



Giovedì 21 Novembre, ore 15:00

Aula Magna

Viale Regina Elena 295



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The battle against MERS-CoV: targeting its evasion of the innate immune system

In 2012, a new, deadly virus emerged in the human population of Saudi Arabia - Middle East respiratory syndrome coronavirus - less than a decade after its sister, SARS-CoV (severe acquired respiratory syndrome coronavirus), was first identified in China. Both viruses caused a global scare, and continuous spill-over of MERS-CoV from camels still causes severe illness in patients, 35% of whom die. We investigate how these viruses suppress the innate immune system, the first line of host defense, which creates a window-of-opportunity for their efficient infection and severe pathogenesis. Based on these studies, we have developed innovative "attenuated-by-design" vaccine candidates, and a novel antiviral strategy based on the cellular protein ubiquitin.



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