+ T helper cells. Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences (2-years).

2008-2011: 2008-2230 Cariplo Foundation Project 2008: Cellular and molecular basis of retrovirus human diseases: new immunological and biochemist approaches in order to prevent infection and retrovirus replication, relevant for innovative preventive therapeutic strategies. Department of Clinical and Biological Sciences (3-years).

Head Researcher for Italian FAR University Funds

(2025-2026 Mortara), (2024-2025 Mortara), (2023-2025 Mortara), (2022-2024 Mortara), (2021-2023 Mortara), (2020-2022 Mortara), (2019-2021 Mortara), (2018-2020 Mortara), (2017-2019 Mortara), (2016-2018 Mortara), (2014-2015 Mortara-Noonan), (2010-2012 Mortara), (2008-2010 Mortara), (2007-2009 Mortara).

Teaching staff of Doctorate in Experimental and Translational Medicine, University of Insubria, since 2021-to date.

Update of Animal Facility License: Qualification as Project Manager with use of laboratory animals (2023 - 2025).

Collaboration with the **International Federation of Medical Students' Association (IFMSA) Research Exchange Project** (www.ifmsa.org) 2023-2025.

1: Indian medical student, name: Nupur Antil. One-month internship: May 2023. Research Project Title: **“Phenotype and functional characterization of blood natural killer cells in prostate cancer patients”**.

2: Brazilian medical student, name: Isabela Araujo. One-month internship: October 2024. Research Project Title: **“Phenotype and functional characterization of natural killer cells in renal cancer patients and healthy donors”**.

3: Mexican medical student, name: Camila Victoria Serrato Rivera. One-month internship: April 2025. Research Project Title: **“Phenotype and functional characterization of natural killer cells and monocytes in bladder cancer patients and healthy donors”**.

Dr. Mortara obtained his Biological Sciences degree at University of Genoa in 1993, where he also obtained the qualifying examination for Professional Biologist (Esame di Stato) and the post-graduate title of Specialist in Allergology and Clinical Immunology in 1997. He followed a Doctorate course in Immunology (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry School) in Paris at University of Paris 7 – Denis Diderot, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Immunology in 1999.

Employment

2024-present Habilitation to Full Professor in General Pathology, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

2019-present Habilitation to Full Professor in General Pathology, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

2018-present Associate Professor in General Pathology, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

2010-2018 University Researcher, Assistant Professor in General Pathology, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

2002-2010 University Researcher, University of Insubria, Varese, Italy.

2002 Fellow ANRS, Unité de Biologie des Rétrovirus, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France.

2000-2001 Fellow AIDS, Istituto Superiore di Sanità, Unit of Viral Immunology, Advanced Biotechnology Center, Genoa, Italy.

1999-2000 Associate Researcher, Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, Madison-Wisconsin, WI (USA).

1997-1999 Sidaction Fellow, Laboratoire d’Immunologie des Pathologies Infectieuses et Tumorales, Institut Cochin de Génétique Moléculaire, Paris, France.

1995-1996 European Fellow, Laboratoire d’Immunologie des Pathologies Infectieuses et Tumorales, Institut Cochin de Génétique Moléculaire, Paris, France.

1994-1995 Fellow CNR, Laboratory of Immunology, San Martino Hospital, University of Genoa, Genoa, Italy

After obtaining Biological Sciences degree (108/110) and the post-graduate title of Specialist in Allergology and Clinical Immunology (50/50 with honors), Dr. Mortara moved to France and followed a Doctorate course in Immunology, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Immunology (with honors), working on the evaluation of the immune response of rhesus macaques after lipopeptides immunization using Nef and Gag sequences of SIV, as preclinical assays of human anti-HIV vaccines. In February 2002 he returned to Paris as post-doc at the Institut Pasteur, in the group of Dr. M.C. Müller-Trutwin, directed by Prof. F. Barré-Sinoussi (Nobel Prize for Medicine and

Physiology 2008). In November 2002 he was appointed as Researcher at the University of Insubria, Varese and in 2018 as Associate Professor, and one year later in 1999 and again in 2024 he was qualified for Full Professor in General and Clinical Pathology. Dr Mortara has published 105 articles with peer review from 1995. From Scopus Last Mortara's h-index: 34.

Research experience and studies

Dr. Mortara obtained his Biological Sciences degree at University of Genoa in 1993, where he also obtained the qualifying examination for Professional Biologist (Esame di Stato) and the post-graduate title of Specialist in Allergology and Clinical Immunology in 1997. He followed a Doctorate course in Immunology (Molecular Biology and Biochemistry School) in Paris at University of Paris 7 – Denis Diderot, where he obtained a Ph.D. in Immunology in 1999.

He studied *in vitro* human T *helper* CD4⁺ repertoire from peripheral blood against epitope peptides of HTLV-I virus in seronegative individuals. Subsequently he performed *in vitro* analyses on HIV-specific T *helper* repertoire from peripheral blood in HIV positive and negative individuals. Also, he studied the whole T lymphocytic response at peptide level in HIV-infected individuals against *Candida albicans*.

From 1995 to the end of 1999 he was doctoral fellow at the Institut Cochin de Génétique Moléculaire, in Paris, Laboratoire d'Immunologie des Pathologies Infectieuses et Tumorales, directed by Dr. J.G. Guillet, working on the evaluation of the immune response of rhesus macaques after lipopeptides immunization using Nef and Gag sequences of SIV, as preclinical assays of human anti-HIV vaccines. Importantly, he described for the first time the selection of virus variants and emergence of virus SIV escape mutants after immunization with an epitope vaccine in macaques.

In February 2002 he returned to Paris as post-doc at the Institut Pasteur, Unité de Biologie des Rétrovirus (now Unité de Régulation des Inféctons Rétrovirales), in the group of Dr. M.C. Müller-Trutwin, directed by Prof. F. Barré-Sinoussi (Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology 2008). In this year he collaborated intensively also with Institut Pasteur of Dakar, Senegal, working on immunological and virological correlates of protection against AIDS in African green monkeys (AGM) infected by SIVagm, animal model of nonprogression of lentiviral disease.

In April 2002 he obtained the European Doctorate in Biotechnology from the European Association for Higher Education in Biotechnology, and in November 2002 he was appointed as Researcher at the University of Insubria (Varese), Medical School, in the Laboratory of General Pathology and Immunology, Department of Biological and Clinical Sciences.

Further, in 2011 and to date he joined the Laboratory of Immunology and General Pathology, Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences (DBSV), University of Insubria. From 2010 to date he was appointed as Assistant Professor (Professore Aggregato).

Subsequently, his research activities were focused on basic and translational tumor immunology, and particularly evaluating innovative strategies of tumor vaccination and immunotherapy. Within this line of research he is studying in different tumor murine models the tumor-specific CD4⁺ T helper response and the CD8⁺ T response after different types of immunizations or therapeutic approaches, in particular with cytokines such as IL-12- and IL-15-engineered murine tumor cells, naked IL-12 cytokine DNA, or using mouse (m)TNF- α , targeted to tumor vasculature by the anti-ED-B fibronectin domain antibody, L19(scFv), combined with melphalan (Balza E et al., Eur. J. Immunol, 2017).

Present research

At the present, his investigations are focused on two research subjects: first) studying human tumor angiogenesis and phenotype and function of innate immune cells in the tumor microenvironment, in particular natural killer cells and their different cell subsets in different human cancers (non-small cell lung cancer NSCLC, colorectal, ovarian and prostate cancers, and malignant pleural effusions); second) evaluating novel immunotherapeutic interventions based on immunocytokines TNF α and IL-2, in combination setting against tumor development and metastasis in diverse preclinical tumor murine models.

