

Personal Information

Email: verena.damiani@unicamillus.org

Sex: Female | Nationality: Italian

Current Position

Tenure-Track Researcher (RTT) – Scientific-Disciplinary Sector BIOS-09/A (former BIO/12)
Saint Camillus International University of Health Science, Rome (Italy)

Education and Training

04/2021 – 30/04/2025

Specialization in Clinical Pathology and Clinical Biochemistry
University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

10/2021 – 05/2022

1st Advanced Training Course in Genomics: “The Road Towards Predictive and Personalized
Medicine”
Dante Labs s.r.l., L’Aquila (Italy)

19/02/2019

PhD in Biomolecular and Pharmaceutical Sciences
University “G. d’Annunzio” of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

12/2014

Professional Qualification as Biologist
University of Parma, Italy

30/10/2014

MSc in Biology and Biomedical Applications – Final grade: 110/110
University of Parma, Italy

18/07/2012

BSc in Biological Sciences – Final grade: 108/110
University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy

06/2008

High School Diploma in Scientific Studies – Final grade: 100/100
G. Galilei Scientific High School, Pescara, Italy

Professional Experience

01/2023 – 08/2025

Research Fellow

IRCCS Bambino Gesù Pediatric Hospital, Rome (Italy)

- Scientific collaborator, PNRR: M6/C2_CALL 2023

- Project: "Discovery of new anti-cancer immunomodulators to make high-risk neuroblastoma patients responsive to immunotherapy approaches"

03/2021 – 12/2023

Postdoctoral Research Fellow (SSD BIO/12)

University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

- Project: "Role of IFITM family receptors in the development of pancreatic carcinoma"

- Project: "Role of BAG3 in glucose homeostasis: pathophysiological characterization of tissue-specific BAG3 knockout in pancreatic β -cells"

03/2020 – 02/2021

Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

- Research on molecular and serological diagnostics of SARS-CoV-2 infection

03/2019 – 02/2020

AIRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow

University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

- Project: "Role of BAG3 in the tumor microenvironment of pancreatic carcinoma"

03/2019 – 02/2020

PhD Student

University "G. d'Annunzio" of Chieti-Pescara, Italy

- Project: "New therapeutic approaches in the treatment of pancreatic carcinoma"

01/2015 – 11/2015

Postgraduate Internship – Gemib s.r.l., Parma (Italy)

- Section of Molecular Diagnostics: real-time PCR amplification of target genes in oncology, infectious diseases, and vascular pathologies

- Section of Biomedical Research: identification of new biomarkers in infectious (HPV) and oncological (pancreatic cancer) diseases

01/2014 – 10/2014

Master Thesis Student – Gemib s.r.l., Parma (Italy)

- Human biological sample handling, DNA/RNA extraction, miRNA enrichment, PCR, microarray preparation and analysis (Affymetrix platform)

10/2011 – 05/2012

Bachelor Thesis Student – Policlinico of Modena, Italy

- Training in serological and molecular biology techniques used in the Immunohematology and Transfusion Service

12/2009 – 09/2010
Volunteer Soldier (VFP1)
Italian Army, Vipiteno (BZ, Italy)

Personal Skills

Mother tongue: Italian

Other languages:

- English: B2 (Listening, Reading, Speaking, Writing)
- German: B1 (Listening, Reading, Speaking), A2 (Writing)

Digital skills:

- Excellent knowledge of Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, PowerPoint)
- Proficient in GraphPad Prism for data analysis

Memberships:

- Italian Society of Clinical Biochemistry and Clinical Molecular Biology (SIBioC)
- Order of Biologists of Lazio and Abruzzo

Conferences (as speaker)

Oral Presentation – AIRC-IFOM Joint Meeting 'From Biological Mechanism to New Therapies'. Talk: 'High-throughput phenotypic screening platform reveals new anti-cancer immunomodulators to make high-risk neuroblastoma patients responsive to immunotherapy approaches'. Milan, Italy, 26–27 June 2024.

E-Poster Presentation – 26th Multidisciplinary Meeting Abruzzo and Molise. Talk: 'Enhanced detection of SARS-CoV-2 nucleocapsid antibodies by DELFIA immunoassay in dried blood spots: a promising advancement'. Chieti, Italy, 5–6 October 2023.

Moderator & Poster Presentation – 13th European Workshop on Cell Death. Moderated session: 'Poking Holes'. Poster: 'Brain plasticity in a chronic endogenous hyperinsulinemia mouse model'. Fiuggi, Italy, 4–9 June 2023.

Oral Presentation – 12th European Workshop on Cell Death. Talk: 'BAG3 in glucose homeostasis: physiopathological characterization of BAG3 knockout in pancreatic β -cells'. Fiuggi, Italy, 26 June – 1 July 2022.

