

These days, different from the usual, some of us want to share some news related to our daily life as researchers. We hope you share your Covi-19 activities too!! This will gain a space on our site. You can send your content or posts to comunicazione@sibbm.org

The Molecular Biotechnology Center in Torino has joined in the race to increase the volume of SARS-CoV-2 tests performed by generating and validating a very sensitive home-made RT-PCR detection kit that will be soon made available all certified laboratories in Piemonte, allowing to bypass the lack of reagents for the commercial kits. Thanks to the initiative of Città della Salute Hospital, the University of Torino the Director of the Molecular Biotechnology Center Prof.ssa Fiorella Altruda, and all the personnel who have generously volunteered to work in the lab towards this goal. Soon this initiative will be joined by an effort to generate reliable ELISA kits to detect IgM and IgG antibodies against the virus, since all experts agree that a widespread population immunological analysis is probably our best bet to guide a rational exit strategy from isolation and the gradual restarting of working activities.

- Valeria Poli

SIBBM President

Department of Molecular Biotechnology and Health Sciences

Molecular Biotechnology Center, University of Turin

The contribution of research at Humanitas to the strengthening of the diagnostics started over 1 month ago. On February 28 we actually started the project. In less than a week we transformed a meeting room in a fully equipped laboratory with negative pressure. Part of the instrumentation was from the research facilities. Six appropriately qualified people from research were selected among the many who volunteered. Monica Rimoldi, Lab Manager, and Dr. Maria Teresa Sandri, Responsible for Diagnostics, operated in synergy under the responsibility of Dr. Sandri. On March 10 training and validation of the analytical system was completed. We were completely operative in autonomy on March 11. Dr. Sandri and the team are available to share their experience with any interested lab, as they have already done with two Italian institutions.

- Alberto Mantovani

Scientific Director

Istituto Clinico Humanitas

In the past two months IEO researchers launched some clinical and technological projects aimed at addressing some criticisms linked to the management and control of COVID-19 infection, including: i. development of high throughput technologies for a fast molecular and immunological COVID-19 diagnosis, ii. identification and tracking of patients and IEO healthcare personnel tested positive for Covid-19 infection, and iii. study of the effects of Covid-19 infection on cancer patients. In parallel, several projects are ongoing aimed at the characterization of SARS-CoV2 genomic isolates to track viral evolution in time and explore efficacy of epigenetic drugs in the control of COVID-19 infection.

- Pier Giuseppe Pelicci

Director Molecular mechanisms of cancer and aging Unit

European Institute of Oncology