



TEMPLATE PROJECTS PARTNERS SEARCH

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| Organisation | Name of the organisation | Università degli Studi di Firenze (UNIFI) |
| | Description of the organisation | The University of Florence is one of the largest organizations for research and higher education in Italy with over 50,000 students, 1,700 teaching and research staff, 1,600 technical and administrative staff and 1,600 PhD students and research fellows. Researchers at the University of Florence can benefit from approximately 40 research structures, including inter-departmental and inter-university centres, as well as specialized research, knowledge transfer and advanced training centres. Recently, the University of Florence has been ranked among top Italian Universities for the distribution of national research funds, and it is one of the most active Italian universities in terms of European projects and related grants. In the 7th Framework Programme, the EU funded about 150 projects for a total of over 40 million Euros. As of December 2018, the University of Florence has over 60 H2020 ongoing projects and more than 80 other EU projects in the field of education, cooperation and joint initiatives. The University has been granted on December 2018 the European 'HR Excellence in Research' award. |
| Project | Name of the project (call identifier) | COVID19 - HERA Incubator (HORIZON-HLTH-2021-CORONA-01) |
| | Topic | Cohorts united against COVID-19 variants of concern TOPIC ID: HORIZON-HLTH-2021-CORONA-01-02 |
| | Description of the project | The main open questions about COVID-19 immune response are its persistence in recovered patients and the efficacy of natural and vaccine-induced immunological memory to protect against SARS-CoV-2 variants. Characterization of entity and quality of both humoral and cell mediated antigen specific immune response in different cohorts of patients at different time points after COVID-19 recovering or after vaccine administration will be important to define the maintenance of immunological memory over time, allowing also to better define the time schedule of vaccine administration. |

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| | | The group of Francesco Annunziato, University of Florence, has availability to biological specimens from both COVID-19 patients and different cohorts of vaccinated people. We routinely run assays to detect SARS-CoV-2 specific IgA, IgM, IgG and antibodies with neutralizing activity. We also set up a flow cytometry method to characterize circulating SARS-CoV-2 specific T cells and B cells, to define their cytokine production and antibody class-switch, respectively. We propose to apply this experimental setting to recovered patients at different time points of follow up, to vaccinated subjects and to peculiar cohorts of patients including those with immunodeficiency. |
| | Project manager | Prof. Francesco Annunziato |
| | Aim of the project | To characterized natural and vaccine-induced adaptive antigen specific immune response in different cohorts of patients |
| Partner | Specific requirements for partners (location,..) | |
| | Type of partner required | |
| Additional info | Preliminary budget (sources of funding,..) | |
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