

Dr. Caecilia Sukowati

Dr. Caecilia Sukowati is currently a senior researcher of the FIF: Currently, her research group focuses on cancer cellular heterogeneity and the development of biomarker-based targeted therapies. In 2011, Dr. Sukowati obtained her PhD from the School of Molecular Biomedicine of the University of Trieste, and since then, she has been joining the laboratories of the FIF. Starting from 2008 during her doctoral study, she has been initiating and expanding translational research on liver cancer at the foundation, in particular on the role of stem / progenitor cells in disease pathogenesis, while acting as tutor for numerous university students and international fellows. From 2013 to 2016, she was a contracted researcher at the Dept. Medicine, Surgery, and Health Sciences at the University of Trieste, while from 2018 to 2020 she was contracted by the Dept. Medicine at the University of Udine. In 2020, 2022, and 2023 she has been awarded fellowships of Fondazione Umberto Veronesi to continue her research in liver cancer heterogeneity and immunotherapies at the FIF.

FIF and BRIN

Since March 2022, Dr. Sukowati has a role as a contracted senior researcher at the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia, positioned at the FIF to bridge collaborative research studies on viral hepatitis and liver cancer between Italy and Indonesia. This collaboration is formalized with the Memorandum of Understanding between Badan Riset dan Inovasi Nasional dan Fondazione Italiana Fegato, signed on 28 September 2022 in Trieste. Active collaboration between institutions, has been demonstrated by:

1. Scientists exchange, under the responsibility of Dr. Sukowati
 - a. Visiting research of two BRIN researchers to FIF laboratories in Trieste, 6 months each, under the grant of Ministero degli Affari Esteri e Cooperazione Internazionale (MAECI) 2022-2023 to perform research project in liver cancer
 - b. Visiting researcher of FIF scientist to BRIN laboratories for 3 months to perform research project in molecular marker of liver cancer, funded by Manajemen Talenta of BRIN
 - c. Visit of Prof. Tiribelli to BRIN campus in Cibinong, Indonesia
2. Joint research projects: FIF name is mentioned in several research projects funded by BRIN internal funding
3. Research publication and dissemination: At least 10 joint research publications had been produced since 2022
4. Infrastructure: establishment of joint laboratory BRIN and FIF in BRIN campus in Cibinong in July 2023
5. Educational program
 - a. The proposed framework Degree by Research for PhD program, tripartite agreement between FIF, University of Trieste, and BRIN, fully funded by BRIN.
 - b. The proposed PhD program of the LPDP targeted-scholarship at FIF laboratories, fully funded by the Indonesia Educational Endowment Fund of the Ministry of Monetary of Indonesia. Endorsed directly by the Chairman of the BRIN.

FIF and other institutions in Indonesia

1. The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN): ASEAN Liver Network: the establishment of a structure dealing with science, technology and clinical aspects for liver studies in ASEAN countries was proposed. FIF has a role as one of the Implementing Agencies, together with the National Research and Innovation Agency of Indonesia (BRIN), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) of the Philippines, and the University of Medicine and Pharmacy at Ho Chi Minh City of Vietnam.
2. Universitas Sebelas Maret (UNS): Approval of International collaborative research grant proposed by the Universitas Sebelas Maret, Indonesia, together with the Fondazione Italiana Fegato ONLUS and the Università degli Studi di Trieste. This study is led by Dr. Witri Lestari, Chemistry Department of the Universitas Sebelas Maret, involving active participations of FIF (Prof. Claudio Tiribelli and Dr. Caecilia Sukowati) and Department of Medicine, Surgery and Health Sciences of the University of Trieste (Prof. Saveria Iory Croce'). The aims of the study is to develop new materials and strategy based on metal-organic frameworks for the drug delivery to liver cancer cells.
3. School of Life Sciences and Technology, Institut Teknologi Bandung (SITH ITB) : FIF joined a ITB research project proposal of cccDNA detection in liver cancer (2023, not funded). Zoom meeting between FIF and SITH-ITB for future collaboration was organized in July 2023.
4. Universitas Hasanuddin: on-going
5. Indonesian Society for the Study of the Liver (PPHI): on-going. In-person meetings (in 2022 and 2023) were conducted.
6. Istituto Italiano di Cultura (IIC) di Jakarta: Dr. Sukowati, representing BRIN, was a member of evaluation board for MAECI scholarship recipients 2023-2024 for Indonesia. The panel was led by the Attache of Science and Technology of Italian Embassy in Indonesia.