Poster Presentation – 25th Biennial Congress of the European Association for Cancer Research. Poster: 'Ferritin engineered nanoparticles for pancreatic cancer targeted therapy'. Amsterdam, Netherlands, 30 June – 3 July 2018.

Teaching Experience

Adjunct Lecturer in Biochemistry (SSD BIO/10, 12 CFU) – Master in Teaching Mathematics and Science in Secondary Schools, Leonardo Da Vinci Online University, AY 2022–2023.

Teaching Assistant (Cultore della materia) – Molecular Biology, SSD BIO/11, AY 2021–2022 and AY 2022–2023.

Publications

1. Damiani V*, Di Giuseppe G*, Gliozzo G, Ciccarelli G, Pizzinato E, Del Pizzo F, Fruci D, Brunetti M, Soldovieri L, Quero G, Mari A, Alfieri S, Pontecorvi A, Giaccari A, De Laurenzi V, Mezza T. Altered BAG3-insulin colocalization is associated with impaired first phase insulin secretion in humans. *Diabetes Res Clin Pract.* 2025 May 6:112232. doi: 10.1016/j.diabres.2025.112232. Epub ahead of print. PMID: 40339705.
2. Di Marco F, Cufaro MC, Damiani V, Dufrusine B, Pizzinato E, Di Ferdinando F, Sala G, Lattanzio R, Dainese E, Federici L, Ponsaerts P, De Laurenzi V, Cicalini I, Pieragostino D. Proteomic meta-analysis unveils new frontiers for biomarkers research in pancreatic carcinoma. *Oncogenesis.* 2025 Feb 16;14(1):3. doi: 10.1038/s41389-025-00547-4. PMID: 39956821; PMCID: PMC11830788.
3. Lucarini V, Melaiu O, Gragera P, Król K, Scaldaferrì V, Damiani V, De Ninno A, Nardozi D, Businaro L, Masuelli L, Bei R, Cifaldi L, Fruci D. Immunogenic Cell Death Inducers in Cancer Immunotherapy to Turn Cold Tumors into Hot Tumors. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2025 Feb 14;26(4):1613. doi: 10.3390/ijms26041613. PMID: 40004078; PMCID: PMC11855819.
4. Tempora P, D'Amico S, Gragera P, Damiani V, Krol K, Scaldaferrì V, Pandey K, Chung S, Lucarini V, Giorda E, Scarsella M, Volpe G, Pezzullo M, De Stefanis C, D'Oria V, De Angelis L, Giovannoni R, De Ioris MA, Melaiu O, Purcell AW, Locatelli F, Fruci D. Combining ERAP1 silencing and entinostat therapy to overcome resistance to cancer immunotherapy in neuroblastoma. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res.* 2024 Oct 22;43(1):292. doi: 10.1186/s13046-024-03180-y. PMID: 39438988; PMCID: PMC11494811.
5. Bersani I, Lapergola G, Patacchiola R, D'Adamo E, Stuppia L, de Laurenzi V, Damiani V, Cataldo I, Clemente K, Primavera A, Salomone R, Barbante E, Campi F, Savarese I, Ronci S, Dotta A, Braguglia A, Longo D, Gavilanes DAW, Gazzolo F, Serpero L, Strozzi MC, Maconi A, Cassinari M, Libener R, Gazzolo D. Elevated S100B urine levels predict seizures in infants complicated by perinatal asphyxia and undergoing therapeutic hypothermia. *Clin Chem Lab Med.* 2024 Jan 30;62(6):1109-1117. doi: 10.1515/cclm-2023-1471. PMID: 38290722.
6. Damiani V, Lamolinara A, Cicalini I, Cufaro MC, Del Pizzo F, Di Marco F, Del Boccio P, Dufrusine B, Hahne M, Lattanzio R, Pieragostino D, Iezzi M, Federici M, Turco MC, Maiorana A, Dionisi-Vici C, De Laurenzi V. Pancreatic beta-cell specific BAG3 knockout results in chronic hyperinsulinemia inducing insulin resistance. *Mol Metab.* 2023 Aug;74:101752. doi: 10.1016/j.molmet.2023.101752. Epub 2023 Jun 10. PMID: 37308077; PMCID: PMC10333681.
7. Damiani V, Pizzinato E, Cicalini I, Demattia G, Zucchelli M, Natale L, Palmarini C, Di Marzio C, Federici L, De Laurenzi V, Pieragostino D. Development of a Method for Detection of SARS-CoV-2 Nucleocapsid Antibodies on Dried Blood Spot by DELFIA Immunoassay.

Diagnostics (Basel). 2023 Feb 27;13(5):897. doi: 10.3390/diagnostics13050897. PMID: 36900041; PMCID: PMC10000641.

