

CV Cristina Cocco**Associate Professor****sett. Sc. Disc. Ex BIO/16-Human Anatomy; now BIOS-12/A – Human Anatomy****Department of Biomedical Sciences****Cittadella Universitaria at Monserrato****Training**

She frequents, as a student, the University of Granada (Spain) for one semester inside the European Erasmus project. In 1999 she graduated in biological sciences at the University of Cagliari. In April 2000, she frequented for the duration of 1 year a post-degree course of specialization at the Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Sheffield (UK), and she was involved in a research project regarding anomalies of the coenzyme Q in neuronal degenerative pathologies (Huntington's chorea, Alzheimer's). In 2004 she gets the PhD in Morphological Sciences at the University of Cagliari, introducing the thesis (written in English) regarding the study of human auto-antibodies in endocrine illnesses of importance in Sardinia. In December 2005 she becomes a confirmed researcher in the Human Anatomy (University of Cagliari). In March 2017 she participates and gets the National Scientific Qualification for the role of Associate Professor in Human Anatomy with excellent judgment and in 2020 gets the National Scientific Qualification for the role of "Professore Ordinario" in Human Anatomy.

Research activity

The biomarkers are used as indicators of specific biological states, and they include antibodies or proteins related to specific infections or proteins/peptides whose changes are useful in the diagnosis or in the follow-up of the illness. The techniques through which some types of biomarkers are analyzed (immunofluorescence, western blot, ELISA, and gel chromatography) are low-priced and not invasive. The scientific interest and the possible commercial relapses are notable. Hence, she focused her research line on peptides/neuropeptides and neurotransmitters as possible disease biomarkers. Particularly, searching for biomarkers in Parkinson's disease, she has found novel potential diagnostic targets; hence, she has deposited a patent (European) for a simple and fast diagnostic kit, realizable with blood. Another line of research concerns the identification of auto-antibodies, neuronal or endocrine, associated with specific clinical aspects in autoimmune illnesses (systemic lupus erythematosus, autoimmune poliendocrinopathies, diabetes). She is the coordinator and scientific responsible of a convention between the Department of Biomedical Sciences and the "Center of Research in Biology and Pathology of the Aging (University of Pisa) and NeuroCare Onlus (in Pisa)" for the expansion of the research involving the neurodegenerative disease. She also has international collaborations; in fact, she spent a semester at the University of Nottingham (UK), involved in research projects regarding peptide changes in Alzheimer's and Huntington's chorea as well as metabolic activity of certain neuro-endocrine peptides in the Siberian hamsters.

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