

ILENIA LATERZA

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PROFILE AND RELEVANT SKILLS

Reliable and dedicated biologist, highly motivated to grow professionally and take on increasing responsibilities within the role.

Brings strong organizational skills and excellent time-management abilities.

Well-versed in key laboratory techniques as Western Blot, cell culture, Real Time PCR and good user of microscopy. Proficient in English, with a solid commitment to continuous learning and scientific excellence.

WORK EXPERIENCE

PhD student, Human Biology and Medical Genetics **Nov 2024 - Present**
University of Rome "La Sapienza", laboratory activities at Italian National Institute of Health (Rome, Viale regina Elena 299), Department of Cardiovascular, Endocrine-Metabolic, and Aging Diseases.
Focusing on the role of E.coli toxin CNF1 in colorectal cancer progression and Metastasis

Research Fellow **Dec 2023-Oct 2024**
Italian National Institute of Health (Rome, Viale regina Elena 299), Department of Cardiovascular, Endocrine-Metabolic, and Aging Diseases.
Linked to the research project 'The bacterial toxin CNF1 as a driver of progression in colorectal cancer: a preclinical study' (file CA61)

Student Intern **Sept 2021-Sept 2022**
University of Ferrara, Curricular internship at the Department of Clinical Microbiology, focusing on environmental contamination levels in sanitized settings

EDUCATION

State examination for the professional qualification as a biologist (Italy) **Nov 2022**

Master Degree in Molecular Biology **Sept 2020-Oct 2022**
University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy
110L/110

Bachelor degree in Biology **Sept 2017-July 2020**
University of Ferrara, Ferrara, Italy
100/110

PUBLICATIONS

- Tozzi et al, 2025 "E. Coli cytotoxic necrotizing factor-1 promotes colorectal carcinogenesis by causing oxidative stress, DNA damage and intestinal permeability alteration" <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13046-024-03271-w>

- **Ilenia Laterza**, Michela Tozzi, Elena Angela Pia Germinario, Zaira Maroccia, Sara Travaglione, Lucrezia Gambardella, Stefania Rossi, Zuleika Michelini, Andrea Cara, Omar Leoni, Valentina Tirelli, Gabriele De Luca, Massimo Spada, Mauro Biffoni, Laura Bracci, and Alessia Fabbri. **"The Role of E. coli Toxin. "CNF1 in Colorectal Cancer Progression and Metastasis". Oral Presentation**, EACR-Mark Foundation Joint Conference: The Rise of Early-Onset Cancers - Biology, Causes, and Detection. Bergamo (November 11-13, 2025)
- **Ilenia Laterza**, Michela Tozzi, Elena Angela Pia Germinario, Sara Travaglione, Alessia Fiore, Lucrezia Gambardella, Stefania Rossi, Zuleika Michelini, Andrea Cara, Zaira Maroccia, Sofia Tomasoni, Ranieri Verin, Omar Leoni, Gabriele De Luca, Massimo Spada, Rita Khoeiry, Zdenko Herceg, Mauro Biffoni, Laura Bracci, and Alessia Fabbri. **"The bacterial toxin CNF1 accelerates colorectal cancer progression and metastatic spread"** Poster at Alliance Against Cancer meeting "10TH ANNUAL MEETING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES TO FIGHT CANCER ", Verona (September 19-21, 2025)
- Michela Tozzi, Paola Rinzo, Roberto Mattioli, Federica Moschella, Maria Cristina Quattrini, Donatella Pietraforte, **Ilenia Laterza**, Zaira Maroccia, Omar Leoni, Daniele Macchia, Massimo Spada, Sofia Tomasoni, Ranieri Verin, Luciana Mosca, Alessia Fabbri, Laura Bracci. **"Evaluation of the antitumor effects of extra-virgin olive oil phenolic compounds extracted by a novel "green" chemistry approach: focus on oxidative genotoxic stress and inflammation"**. Poster SIICA: Società Italiana Immunologia, Immunologia Clinica e Allergologia. Perugia (17-20, 2025)
- **Ilenia Laterza**, Elena Angela Pia Germinario, Micol E. Fiori, Alessia Fiore, Michela Tozzi, Zaira Maroccia, Sara Travaglione, Laura Bracci and Alessia Fabbri. **"The bacterial toxin CNF1 drives CRC progression through the induction of cellular senescence and stemness features"** Poster at "36° AICC International Meeting 2024: HIJACKING THE <<GOOD>> PATHWAYS: CANCER, IMMUNITY AND THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES" Rome (December 4-6, 2024)
- Michela Tozzi, Alessia Fiore, **Ilenia Laterza**, Paola Rinzo, Simona Donati, Sara Travaglione, Elena Angela Pia Germinario, Omar Leoni, Daniele Macchia, Massimo Spada, Sofia Tomasoni, Ranieri Verin, Filomena Colella, Donatella Lucchetti, Antonella Sistigu, Zaira Maroccia, Alessia Fabbri and Laura Bracci. **"CNF1 from E. coli favors colorectal cancer development and progression"**. Poster. 36° AICC International Meeting 2024: HIJACKING THE <<GOOD>> PATHWAYS: CANCER, IMMUNITY AND THERAPEUTIC APPROACHES. Rome (December 2-5, 2024)
- **Ilenia Laterza**, Elena Angela Pia Germinario, Michela Tozzi, Sara Travaglione, Alessia Fiore, Rita Khoeiry, Zdenko Herceg, Lucrezia Gambardella, Zaira Maroccia, Daniele Macchia, Massimo Spada, Laura Bracci, and Alessia Fabbri. **"The bacterial toxin CNF1 as a driver of progression in colorectal cancer: a preclinical study"** Poster at Alliance Against Cancer meeting "9TH ANNUAL MEETING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES TO FIGHT CANCER ", 28-30 November 2024, Reggio Emilia (Italy)
- Michela Tozzi, Alessia Fiore, Sara Travaglione, Gabriella Rainaldi, **Ilenia Laterza**, Simona Donati, Lucrezia Gambardella, Francesca Marcon, Donatella Pietraforte, Maria Cristina Quattrini, Olimpia Vincentini, Francesca Spadaro, Maria Carollo, Daniele Macchia, Massimo Spada, Sofia Tomasoni, Ranieri Verin, Roberta De Angelis, Alessia Fabbri and Laura Bracci. **"CNF1 toxin from E.coli induces oxidative DNA damage, intestinal permeability and colorectal neoplasia in vivo"**. Poster. ACC: 9TH ANNUAL MEETING NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND STRATEGIES TO FIGHT CANCER. Reggio Emilia (November 28-30, 2024)