

Curriculum Vitae

Personal information **Marta Romano**

Work experience

1. Employer: Federal Agency for Medicines and Health Products (FAMHP)
 - Start date: 06/2022
 - End date:
 - Position: Clinical Assessor
 - Activities: Member of the clinical assessors team of the FAMHP (human use – infectious diseases – vaccines). Working on dossiers in relation with marketing authorizations and variations, on scientific and regulatory advice on prophylactic vaccines clinical development plans, on the assessment of clinical trials' design.
 - Country: Belgium
2. Employer: SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH / SCIENSANO
 - Start date: 08/2008
 - End date: 06/2022
 - Position: SENIOR RESEARCHER
 - Activities: Within the "Infectious Diseases in Humans" Department ("Immune Response" Service), led and contributed to different national and international research projects on infectious diseases (tuberculosis, rabies, COVID-19) related to the preclinical and clinical development of adjuvants and vaccines, to the study of immune responses to infection and vaccination, to the development of novel diagnostic tests and to the clinical evaluation of new treatments. Member of the Biosafety Committee of the Scientific Institute of Public Health / Sciensano (2016-2022) and responsible of a biosafety level 3 laboratory and animal facility (2018-2022).
 - Country: Belgium
3. Employer: SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC HEALTH
 - Start date: 07/2005
 - End date: 07/2008
 - Position: ASSISTANT RESEARCHER
 - Activities: Within the Laboratory of Mycobacterial Immunology, conducted and supervised different research projects on host-pathogen interactions and vaccine development for tuberculosis.
 - Country: Belgium
4. Employer: PASTEUR INSTITUTE OF BRUSSELS
 - Start date: 05/2001
 - End date: 06/2005
 - Position: PREDOCTORAL FELLOW
 - Activities: Within the Laboratory of Mycobacterial Immunology, conducted research on the development and optimization of nucleic acid based vaccines against tuberculosis (DNA vaccines). Research results were presented in an original PhD thesis in Applied Biological Sciences - Faculty of Sciences - Vrije Universiteit Brussel (Belgium).
 - Country: Belgium
5. Employer: MAX PLANCK INSTITUTE OF BIOCHEMISTRY
 - Start date: 12/1998
 - End date: 04/2001
 - Position: PREDOCTORAL FELLOW
 - Activities: Within the laboratory of RNA metabolism and neuronal diseases, contributed to a research project on the functional characterization in the *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* yeast of the components of the Yab8p complex. Yab8 is the yeast homologue of the survival motor neuron protein (SMN). Mutations in SMN cause the Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) neuromuscular disease.
 - Country: Germany

Education and training

1. Subject: Vrije Universiteit Brussel
 - Start date: 05/2001
 - End date: 07/2005
 - Qualification: PHD IN APPLIED BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES
 - Organisation: PhD Thesis title: "Immunogenicity and prophylactic efficacy of DNA vaccines encoding *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* culture filtrate antigens evaluated in the murine model of tuberculosis" Infectious Diseases, Immunology, Vaccinology
 - Country: Belgium
2. Subject: Université Libre de Bruxelles
 - Start date: 09/1993
 - End date: 09/1998
 - Qualification: LICENCE EN SCIENCES CHIMIQUES
 - Organisation: Chemistry, Biochemistry and Molecular Biology
 - Country: Belgium