8. Dufrusine B, Valentinuzzi S, Bibbò S, Damiani V, Lanuti P, Pieragostino D, Del Boccio P, D'Alessandro E, Rabottini A, Berghella A, Allocati N, Falasca K, Ucciferri C, Mucedola F, Di Perna M, Martino L, Vecchiet J, De Laurenzi V, Dainese E. Iron Dyshomeostasis in COVID-19: Biomarkers Reveal a Functional Link to 5-Lipoxygenase Activation. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2022 Dec 20;24(1):15. doi: 10.3390/ijms24010015. PMID: 36613462; PMCID: PMC9819889.
9. Damiani V, Cufaro MC, Fucito M, Dufrusine B, Rossi C, Del Boccio P, Federici L, Turco MC, Sallese M, Pieragostino D, De Laurenzi V. Proteomics Approach Highlights Early Changes in Human Fibroblasts-Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma Cells Crosstalk. *Cells*. 2022 Mar 29;11(7):1160. doi: 10.3390/cells11071160. PMID: 35406724; PMCID: PMC8997741.
10. Cicalini I, Del Boccio P, Zucchelli M, Rossi C, Natale L, Demattia G, De Bellis D, Damiani V, Tommolini ML, Pizzinato E, Frisco A, Verrocchio S, Bucci I, Stuppia L, De Laurenzi V, Pieragostino D. Validation of the GSP®/DELFI® Anti-SARS-CoV-2 IgG Kit Using Dried Blood Samples for High-Throughput Serosurveillance and Standardized Quantitative Measurement of Anti-Spike S1 IgG Antibody Responses Post-Vaccination. *Vaccines (Basel)*. 2022 Mar 26;10(4):514. doi: 10.3390/vaccines10040514. PMID: 35455263; PMCID: PMC9028589.
11. Bonelli M, Rosato E, Locatelli M, Tartaglia A, Falco P, Petrarca C, Potenza F, Damiani V, Mandatori D, De Laurenzi V, Stuppia L, D'Ovidio C. Long persistence of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 swab positivity in a drowned corpse: a case report. *J Med Case Rep*. 2022 Feb 9;16(1):72. doi: 10.1186/s13256-022-03297-8. PMID: 35139890; PMCID: PMC8826670.
12. Pieragostino D, Lanzini M, Cicalini I, Cufaro MC, Damiani V, Mastropasqua L, De Laurenzi V, Nubile M, Lanuti P, Bologna G, Agnifili L, Del Boccio P. Tear proteomics reveals the molecular basis of the efficacy of human recombinant nerve growth factor treatment for Neurotrophic Keratopathy. *Sci Rep*. 2022 Jan 24;12(1):1229. doi: 10.1038/s41598-022-05229-4. PMID: 35075190; PMCID: PMC8786855.
13. Dufrusine B, Damiani V, Capone E, Pieragostino D, Dainese E, De Marco M, Reppucci F, Turco MC, Rosati A, Marzullo L, Sala G, Sallese M, De Laurenzi V. BAG3 induces fibroblasts to release key cytokines involved in pancreatic cell migration. *J Cell Biochem*. 2022 Jan;123(1):65-76. doi: 10.1002/jcb.30172. Epub 2021 Nov 6. PMID: 34741485; PMCID: PMC9297949.
14. Anaclerio F, Ferrante R, Mandatori D, Antonucci I, Capanna M, Damiani V, Tomo PD, Ferrante R, Ranaudo M, De Laurenzi V, Stuppia L, De Fabritiis S. Different Strategies for the Identification of SARS-CoV-2 Variants in the Laboratory Practice. *Genes (Basel)*. 2021 Sep 16;12(9):1428. doi: 10.3390/genes12091428. PMID: 34573410; PMCID: PMC8467753.

