

DECRETO RETTORALE

Decree of the Rector n. 616 of 02/07/2024

Competition for awarding 1 research grant at the University of Udine

DISCLAIMER:

The official and legally binding call for applications is in Italian only.

This document cannot be used for legal purposes and is only meant to provide information in English on the call for applications (Decree of the Rector n. 616 of 02/07/2024). Please refer to the official call published on: <https://www.uniud.it/it/albo-ufficiale>

Any change and integration will be made available on the above-mentioned web page. Therefore, no personal written communication regarding the examination date and/or competition results shall be provided to applicants.

Annex 1

Call for applications for the award of 1 grant for the performance of research activities at the University of Udine on the topic "Central (cardiorespiratory) and peripheral (microvascular and muscular) determinants of functional deterioration in COPD patients: new biomarkers for evaluating disease severity and acute exacerbations" SSD: BIOS-06/A (principal investigator, Bruno Grassi)

Research fellowship co-funded with the resources of the research project PRIN 2022 PNRR, Prot. n. P2022XX7YL, titled "Central (cardiorespiratory) and peripheral (muscular) determinants of functional deterioration in COPD: new biomarkers for evaluating disease severity and acute exacerbations?". Public call No. 1409 of 14/09/2022 – PRIN 2022 PNRR M4C2 Inv. 1.1. CUP G53D23007470001.

Art. 1

A selection proceeding is hereby announced for the award of 1 research grant at the University of Udine for the performance of the research activity identified in Annex A, which forms an integral and substantial part of this call. The research grant is linked to the research project on which it is based and is subject to the corresponding financial coverage.

Specifically, the project is placed within the context of the Italian National Recovery and Resilience Plan – Mission 4: Education and research, Component 2: From research to business, Investment 1.1: Fund for the National Research Programme and Research Projects of Significant National Interest, funded by the EU-Next GenerationEU. Project PRIN 2022 PNRR, Prot. n. P2022XX7YL, titled "Central (cardiorespiratory) and peripheral (muscular) determinants of functional deterioration in COPD: new biomarkers for evaluating disease severity and acute exacerbations?". CUP G53D23007470001.

The grant may be renewed with the winner in accordance with the provisions of Article 22 of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to Leg. Decree no. 36 of 30 April 2022, converted with amendments by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022) and the Regulations of the University of Udine for the awarding of research grants issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021, in the presence of a positive assessment by the scientific supervisor of

DECRETO RETTORALE

the activity carried out by the research fellow, adequate scientific justification and related financial coverage, within the limits set out in Article 3, letters b) and c) below.

The activities covered by the research grant will respect the National Recovery and Resilience Plan's "Do No Significant Harm" principle, i.e., they should not cause significant harm to the environment.

This call guarantees respect for generational, gender and territorial equal opportunities.

The results of the research conducted within the framework of the research grant and the related data will be published in accordance with the "Open Science" and "FAIR data" principles.

The research grant does not entitle the successful candidate to any rights as regards access to University roles.

Any personal communication to candidates relating to this selection will be sent exclusively to the email address indicated in the application form.

Art. 2

The activities covered by the research grant referred to in this call for competition and the admission requirements are indicated and described in Annex A. Failure to meet the admission requirements at the time of applying shall result in the **exclusion** of the candidate from the selection process.

Possession of a PhD qualification or equivalent qualification obtained abroad or, for the sectors concerned only, of a medical specialisation qualification accompanied by an adequate scientific production, constitutes a preferential requirement for the awarding of the grant envisaged for this selection, if it has not been mentioned as an admission requirement.

Candidates in possession of a specialization qualification in the medical area obtained abroad must also attach the recognition decrees issued by the Italian Ministry of Health in order to avail themselves of the qualification of specialist doctor and of the title of surgeon. These recognition decrees are also required if the qualification has already been recognized in another country of the European Union.
<http://www.salute.gov.it/ProfessioniSanitariePubblico/>

The Selection Board shall assess, for the sole purpose of admission to the competition, the suitability of any qualification obtained abroad, without prejudice to the assessment of the medical specialisation qualification to which Article 38, paragraph 3.1 of Legislative Decree 165/2001, as amended, and the relevant Community regulations apply.

