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## Curriculum Vitae Professor Dr Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli



**Name:** Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli

### **Research Priorities: Biology, immunology, cell biology, immune system, dendritic cells**

Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli is an Italian biologist and immunologist. She is a leading researcher in the field of dendritic cells, which are a core component of the immune system. They have a “guarding” function and are the only cells capable of initiating primary immune responses to antigens that enter the body.

### **Academic and Professional Career**

- since 2016 Scientific Director, Toscana Life Sciences (TLS) Foundation, Siena, Italy
- 2007 - 2015 Founder and Scientific Director, Singapore Immunology Network (SigN), A-STAR Institute of Immunology in Biopolis, Singapore
- 2009 - 2014 Adjunct Professor of Immunology, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore
- 2008 - 2014 Adjunct Professor of Immunology, National University of Singapore (NUS), Singapore,
- 1998 - 2011 Full Professor of Immunology and Pathology as well as Head, Programme for Molecular and Cellular Immunology, School of Science, University of Milano-Bicocca, Milan, Italy
- 1974 - 1998 Head of Research, National Research Council (CNR), Italy
- 1982 Guest Fellow, Department of Biology, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA
- 1977 - 1978 Research Associate (Postdoc), Cancer Biology Research Laboratory, Stanford University, Stanford, USA
- 1970 - 1974 PhD in Immunology and Doctorate, University of Louvain (UCLouvain), Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium

1966 - 1970      Graduated in Biology, University of Florence, Florence, Italy

### **Functions in Scientific Societies and Committees**

2013 - 2016      Member, Advisory Board, International Union of Immunology Societies (IUIS)

2012 - 2014      Chairperson, IFREC-SIgN Winterschool on Advanced Immunology, Immunology Frontier Research Center (IFREC) and SigN, Singapore, Singapore

2011 - 2014      Member, Advisory Board, Federation of Immunological Societies of Asia-Oceania (FIMSA)

2011 - 2013      President, Singapore Society of Immunology (SgSI), Singapore, Singapore

since 2007      Member, Scientific Advisory Board, Max Planck Institute for Infection Biology, Berlin, Germany

2007 - 2014      Scientific Director, Agency for Science, Technology and Research (A\*STAR), Singapore Immunology Network (SigN), Singapore, Singapore

since 2006      President, European Network of Immunology Institutes (ENII)

2003 - 2010      President, Genopolis Consortium for Functional Genomics, Milan, Italy

2002 - 2007      Member, Scientific Council, Institut Pasteur, Paris, France

### **Honours and Awarded Memberships**

2016              Top Italian Women Scientists (TIWS) Award, European Women's Management Development (EWMD), Italy

since 2012      Order of the Star of Italy, President of the Italian Republic

since 2008      Member, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina, Germany

2006              Marie Curie Excellence Award, European Commission (EC)

since 2000      Member, European Molecular Biology Organization (EMBO)

### **Research Priorities**

Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli is an Italian biologist and immunologist. She is a leading researcher in the field of dendritic cells, which are a core component of the immune system. They have a "guarding" function and are the only cells capable of initiating primary immune responses to antigens that enter the body.

Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli has been studying the immune system's cellular and biochemical foundations for over thirty years. She was able to demonstrate that dendritic cells produce the

cytokine interleukin-2 (IL-2). Her discovery showed that this protein plays a much more central role within signal processes in the body's immune system, with regard to both innate and adaptive immune responses. In addition to their work on IL2, her group has shown that dendritic cells (DC) play a key role in mucosal tissues, such as the lamina propria of the intestinal villi where DC have a sentinel functions and sense the gut commensal flora with dendrites. This discovery has opened the way to novel studies on the role of the gut microbiome in regulating immune-mediated diseases.

Paola Ricciardi-Castagnoli has led international research teams in Italy and Singapore. She has been awarded the Order of the Star of Italy, one of the country's highest honours, for her services to international cooperation in the field of science.