During lung tumor progression, a complex and dynamic interplay occurs between proliferating tumor cells and stromal, endothelial and immune tumor-conditioned host cells within the tumor microenvironment. Several factors within the tumor microenvironment, such as hypoxia, cytokines and soluble factors, appear to blunt the anti-tumor immune response and polarize immune cells towards a pro-tumor phenotype. Phenotypically and functionally altered immune cells found in cancer patients include macrophages, neutrophils, myeloid, dendritic, and even NK cells. We are studying tumor infiltrating (TINK) and tumor associated (TANK) NK cells in different types of human cancers: non-small cell lung cancer NSCLC, colorectal, ovarian and prostate cancers, and malignant pleural effusions. We have demonstrated (Bruno A et al, Neoplasia, 2013) that in NSCLC, TINKs and TANKs show similarities to decidual NK (dNK) cells, being polarized toward tissue builders, rather than killer cells, and producing pro-angiogenic cytokines (Mortara L et al, Curr. Opin. Pharmacol., 2017). The functionally polarized immune cells in NSCLC provide the stromal support and neovascularization required for NSCLC tumor expansion and progression in a feed-forward mechanism, leading to tumor progression. Further, systemic alterations of immune cells are also present in NSCLC patients. The precise knowledge of these immune cell alterations within the tumor microenvironment could become crucial for diagnosis, targeted therapeutic intervention, as well as prevention in NSCLC patients as well as in colorectal cancer (A. Bruno, et al., Faseb J., 2018). Indeed, the inflammatory response originating within the tumor microenvironment is a crucial step of the disease, tightly linked to the tumor angiogenesis along with repression of adaptive immune system (Noonan DM et al, Cancer Metastasis Rev, 2008; Bosi A et al, J. Immunol. Res., 2018). Tumorigenesis and progression are promoted by different molecules produced within the tumor microenvironment, including pro-angiogenic factors and extracellular matrix-modifying enzymes that facilitate angiogenesis, invasion, and metastasis. Moreover, inflammatory cells, by releasing reactive oxygen and nitrogen species, can accelerate genetic mutation events, thereby inducing a faster evolution toward malignancy. Among different “actors” and “scenarios” in the tumor microenvironment we are interested in the characterization of natural killer cells, in term of phenotype and of several functional assays. NK cells are innate immune effectors able to recognize and eliminate tumor and virus-infected cells. NK cells constitute a heterogeneous population comprising approximately 10-15% of peripheral blood mononuclear cells in humans. Several human NK cell subsets have been described on the basis of the expression of two main surface antigens, CD56 and CD16. CD56^{dim}CD16⁺ NK cells constitute about 90% of peripheral blood NK cells and are associated with target cell eradication through the secretion of perforin, granzyme and antibody dependent cellular cytotoxicity. The second NK cell subset, CD56^{bright}CD16⁻, represents about 10% of peripheral blood NK cells. These NK cells are poorly cytotoxic but able to release large amounts of cytokines, including IFN γ , TNF α , and GM-CSF. A

peculiar third NK cell subset has been found in the decidua during implantation. dNK cells are CD56^{superbright}CD16⁺, have low cytotoxicity, are tolerogenic, participate in the protection of the developing embryo, and are involved in decidual angiogenesis. Decidual-like NK cells has been described in the context of NSCLC, colorectal cancer, malignant pleural effusions and prostate cancers (Mortara L. et al, *Curr. Opin. Pharmacol.*, 2017; Albini, A. et al. *Front. Immunol.*, 2018, Gallazzi M. et al, *Front. Immunol.*, 2021, Bassani B. et al., *Cancers* 2019). He also collaborates with Passamonti's lab, now Salvini's lab (Circolo Hospital Varese) on investigating immunogenicity and clinical efficacy of anti-sars-cov-2 vaccination in patients with hematological malignancies (Salvini M. et al, *Am. J. Hematol.* 2022; Salvini M. et al, *Bone Marrow Transplant* 2022) and with Gonzalez S.F. from Infection and Immunity Laboratory, at IRB, Bellinzona, CH on studying macrophage functions in melanoma metastasis induction (Virgilio T., et al, *Cancer Immunol Res.* 2022) and also in a new project collaboration based on studying innate immune responses in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, ALS in animal models. Recently he also is interested in studying physiopathological innate immune responses in Basedow and also in Hashimoto thyroid autoimmunity (Gallo D. et al., *Front Endocrinol* 2022; 2023; Gallo D. et al., *Endocrine* 2023, Gallo D. et al., *Int J Mol Sci.* 2025). He also continued collaboration with Prof. Acquati on human RNASTE2 and prostate cancer (Roncoroni R. et al., *J Transl Med.* 2025), with Dr. Albini (Albini A. et al., *Semin Cancer Biol.* 2025), with Prof. Noonan (de Araujo J.T.C. et al., *J Liquid Mol.* 2025) and new collaboration with Prof. Bossi E. and Prof. Barca A. (Mazzei A. et al., *Front Immunol* 2025), with Dr. De Lerma Barbaro (De Lerma Barbaro A. et al., *Int J Immunogenet.* 2025), with Prof. Rosato (Balkhi S. et al. *Front Immunol* 2025) and with post-doc Balkhi (Balkhi S. et al., *Front Biosci Landmark* 2025; Balkhi S. et al., *Cells*; Balkhi S. et al., *Vaccines*, Basel) and with Kustrimovic (Kustrimovic N. et al. *Int J Mol Sci.* 13;25(22):12164; 2024; and 31;25(3):1732; 2024).

The scientific production of Dr. Mortara at present consists of 98 publications on international specialized peer reviewed journals including: *Cancer Lett.*, *Front. Immunol.*, *Front. Endocrinol.*, *Int. J. Mol. Sci.*, *Am. J. Hematol.*, *Cancer Immunol. Res.*, *Bone Marrow Transplant*, *Cytotherapy*, *J. Immunol. Res.*, *Curr. Opin. Pharmacol.*, *Eur. J. Immunol.*, *J. Immunol.*, *Neoplasia*, *Front. Oncol.*, *J. Clin. Invest.*, *J. Virol.*, *Clin. Cancer Res.*, *Int. J. Cancer*, *Int. Immunol.*, *Surg. Oncol.*, *Cancer Med.*, *Cancer Metast. Rev.*, *Cytometry*, *J. Infect. Dis.*, *Proceedings of The National Academy of Sciences of The United States of America*, *PLoS One*, *Blood*.

Dr. Mortara regularly conducts evaluations for several journals, including: *Frontiers in Immunology*, *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, *Nature Immunology*, *OncoImmunology*, *International Journal of Molecular Sciences*, *iScience*, *Cytotherapy*, *European Journal of Immunology*, *Cancers*, *Frontiers in Oncology*, *Cytokine*, *Heliyon*.

Teaching experience

2020-present: Responsible of the Course: General Pathology (Dentistry and Prosthodontics degree), School of Medicine.

2020-present: Responsible of the Course: General Pathology (Medicine and Surgery degree), School of Medicine.

2020-present: Responsible as a Tutor for Biotechnology Degree (Laurea Triennale); Responsible for the Course: Molecular Bases of Immunology and Pathology, module: Immunology (Biotechnology Degree).

2016-present: Responsible as a Tutor for Biotechnology Degree (Laurea Triennale); Responsible for the Course: Immunology (Biotechnology Degree).

2012-present: Responsible of the Courses: Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine.

2020-2023: Clinical Pathology for Ostetrician Health Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine.

2020-2021: Clinical Pathology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale); Clinical Pathology for Ostetrician Health Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine.

2012-2020: Responsible of the Courses: Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree (Laurea Triennale); Clinical Pathology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale); General Pathology and Immunology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale); General Pathology and Immunology for Ostetrician Health Degree (Laurea Triennale); Clinical Pathology for Ostetrician Health Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine.

2014-2018: Lessons (4 hours) as elective teaching for Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree (Laurea Triennale).

2011-2012: Responsible of the Courses: Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree (Laurea Triennale); General Pathology and Immunology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale); General Pathology for Ostetrician Health Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine.

2010-2011: Responsible of the Courses: Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree (Laurea Triennale); General Pathology and Immunology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale); Health Technique Cardiac Physiopathologist Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine
Physiopathology of the Immune System (module Immunology, Laurea Magistrale), Biological Science Degree (Laurea Magistrale).

