

## Francesca Gilli's Curriculum Vitae

**Born:** July the 6<sup>th</sup> 1976, Turin (Italy)

**Languages:** Italian and German (mother tongue), English (fluent).

**Education:** MSc and PhD, Turin University (Italy).

Francesca Gilli graduated in Medical Biotechnology at Turin University in July 2000 and got her PhD in Human Biology in December 2005 from the same University. At the moment, she is getting her national board certification in "Clinical and Analytical biochemistry" again from Turin University.

In 2001, Francesca Gilli was awarded a four-year fellowship from Turin University for her PhD training, to attend the laboratory of Clinical Neurobiology directed by Dr. A. Bertolotto at the Regional Referral Multiple Sclerosis Centre (CReSM) at San Luigi University Hospital in Turin. During this time, she was involved in setting up new methods for the evaluation of immunogenicity and biological activity of IFN $\alpha/\beta$ . In addition, she has been involved in studies for biomarker discovery and validation, as well as in several studies aimed at assessing the clinical/biological response to different therapies in multiple sclerosis. In order to improve her skills in neuroimmunology and overall molecular biology, during the years, she spent some periods abroad, working as a visiting scientist at the laboratory of clinical neuroimmunology, Pharmazentrum, University Hospital of Basel (Switzerland), and at the Neurobiology Laboratory (Department of Neurology) in the New Jersey Medical School of Newark (NJ, USA).

In 2003 Francesca Gilli was awarded the "Marco Vergelli" young researcher prize from the Italian Society for Neuroimmunology (AINI) for her study on the antagonisation of IFN $\beta$  mediated suppression of Matrix Metallo Proteinases due to anti-IFN $\beta$  neutralizing antibodies (NABs). Likewise, in 2005 she was awarded the ACTRIMS/ECTRIMS (American/European Conference for Treatment, and Research Investigation in Multiple Sclerosis) young researcher prize for her study entitled "Anti-IFN $\beta$  Neutralizing Activity is not Entirely Mediated by Antibodies".

After receiving her PhD, Francesca Gilli was a post-doctoral research fellow in clinical neurobiology at the San Luigi University Hospital. In February 2007 she obtained a Collaboration Contract Position for research on behalf the European NABINMS (NAB in MS) project, a specific targeted research project on neutralizing antibodies to interferon beta in multiple sclerosis, established by the European Commission under its 6<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme. Likewise, in January 2008 she obtained a Project Contract Position from the San Luigi University Hospital in Turin, for the project entitled "Evaluation of bioactivity as an identification tool for non-responder patients with multiple sclerosis." Currently, Francesca Gilli works as group leader in the Regional Referral Multiple Sclerosis Centre (CReSM) of the San Luigi University Hospital (Turin), coordinating the research activity of the whole centre. Her research activity aims at exploring molecular mechanisms underlying multiple sclerosis and the lack of drug responsiveness in multiple sclerosis. In detail, at the moment she is focusing her research on the molecular mechanisms behind the adaptive molecular processes of pregnancy in multiple sclerosis.

Francesca Gilli is member of the International Society of Neuroimmunology (ISNI), the Italian Society of Neuroimmunology (AINI), the Italian Society of Immunology (SII) and the Italian Society of Italian Biotechnologists (ANBI). Since 2007, she is an active member of the Executive Committee of the Italian Society of Italian Biotechnologists (ANBI), working as Regional Coordinator in Piedmont. She has been member of the organizing and scientific committee of the "2<sup>nd</sup> congress of Italian Biotechnologists", which has been held in Turin in March 2008. Since October 2009 she is also an active member of the Executive Director Committee of the Italian Society of Neuroimmunology (AINI).

Francesca Gilli works as an ad hoc reviewer for the Italian MS Society (FISM) and for several peer-reviewer scientific journals such as Journal of Neuroimmunology, European Journal of Neurology, Clinical Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Journal of Immunology and Journal of Immunological Methods. She is author and co-author of 25 peer-reviewed scientific publications, 3 book chapters and of more than 200 abstracts presented at national and international conferences.