

# Claudio Fenizia

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**Place and date of birth:** Milan, December 17<sup>th</sup> 1981.

**Nationality:** Italian.

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## Professional experiences

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January 2017- present

Assistant professor and researcher at Laboratory of Immunology, Department of Pathophysiology and Transplantation, University of Milan (Italy).

*Project:*

- Study of the immunological response to *ex-vivo* organ perfusion during human lung or liver transplantation procedure.
- Study on the immunomodulation of new therapeutical approaches against chronic lung rejection.
- Evolution of HIV-1 quasi-species and variants among untreated couples.
- Impact of immunomodulants on dendritic cells: the ally within.
- Study on HPV in human sperm.

*Tasks:*

- To design and develop the study, to set up collaborations, to write manuscripts, fundraising, to set scientific protocols, to perform the experiments and to analyze and present in the lab the data weekly, to write manuscripts.
- Teaching of General Pathology at University of Milan Medical School (75 hours per year). Training master degree and PhD school students (up to 150 hours per year). Co-mentor of one student at University of Milan Medical School.
- Academic board member of Molecular and Translational Medicine Doctorate School at University of Milan.
- Editorial Advisory Group member for Cambridge Scholars Publishing.

*Achievements:*

- Publication of 4 scientific papers, one of which as first author. Other 3 in revision, all of them as first author.
- Presentation of my work at one major national meeting and three international meetings.
- Peer reviewer for Blood journal, Tumori Journal, Acta histochemica journal, AIDS journal.

March 2014- December 2016

Postdoc Researcher at Epigenetic Regulation of Muscle Mass unit, Biosciences Department, University of Milan (Italy).

*Project:* Study the involvement of SMYD3 as epigenetic regulator in embryogenesis and cancer dissemination.

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*Tasks:* Bibliographical research, to design and develop the study, to set scientific protocols, to perform the experiments and to analyze and present in the lab the data weekly, to write manuscripts.

*Additional tasks:* to train bachelor and master degree students, to teach for the program of human molecular biology.

*Achievements:* - publication of 2 scientific papers, one of which as first author.  
- presentation of my work at one major international meeting.

February 2010- February 2014

Postdoc Researcher at Animal Models & Retroviral Vaccine Section, National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), Bethesda, MD (USA).

*Projects:* - Role of the HTLV-1 protein p30 during infection of human monocytes and dendritic cells.  
- Functional studies on monocytes infected by HTLV-1 in vitro.  
- Immunological correlates of protection of novel anti-HIV/SIV vaccines in a monkey model.

*Tasks:* Study design, to set scientific protocols in cellular and molecular biology, to find and set collaborations, to perform the experiments, to present scientific data and to discuss about them weekly with experienced scientists in the branch, in the institute.

*Additional tasks:* to train several students of different ages and nationalities.

*Achievements:* - publication of 15 scientific papers, two of which as first author.  
- presentation of my work at four major international meetings.  
- fellowship award at "International Workshop on Viruses, Genes and Cancer 2010".  
- invited speaker to George Mason University (VA, USA) and to "HIV prevention program" at Hardy middle school (WDC, USA).  
- Peer reviewer for Blood Journal.

October 2006-December 2009

PhD Student, Molecular and Translational Medicine School: Molecular Medicine of immune and inflammatory reactions, University of Milan. Department of Clinical Sciences, Hospital L. SACCO Milan (Italy) and Animal Models & Retroviral Vaccine Section, National Cancer Institute (NIH/NCI), Bethesda, MD (USA).

*Projects:* Immunological correlates of protection against HIV infection in a cohort of Exposed Seronegative individuals and in SIV-resistant monkeys. HTLV-2 as possible platform for new antiretroviral vaccines

*Role:* To think about experiments to perform, to perform the experiments and to analyze scientific data.

*Achievements:* publication of four scientific papers. "Libi Lorini" one-year fellowship to spend abroad during my PhD program.

October 2000-October 2006

Researcher for Master's Degree at Laboratory of Immunology University of Milan. Department of Clinical Sciences, L. SACCO Hospital Milan (Italy).

*Projects:* Immunological characterization of anti-HIV resistance factors in a cohort of Exposed Seronegative individuals.

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*Tasks:* To acquire experience in molecular and cellular biology techniques working *in vitro* with primary human cells and human retroviruses.

### **Education**

December 2009 PhD degree in Molecular and Translational Medicine at “Università degli Studi di Milano”- Milan (Italy). Final grade: excellent.