2010-2018: he was appointed as Assistant Professor (Professore Aggregato).

2009-2010: Responsible of the Courses: Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree (Laurea Triennale); Clinical Pathology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale); General Pathology and Immunology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale); Health Technique Cardiac Physiopathologist Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine

Physiopathology of the Immune System (module Immunology, Laurea Magistrale), Biological Science Degree

2005-2009: Responsible of the Courses: Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree (Laurea Triennale); Immunology and General Pathology for Health Nurse Degree (Laurea Triennale), School of Medicine.

Lessons of Physiopathology of the Immune System (module Immunology, Laurea Magistrale), Biological Science Degree.

2002-2005: Responsible of the Course: Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician (Bachelor's Degree) (Laurea Triennale).

and lessons of Immunology. Medicine Degree, School of Medicine.

Coordination of Academic activities

2018-2021: AIQUA (quality assurance) committee member for the Course of Health Nurse Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Univ. Insubria.

2020-2022: AIQUA research (quality assurance) committee member for the Biotechnology Department, Univ. Insubria.

2022-present: AIQUA (quality assurance) committee member for the Course of Biotechnology Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Univ. Insubria.

2018-2021: Member of the steering committee for educational collaboration with stake holder for the Course of Health Nurse Degree, Bachelor's Degree, Univ. Insubria.

2018-present: Tutor for Biotechnology Degree.

2018-2023: Tutor for Health Nurse Degree.

Responsible and participation at Exam Commissions

General Pathology for Medicine and Surgery Degree

General Pathology for Dentistry and Prosthodontics Degree

Immunology for Biotechnology Degree,

Allergology and Clinical Immunology for Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree,

General Pathology and Immunology and Clinical Pathology for Health Nurse Degree,

General Pathology and Immunology and Clinical Pathology for Ostetrician Health Degree.

Participation at Exam Commissions

Responsible of the courses: Dr. D.M. Noonan: 1) Physiopathology, Medicine and Surgery, School of Medicine; 2) General Pathology, Dentistry and Dental Prosthesis School of Medicine, and 3) Physiopathology and General Pathology, Biotechnology.

Participation at Laurea Exam Commissions

Medicine and Surgery Degree,

Biotechnology Degree,

Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree,

Health Nurse Degree,

Biomedical Sciences Degree.

Third Misison: Vaccines: a challenge between science and social ethics. University of Insubria. December 23rd 2020 (duration 1h 55 min). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPUciUduc0c>. Discussion open to the public with citizenship.

2014-2017: Supervisor of 3 students for 3-years (Marì De Leo, Ester Chersoni, Ambra Fortunato) (Laurea Triennale) Degree in Biomedical Laboratory Technician (2014-2016), and of 3 students for 2-years (Alessandra Musco, Davide Gambino, Annalisa Bosi) (Laurea Magistrale) Degree in Biological Sciences (2014-2017).

2013-2016: Tutor of a PhD student (Silvia Zanellato) in Biotechnology Biosciences and Surgical Technologies (Curriculum Biotechnology and Surgical Technologies), XXIX Ciclo. Title of PhD Thesis: Characterization of Natural Killer cells from patients affected by pleural effusions. External Referees: Prof. Elisabeth Menu (I. Pasteur, Paris) and Prof. Antonio Sica (Humanitas, Rozzano, Milano). Date of Thesis: December 21, 2016.

2018-2020: Supervisor for 14 students (Eleonora Matteocci, Marco Bulgheroni, Simone Del Motto, Cristina Laccisaglia, Alessandro Aliverti, Alessandra Ponti, Chiara Frigé, Erica Moltoni, Deborah Muraca, Giorgia Aliverti, Gaia Marcolli, Grace Coco, Maddalena Raffanini, Giulia Latino) (Laurea 3-years Triennale) in Biotechnology Degree, and 1 student for 2-years (Mariana Dodaj) (Laurea Magistrale) in Molecular Industry Biotechnology Degree.

2021-2022: Supervisor for 3 students (Ilaria Mariani, Federica Bon e Fabio Gilio) (Laurea 3-years Triennale) in Biotechnology Degree. Supervisor for 1 student (Luca Lepore) (Laurea 3-years Triennale) in Biomedical Laboratory Technician Degree. Supervisor for 6 students (Giorgia Spina, Cristian Rubuano, Veronica Vivona, Luisa Esposito, Gaia Lazzarin, Giorgia Maspero) (Laurea 3-years Triennale) in Biotechnology Degree.

2022-2024: Supervisor for 7 students (Serena Croci, Giulia Caleffi, Greta Marcolli, Giulia Carabelli, Marta Demuti, Margherita Moretti and Sara Ferraris) (Laurea 3-years Triennale) in Biotechnology Degree, 2 students in Science Biology (Viviana Rezza and Cinzia Zambetti) and 2 students in Medicine and Surgery (Francesca Orrù and Sara Baldini).

2023-to date: Tutor of a PhD student in DMST (Giorgia Bilato) Biotechnology Biosciences and Surgical Technologies, (Curriculum Biotechnology and Surgical Technologies), XXXIX Ciclo. Title of PhD Thesis: Characterization of Natural Killer cells in kidney patients.

2021-2024: Tutor of a PhD student in DMST (Martina Cucchiara) XXXVII Ciclo. Title of PhD Thesis: Phenotype and functional characterization of tumor-associated and tumor-infiltrating NK cells in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma (PDAC): role of fibrosis. External Referees: Prof. XX () and Prof. XY (). Date of Thesis: January, 2025.

2023 May: IFMSA: Medicine and Surgery student from India (Nupur Antil) for 1 month.

Third Misison: Vaccines: a challenge between science and social ethics. University of Insubria. December 23rd 2020 (duration 1h 55 min). <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JPUciUduc0c>. Discussion open to the public with citizenship.

So we'll have the meeting on the morning of the 17th. Do you already know what time?

In any case, I should be in the Lab around 10:00 or a little earlier.

I'll also contact Giorgia to find out the best time for you.

The TGF- β R1 inhibitor Galunisertib re-shapes the PDAC-TME by limiting decidual-like natural killer cells polarization.

Antonino Bruno, Martina Cucchiara, Maria Teresa Palano, Cristian Rubuano, Gianluca De Antoni, Matteo Gallazzi, Marta Tagliabue, Adelaide Pessi, Gianpiero Catalano, Maria Gemelli, Riccardo Ricotta, Pier Francesco Ferrucci, Gennaro Nappo, Silvia Uccella, Alessandro Zerbi, Patrizia Borsotti, Giulia Garattini, Federica Di Leva, Nicolò Baranzini, Annalisa Grimaldi, Lorenzo Mortara, Francesco Acquati, Paola Muti, Dorina Belotti, Andrea Resovi, Barbara Bassani, Daniele Mercatelli

PUBLICATIONS (105):