15. Lanuti P, Rossi C, Cicalini I, Pierdomenico L, Damiani V, Semeraro D, Verrocchio S, Del Boccio P, Evangelista A, Sarra A, Zucchelli M, Bologna G, Simeone P, Catitti G, Di Marco F, Stefanetti S, Vespa S, Sinjari B, Bucci I, De Laurenzi V, Di Battista T, Stuppia L, Pieragostino D. Picture of the Favourable Immune Profile Induced by Anti-SARS-CoV-2 Vaccination. *Biomedicines*. 2021 Aug 18;9(8):1035. doi: 10.3390/biomedicines9081035. PMID: 34440239; PMCID: PMC8391252.
16. Damiani V, Mandatori D, De Fabritiis S, Bibbò S, Ferrante R, Di Giuseppe F, Ruggieri AG, Di Camillo C, Buccolini C, Pizzi D, Fazii P, Stuppia L, De Laurenzi V. Severe acute respiratory coronavirus virus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) infection in asymptomatic vaccinated healthcare workers. *Infect Control Hosp Epidemiol*. 2021 Nov;42(11):1390-1391. doi: 10.1017/ice.2021.224. Epub 2021 May 10. PMID: 33966665; PMCID: PMC8220020.
17. Di Carlo P, Falasca K, Ucciferri C, Sinjari B, Aruffo E, Antonucci I, Di Serafino A, Pompilio A, Damiani V, Mandatori D, De Fabritiis S, Dufrusine B, Capone E, Chiacchiarretta P, Brune WH, Di Bonaventura G, Vecchiet J. Normal breathing releases SARS-CoV-2 into the air. *J Med Microbiol*. 2021 Mar;70(3):001328. doi: 10.1099/jmm.0.001328. Epub 2021 Feb 25. PMID: 33629949; PMCID: PMC8346733.
18. Falvo E*, Damiani V*, Conti G, Boschi F, Messina K, Giacomini P, Milella M, De Laurenzi V, Morea V, Sala G, Fracasso G, Ceci P. High activity and low toxicity of a novel CD71-targeting nanotherapeutic named The-0504 on preclinical models of several human aggressive tumors. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res*. 2021 Feb 10;40(1):63. doi: 10.1186/s13046-021-01851-8. PMID: 33568214; PMCID: PMC7877078.
19. Falvo E, Arcovito A, Conti G, Cipolla G, Pitea M, Morea V, Damiani V, Sala G, Fracasso G, Ceci P. Engineered Human Nanoferritin Bearing the Drug Genz-644282 for Cancer Therapy. *Pharmaceutics*. 2020 Oct 20;12(10):992. doi: 10.3390/pharmaceutics12100992. PMID: 33092088; PMCID: PMC7589674.
20. Adamska A, Ferro R, Lattanzio R, Capone E, Domenichini A, Damiani V, Chiorino G, Akkaya BG, Linton KJ, De Laurenzi V, Sala G, Falasca M. ABCC3 is a novel target for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. *Adv Biol Regul*. 2019 Aug;73:100634. doi: 10.1016/j.jbior.2019.04.004. Epub 2019 Apr 24. Erratum in: *Adv Biol Regul*. 2022 May;84:100855. doi: 10.1016/j.jbior.2021.100855. PMID: 31053501.
21. Adamska A, Domenichini A, Capone E, Damiani V, Akkaya BG, Linton KJ, Di Sebastiano P, Chen X, Keeton AB, Ramirez-Alcantara V, Maxuitenko Y, Piazza GA, De Laurenzi V, Sala G, Falasca M. Pharmacological inhibition of ABCC3 slows tumour progression in animal models of pancreatic cancer. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res*. 2019 Aug 5;38(1):312. doi: 10.1186/s13046-019-1308-7. PMID: 31378204; PMCID: PMC6681491.
22. Basile A, De Marco M, Festa M, Falco A, Iorio V, Guerriero L, Eletto D, Rea D, Arra C, Lamolinara A, Ballerini P, Damiani V, Rosati A, Sala G, Turco MC, Marzullo L, De Laurenzi V. Development of an anti-BAG3 humanized antibody for treatment of pancreatic cancer. *Mol*

Oncol. 2019 Jun;13(6):1388-1399. doi: 10.1002/1878-0261.12492. Epub 2019 May 17. PMID: 30973679; PMCID: PMC6547619.

23. Iorio V, Rosati A, D'Auria R, De Marco M, Marzullo L, Basile A, Festa M, Pascale M, Remondelli P, Capunzo M, Sala G, Damiani V, Amodio G, Di Nicola M, Lattanzio R, Turco MC, De Laurenzi V. Combined effect of anti-BAG3 and anti-PD-1 treatment on macrophage infiltrate, CD8+ T cell number and tumour growth in pancreatic cancer. *Gut*. 2018 Apr;67(4):780-782. doi: 10.1136/gutjnl-2017-314225. Epub 2017 Aug 11. PMID: 28801350; PMCID: PMC5868239.

24. Damiani V, Falvo E, Fracasso G, Federici L, Pitea M, De Laurenzi V, Sala G, Ceci P. Therapeutic Efficacy of the Novel Stimuli-Sensitive Nano-Ferritins Containing Doxorubicin in a Head and Neck Cancer Model. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2017 Jul 18;18(7):1555. doi: 10.3390/ijms18071555. PMID: 28718812; PMCID: PMC5536043.

Leave

Maternity leave: 18/11/2024 – 18/04/2025

Personal Data Protection

I hereby authorize the use of my personal data included in my curriculum vitae in compliance with Art. 13 of Italian Legislative Decree 196/2003 and Art. 13 of EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).

Rome, 01/09/2025