October 2006 Master’s degree in Medical Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine at “Università degli Studi di Milano” – Milan (Italy). Final Grade: 107/110.

July 2005 High school diploma achieved at Liceo Classico C. Beccaria, Milan (Italy). Final Grade: 84/100.

### **Technical skills**

Molecular and cellular biology applied to immunology/virology and oncology: RNA extraction and qPCR, ChIP, ChIP-seq, mammalian cell culture of primary cells as well as cell lines, DNA extraction and PCR, Alu PCR, cloning techniques and bacterial cultures, transient transfection and generation of stable clones, Co-IP, ELISA, Western Blot, immunofluorescence microscopy, confocal microscopy and flow cytometry.

### **Competences, Personal skills and Hobbies**

#### **Languages**

Italian Mother tongue  
English Good and fluent, both written and spoken

#### **Computer Skills**

Excellent knowledge of Word, Excel, Power Point  
Bioinformatic platforms Prism, Vector NTI, Clone manager, FlowJo and Kalooza

#### **Personal Skills and hobbies**

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills and proven ability to achieve targets and results. Flexible and able to adapt quickly and positively to challenging situations whilst remaining calm, focused and positive. Aptitude for team work. Mature with an outgoing, friendly personality who enjoys the challenge of working under pressure, either independently or as a member of a pro-active team. Conscientious, enthusiastic, highly motivated.  
Hobbies: Travelling, alpinism (rock and ice climbing, skiing), reading.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

total number of publication = 25

*h* index = 13 (Scopus)

total number of citation = 541

average number of citation = 21.64

total impact factor = 137.94

average impact factor = 27.59

1. [Fenizia C](#), Bottino C, Corbetta S, Fittipaldi R, Floris P, Gaudenzi G, Carra S, Cotelli F, Vitale G, Caretti G. SMYD3 promotes the epithelial-mesenchymal transition in breast cancer. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 2018 Dec 14.  
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2. Omsland M, Pise-Masison C, Fujikawa D, Galli V, [Fenizia C](#), Parks RW, Gjertsen BT, Franchini G, Andresen V. Inhibition of Tunneling Nanotube (TNT) Formation and Human T-cell Leukemia Virus Type 1 (HTLV-1) Transmission by Cytarabine. *Sci Rep.* 2018 Jul 24;8(1):11118.  
Citations 2  
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3. Ortega PAS, Saulle I, Mercurio V, Ibba SV, Lori EM, [Fenizia C](#), Masetti M, Trabattoni D, Caputo SL, Vichi F, Mazzotta F, Clerici M, Biasin M. Interleukin 21 (IL-21)/microRNA-29 (miR-29) axis is associated with natural resistance to HIV-1 infection. *AIDS.* 2018 Nov 13;32(17):2453-2461.  
Citations 2  
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4. Squillace N, Trabattoni D, Muscatello A, Sabbatini F, Maloberti A, Giannattasio C, Masetti M, [Fenizia C](#), Soria A, Clerici M, Gori A, Bandera A. Evaluation of adhesion molecules and immune parameters in HIV-infected patients treated with an atazanavir/ritonavir- compared with a lopinavir/ritonavir-based regimen. *J Antimicrob Chemother.* 2018 Aug 1;73(8):2162-2170.  
Citations 2  
Impact Factor 5.28
5. [Fenizia C](#), Rossignol JF, Clerici M, Biasin M. Genetic and immune determinants of immune activation in HIV-exposed seronegative individuals and their role in protection against HIV infection. *Infect Genet Evol.* 2018 Dec;66:325-334.  
Citations 2  
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6. Segatto M, Fittipaldi R, Pin F, Sartori R, Dae Ko K, Zare H, [Fenizia C](#), Zanchettin G, Pierobon ES, Hatakeyama S, Sperti C, Merigliano S, Sandri M, Filippakopoulos P, Costelli P, Sartorelli V, Caretti G. Epigenetic targeting of bromodomain protein BRD4 counteracts cancer cachexia and prolongs survival. *Nat Commun.* 2017 Nov 22;8(1):1707.  
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7. Blackburn MJ, Zhong-Min M, Caccuri F, McKinnon K, Schifanella L, Guan Y, Gorini G, Venzon D, [Fenizia C](#), Binello N, Gordon SN, Miller CJ, Franchini G, Vaccari M. Regulatory and Helper Follicular T Cells and Antibody Avidity to Simian Immunodeficiency Virus Glycoprotein 120. *J Immunol.* 2015 Oct 1;195(7):3227-36.  
Citations 20  
Impact Factor 4.92
8. Masison C, Amarante M, Akahata Y, Buchmann C, [Fenizia C](#), Parks R, Edwards D, Fiocchi M, Lalca N, Bialuk I, Graham J, Walser JC, McKinnon K, Galvao B, Gessain A, Venzon D, Jacobson S, Franchini G. Co-dependence of HTLV-1 p12 and p8 Functions in Virus Persistence. *PLoS Pathog.* 2014 Nov 6;10(11):e1004454.  
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9. Moniuszko M, Liyanage NP, Doster M, Parks RW, Grubczak K, Lipinska D, McKinnon K, Brown C, Hirsch V, Vaccari M, Gordon SN, Pegu P, [Fenizia C](#), Flisiak R, Grzeszczuk A, Dabrowska M, Robert-Guroff M, Silvestri G, Stevenson M, McCune J. Glucocorticoid treatment at moderate doses of SIVmac251-infected Rhesus macaques decreases