1. A. Bruno, M. Cucchiara, M.T. Palano, C. Rubuano, G. De Antoni, M. Gallazzi, M. Tagliabue, A. Pessi, G. Catalano, M. Gemelli, R. Ricotta, P.F. Ferrucci, G. Nappo, S. Uccella, A. Zerbi, P. Borsotti, G. Garattini, F. Di Leva, N. Baranzini, A. Grimaldi, L. Mortara, F. Acquati, P. Muti, D. Belotti, A. Resovi, B. Bassani, D. Mercatelli. The TGF- β R1 inhibitor Galunisertib re-shapes the PDAC-TME by limiting decidual-like natural killer cells polariza. In Press Cell death & Disease. 2026 (IF=9.6) (Cited:)
2. A. Di Spirito, G. Zuccolotto, A Tosi, S. Balkhi, A. Rosato, D. Baci*, L. Mortara*. Evolving frontiers in bladder cancer immunotherapy: integrating BCG, immune checkpoints, viral vectors, nanotechnology, and CAR-based therapies. Front Cell Dev Biol. 2025 Dec 4;13:1719978. (IF=3.6) (Cited:)
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81. L. Mortara, V. Frangione, P. Castellani, A. De Lerma Barbaro, and R.S. Accolla. Irradiated CIITA-positive mammary adenocarcinoma cells act as a potent antitumor preventive vaccine by inducing tumor-specific CD4+ T cell priming and CD8+ T cell effector functions. *Int. Immunol.* 21(6), pp. 655-665, 2009 (IF=5.071) (Cited: 26)
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- and alpha IFN production during Simian Immunodeficiency Virus infection with a nonpathogenic outcome. *J. Virol.* 82(11), pp. 5145-5152, 2008 (IF=6.549) (Cited: 97)
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 85. L. Mortara, L. Giuliani, A. De Lerma Barbaro, R.S. Accolla, and D.M. Noonan. Experimental therapeutic approaches to adenocarcinoma: The potential of tumor cells engineered to express MHC class II molecules combined with naked DNA interleukin-12 gene transfer. *Surgical Oncol.* 16, pp. 33-36, 2007 (IF=2.388) (Cited: 5)
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 88. G. Tosi, E. Pilotti, L. Mortara, A. De Lerma Barbaro, C. Casoli, and R.S. Accolla. Inhibition of human T-cell leukemia virus type 2 replication by the suppressive action of class II transactivator and nuclear factor Y. *Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA.* 103(34), pp. 12861-12866, 2006 (IF=12.779) (Cited: 23)
 89. L. Mortara, P. Castellani, R. Meazza, G. Tosi, A. De Lerma Barbaro, F.A. Procopio, A. Comes, L. Zardi, S. Ferrini, and R.S. Accolla. CIITA-induced MHC class II expression in mammary adenocarcinoma leads to a Th1 polarization of the tumor microenvironment, tumor rejection and specific antitumor memory. *Clin. Cancer Res.* 12(11 Pt 1), pp. 3435-3443, 2006 (IF=13.801) (Cited: 85)
 90. E. Balza*, L. Mortara*, F. Sassi, S. Monteghirfo, B. Carnemolla, P. Castellani, D. Neri, R.S. Accolla, L. Zardi, and L. Borsi. Targeted delivery of TNF- α to tumor vessels induces a therapeutic T cell-mediated immune response that protects the host against syngeneic tumors of different histological origin. *Clin. Cancer Res.* 12(8), pp. 2575-2582, 2006 (* co-first authors) (IF=13.801) (Cited: 79)
 91. L. Mortara, M.J.Y. Ploquin, A. Faye, D. Scott-Alagara, B. Vaslin, C. Butor, A. Hosmalin, F. Barré-Sinoussi, O.M. Diop, and M.C. Müller-Trutwin. Phenotype and function of myeloid dendritic cells derived from African green monkey blood monocytes. *J. Immunol. Methods.* 308 (1-2), pp. 138-155, 2006 (IF=2.287) (Cited:19)
 92. C. Kornfeld, M.J.Y. Ploquin, I. Pandrea, V. Poaty-Movangou, A. Faye, R. Onanga, C. Apetrei, P. Rouquet, J. Estaquier, L. Mortara, J.F. Desoutter, C. Butor, R. Le Grand, P. Roques, F. Simon, F. Barré-Sinoussi, O.M. Diop, and M.C. Müller-Trutwin. Antiinflammatory profiles during primary SIV infection in African green monkeys are associated with protection against AIDS. *J. Clin. Invest.* 115(4), pp. 1082-1092, 2005 (IF=19.456) (Cited: 236)
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 94. M. Croce, R. Meazza, A.M. Orengo, L. Radic, B. De Giovanni, C. Gambini, B. Carlini, V. Pistoia, L. Mortara, R.S. Accolla, M.V. Corrias, and S. Ferrini. Sequential immuno-gene therapy with IL-12- and IL-15-engineered neuroblastoma cells cures metastatic disease in syngeneic mice. *Clin. Cancer Res.* 11(2), pp. 735-742, 2005 (IF=13.801) (Cited: 31)
 95. M.J.Y. Ploquin, O.M. Diop, N. Sol-Foulon, L. Mortara, A. Faye, M.A. Soares, E. Nerrienet, R. Le Grand, Y. van Kooyk, A. Amara, O. Schwartz, F. Barré-Sinoussi, and M.C. Müller-Trutwin. DC-SIGN from African green monkeys is expressed in lymph nodes and mediates infection in

trans of simian immunodeficiency virus (SIVagm). *J. Virol.* 78(2), pp. 798-810, 2004 (IF=6.549) (Cited: 22)

96. T.M. Allen, L. Mortara, B. Mothé, M. Liebl, P. Jing, B. Calore, M. Piekarczyk, R. Ruddersdorf, D.H. O'Connor, D. Fuller, K. Huntsman, X. Wang, J.D. Altman, S. Wolinsky, A. Sette, R. Desrosiers, G. Sutter, and D.I. Watkins. Tat-vaccinated macaques do not control SIVmac239 replication. *J. Virol.* 76(8), pp. 4108-4112, 2002 (IF=6.549) (Cited: 113)
97. A. Kunkl, D. Risso, M.P. Terranova, M. Giroto, B. Brando, L. Mortara, and P.B. Lantieri. Grading of laboratories on CD4+ T lymphocyte evaluations based on acceptable performance boundaries defined by the measurement error. *Cytometry (Clinical Cytometry)*. 50(2), pp. 117-126, 2002 (IF=3.058) (Cited: 14)
98. G. Li Pira, L. Bottone, D. Fenoglio, P. Terranova, E. Pontali, F. Ivaldi, F. Del Galdo, L. Mortara, A. Loregian, G. Palù, A. Kunkl, R. Accolla, R. De Palma, and F. Manca. Analysis of the antigen specific T cell repertoires in HIV infection. *Immunol. Lett.* 79(1-2), pp. 85-91, 2001 (IF=4.230) (Cited: 7)
99. L. Mortara, F. Letourneur, P. Villefroy, C. Beyer, H. Gras-Masse, J.G. Guillet, and I. Bourgault-Villada. Temporal loss of Nef-epitope CTL recognition following macaque lipopeptide immunization and SIV challenge. *Virology*. 278(2), pp. 551-561, 2000 (IF=3.513) (Cited: 30)
100. L. Mortara, H. Gras-Masse, C. Rommens, A. Venet, J.G. Guillet, and I. Bourgault-Villada. Type 1 CD4+ T-cell help is required for induction of antipeptide multispecific cytotoxic T lymphocytes by a lipopeptide vaccine in rhesus macaques. *J. Virol.* 73(5), pp. 4447-4451, 1999 (IF=6.549) (Cited: 48)
101. A. Kunkl, L. Mortara, M.T. Valle, D. Fenoglio, M.P. Terranova, A.M. Megiovanni, A. Alessandrini, G. Mazzeo, V. Del Bono, A. Canessa, D. Bassetti, and F. Manca. Recognition of antigenic clusters of *Candida albicans* by T lymphocytes from human immunodeficiency virus-infected persons. *J. Infect. Dis.* 178(2), pp. 488-496, 1998 (IF=7.759) (Cited: 23)
102. L. Mortara, F. Letourneur, H. Gras-Masse, A. Venet, J.G. Guillet, and I. Bourgault-Villada. Selection of virus variants and emergence of virus escape mutants after immunization with epitope vaccine. *J. Virol.* 72(2), pp. 1403-1410, 1998 (IF=6.549) (Cited: 86)
103. I. Bourgault-Villada, L. Mortara, A.M. Aubertin, H. Gras-Masse, J.P. Lévy, and J.G. Guillet. Positive role of macaque cytotoxic T lymphocytes during SIV infection: decrease of cellular viremia and increase of asymptomatic clinical period. *FEMS Immunol. Med. Microbiol.* 19(1), pp. 81-87, 1997 (IF=3.078) (Cited: 22)
104. F. Manca, G. Li Pira, D. Fenoglio, M.T. Valle, A. Ferraris, F. Lancia, L. Oppeduzzi, D. Saverino, L. Mortara, A. Kunkl, R. Balderas, J. Arp, G. Dekaban, A.G. Dalgleish, L. Lozzi, and A. Theofilopoulos. Recognition of human T Leukaemia virus (HTLV-I) envelope by human CD4+ T cell lines from HTLV-I seronegative individuals: specificity and clonal heterogeneity. *Blood*. 85(6), pp. 1547-1554, 1995 (IF=25.476) (Cited:24)
105. F. Manca, D. Fenoglio, M.T. Valle, G. Li Pira, A. Kunkl, A. Ferraris, D. Saverino, F. Lancia, L. Mortara, L. Lozzi, M. Pierres, A.G. Dalgleish, and G. Lewis. Human CD4+ T cell can discriminate the molecular and structural context of T epitopes of HIV gp 120 and HIV p 66. *J. AIDS and Hum. Retrovirol.* 9(3), pp. 227-237, 1995 (IF=3.806) (Cited:23)

Publication chapters book

D. Gallo, N. Kustrimovic, E. Piantanida, L. Bartalena, B. Patera, **L. Mortara***, M.L. Tanda*. Role of regulatory T cells in pathogenesis and therapeutics of Graves' disease and Graves' orbitopathy.

