

Antonio Cassone, Ph.D, MD, Short CV

Academic education and career.

Born in Italy on April 30th, 1943 , he was educated at the Biology and Medical Schools of the First University of Rome “La Sapienza” where he got a degree in Biological Sciences (1967) and a degree in Medicine and Surgery(1974).

His academic career spans from Research Assistant to Full Professor of Medical Microbiology at the Universities of Rome Sapienza (1970-1980), L’Aquila (1984) and the Medical Faculty of the , University of Perugia, Italy (2012-2014) . He was Visiting Scientist and Fellow of the Chemical Microbiology Unit, in the Department of Biochemistry of the University of Cambridge (UK) (1976-77) and Visiting Professor at the Science Faculty, Imperial College, London, UK. He is fellow of the American Academy of Microbiology and Microbiology and Vaccine Consultant at the “Polo della genomica, genetica e biologia at the University of Siena (Italy).



Research Interests and contributions

His major research interests span the whole field of medical microbiology with a focus on public health relevant fields, vaccines and antifungal immunity. Major research achievements are in the field of biology, pathogenicity and immunity in human fungal diseases, in antifungal and pertussis vaccines and in diagnostic and control of emerging infections (see major publications below) .

Publications

Over 280 papers as primary research publications, over 50 invited reviews, editorials, commentaries and book chapters. Five patents on fungal vaccines and immunotherapeutics (see details below).

Bibliometry

H-index: 85; Total Citations (as of June 27th ,2022) : 22668 (Google Scholars).

Awards

1.1996 “Agostino Bassi Award” by the Italian Medical Mycology Association for the “high distinction in medical mycology research”.

2. 2010 “Sebetia-ter” International Award for “high distinction in research in infectious diseases”.
3. 2013. Gold Medal of the Italian Minister of Health, the highest Italian recognition in the field of Public Health, for the “Excellence of research and public health service”.
4. 2017. American Academy of Microbiology, Joseph Hologic Public Health award for “Exemplary leadership and service in Public Health”

Major Societies

American Society of Microbiology, The Infectious Diseases Society of Americas , the American Academy of Microbiology. Royal Microscopical Society.

Editorial Activity (EB member)

mBio

Pathogens and global health

Clinical and Vaccine Immunolog

Vaccine

Public Health Service

His research and academic careers have been complemented by an intense public health service as Research Director, Head of the Laboratory of Bacteriology and Medical Mycology at the Istituto Superiore di Sanità (National Health Institute, ISS) in Rome, Italy (1988-2003), then Director of the Department of Infectious, Parasitic and Immune-mediated Diseases of the same Institute from March 2003 to May 2009. In this position, he has directed surveillance and research teams on emerging infectious diseases , including arthropod borne viral diseases and influenza, and has been public health consultant for National and International Regulatory Bodies such as the Italian Ministry of Health, the European Community, the Health Protection Agency in UK and the European Center for Diseases Control (Stockholm, Sweden) where he has represented the Italian Medical Microbiology as National Microbiology Focal Point.

REPRESENTATIVE PUBLICATIONS

(over the period 1974-2020)

1. N Simonetti, V.Strippoli, A.Cassone.
Yeast-mycelial conversion induced by N-acetyl-D-glucosamine in
Candida albicans
Nature 1974; 250, 344-346.
2. F Bistoni, A Vecchiarelli, E Cenci, P Puccetti, P Marconi, A Cassone
Evidence for macrophage-mediated protection against lethal Candida
albicans infection.
Infection and Immunity 1986; 51, 668-674.
3. CM Ausiello, F Urbani, A la Sala, R Lande, A Cassone
Vaccine-and antigen-dependent type 1 and type 2 cytokine induction
after primary vaccination of infants with whole-cell or acellular
pertussis vaccines.
Infection and immunity 1997; 65, 2168-2174.
4. A Cassone, F De Bernardis, A Torosantucci, E Tacconelli, M
Tumbarello, Cauda R.
In vitro and in vivo anticandidal activity of human immunodeficiency
virus protease inhibitors
Journal of Infectious Diseases 1999; 180, 448-453
5. A Cassone, CM Ausiello, F Urbani, R Lande, M Giuliano, A La Sala, ...

Cell-mediated and antibody responses to Bordetella pertussis antigens in children vaccinated with acellular or whole-cell pertussis vaccines

Archives of pediatrics & adolescent medicine, 1997,151 283-289.

6. F De Bernardis, S Arancia, L Morelli, B Hube, D Sanglard, W Schäfer, Cassone A

Evidence that members of the secretory aspartyl proteinase gene family, in particular SAP2, are virulence factors for Candida vaginitis

Journal of Infectious Diseases 1999; 179, 201-208.

7. A Torosantucci, C Bromuro, P Chiani, F De Bernardis, F Berti, C Galli, Norelli, F, Bellucci C, Polonelli L, Costantino P, Rappuoli R, Cassone A
A novel glyco-conjugate vaccine against fungal pathogens

The Journal of Experimental Medicine 2005; 202, 597-606

8. A Savarino, L Di Trani, I Donatelli, R Cauda, A Cassone
New insights into the antiviral effects of chloroquine

The Lancet infectious diseases 6 (2), 67-69

9. G Rezza, L Nicoletti, R Angelini, R Romi, AC Finarelli, M Panning, Cordioli P, Fortuna C, Boros S, Magurano F, Silvi G, Angelini P, Dottori M, Ciufolini MG, Majori GC, Cassone A

Infection with chikungunya virus in Italy: an outbreak in a temperate region

The Lancet 2007; 370 (9602), 1840-1846.

10. Cassone A. Development of vaccines for Candida albicans : fighting a skilled transformer.

Nature Reviews of Microbiology 2013; 11:884-891

11. Domenico Benvenuto, Silvia Angeletti, Marta Giovanetti, Martina Bianchi, Stefano Pascarella, Roberto Cauda, Massimo Ciccozzi, Antonio Cassone
Evolutionary analysis of SARS-CoV-2 : how the mutations of the Non-Structural Protein 6 (NSP6) could affect viral autophagy.

Journal of Infection 2020, 81, 24-27