the frequency of circulating CD14+CD16++ monocytes but does not alter the tissue virus reservoir. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses*. 2015 Jan;31(1):115-26.

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10. Vaccari M, [Fenizia C](#), Ma ZM, Hryniewicz A, Boasso A, Doster M, Miller CJ, Lindegardh N, Tarning J, Landay A, Shearer GM and Franchini G. Transient increase of interferon-stimulated genes and no clinical benefit by Chloroquine treatment during acute SIV infection of macaques. *AIDS Res Hum Retroviruses* 2013 Dec 24.

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11. [Claudio Fenizia](#), Martina Fiocchi, Kathryn Jones, Robyn Washington Parks, Michele Ceribelli, Sebastian A Chevalier, Dustin Edwards, Francis Ruscetti, Cynthia Pise-Masison and Genoveffa Franchini. The HTLV-1 p30, but not p12/p8 counteracts TLR3 and TLR4 signaling in Human Monocytes and Dendritic cells. *J Virol*. 2014 Jan;88(1):393-402.

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12. Moniuszko M, Lipinska D, Jeznach M, Kowal K, Grubczak K, Rusak M, McKinnon K, Vaccari M, Liyanage NP, [Fenizia C](#), Wawrusiewicz-Kurylonek N, Dabrowska M, Jablonska E, Kretowski A, Gorska M, Bodzenta-Lukaszyk A. Glucocorticoids upregulate decreased IL-7 receptor expression in asthmatic patients and simian immunodeficiency virus-infected non-human primates. *J Biol Regul Homeost Agents*. 2013 Apr-Jun;27(2):427-42.

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13. Vaccari M, Keele BF, Bosinger SE, Doster M, Ma ZM, Pollara J, Hryniewicz A, Ferrari G, Guan Y, Forthal D, Venzon D, [Fenizia C](#), Morgan T, Montefiori D, Lifson JD, Miller C, Silvestri G, Rosati M, Felber BK, Pavlakakis GN, Tartaglia J, Franchini G. Protection afforded by an HIV vaccine candidate in macaques dependent on the dose of SIVmac251 challenge exposure. *J Virol*. 2013 Mar;87(6):3538-48.

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14. Pegu P, Vaccari M, Gordon S, Keele BF, Doster M, Guan Y, Ferrari G, Pal R, Ferrari MG, Whitney S, Hudacik L, Billings E, Rao M, Montefiori D, Tomaras G, Alam SM, [Fenizia C](#), Lifson JD, Stablein D, Tartaglia J, Michael N, Kim J, Venzon D, Franchini G. Antibodies with High Avidity to the gp120 Envelope Protein in Protection from Simian Immunodeficiency Virus SIVmac251 Acquisition in an Immunization Regimen That Mimics the RV-144 Thai Trial. *J Virol*. 2013 Feb;87(3):1708-19.

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16. Gordon SN, Kines RC, Kutsyna G, Ma ZM, Hryniewicz A, Roberts JN, [Fenizia C](#), Hidajat R, Brocca-Cofano E, Cuburu N, Buck CB, Bernardo ML, Robert-Guroff M, Miller CJ, Graham BS, Lowy DR, Schiller JT, Franchini G. Targeting the vaginal mucosa with human papillomavirus pseudovirion vaccines delivering simian immunodeficiency virus DNA. *J Immunol*. 2012 Jan 15;188(2):714-23.

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