(Chapter 22, pp. 471-484, Elsevier Book: Regulatory T cells and Autoimmune Diseases, Edited by Mitesh Kumar Dwivedi and DeLisa Fairweather). May **2024**.

L. Mortara, D. Baci, G. Coco, A. Poggi, A. Bruno. The dual role of Natural Killer cells during tumor progression and angiogenesis: Implications for tumor microenvironment-targeted immunotherapies. (Elsevier Book Chapter). Successes and Challenges of NK Immunotherapy: Breaking Tolerance to Cancer Resistance pp. 305-347. June **2021**.

L. Mortara. Allergie e intolleranze / Allergies and intolerances. Scienze umane in estate. Summer School in humanities – Workshops for students - guidance between Vimercate and Alassio, pp. 170-177. Bellavite Editore, Missaglia (Lc), September **2018**.

Dr. Mortara is:

External Evaluator for the French National Cancer Institute (INCa), Call for Proposals 2024, Title: “Biological and basic sciences for Cancer research”.

External Evaluator for the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), Call for Consolidator Grants 2024-2026.

External Evaluator for the Israel National Science (INS), Call for Consolidator Grants 2024-2026.

External Evaluator for the Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A*STAR) under the Singapore Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI), Call for Proposals 2023-2025.

External Evaluator for the French National Cancer Institute (INCa), Call for Proposals 2019, Title: “Biological and basic sciences for Cancer research”.

External Evaluator for the Swiss Cancer League, Call for Proposals 2021.

MIUR Referee COFIN Proiectcs 2011-2017,

Referee Albo REPRISE MIUR 2015-2020 (Register for Expert Peer Reviewers for Italian Scientific Evaluation),

Referee for Bando: “Giovani Ricercatori Protagonisti” 2016, University of Florence,
“10 Assegni di ricerca di tipo A” 2017, University of Florence.

Referee for: Nature Immunology (from October 2023) (IF=27.700),

Heliyon (from October 2023 (IF=4.000),

Frontiers in Pharmacology (from October 2023) (IF=5.511),

Exploration Target of Antitumor Therapy (from February 2022),

Molecular Cancer (from March 2023) (IF=41.444),

Cancer Biotherapy and Radiopharmaceuticals (from June 2018) (IF=1.689),

Cancer Investigation (from May 2018) (IF=2.102),

Oncotarget (from February 2018),

Seminars in Immunology (from July 2017) (IF=9.611),

Anti-Cancer Agents in Medicinal Chemistry (from July 2017) (IF=2.598),

Medicinal Research Reviews (from March 2017) (IF=9.135),

Intern. J. of Immunopathology and Pharmacology (from April 2015) (IF=2.347),

International Journal of Molecular Sciences (from July 2018) (IF=5.600),

Frontiers in Immunology (from January 2019) (IF=7.500),

Molecules (from January 2019) (IF=3.098),

EBioMedicine (from January 2019) (IF=6.183),

Blood (from January 2019) (IF=13.164),

Theranostic (from January 2019) (IF=8.579),
 Carcinogenesis (from March 2019) (IF=5.334),
 Medicines (from March 2019),
 J. Translational Medicine (from April 2019) (IF=3.786),
 Translational Cancer Research (from April 2019) (IF=1.757),
 Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy (from May 2019) (IF=3.457),
 Marine Drugs (from June 2019) (IF=4.379),
 OncoImmunology (from July 2019) (IF=5.503),
 Immunobiology (from November 2020) (IF=2.778),
 Phytotherapy Research (from November 2020) (IF=4.087),
 British Journal of Cancer (from November 2020) (IF=5.791),
 Journal of the American Chemical Society (from November 2020) (IF=14.612),
 Current Medicinal Chemistry (from December 2020) (IF=4.184),
 Biology (from January 2021) (IF=3.796),
 International Immunopharmacology (from February 2021) (IF=3.943),
 FEBS Letters (from February 2021) (IF=3.057),
 OncoTargets and Therapy (from February 2021) (IF=3.337),
 Molecular Biology Reports (from March 2021) (IF=1.402),
 Scientific Reports (from May 2021) (IF=3.998),
 Advanced Science (from May 2021) (IF=15.840).

- 1) Member of the “Società Italiana di Immunologia, Immunologia Clinica e Allergologia”, SIICA, since 2002 (former “Gruppo di Cooperazione in Immunologia” (GCI) member since 1993),
- 2) Member of the “Society of the French Immunology” (SFI) 1996-2022,
- 3) Member of the “Società Italiana di Cancerologia” (SIC) since 2009,
- 4) Member of the “European Association for Cancer Research” (EACR) since 2009.

Oral presentations at National and International Congresses and Seminars

1) Los Angeles, University of California, UCLA, USA, March 20-21st, 2020: Natural killer cells as key players of tumor progression and angiogenesis: innovative anti-cancer therapies to divert their pro-tumor activities into potent anti-tumor effects. Invited speaker at First International Mini Symposium on “Successes and Challenges of NK Immunotherapy: Breaking Tolerance to Cancer Resistance”. Cancelled for COVID-19 Pandemia, March 11, 2020.

Invited Elsevier book chapter, titled “*Successes and Challenges of NK Immunotherapy; Breaking Tolerance to cancer Resistance*”, and our contribution titled: *The Dual Role of Natural Killer Cells During Tumor Progression and Angiogenesis: Implications for Tumor Microenvironment-targeted Immunotherapies*. L. Mortara, D. Baci, G. Coco, A. Poggi, and A. Bruno (2021).

2) Varese, Italy, June 8th 2016: Early triggering of natural killer and dendritic cells during the anti-tumor therapeutic response induced by TNF α tumor delivery and melphalan. School of Doctorate in Biotechnology, Biosciences and Surgical Technologies Seminar: Peripheral cells into mechanisms of immune response and of pathogenesis (inflammatory and neoformation), possible use in the diagnostic/therapeutic area. University of Insubria, Department of Biotechnology and Life Sciences.

