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I graduated with a degree in Biology at the University of Padua in 1993 with a thesis on the molecular characterization of lamprey hemoglobins. I obtained the title of doctor of research in Genetics at the University of Ferrara with a research on human skeletal muscle genomics.

My research activities span different field starting in the 90's from Human genetics to the application of advanced genomics methodologies to non model organisms. In the last 15 years my main research topics are in fact focused on genomics and molecular immunology of the mollusc bivalve *M. galloprovincialis*. Diversity at immune genes is necessary for long term survival of species, populations and individuals and since the raise of the genomics new insights changed totally our view of invertebrate immunity. This intense research activities is reported by the publication of about 100 peer-reviewed papers.

The main scientific objectives of my association will be: a) exploit the analysis of next generation sequence data, including transcriptome assembly and annotation, sequence homology predictions and phylogenetic analyses of the marine invertebrates studied at SZN; b) focus on the early natural history of the marine invertebrate innate immune system; c) the genetics and evolution of antimicrobial peptides, pathogen receptors and the relative signal transduction; d) identification and analysis of peptides from marine invertebrates for biotechnological applications; e) transcriptome analysis for the molecular characterization of stress and for the well-being of marine invertebrate (shrimps, clams or cephalopod) used for research and human food.