

PERSONAL INFORMATION

ALESSIA ALUNNO, MD PhD



Gender Female | Date of birth 25/09/1982 | Nationality Italian

CURRENT POSITION

Assistant Professor of Rheumatology, University of Perugia, Italy

MAIN RESEARCH INTERESTS

Basic & Translational research

Rheumatic and musculoskeletal diseases, with particular focus on chronic inflammatory arthritis and connective tissue diseases:

- Identification of novel auto-antibodies and their diagnostic and/or prognostic role, identification of the pathogenic role of B and T lymphocyte subpopulations and of platelets, evaluation of endothelial turnover markers, evaluation of histopathological features of minor salivary glands in primary Sjögren's syndrome and their prognostic implications, assessment of therapeutic application of umbilical cord Wharton jelly-derived mesenchymal stem cells from healthy females in vitro and in experimental models of systemic lupus erythematosus and Sjögren's syndrome.

Endocrine autoimmune diseases with particular focus on type 1 diabetes:

- Assessment of therapeutic application of umbilical cord Wharton jelly-derived mesenchymal stem cells from healthy females in vitro and in experimental models of type 1 diabetes
- Assessment of the effects of obesity and type 1 diabetes on umbilical cord Wharton jelly-derived mesenchymal stem cells from diabetic females

Clinical research

- Patient-reported outcomes in young people with chronic arthritis
- Development of new patient-reported outcomes
- Work participation in rheumatic diseases
- Cardiovascular risk in rheumatic diseases
- Identifications of tools to improve physician-patient relationship and shared decision making (e.g. digital technologies)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

October 2013-October 2017

PhD in Medical Biotechnology (Excellent with praise)
University of Perugia, Italy

In vitro and vivo models of systemic (Sjögren's syndrome, systemic lupus erythematosus) and organ-specific (Type 1 diabetes) autoimmune diseases.

Thesis title: "Mesenchymal stem cells (MSCs) in systemic and autoimmune diseases in mouse models and humans: potential biotechnological application for therapeutic purposes". Supervisor: Prof Roberto Gerli defended on 5 April 2017

March 2008-March 2012

Clinical Fellowship in Rheumatology (50/50 with praise)

Rheumatology Unit, Department of Medicine, University of Perugia, Italy

- Diagnosis and management of autoimmune and non-autoimmune rheumatic diseases
- Nailfold videocapillaroscopy
- Joint aspiration and injection
- Synovial fluid analysis

Thesis title: "T regulatory and T helper 17 subpopulations in the pathogenesis of Sjögren's syndrome". Supervisor: Prof Roberto Gerli, defended on 20 March 2012

October 2008-October 2009

Research Fellowship in Experimental Rheumatology

Centre for Experimental Medicine and Rheumatology, Queen Mary University of London, UK

- Flow Cytometry
- Immunohistochemistry
- Immunofluorescence
- PCR
- Magnetic cell sorting
- Cell culture
- Biomedical statistics

9th October 2007

Medical Degree (110/110 with praise)

University of Perugia, Italy

Thesis title: "Regulatory and effector T cells in rheumatic autoimmune diseases: role of glucocorticoid induced TNFR-related gene (GITR)". Supervisor: Prof Roberto Gerli

16th July 2001

High school degree (100/100)

Liceo Scientifico "Leonardo da Vinci", Umbertide, Perugia, Italy

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

March 2012-to date

Supervisor of medical and dentistry students

University of Perugia, Italy

Supervision and mentoring of last year students during the preparation of the degree thesis

January 2016-to date

Rheumatology Teacher for medical students

Medical School, University of Perugia, Italy

4 year Medical Students in preparation to the exam of 'Systemic Pathology V

January 2016-to date

Rheumatology Teacher for rheumatology trainees

Tosco-Umbra Postgraduate Rheumatology Training School, University of Pisa

Rheumatology trainees at different postgraduate year

- October 2017-to date **Faculty member of the EULAR School of Rheumatology**
 Postgraduate Classroom (Head: Prof Maurizio Cutolo) e People with Arthritis and Rheumatism in Europe (PARE) Classroom (Head: Mr Dieter Wiek). In the latter, leader of the working group to develop the first EULAR on-line course for people with rheumatic diseases willing to be engaged in teaching programmes at Medical Universities
- July 2018-to date **Member of the EULAR working group to develop a European portfolio for rheumatology trainees**
- October 2018-to date **Supervisor of PhD students**
 Supervision and mentoring of students undertaking the PhD programme in translational medicine, at the University of Perugia
- July 2020-to date **Member of the EULAR working group to develop European standards for rheumatology training**