- 3) Abano Terme, Padova, Italy, May 25th-28th 2016: Early triggering of natural killer and dendritic cell during antitumor therapeutic response induced by TNF α tumor vessel delivery and melphalan. Xth National Conference of the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (SIICA).
- 4) Florence, Italy, May 28th-31st 2014: Natural killer cells infiltrating colo-rectal cancer are switched towards the decidual-like pro-angiogenic CD56^{bright}CD16⁻ NK cell subset. IXth National Conference of the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (SIICA).
- 5) Bari, Italy, May 26th-29th 2010: CIITA-driven MHC class II expressing tumor cells of distinct histotype act as a potent antitumor vaccine and as a superior generator of tumor-specific CD4⁺ T lymphocytes for immunotherapy. 7th National Conference of SIICA.
- 6) Milan, Italy, November 23rd-26th 2009: Non-replicating MHC Class II-CIITA-positive mammary adenocarcinoma cells act as an effective anti-tumor-preventive vaccine by inducing long-lasting tumor-specific CD8⁺ T cells and potent CD4⁺ T helper cells. 51st Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society (SIC).
- 7) Paris, France, November 24th 2008: Irradiated CIITA-positive mammary adenocarcinoma cells act as effective tumor cell vaccine inducing both tumor-specific CD4⁺ and CD8⁺ T immune responses and tumor rejection upon challenge. Club of Vaccinology of French Society for Immunology (SFI).
- 8) Geneva, Switzerland, August 27th-31st 2008: Tumor treatment by TNF- α targeted to tumor vessels and melphalan induces strong adaptive immune response, protection from tumor growth and anti-tumor memory. 2008 World Cancer Congress. Union for International Cancer Control (UICC).
- 9) Paris, France, September 6th-9th 2006: Increased frequencies of plasmacytoid dendritic cells in lymph nodes during non-pathogenic SIV infection. 16th European Congress of Immunology and 1st Joint Meeting of European National Societies of Immunology (EFIS).
- 10) Rome, Italy, September 19th-21st 2001: Containment of SIV escape variants in vivo associated with highly macaque multispecific CTL vaccine induction. XVth National Conference of Italian Society of Immunology and Clinic Immunology.
- 11) Madison, Wisconsin (USA), October 27th 2000: Nef and Tat CTL analysis in post-acute SIV-infected rhesus macaques. Immunogenetics Club. Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, Laboratory of Immunogenetics, Madison, WI (USA).
- 12) Madison, Wisconsin (USA), June 17th 2000: Study of functional CD8⁺ T responses of five A*01⁺ infected rhesus macaques towards regulatory proteins of SIVmac239. Vaccine Meeting. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison School (USA).

- 13) Rockville, Maryland (USA), June 9th 2000: Vaccine-induced CTL in the control of SIVmac replication. Henry M. Jackson Foundation, U.S. Military HIV-1 Vaccine Research Program.
- 14) Madison, Wisconsin (USA), April 6th 2000: Anti-SIV cytotoxic T-lymphocytes and their selective pressure for escape mutant viruses. Immunology Meeting. University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison School (USA).
- 15) Madison, Wisconsin (USA), March 3rd 2000: Definition of new MHC class I molecules in chine rhesus macaques. Immunogenetics Club. Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, Laboratory of Immunogenetics, Madison, WI (USA).
- 16) Madison, Wisconsin (USA), January 21st 2000: Role of macaque anti-virus T lymphocytes CD8 positive responses in the control of SIV infection. Virology Meeting. Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Medical School (USA).
- 17) Madison, Wisconsin (USA), November 3rd 1999: Importance of multispecific CTL in controlling SIVmac infection in rhesus monkeys immunized by a multi-lipopeptidic vaccine. Immunogenetics Club. Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, Laboratory of Immunogenetics, Madison, WI (USA).
- 18) Paris, France, July 12th 1999: Interest of the Nef protein as target of multispecific CTL in the finalization of anti-HIV vaccine. Club of Retrovirology, Institut Cochin de Genetique Moleculaire (ICGM), Laboratoire d'Immunologie, Universite Rene Descartes, Cochin Hospital.
- 19) Paris, France, December 2nd-3rd 1998: Induction of macaque multispecific CTL by using lipopeptidic immunization including a promiscuous T helper epitope. 8e Journees de l'Institut Cochin de Genetique Moleculaire (ICGM), Laboratoire de Signalisation, Inflammation, Cochin Hospital.
- 20) Paris, France, December 12th 1997: Induction of macaque multispecific CTL through lipopeptides. Club of Retrovirology, Institut Cochin de Genetique Moleculaire (ICGM), Laboratoire de Genetique des Virus, University Rene Descartes, Cochin Hospital.
- 21) Paris, France, December 3rd-4th 1997: Emergence and selection of virus mutations at the moment of induction of immune response into macaque SIV model. 7e Journees de l'Institut Cochin de Genetique Moleculaire (ICGM), Laboratoire de Signalisation, Inflammation, Cochin Hospital.
- 22) Paris, France, December 3rd-6th 1997: Selection of virus variants and emergence of virus escape mutants by mono-specific CTL induced by lipopeptide vaccine. Dermatologic Days of Paris.
- 23) Genoa, Italy, November 9th-12th 1997: Monospecific CTL induced into rhesus macaques by lipopeptidic immunization select viral variants and mutants. XVth National Congress of Italian Society of Immunology and Immunopathology.

24) Paris, France, March 28th 1997: Fine characterization of the T cytotoxic lymphocytes (CTL) induced by lipopeptidique vaccine into macaque rhesus. Club of Retrovirology, Institut Cochin de Genetique Moleculaire (ICGM), Laboratoire de Genetique des Virus, University Rene Descartes, Cochin Hospital.

25) Paris, France, December 11th-12th 1996: Optimization of immunization protocols by lipopeptide. 6e Journees de l'Institut Cochin de Genetique Moleculaire (ICGM), Laboratoire de Signalisation, Inflammation, Cochin Hospital.

26) Paris, France, February 1st 1996: Utilization of lipopeptides into macaque. Cooperative Action Meeting 1st, Medical Research Foundation, Animal models for vaccination and for immune carriers.

Active participation in Research Groups

2003-2018: Research Project group in collaboration with Dr. L. Zardi, Dr. L. Borsi and Dr. E. Balza, Department of Translational Oncology, Istituto Nazionale per la Ricerca sul Cancro, IRCCS AOU San Martino – IST, Genova, Dr. Dario Neri, Department of Chemistry and Applied Biosciences, Institute of Pharmaceutical Sciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology, Zurich, Switzerland, Dr. A. Rubartelli dell'Unità di Cell Biology, Department of Integrated Oncological Therapies, IRCCS AOU San Martino – IST, and Dr. Alessandro Poggi, Molecular Oncology and Angiogenesis Unit, IRCCS AOU San Martino IST. (E. Balza*, L. Mortara* (co-first author), et al., Clin. Cancer Res., 2006; L. Mortara, E. Balza, et al., Eur. J. Immunol., 2007; E. Balza, B. Carnemolla, L. Mortara, et al., Int. J. Cancer, 2010; L. Mortara, et al., Cancer Med., 2013; E. Balza, ... L. Mortara (last author). Eur. J. Immunol., 2017).

2004-2012: Research group with Dr. Guido Ferlazzo, Laboratory of Immunology and Biotherapy, Department of Human Pathology, University of Messina, Messina, Dr. Maria Pia Pistillo, Tumor Epigenetics Unit, IRCCS AOU San Martino-IST, and with Dr. Maria Cristina Mingari, Department of Experimental Medicine, University of Genova. (B. Morandi*, L. Mortara* (co-first author), et al., Dendritic cell editing by activated natural killer cells results in a more protective cancer-specific immune response. PLoS One, 2012; Laurent S., et al., CTLA-4 expressed by human dendritic cells modulates their cytokine secretion and induction of T cell proliferation. J. Biol. Res., 2011; S. Laurent, et al., CTLA-4 is expressed by human monocyte-derived dendritic cells and regulates their functions. Hum. Immunol., 2010; B. Morandi, L. Mortara, et al., NK cells provide helper signal for CD8+ T cells by inducing the expression of membrane-bound IL-15 on DCs. Int. Immunol., 2009).

2004-January (1 month): Research Group at Unité de Biologie de Retrovirus, Pasteur Institut, Paris, France, coordinator Dr. M. Muller-Trutwin, director Prof Françoise Barré-Sinoussi (Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology 2008). (L. Mortara, et al., Phenotype and function of myeloid dendritic cells derived from African green monkey blood monocytes. J. Immunol. Methods, 2006).

