

Short Curriculum Vitae

Giovanni Maga
Born 30/05/1965 in Pavia
Lives in Pavia
Married

Current position:

Director of the Department of Biomedical Sciences of the CNR

Scientific Interests:

Dr. G. Maga has been working since his graduation on the enzymology of DNA replication. His research has focused on the characterization of different enzymatic systems responsible for nucleotide metabolism and the duplication of the genetic information in human cells and viruses. His interest is devoted both towards the elucidation of basic molecular processes and to the exploitation of novel enzymatic targets for antiviral and anticancer chemotherapy.

Currently, he is interested in: i) Elucidating the biochemical pathways involved in coupling the DNA replication and repair machinery in human cancer cells, with particular emphasis on the role(s) of specialized DNA polymerases. ii) Understanding the host-virus molecular interactions in order to develop broad spectrum antiviral drugs.

Presently his main lines of research are:

Enzymology of DNA replication and repair in eukaryotic cells

Novel antiviral strategies against human viruses (HIV, HCV, influenza, arboviruses, SARS-CoV-2)

Novel targets and drugs for anticancer chemotherapy

Dr. Maga coordinates the technological platform for drug screening at the IGM-CNR, which offers services of target identification, cloning, expression and purification of cellular and viral proteins, enzymatic assays setup and optimization, screening of small molecules in vitro and in cell culture, mechanism of action determination.

Education and work

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| Degree in Biological Sciences at the University of Pavia | 1989 |
| Master in Genetics at the University of Pavia | 1990 |
| PhD degree in Applied Genetics at the University of Pavia | 1993 |
| Postdoctoral fellow at the Institute of Veterinary Biochemistry, University of Zürich | 1993-1996 |
| Postdoctoral Fellow at the Institute of Molecular Genetics-CNR, Pavia (ICGEB Fellowship, ISS-AIDS Fellowship) | 1997-1999 |
| Contract Researcher at the Institute of Molecular Genetics-CNR, Pavia | 2000-2001 |
| Researcher at the Institute of Molecular Genetics-CNR, Pavia | 2001-2005 |
| First Researcher at the Institute of Molecular Genetics-CNR, Pavia | 2005-2018 |

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| Head of the DNA Enzymology &Molecular Virology Section | 2006-present |
| Contract Professor of Molecular Biology, University of Pavia | 2011-present |
| Research Director at the Institute of Molecular Genetics-CNR, Pavia | 2018-2019 |
| Director of the Institute of Molecular Genetics-CNR, Pavia | 2019-2023 |
| Director of the Department of Biomedical Sciences CNR | 2023-present |

Scientific coordination

Principal Investigator in several European (FP6) and National (MIUR, Ministero Salute, AIRC, Istituto Superiore Sanità, CARIPLO) Projects

He is currently being funded by a 5-years AIRC Investigator Grant, a 3-years PRIN grant and two 1-year grants from private foundations (Fondazione Banca del Monte di Lombardia, Fondazione San Paolo)

Editorial Activities

Author of the Book "DNA polymerases" World Scientific Press (2010)

Author of the Book "Human DNA Polymerases" World Scientific Press (2017)

Editor of the Book "DNA Replication Repair and Recombination"

Research Signpost, 2008 (ISBN 978-81-308-0253-4)

Academic Editor of PLoS ONE (2012 – present)

Academic Editor of the International Journal of Molecular Sciences (2018-present)

Editorial Board Member of the Journal of Biological Chemistry (2010-2015)

Editorial Advisory Board member of The Biochemical Journal (2005-2015)

Guest Editor of Current Drug Metabolism

Guest Editor of Current Pharmaceutical Biotechnology

Memberships

American Society for Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (2010 – 2015)

American Society of Microbiology (USA) (2014-2015)

Biochemical Society (London) (201-2015)

International AIDS Society (2016)

Società Italiana di Biofisica e Biologia Molecolare (2010-present)

Member of the Covid-19 Advisory Committee to the CNR General Director (2020-present)

CNR representative within the EU- G6 working group on pandemic preparedness (2021-2022)

CNR representative within the National Bioethics Committee (2022 - present)

Member of the National Ethics Committee for Clinical Studies (2022-present)

Publications

Dr. Maga is author/co-author of 276 publications in international peer-reviewed journals, his H-index is 54 with 10657 citations (Scopus).

Dissemination activity to the public

Dr. Maga wrote several popular science books for the Italian audience: "Occhio ai Virus" (Zanichelli, 2014, 2nd ed. 2021) awarded with the National Prize for Popular

Science in the health sciences category; “AIDS: la verità negata” (Il Pensiero Scientifico Editore, 2015), awarded with the Literary Prize Franz Kafka in the essays category and “Batteri spazzini e virus che curano: come le biotecnologie riscrivono la vita” (Zanichelli, 2016). “Quando la cellula perde il controllo” (Zanichelli, 2019). “Pandemia e Infodemia” (Zanichelli 2022). Dr. Maga is active in science popularization through mass media (newspapers, magazines, radio and TV broadcasts) and often gives lectures in secondary schools about virology and biotechnology.

Pavia, 01/03/2022

Dr. Giovanni Maga

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Maga', written in a cursive style.