

EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



Susanna Chiocca

Director, Viruses and Cancer Unit

IEO (Istituto Europeo di Oncologia, IRCSS)

Milan, Italy

Susanna Chiocca was born in Padua, Italy. She obtained her Bachelor of Science (BS) from the University of Texas, El Paso, Texas (UTEP). In 1990 she received her PhD from the University of Texas Graduate School of Biomedical Science, MD Anderson Cancer Center, studying viral RNA splicing. Susanna Chiocca then pursued her postdoctoral studies on cancer and viruses at the Swiss Institute of Experimental Research (ISREC) in Lausanne, Switzerland and at the Research Institute for Molecular Pathology (IMP), in Vienna, Austria. In 1998 she moved to Milano, Italy to the European Institute of Oncology (IEO). In 2005, she became an independent Group Leader at IEO and since 2015 she is a IEO Unit Director. Her research interests focus on viruses and cancer, and over the last ten years on head and neck cancer.

The overall focus of Dr. Chiocca's lab is to determine the mechanisms by which oncogenic viruses and other tumor microenvironmental stresses contribute to neoplasia. Over the last ten years we have been using head and neck cancer as a model system because one category of these tumors has been shown to be etiologically driven by Human Papilloma Virus (HPV) positive, while another one is not and is negative for HPV. This provides an excellent avenue to compare the effects of cancer that is driven by a virus vs. those in a cancer driven by other non-viral factors. Recently, within the EU-LIFE LIBRA project she has furthered her interest in biological and clinical sex and gender differences in cancer and through Cariplo Foundation funding she is also aiming at integrating gender in precision medicine for innovative social, professional and research practices.

Director, Viruses and Cancer Unit,
Director, WoMen in Science Program

<https://www.research.ieo.it/research-and-technology/principal-investigators/susanna-chiocca/>

<https://www.research.ieo.it/research-and-technology/translational-research-programs/women-in-science-program/>

e-mail: susanna.chiocca@ieo.it