2002-2003: CSS1 "Interaction hôte/virus", at the Unitè de Biologie des Retrovirus, Pasteur Institut, coordinator Dr. M. Muller-Trutwin, director Prof Françoise Barré-Sinoussi (Nobel Prize for Medicine and Physiology 2008) and in collaboration with Dr. Ousmane Diop, Dakar Pasteur

Institut, and Dr. Cecile Butor and Dr. Anne Hosmalin, Department d'Immunologie, Hopital Cochin, INSERM U445, Paris, France. (M.J.Y. Ploquin, O.M. Diop, N. Sol-Foulon, L. Mortara, et al., DC-SIGN from African green monkeys is expressed in lymph nodes and mediates infection in trans of simian immunodeficiency virus (SIVagm). *J. Virol.*, 2004; C. Kornfeld, et al., Antiinflammatory profiles during primary SIV infection in African green monkeys are associated with protection against AIDS. *J. Clin. Invest.*, 2005).

2000-2002: National research at the Human Virology Laboratory, Advanced Biotechnology Center, San Martino Hospital, Genova, director Dr. F. Manca, in collaboration with Prof. F. Indiveri, Centre of Excellence for Biomedical Research, Department of Internal Medicine, University of Genova (G. Li Pira, et al., Analysis of the antigen specific T cell repertoires in HIV infection. *Immunol. Lett.*, 2001).

1999-2000: International research at the Laboratory of Immunogenetics, Department of Pathology, Wisconsin Regional Primate Research Center, University of Wisconsin, Madison, USA, director Prof. David I. Watkins (T.M. Allen, L. Mortara, et al., Tat-vaccinated macaques do not control SIVmac239 replication. *J. Virol.*, 2002).

1995-1999: Action Coordonee N.1, title: Vaccine animal models and immunization vectors. Fondation pour la Recherche Medicale, Hopital Cochin, Institut Cochin de Genetique Moleculaire ICGM, Paris, France. (I. Bourgault-Villada, L. Mortara, et al., Positive role of macaque cytotoxic T lymphocytes during SIV infection: decrease of cellular viremia and increase of asymptomatic clinical period. *FEMS Immunol. Med. Microbiol.*, 1997; L. Mortara, et al., Selection of virus variants and emergence of virus escape mutants after immunization with epitope vaccine. *J. Virol.*, 1998; L. Mortara, et al., Type 1 CD4+ T-cell help is required for induction of antipeptide multispecific cytotoxic T lymphocytes by a lipopeptide vaccine in rhesus macaques. *J. Virol.*, 1999; L. Mortara, et al., Temporal loss of Nef-epitope CTL recognition following macaque lipopeptide immunization and SIV challenge. *Virology*, 2000).

Partecipation at College of Research Doctorate teachers

2021-to date: Research Doctorate in Experimental and Translational Medicine, University of Insubria.

2013-2018: Research Doctorate in Biotechnology Biosciences and Surgical Technologies, (Curriculum: Biotechnology and Surgical Technologies), University of Insubria.

2011-2015: Research Doctorate in Cellular and Molecular Biology, University of Insubria.

2007-2013: Research Doctorate in Experimental Medicine and Oncology, University of Insubria.

Abstracts at conferences and meetings (207)

1. A. Di Spirito, S. Balkhi, R. Bombelli, S. Baldini, F. Franzi, G. Famoso, P. Capogrosso, F. Dehò, **L. Mortara**. Innate Immune Dysregulation in Bladder Cancer, focusing on NK Cells and Proinflammatory Monocytes. ESMO, 361P, London Meeting, UK, December 10-12, **2025**
2. G. Bilato, K. Chahine, T. Virgilio, **L. Mortara**, S.F. González. Role of VEGFR3 in the lymphangiogenesis in a murine model of lymphoma. 65th SIC Società Italiana di Cancerologia, National Meeting, Turin, Italy, December 3-5, **2025**
3. G. Bilato, S. Baldini, M. Cucchiara, R.M. Bombelli, F. Franzi, G. Famoso, S. La Rosa, P. Capogrosso, A. Bruno, **L. Mortara**, F. Dehò. Analysis of circulating and tumor-infiltrating nk cells in renal cancer patients: focus on functional properties and phenotypic characteristics. American Urological Association (AUA) Annual Meeting, Las Vegas, Nevada, USA, April 26-29, 2025, The Journal of Urology, Vol. 213, No. 5S, Supplement, Meeting abstract IP16-11, doi.org/10.1097/01.JU.0001110024.72300.75.11, p. e869, May **2025**
4. G. Bilato, M. Cucchiara, M. Gallazzi, R. Bombelli, F. Olmeo, F. Franzi, G. Famoso, S. La Rosa, S. Baldini, P. Capogrosso, F. Dehò, A. Bruno, **L. Mortara**. Phenotype and functional characterization of circulating and tumor-infiltrating NK cells in patients with renal cancer. 64th SIC Società Italiana di Cancerologia, National Meeting, Milan, Italy, September 25-27, **2024**
5. G. Bilato, M. Cucchiara, M. Gallazzi, R. Bombelli, F. Olmeo, F. Franzi, G. Famoso, S. La Rosa, S. Baldini, P. Capogrosso, F. Dehò, A. Bruno, **L. Mortara**. Characterization of circulating and tumor-infiltrating NK cells in patients with renal cancer. 35rd Pezcoller Symposium, Trento, Italy, June 24-25, The Pezcoller Foundation Journal, p. 19, **2024**
6. M.T. Palano, M. Cucchiara, M. Gallazzi, F. Olmeo, C. Cali, G. De Antoni, C. Rubuano, R. Bombelli, N. Baranzini, L. Pulze, A. Grimaldi, G.M. Pirola, A. Naselli, M. Gemelli, R. Ricotta, F. Franzi, S. La Rosa, D. Morelli, P. Capogrosso, F. Dehò, M. Oderda, P. Gontero, M.G. Papotti, I.M. Bonapace, V. Poli, **L. Mortara**, B. Bassani, A. Bruno. Natural Killer cells in prostate cancer patients acquire the decidual-like NK phenotype/function and are re-polarized towards anti-tumor effector cells, via STAT3 chemical inhibition. 35rd Pezcoller Symposium, Trento, Italy, June 24-25, The Pezcoller Foundation Journal, p. 40-41, **2024**
7. M. Cucchiara, M.T. Palano, M. Gallazzi, G. De Antoni, C. Rubuano, M. Tagliabue, M.A. Pessi, G. Catalano, M. Gemelli, E.O. Bucci, R. Ricotta, P. Borsotti, G. Garattini, F. Acquati, **L. Mortara**, D. Belotti, B. Bassani, A. Resovi, A. Bruno. The TGFβR1 inhibitor Galunisertib re-shapes the PDAC-TME by limiting decidual-like natural killer cells polarization. 35rd Pezcoller Symposium, Trento, Italy, June 24-25, The Pezcoller Foundation Journal, p. 24-25, **2024**
8. M. Cucchiara, M. Gallazzi, G. Coco, R. Bombelli, F. Olmeo, F. Franzi, G. Famoso, F. Sessa, P. Capogrosso, F. Dehò, A. Bruno, **L. Mortara**. Circulating and tumor infiltrating natural killer cells in renal cancer patients express the CD9 and CD49a decidual markers and have increased activation of STAT3. XIV National Congress of the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (SIICA), Verona (Italy), poster 032, p. 34, 22-25 May **2023**
9. The cell-autonomous and non-cell autonomous activities of the alarmin-like RNASET2 protein in prostate cancer models. R. Roncoroni, A. De Vito, M. Gallazzi, D. Baci, M. Cucchiara, M.T. Palano, L. Monti, D.M. Noonan, A. Bruno, **L. Mortara**, F. Acquati. 62th SIC, Venice, Italy, November 16-18, **2022**
10. Polarization of circulating and tumour infiltrating NK cells in prostate cancer: role of STAT3. M. Gallazzi, M.T. Palano, M. Cucchiara, F. Dehò, P. Capogrosso, F. Franzi, F. Sessa, A. Naselli, A. Guarneri, R. Ricotta, **L. Mortara**, A. Bruno. 62th SIC, Venice, Italy, November 16-18, **2022**
11. R. Roncoroni, A. De Vito, M. Gallazzi, D. Baci, M. Cucchiara, M.T. Palano, L. Monti, D.M. Noonan, A. Bruno, **L. Mortara**, F. Acquati. The alarmin-like RNASET2 protein impact on prostate cancer (PCa) cell proliferation and inflammatory properties and shape macrophage polarization in a PCa in vivo model. 33rd Pezcoller Symposium, Trento, Italy, June 13-14, The Pezcoller Foundation Journal, Year 32, No. 57, p. 34, **2022**
12. M.P. Palano, M. Cucchiara, M. Gallazzi, P. Persichitti, R. Ricotta, **L. Mortara**, G. Taraboletti, D. Belotti, A. Resovi, A. Bruno. Circulating and tumour infiltrating NK cells acquire the decidual-like CD9+CD49a+ phenotype in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma: reversion by anti-fibrotic treatments. 33rd Pezcoller Symposium, Trento, Italy, June 13-14, The Pezcoller Foundation Journal, Year 32, No. 57, p. 32, **2022**
13. M. Gallazzi, M.T. Palano, M. Cucchiara, F. Dehò, P. Capogrosso, F. Franzi, F. Sessa, A. Naselli, A. Guarneri, R. Ricotta, **L. Mortara**, A. Bruno. Polarization of circulating and tumour infiltrating NK cells in

