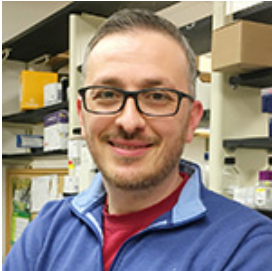


Meet the Team



Italo Tempera, Ph.D.

Principal Investigator

Gene Expression & Regulation Program

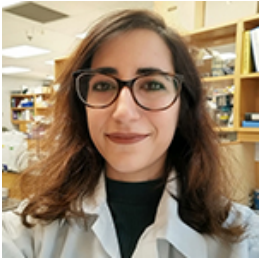
Italo received his Ph.D. in biochemistry from Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. In 2007, he moved to Philadelphia to start his postdoctoral training at The Wistar Institute, working in the laboratory for Dr. Paul Lieberman. In 2012, Italo joined the Fels Institute for Cancer Research and Molecular Biology at Temple University as an assistant professor. In July 2018, Italo was promoted to associate professor. He joined the Wistar faculty in 2020.



Lisa Beatrice Caruso, Ph.D.

Associate Staff Scientist

Lisa received her Ph.D from Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, where she worked in Alfredo Colosimo's lab on the use of topological networks in the study of protein structure dynamics and function. After her graduation, she worked as volunteer researcher in the Department of Biochemical Sciences of Sapienza University of Rome. Using network analysis, she conducted a predictive study of amino acidic residues relevant from a structural and functional point of view in the protein disulfide isomerase family. She joined the Tempera lab in October 2016 and she is currently working on several projects, including the identification and characterization of viral DNA-NL interactions during EBV latency and the relationship between NL association and EBV gene expression.



Giorgia Napoletani, Ph.D.

Postdoctoral Fellow

Giorgia earned her Ph.D. in Infectious Diseases, Microbiology and Public Health from Sapienza University of Rome, Italy. Her doctoral thesis was focused on the impact of herpes simplex virus type 1 (HSV-1) infection on neuronal epigenetic aging, studying the viral-host interaction, and on how the effect of herpetic infections in neurons might reflect on the nearby cells and cellular environment. Giorgia joined the lab in September 2020 and her projects are focused on the EBV-host relationship, including the link between the viral protein LMP1 and host chromatin remodeling through PARP1. She seeks to identify viral and host factors involved in viral latency maintenance and cellular transformation that could be used as new therapeutic targets in EBV-driven malignancies.



Sarah Johnson

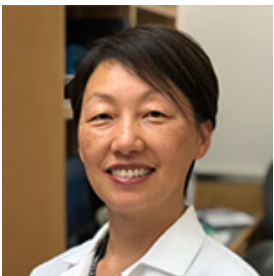
Graduate Student

Sarah earned her B.S. in biology at Loyola University Maryland and conducted her undergraduate research in vaccine development against Crimean-Congo hemorrhagic fever orthonairovirus (CCHFV). Her current research is focused on identifying key viral and host proteins involved in epigenetic modifications during latent EBV infection and their possible dynamic interactions.



Davide Maestri
Graduate Student

Davide earned his B.S. in biological sciences at the University of Bologna with a thesis on the putative involvement of a long non-coding RNA (lncRNA) in the degeneration of dopaminergic neurons in Parkinson's Disease. During his M.S. training, he completed an internship at the Department of Experimental, Diagnostic and Specialty Medicine of the University of Bologna, where he worked on several projects including characterizing the function of a lncRNA involved in the response to reactive oxygen species (ROS) in dopaminergic neurons of Parkinson's Disease patients and studying an unknown-function gene using zebrafish as a model system. After his graduation, he continued working in the same Department on a new study aimed at clarifying the pathogenesis of Limb Girdle Muscular Dystrophy 1F/D2 (LGMD1F/D2) and how it could be related to mutated Transportin3 (mutTNPO3) gene. In 2020, Davide joined the Tempera lab as a Ph.D. exchange student and his current research is focused on studying the interplay between EBV and host genomes during latent EBV infection.



Sarah Boyle
Research Technician

Sarah received her M.Sc. in biology at the University of Texas. She spent 10 years in Michael Edidin's lab at Johns Hopkins University studying protein trafficking in T cells using biophysical methods. Sarah then worked for seven years at Children's Hospital of Philadelphia working on ER stress proteins in a biochemistry lab. She has also spent a year in the Gene Therapy Program at the University of Pennsylvania studying gene therapy methods on various disease models. Sarah joined the Tempera lab in August 2018 and is focused on characterizing various EBV-associated protein interactions using immunofluorescence microscopy and gene editing.