Additional information

Publications

- Tobback E, Degroote S, Buysse S, Delesie L, Van Dooren L, Vanherrewege S, Barbezange C, Hutse V, Romano M, Thomas I, Padalko E, Callens S, De Scheerder M A; "Efficacy and safety of camostat mesylate in early Covid_19 disease in an ambulatory setting: a randomized placebo_controlled phase II trial"; accepted for publication in Int J Infect Dis. (June 2022).
- Devos T, Van Thillo Q, Compennolle V, Najdovski T, Romano M, Dauby N, Jadot L, Leys M, Maillart E, Loof S, Seyler L, Moonen M, Moutschen M, Van Regenmortel N, Ariën K, Barbezange C, Betraïns A, Garigliany M, Engelen M, Gyselinck I, Maes P, Schauwvlieghe A, Liesenborghs L, Belmans A, Verhamme P, Meyfroidt G, DAWn_plasma investigators; "Early high antibody_titre convalescent plasma for hospitalised COVID_19 patients: DAWn_plasma"; Eur Respir J. 2021 Aug 26;2101724. doi: 10.1183/13993003.01724_2021.
- Nguyen D, Simmonds P, Steenhuis M, Wouters E, Desmecht D, Garigliany M, Romano M, Barbezange C, Maes P, Van Holm B, Mendoza J, Oyonarte S, Fomsgaard A, Lassaunière R, Zusinaite E, Resman Rus K, Avšič Županc T, Reimerink J, Brouwer F, Hoogerwerf M, Bem Reusken C, Grodeland G, Le Cam S, Gallian P, Amroun A, Brisbarre N, Martinaud C, Leparç Goffart I, Schrezenmeier H, Feys H, van der Schoot CE, Harvala H.; "SARS_CoV_2 neutralising antibody testing in Europe: towards harmonisation of neutralising antibody titres for better use of convalescent plasma and comparability of trial data."; Euro Surveill. 2021 Jul;26(27):2100568. doi: 10.2807/1560_7917.
- Ku M W, Authié P, Nevo F, Souque P, Bourguin M, Romano M, Charneau P, Majlessi L.; "Lentiviral vector induces high_quality memory T cells via dendritic cells transduction."; Commun Biol. 2021 Jun 10;4(1):713. doi: 10.1038/s42003_021_02251_6.
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- Percier P, De Prins S, Tima G, Beyaert R, Grooten J, Romano M, Denis O.; "Aspergillus fumigatus Recognition by Dendritic Cells Negatively Regulates Allergic Lung Inflammation Through a TLR2/MyD88 Pathway."; Am J Respir Cell Mol Biol. 2020 Sep 24. doi: 10.1165/rcmb.2020_00830C.
- Deny M, Romano M, Denis O, Casimir G, Chamekh M.; "Progressive Control of Streptococcus agalactiae Induced Innate Inflammatory Response Is Associated with Time Course Expression of MicroRNA_223 by Neutrophils"; Infection and Immunity 2020 Nov 16;88(12):e00563_20. doi: 10.1128/IAI.00563_20.
- Devos T, Geukens T, Schauwvlieghe A, Ariën K, Barbezange C, Cleeren M, Compennolle V, Dauby N, Desmecht D, Grimaldi D, Lambrecht B, Luyten A, Maes P, Moutschen M, Romano M, Seyler L, Toungouz Neveessignsky M, Vandenberghe K, van Griensven J, Verbeke G, Vlieghe E, Yombi JC, Liesenborghs L, Verhamme P, Meyfroidt G.; "A randomized, multicentre, open_label phase II proof_of_concept trial investigating the clinical efficacy and safety of the addition of convalescent plasma to the standard of care in patients hospitalized with COVID_19: the Donated Antibodies Working against nCoV (DAWn_Plasma) trial"; Trials 2020 Nov 27;21(1):981. doi: 10.1186/s13063_020_04876_0.
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- Vincent M, Corazza F, Chasseur C, Blatt S, Romano M, Huygen K, Denis O, Michel O.; "Relationship between mold exposure, specific IgE sensitization, and clinical asthma: A case_control study."; Ann Allergy Asthma Immunol. 2018 Sep;121(3):333_339. doi: 10.1016/j.anai.2018.06.016.
- Kip E, Staal J, Tima HG, Verstreppe L, Romano M, Lemeire K, Suin V, Hamouda A, Baens M, Libert C, Kalai M, Van Gucht S, Beyaert R.; "Inhibition of MALT1 decreases neuroinflammation and pathogenicity of virulent rabies virus in mice."; J Virol. 2018 Aug 29. pii: JVI.00720_18. doi: 10.1128/JVI.00720_18.
- Kip E, Staal J, Verstreppe L, Tima HG, Terry S, Romano M, Lemeire K, Suin V, Hamouda A, Kalai M, Beyaert R, Van Gucht S.; "MALT1 Controls Attenuated Rabies Virus by Inducing Early Inflammation and T Cell Activation in the Brain."; J Virol. 2018 Mar 28;92(8). pii: e02029_17. doi: 10.1128/JVI.02029_17.
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V, Ndiaye I, Oni T, Raine M, Romano M, Satti I, Sutton S, Thiam A, Wilkinson KA, Mboup S, Wilkinson RJ, McShane H; MVA85A 030 trial investigators; "Safety, immunogenicity, and efficacy of the candidate tuberculosis vaccine MVA85A in healthy adults infected with HIV_1: a randomised, placebo-controlled, phase 2 trial."; *Lancet Respir Med.* 2015 Mar;3(3):190_200. doi: 10.1016/S2213_2600(15)00037_5.

Bruffaerts N, Huygen K, Romano M.; "DNA vaccines against tuberculosis."; *Expert Opin Biol Ther.* 2014 Dec;14(12):1801_13. doi: 10.1517/14712598.2014.951630. Leunda A, Baldo A, Goossens M, Huygen K, Herman P, Romano M.; "Novel GMO-Based Vaccines against Tuberculosis: State of the Art and Biosafety Considerations."; *Vaccines (Basel).* 2014 Jun 16;2(2):463_99. doi: 10.3390/vaccines2020463.

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Roupie V, Viart S, Leroy B, Romano M, Trinchero N, Govaerts M, Letesson JJ, Wattiez R, Huygen K.; "Immunogenicity of eight *Mycobacterium avium* subsp. *paratuberculosis* specific antigens in DNA vaccinated and Map infected mice."; *Vet Immunol Immunopathol.* 2012 Jan 15;145(1_2):74_85. doi: 10.1016/j.vetimm.2011.10.012.

Romano M, Huygen K.; "An update on vaccines for tuberculosis _ there is more to it than just waning of BCG efficacy with time."; *Expert Opin Biol Ther.* 2012 Dec;12(12):1601_10. doi: 10.1517/14712598.2012.721768.

