

EU-LIFE Woman Postdoc Mentoring Programme

Short bios of mentors



Michela di Virgilio

Group leader

MDC (Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association)

Berlin, Germany

Researcher Identifiers

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- AcademiaNet: <https://www.academia-net.org/profile/michela-di-virgilio/78528>
- Academic Discipline / Fields: Biology, Health
- Area of Specialisation: Mechanisms of DNA Damage and Repair, and their link to Systems' Physiology and Human Pathologies.
- Research Interests: Genome Integrity, DNA damage and Repair, Carcinogenesis, Antibody Diversification, B lymphocytes, Immunity.
- Technologies: Genetics, Molecular & Cellular Biology, Biochemistry, Genomics, Transcriptomics, and Proteomics.

Contact Address

- Organization: Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine in the Helmholtz Association
- Laboratory: Di Virgilio Group – Lab of Genome Diversification & Integrity
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Education

- 12/2006 PhD in Genetics and Biomolecular Sciences Università degli Studi di Milano, Italy
- 03/2001 Laurea with highest honors in Biotechnology Università degli Studi di Bologna, Italy

Recent Positions

- Since 02/2022 Tenured S Professor (W2) Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin (Charité), Berlin, Germany
- Since 01/2022 Speaker, Topic 3 “Integrative Biomedicine” Max-Delbrück Center for Molecular Medicine (MDC), Berlin, Germany
- Since 01/2021 Senior Group Leader MDC, Berlin, Germany
- 07/2018 – 01/2022 S Junior Professor (W1) Charité, Berlin, Germany
- Since 12/2014 Member of the Extended Faculty Berlin School of Integrative Oncology (BSIO), Berlin, Germany
- 09/2014 – 12/2020 Junior Group Leader MDC, Berlin, Germany



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Previous Positions

- 06/2012 – 07/2014 Research Associate Laboratory of Molecular Immunology, The Rockefeller University, NY, USA
- 06/2007 – 05/2012 Postdoctoral Associate Laboratory of Molecular Immunology, The Rockefeller University, NY, USA

Selected Fellowships and Awards

- 2021 – 2026 First-time Professorial Appointments of Excellent Women Scientists Awardee, Helmholtz Association, Germany
- Since 2015 Elected to AcademiaNet: Leading Women Scientists, Robert Bosch Stiftung Foundation/SNSF & Spektrum der Wissenschaft, EU
- 2015 – 2021 ERC Starting Grant 2014 Awardee, European Research Council, EU
- 2014 BSIO Female Independency Award 2014, BSIO/DFG, Germany
- 2014 – 2020 Helmholtz Young Investigators Group, Helmholtz Association, Germany
- 2014 – 2017 VR-NT Project Grant for Junior Researchers, Swedish Research Council, Sweden (declined in favor of Helmholtz Young Investigators)
- 2008 – 2010 International Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, American-Italian Cancer Foundation, USA
- 2001 Laurea with highest honors in Biotechnology, Università degli Studi di Bologna, Italy

Reviewing Activities

- Since 2023 Member of the Italian Scholarship Advisory Committee (ISAC). The Armenise Harvard Foundation, Boston, USA.
- Since 2022 Editor – Guest Reviewing Editor at eLife.
- Since 2014 Reviewer - Nature, Nature Communications, Molecular Cell, Journal of Experimental Medicine, Journal of Cell Biology, eLife.

Supervision, Mentorship & Teaching Activities

- Since 2015 Direct Supervision of 7x PhD students, 6x Master students, and 4x Postdoctoral scientists
- Since 2015 Member of PhD student Thesis Advisory Committee (20x PhD students; MDC, BSIO, and Open University); University Supervisor/Co-Supervisor (3x PhD-MD/PhD students; Charité); Member of Evaluation/Examination Committees (various institutions in EU)
- Since 2020 Mentor, Leibniz Association Mentoring Program, Germany
- Since 2015 BSIO Graduate School Program; Faculty member & Lecturer Berlin School of Integrative Oncology (BSIO), Berlin, Germany
- 2020 – 2021 I&I@MDC Seminar Series; Co-founder & Organizer Immunology & Inflammation (I&I) network of MDC and the Experimental and Clinical Research Center (ECRC) of the MDC and Charité
- 2018 - 2020 Cancer Seminar Series for PhD students; Co-founder & Organizer MDC International PhD Program
- Since 2021 International Master's Program Molecular Medicine; Faculty member & Lecturer Charité, Berlin, Germany