The Board assesses the qualification obtained abroad based on the relevant documentation enclosed with the application to take part in the selection and may exclude the candidate if the submitted documentation does not provide sufficient elements for the assessment.

Candidates are therefore invited to enclose all documentation in their possession relating to their qualifications in order to provide the Board with sufficient elements to assess their position.

DECRETO RETTORALE

Candidates are admitted to the selection process subject to a reservation and their exclusion, for failure to meet the requirements, may be ordered at any time by reasoned decision.

Art. 3

The research grant referred to in this call cannot be awarded to the following subjects:

- a) Employees of Universities and the entities referred to in Article 22(1) of Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 (in the text prior to Leg. Decree no. 36 of 30 April 2022, converted with amendments by Law no. 79 of 29 June 2022).
- b) Recipients of previous research grants pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010, for the maximum period allowed by the regulations, excluding the period in which the grant was received in conjunction with a PhD, up to the legal duration of the relevant course.
- c) Those who have already been awarded research grants and fixed-term researcher contracts pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010 for a total of 12 years, even if not consecutive.
- d) Those who have a degree of kinship or relationship, up to and including the fourth degree, with:
 - The Rector, the Director General or a member of the Board of Directors of the University of Udine.
 - The principal investigator or a professor/researcher belonging to the department or structure of interest where the research grant activity takes place.

The research grant referred to in this call cannot be cumulated with the following:

- a) Awarded scholarships of any kind, except those granted by national or foreign institutions useful for supplementing, by means of stays abroad, the fellow's training or research activities.
- b) Other research grants.
- c) Employment relationships, even if part-time, without prejudice to the provisions of the regulations for employees of public administrations.

The grant referred to in this call is also incompatible with simultaneous attendance of degree courses, master's degrees, and PhDs with scholarships and medical specialisation, in Italy and abroad.

Persons who have been convicted of a criminal offence resulting in disqualification from holding public office or inability to contract with the public administration as a secondary penalty are not eligible for selection.

Art. 4

Applicants must submit, in the manner described in Article 5 below, the application to take part in the selection, duly signed in handwritten or digital form. An application without a signature will result in the **exclusion** of the candidate, except in the case of access through the use of the Public Digital Identity System (SPID) in which case the signature will not be necessary.

The application must be uploaded in its entirety (i.e., every page), **otherwise** the applicant will be **excluded** from the selection.

Applicants must enclose the following with their application for participation in the selection, **under penalty of exclusion**:

1. The professional scientific *curriculum vitae* in Italian or English or one of the additional languages, if any, indicated in Annex A, highlighting the candidate's aptitude for carrying out and implementing the research programme.

