

Rosa VISIONE (GROUP ONE)

Rosa Visone is a chemist graduated at Federico II University in Naples. She worked for over 8 years at the Columbus University (Ohio) then she came back to Italy to work on another important research with her husband. This scientific research is about the chronic lymphatic leukemia. She is giving an important contribution to biology because this disease is still incurable and she is trying to find out why it happens. Currently she is working as research director at the University of Chieti.



1.How long have you been researching leukemia?

I started working on CLL when I was at The Ohio State University, more or less 12 years ago

2.Do you think your work plays an important role in society?

Yes I do. I consider this job important. The knowledge of mechanisms that cause the transformation of normal cells into tumoral cells helps in developing targeted therapies. This may influence the management of cancer patients improving their conditions and in turn the health spending

3.Are you working on some other research project?

I collaborate with my husband who is developing a project on colon cancer.

4.How was your experience at Ohio University?

It was a very formative experience for my career as the researcher and for my life in general. My American laboratory was very big and although I was following my projects alone, people were always available to help. Some of these people became my friends outside the lab, kind of family with which I still have a close relationship.

5.You studied Chemistry. When you chose the university, did you think you would be a researcher?

I studied chemistry and pharmaceutical technology. I always liked to study diseases and strategy to develop therapeutic approaches, although, at that time I did not have a defined idea about my future job

6.What motivated you to start your research on leukemia?

My American Professor was studying CLL, being in his lab I followed his project. Then I become very curious about the genetics and the molecular pathways involved in this disease and interested in finding a molecular therapy for this leukemia.

7.How many hours do you work on average per week? Can you reconcile your work with family life?

The University of Chieti-Pescara demands to me to work 1500 hours per year. But, as a lot of works do, it never ending at the time I go home. I have two children, seven and three years old. I can conciliate my work to my family thanks to my husband who is a researcher too.

8.Was the transfer to Chieti more of a choice or a necessity?

It was an opportunity. The previous Cesi's Director offered me a laboratory space and the equipment to do my research as the principal investigator if I had won a grant and enough money to do that. I applied to the startup AIRC grant when I was still in the USA, I won and I decided to take this opportunity.

9.What is your favorite hobby?

Swimming and hiking. Here in Abruzzo there are many nice trails and I hope I can do more in the future.

10. Would you like to go back to America? For job and / or lifestyle?

For sure I miss the American lifestyle and the stimulating working environment, however, I do not regret to be here in Italy. There is a time for everything.

11. Three words that represent your idea of a science.

Curiosity, motivation and respect