



**Personal Information Early Stage Researcher EUTRAIN project:**



**Contact information**

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Since high school, I have always wanted to become a medical doctor for two main reasons: first I was fascinated by my father's passion and devotion for his job and second I was intrigued by the mechanisms causing diseases affecting people worldwide. That's why I moved to Milan to enrol at Università Vita-Salute San Raffaele Medical School. Throughout my medical studies, I attended several times, as summer student, the Transplantation Research Center (TRC) in Boston, MA, directed by Mohamed Sayegh. Thanks to this studentship, I realized that research was more than an interest, and became gradually fascinated by immunology and in particular by the field of auto- and alloimmunity. After obtaining the MD degree *cum laude*, in 2008 I started the residency in Internal Medicine at San Raffaele Scientific Institute, working in the Transplant Medicine and taking care of kidney, pancreas and islet transplanted patients affected by type 1 diabetes.

The research fellowship in Paediatric Immunology at Children's Hospital in Boston from 2009 to 2010 signed 'the point of no return'. I mainly focused on exploring the immunologic mechanisms of auto- and alloimmune response and, in particular, on the achievement of tolerance in mouse models of acute beta cell rejection and autoimmune diabetes. During this 1-year fellowship I did intensive lab training, enjoyed the interplay with many investigators in the field of **transplant immunology and autoimmune diabetes** and took part to the intellectual vivacity of the Harvard Medical School community.

At the end of 2010 I returned to Italy and I started working in Manuela Battaglia's lab. I took part to the management of the **cell-therapy clinical trial THE ONE Study**, an EU funded international project aiming at testing different immunoregulatory cell types in the setting of living donor kidney transplantation, with the final goal of minimizing immunosuppression. I dealt with all the regulatory issues related to the trial and I worked on the full characterization of the peripheral immune system of dialytic patients enrolled in the trial.

After becoming a Specialist in Internal Medicine, in 2013 I started working as Early Stage Researcher within the EUTRAIN program in Berent Prakken's lab at UMC Utrecht, The Netherlands. Now, I'm focusing on the resistance of effector T cells to suppression by regulatory T cells in the site of inflammation of autoimmune diseases.

During my free time I like travelling, spending time chatting with friends and doing cooking experiments!

I believe that my main expertise is to be able to merge the needs of the patients with scientific clinical and preclinical research. My main professional goal is to become a **competent physician scientist** performing translational medicine, cause I believe that there's no science for a medical doctor than the science that applies to humans and that aims at the ultimate cure of the diseases.

### **My personal expectations for EUTRAIN**

For EUTRAIN I expect to find a stimulating cultural network where learning and exchanging scientific knowledge and build up long-lasting professional and personal relationship. I wish to do high impact science and to finally become an independent researcher.