

Curriculum vitae

I am Fiorenza Malena, a Biologist and currently a PhD student in the Lab of Prof. Roberta Spaccapelo. I achieved my bachelor's degree in biotechnology in 2018 followed by a master's degree in medical, veterinary and forensic biotechnological sciences in 2021. In 2022 I started my PhD in Systems Biology in Immune and Infectious Diseases.

Laboratory expertise

During my master's degree I had the opportunity to work both in diagnostic and research laboratories: in the first case I focused on cytological and histological techniques, such as blood smear analysis, preparation of cytological and histological samples by fixation, dehydration, paraffin embedding and staining. Concerning to research laboratory, I deepened my knowledge about malaria, specifically *Plasmodium* life cycle and development inside red blood cells. Currently, my PhD project is based on the synthesis and testing of compounds as possible new antimalarial drugs: I'm principally working on in vitro studies with *Plasmodium falciparum* parasite, using optical or fluorescence microscopy or cell cultures for toxicity assays. I analyze my data using GraphPad Prism and recently R studio.