

Dr Genoveffa Franchini



Doctor Honoris Causa Medical University of Bialystok

Doctor Genoveffa Franchini - a University of Modena graduate, a hematologist, is an eminent retrovirologist and a pioneer researcher on oncogenes and human retroviruses. Doctor Franchini aims to prevent and treat diseases caused by pathogenic human retroviruses, and her achievements prove that she has successfully applied "from bench to bedside" strategy.

Since 1997 doctor Franchini has been the Chief of the Animal Models and Retroviral Vaccines Section at National Cancer Institute (NCI), belonging to the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in the USA. She has identified and characterized new retroviral genes, as well as their functions, allowing understanding of the pathogenesis of HIV and HTLV-1 infections. Doctor Franchini has been working on the development of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) vaccine for over 20 years, and the ALVAC-HIV/gp120 vaccine regimen designed in her laboratory was the first to demonstrate a protective effect in humans.

Doctor Franchini is a co-author of over 400 publications. She has published several times in prestigious scientific journals such as Nature, Science, Nature Medicine, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America and Blood. The total number of citations of her works according to the Web of Science Core Collection database exceeds 15000, and the Hirsh index (h-index) is 70. Moreover, doctor Franchini is the holder of numerous patents, licenses, and a co-author of numerous patent applications.

Doctor Franchini was an Associate Editor for Blood, Mucosal Immunology, as well as AIDS Reviews. She participated in the editorial boards of AIDS Research and Human Retroviruses, AIDS Treatment Strategies, Journal of AIDS, Journal of Virology, Vaccine, Virology, AIDS Abstracts, and she assisted as a reviewer in over 50 journals. She has been involved as an advisor in scientific committees in the country and abroad. Moreover, doctor Franchini chairs the HIV vaccine study section.

Doctor Franchini conducts permanent, long-term scientific collaborations with many domestic and foreign scientific centers (in the USA, Europe, South America), including the Medical University of Bialystok (MUB). Doctor Franchini's cooperation with the Medical University of Bialystok has lasted for over 20 years, yielding the possibility for MUB scientists to have scientific internships in her laboratory, to implement joint research projects and to publish 50 articles in specialized scientific journals with a high impact factor.

For her scientific activity, doctor Genoveffa Franchini has been awarded a number of prestigious awards: the NCI Outstanding Mentor Award five times, the NCI Mentor of Merit Award twice, as well as the NCI Director Award, and the NIH Award of Merit. Also, in 2016 doctor Franchini obtained the "Center for Retrovirus Research Distinguished Research Career Award" by the Center for Retrovirus Research of the Ohio State University.