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue Italian

Other language

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	C2	C2	C2	C2	C2
Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user					

Digital competence

- Good command of office suite
- Good command of statistical analysis softwares (GraphPad, SPSS, MedCalc, STATA, R)
- Good command of image analysis and photo editing software (IS Capture, Adobe Photoshop)
- Good command of laboratory software (CellQuestPro (Becton Dickinson), FCAP Array (Becton Dickinson))

Peer-reviewing activity

Currently serving as reviewer for the following journals:

- The New England Journal of Medicine
- Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases
- Nature Reviews Rheumatology
- Rheumatology (Oxford)
- Expert Reviews of Clinical Immunology
- Lancet Rheumatology
- Scientific reports
- Frontiers in Immunology
- The Journal of Rheumatology
- Clinical and Experimental Rheumatology
- Therapeutic Advances in Musculoskeletal Disease
- International Journal of Rheumatic Diseases
- Rheumatology International
- RMD Open
- Medicine (Baltimore)
- Autoimmunity
- Mediators of Inflammation
- Cellular Immunology
- Journal of oral pathology and medicine

Editorial activity

- Annals of the Rheumatic Diseases and RMD Open (Editorial board member)
- BMC Rheumatology (Senior Editor)
- Frontiers in Medicine-Rheumatology (Associate Editor)
- Acta Reumatologica Portuguesa (Associate Editor)
- Reumatismo (Section Editor)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Conferences

Since 2007 Dr Alunno attended 20 National and International Conferences as invited speaker and over 100 as participant or Chairperson. Dr Alunno co-authored 140 abstracts, 90 of which as first author, presented at National and International Congresses

Awards

- 2009 Young investigator award at the National Congress of the Italian Society of Rheumatology
- 2010 Young investigator award at the National Congress of the Italian Society of Rheumatology
- 2011 Best oral presentation award at the 1st International Congress on Controversies in Rheumatology and Autoimmunity
- 2011 Young investigator award at the National Congress of the Italian Society of Rheumatology
- 2013 Best poster presentation award at the 2nd International Congress on Controversies in Rheumatology and Autoimmunity
- 2014 Young investigator award at the National Congress of the Italian Society of Rheumatology
- 2015 Best oral presentation award at the 3rd International Congress on Controversies in Rheumatology and Autoimmunity
- 2016 Best oral presentation award at the 10th European Congress on Systemic Lupus

Erythematosus

- 2016 Young investigator award at the National Congress of the Italian Society of Rheumatology
- 2017 Young investigator award at the National Congress of the Italian Society of Rheumatology
- 2019 Italian Society of Rheumatology Award at the 5th International Congress on Controversies in Rheumatology and Autoimmunity

Affiliations

- European League Against Rheumatism (EULAR) Executive Committee member 2017-2019
- EULAR Scientific Committee member 2017-2018
- EULAR Public Affairs Group member since January 2020
- Italian Society of Rheumatology: member since 2010
- Young Rheumatologists committee within the Italian Society of Rheumatology (SIRyoung): Founder (2017), Chair 2017-2018 Past-Chair 2018-2020
- Emerging EULAR Network (EMEUNET): Working Group Member 2013-2017, Chair-elect 2017-2018, Chair 2018-2019, Past-Chair 2019-2020
- Italian Foundation for Research on Arthritis (FIRA Onlus): member of the scientific committee since 2015

Publications

Dr Alunno co-Authored 138 publications in peer-reviewed international journals (H index 32)

Perugia 30 October 2020

Alessia Alunno, MD PhD

