

Since 2009 Research scientist at the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, ENEA, Laboratory of Biotechnology, Casaccia Research Center, Rome.

From 2003 to 2009 Post-doc fellowship (“Assegno di ricerca”) at the Italian National Agency for New Technologies, Energy and Sustainable Economic Development, ENEA, Laboratory of Biotechnology, Casaccia Research Center, Rome (“In planta expression of heterologous proteins through the use of plant viruses”).

2002: Fellowship in Agriculture Genetics funded by “Accademia Nazionale dei Lincei” (“Plants as biofactories for the production of anti-HIV-1 vaccines”).

From 2000 to 2001 Fellowship at ENEA, Casaccia Research Center, Rome.

(“Plants as biofactories for vaccine formulations. Development of an edible vaccine against HIV-1” within the II National AIDS Research Program, ISS).

She is mainly interested in the plant molecular farming field for the expression of low costs purified antigens and the study of innovative vaccine delivery strategies based on the use of chimeric plant viruses. In this context, she is involved also in the analysis of plant virus infection mechanisms, studying in detail the molecular aspects of the infection progression, the role of the structural protein and the features of the virion, both icosahedral and filamentous. In the same line, she is interested in several different applications of plant viruses in nanomedicine, for drug targeting and delivery, bioimaging, tissue engineering, as well as for other uses in nanomaterials. The research consists of a multidisciplinary approach, combining plant virology, plant biotechnology, molecular engineering and immunology, setting up new protocols and making use of integrated techniques.