prostate cancer: role of STAT3. 33rd Pezcoller Symposium, Trento, Italy, June 13-14, The Pezcoller Foundation Journal, Year 32, No. 57, p. 25, **2022**

14. A. De Vito, R. Roncoroni, M. Gallazzi, F. Pierin, G. Coco, D.M. Noonan, F. Acquati, **L. Mortara**. Microenvironment-mediated regulation of cancer growth by the human RNASET2 oncosuppressor gene. Beatson International Cancer Conference, UK, The Cartography of Cancer: Mapping Tumours in 3D. Virtual Congress, July 12-13, **2021**
15. A. De Vito, R. Roncoroni, F. Pierin, G. Coco, **L. Mortara**, F. Acquati. 27th Congress of the European Association for Cancer Research (EACR), Virtual Congress, June 9-12, **2021**.
16. M. Gallazzi, D. Baci, **L. Mortara**, A. Bosi, G. Buono, A. Naselli, A. Guarneri, F. Dheò, P. Capogrosso, A. Albini, D.M. Noonan, A. Bruno. Peripheral blood Natural Killer cells in prostate cancer patients acquire the decidual-like CD56^{bright}CD9⁺CD49a⁺ phenotype and support angiogenesis in vitro, acting on endothelial cells and polarizing macrophages toward the M2-like/TAM phenotype. XIIth SIICA National Congress (the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology). Virtual Congress, May 26-28, **2021**
17. D. Gallo, F. Pierin, G. Coco, M. Gallazzi, A. Lai, M.L. Tanda, A. Bruno, E. Piantanida, **L. Mortara**. Natural Killer cells as possible mediators of Graves' disease cure. XIIth SIICA National Congress (the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology). Virtual Congress, May 26-28, **2021**
18. A. De Vito, R. Roncoroni, M. Gallazzi, F. Pierin, G. Coco, **L. Mortara**, F. Acquati. The RNASET2 oncosuppressor protein regulates both macrophage differentiation and polarization in human macrophages. VIB Conference, Gent, Belgium, Tumor Heterogeneity, Plasticity and Therapy. Virtual Edition, May 5-6, **2021**
19. A. De Vito, P. Orecchia, D. Scaldaferri, E. Balza, R. Taramelli, D.M. Noonan, F. Acquati, **L. Mortara**. The oncosuppressive role of RNASET2 gene in a mouse tumor syngeneic. II Joint Meeting of the German Society for Immunology and the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (48th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Immunology), Munich, September 9-13, **2019**
20. **L. Mortara**, M. Gallazzi, D. Baci, A. Bosi, A. Albini, D.M. Noonan, A. Bruno. Tumor associated Natural Killer cells in prostate cancer are endowed with decidual-like phenotype and pro-angiogenic function. II Joint Meeting of the German Society for Immunology and the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (48th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Immunology), Munich, September 9-13, **2019**
21. D. Gallo, E. Piantanida, S.A.M. Cattaneo, L. Gentile, F. Merletti, M. Nisi, M. Dodaj, M.L. Tanda, R. Chianese, D.M. Noonan, L. Bartalena, **L. Mortara**. The interplay between Natural Killer and T regulatory cells, micronutrients and markers of disease severity in newly diagnosed Graves' disease patients. II Joint Meeting of the German Society for Immunology and the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (48th Annual Meeting of the German Society for Immunology), Munich, September 9-13, **2019**
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23. D. Scaldaferri, A. De Vito, E. Balza, R. Taramelli, D.M. Noonan, F. Acquati, **L. Mortara**. Establishment of a mouse syngeneic model to investigate the oncosuppressive role of the RNASET2 gene. 5th International Conference of translational medicine on pathogenesis and therapy of immunomediated diseases, SIICA, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, May 16-18, poster P078, pp. 99, **2019**
24. D. Gallo, S.A.M. Cattaneo, J. Sabatino, L. Gentile, F. Merletti, M. Nisi, C. Peruzzo, M. Ferrario, D.M. Noonan, L. Bartalena, **L. Mortara**, E. Piantanida. Immune-regulatory phenotype of newly diagnosed Graves' disease, with special regards to micronutrients: preliminary data from a pilot study. 5th International Conference of translational medicine on pathogenesis and therapy of immunomediated diseases SIICA, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, May 16-18, poster P009, pp. 9, **2019**
25. A. Bruno, D. Baci, M. Gallazzi, **L. Mortara**, D.M. Noonan, A. Abini. Prostate cancer associated NK cells are endowed with pro-angiogenic phenotype/functions and induce M2-like macrophage polarization. 5th International Conference of translational medicine on pathogenesis and therapy of immunomediated diseases, SIICA, University of Milan, Milan, Italy, May 16-18, poster P079, pp. 100, **2019**

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32. A. Bruno, B. Bassani, M. Gallazzi, G. Pelosi, L. Boni, L. Dominioni, **L. Mortara**, D.M. Noonan, A. Albini. Tumor infiltrating (TINKs) and tumor associated (TANKs) from colorectal cancer patients are proangiogenic and express angiogenin and the MMP9-TIMP2, similar to decidual NK cells. 60th SIC, Milan, Italy, September 19-22, pp. 95, **2018**
33. D. Scaldaferri, E. Piscitelli, L. Pulze, L. Monti, E. Pedrini, A. De Vito, P. Pelucchi, M. Moro, M. Crosti, A. Gritzapis, T. Karnavas, I. Missitzis, A. Zippo, E. Balza, I. Zucchi, R. Reinbold, M. De Eguileor, D.M. Noonan, **L. Mortara**, R. Taramelli, F. Acquati. The pleiotropic roles of the human RNASET2 tumor suppressor gene. XV FISV, Federazione Italiana di Scienze della Vita, Congress Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, September 18-21, pp. 96, **2018**
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37. S. Zanellato, B. Bassani, A. Bosi, A. Musco, D.G. D'Urso, M. Cattoni, C. Sampietro, A. Imperatori, L. Dominioni, A. Albini, A. Bruno, **L. Mortara**, D.M. Noonan. *Pleural effusion NK cells from metastatic tumors display pro-angiogenic features and pleural effusion fluids block their response to IL-2 treatment*. XIth National Conference of the Italian Society of Immunology, Clinical Immunology and Allergology (SIICA), Bari, Italy, May 28-31, pp. 53, **2017**
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 50. A. Bruno, S. Zanellato, L. Dominioni, L. Boni, E. Cassinotti, G. David, E. Zanetti, **L. Mortara**, A. Albinì, D.M. Noonan, *The pro angiogenic phenotype and function of tumor infiltrating (TINKs) and tumor associated (TANKs) Natural Killer cells in colorectal cancer*. 57th Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society (SIC), Florence, Italy, June 20-23, pp. 186, **2015**
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