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Freches D, Romano M, Korf H, Renauld JC, Van Snick J, Uyttenhove C, Huygen K.; "Increased pulmonary tumor necrosis factor alpha, interleukin_6 (IL_6), and IL_17A responses compensate for decreased gamma interferon production in anti_IL_12 autovaccine-treated, *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG-vaccinated mice."; *Clin Vaccine Immunol.* 2011 Jan;18(1):95_104. doi: 10.1128/CI.00352_10.

Aryan E, Makvandi M, Farajzadeh A, Huygen K, Bifani P, Mousavi SL, Fateh A, Jelodar A, Gouya MM, Romano M.; "A novel and more sensitive loop-mediated isothermal amplification assay targeting IS6110 for detection of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* complex."; *Microbiol Res.* 2010 Mar 31;165(3):211_20. doi: 10.1016/j.micres.2009.05.001.

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Romano M, Rindi L, Korf H, Bonanni D, Adnet PY, Jurion F, Garzelli C, Huygen K.; "Immunogenicity and protective efficacy of tuberculosis subunit vaccines expressing PPE44 (Rv2770c)."; *Vaccine.* 2008 Nov 11;26(48):6053_63. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2008.09.025.

Gartner T, Romano M, Suin V, Kalai M, Korf H, De Baetselier P, Huygen K.; "Immunogenicity and protective efficacy of a tuberculosis DNA vaccine co-expressing pro_apoptotic caspase_3."; *Vaccine.* 2008 Mar 10;26(11):1458_70. doi: 10.1016/j.vaccine.2007.12.056.

Roupie V, Romano M, Zhang L, Korf H, Lin MY, Franken KL, Ottenhoff TH, Klein MR, Huygen K.; "Immunogenicity of eight dormancy regulon-encoded proteins of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* in DNA-vaccinated and tuberculosis-infected mice."; *Infect Immun.* 2007 Feb;75(2):941_9.

Romano M, Roupie V, Wang XM, Denis O, Jurion F, Adnet PY, Laali R, Huygen K.; "Immunogenicity and protective efficacy of tuberculosis DNA vaccines combining mycolyl_transferase Ag85A and phosphate transport receptor PstS_3."; *Immunology.* 2006 Jul;118(3):321_32.

D'Souza S, Romano M, Korf J, Wang XM, Adnet PY, Huygen K.; "Partial reconstitution of the CD4+_T-cell compartment in CD4 gene knockout mice restores responses to tuberculosis DNA vaccines."; *Infect Immun.* 2006 May;74(5):2751_9.

Romano M, D'Souza S, Adnet PY, Laali R, Jurion F, Palfliet K, Huygen K.; "Priming but not boosting with plasmid DNA encoding mycolyl_transferase Ag85A from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis* increases the survival time of *Mycobacterium bovis* BCG vaccinated mice against low dose intravenous challenge with *M. tuberculosis* H37Rv."; *Vaccine.* 2006 Apr 12;24(16):3353_64.

Romano M, Roupie V, Hamard M, Huygen K.; "Evaluation of the immunogenicity of pBudCE4.1 plasmids encoding mycolyl_transferase Ag85A and phosphate transport receptor PstS_3 from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*."; *Vaccine.* 2006 May 22;24(21):4640_3.

Romano M, Denis O, D'Souza S, Wang XM, Ottenhoff TH, Brulet JM, Huygen K.; "Induction of in vivo functional Db-restricted cytolytic T cell activity against a putative phosphate transport receptor of *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*."; *J Immunol.* 2004 Jun 1;172(11):6913_21.

D'Souza S, Rosseels V, Romano M, Tanghe A, Denis O, Jurion F, Castiglione N, Vanonckelen A, Palfliet K, Huygen K.; "Mapping of murine Th1 helper T_Cell epitopes of mycolyl transferases Ag85A, Ag85B, and Ag85C from *Mycobacterium tuberculosis*."; *Infect Immun.* 2003 Jan;71(1):483_93.

Hannus S, Bühler D, Romano M, Seraphin B, Fischer U.; "The *Schizosaccharomyces pombe* protein Yab8p and a novel factor, Yip1p, share structural and functional similarity with the spinal muscular atrophy-associated proteins SMN and SIP1."; *Hum Mol Genet.* 2000 Mar 22;9(5):663_74."

Projects

From 2015 to 2021, contributed to research projects funded by Horizon2020: Development of a next_generation dual_target rabies/fluavivirus infectious vaccine <https://rabydvax.com/> TBVAC2020: Advancing novel and promising

TB vaccine candidates from discovery to preclinical and early clinical development
https://www.tbvi.eu/for_partners/tbvac2020/

Memberships

Member and secretary of the Belgian Immunological Society (2017 – 2022).

Other Relevant Information

From 2018 to 2022, contracted by the European Research Executive Agency (REA) and the European Health and Digital Executive Agency (HADEA) as an independent scientific expert for external evaluation of proposals submitted to different calls for Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) and for the external reviewing of a research and innovation action funded under Horizon 2020.