DECRETO RETTORALE

2. Copy of valid identity document or other identification document. Citizens of non-EU countries must enclose a copy of their passport.
3. Limited to citizens of non-EU states residing or authorised to reside in Italy, a copy of their residence permit or authorisation to reside in Italy.
4. For candidates who cannot provide a self-certification under the conditions set out below, documentation proving possession of the academic qualification required for admission to the selection. Possession of a higher academic qualification does not exempt the candidate from producing such documentation, which, if missing, will result in exclusion:
 - **Candidates who are Italian citizens or citizens of a European Union Member State** must submit a declaration in lieu of certification and, if necessary, a notarial deed regarding the academic qualification needed for admission (indicating the academic qualification, the academic institution awarding the qualification, the year it was awarded and the mark obtained) and the publications and other qualifications held, indicating for each one all the identification details necessary for the Board's assessment. **The application for participation counts as a declaration in lieu of certification of the declared academic qualification.** If the subject matter of the declaration is not clearly identified in terms of its nature, duration, time setting and institution concerned, the selection board will disregard it. The Administration reserves the right to carry out appropriate checks on the truthfulness of the content of the declarations made; in the event of a false declaration, the provisions of Article 76 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000 and Articles 483, 485, and 486 of the Italian Criminal Code shall apply. The University will not take into account any certificates attached by candidates who are Italian citizens or citizens of a state belonging to the European Union.
 - **Citizens of a non-European Union State** must submit documents and qualifications in Italian or English or one of the additional languages, if any, indicated in Annex A, under penalty of exclusion from the selection or, as the case may be, non-assessment.
Documents and titles, originally in a different language, must be accompanied by a translation, made by the candidate under his or her responsibility, into Italian or English or any other language indicated in Appendix A. With reference to the dissertation only, the translation may be limited to an extended abstract.
 - **Citizens of a non-EU State regularly residing in Italy** may use declarations in lieu of certification only in respect of states, personal qualities or facts that can be certified or attested to by Italian public bodies, without prejudice to the special provisions contained in the laws and regulations governing immigration and the status of foreigners.
 - **Citizens of non-EU states authorised to reside in Italy** may use the aforementioned declarations in cases where they are produced pursuant to international conventions between Italy and the declarant's country of origin.

Applicants may also enclose with their application for assessment purposes their publications and any other qualification deemed useful to prove their qualification in relation to the research programme described in Annex A and to certify any research activity carried out in public and/or private entities (with the indication of the starting date and duration). The submission modalities are similar to those indicated in point 4 of the previous paragraph.

DECRETO RETTORALE

Only the qualifications possessed by the candidate on the date of submission of the application for selection and presented in accordance with Article 5 will be assessed.

Any exclusion from the selection procedure due to lack of eligibility requirements, absence of mandatory documents, failure to sign the application to take part in the selection or submission of the application in a manner other than that provided for in this call will be communicated to the parties concerned exclusively by email to the email address indicated in the application to take part in the selection.

Art. 5

Registration for this selection will begin on July 9, 2024 at 2:00 pm (Italian time) and will end on July 23, 2024 at 2:00 pm (Italian time).

The application to take part in the selection must be completed, under penalty of exclusion, using the appropriate online procedure, available at <https://pica.cineca.it/>.

For those who do not already have a user account, the procedure involves a registration phase for the applicant, and a subsequent phase for completing the application online.

Once completed, the application must be signed in the manner (handwritten signature, with attached identity document, or digital signature) described in the online procedure, under penalty of exclusion from the selection. The application does not have to be signed if the above-mentioned online procedure is accessed using the Sistema Pubblico di Identità Digitale (SPID - Digital ID Public System). In the case of a handwritten signature, the applicant must upload the application to the system in its entirety. The information entered in the application form shall constitute a declaration in lieu of certification and affidavit, pursuant to Articles 46 and 47 of Presidential Decree no. 445/2000.

The qualifications referred to in Article 4 must be attached to the application in .pdf format. Individual files, in .pdf format, may not exceed 30MB in size.

It is not permitted to submit attachments to the application in the form of links to files residing on "online storage/file sharing" services or web pages. Reference may not be made to documents or publications submitted to this or other administrations or documents attached to the application for participation in another selection procedure.

The application for participation in the selection is automatically sent to the University of Udine with the final closure of the online procedure.

The University Administration:

- accepts no liability if it is impossible to read the submitted documentation in electronic format due to damaged files;
- does not accept or take into consideration qualifications or documents received in paper form or by any other means than those specified in this article.

The Administration accepts no liability in the event of incorrect indication by the candidate of his/her email address or in the event of failure or delay in communicating a change in the email address indicated in the application, nor for any digital transmission errors attributable to third parties, unforeseeable circumstances or force majeure.

DECRETO RETTORALE

Applicants are advised not to wait until the last few days before the deadline to submit their application. The University accepts no liability for any malfunctions due to technical problems and/or overloading of the communication line and/or application systems.

Art. 6

The selection test takes place according to the modalities set out in Annex A.

The test will aim to ascertain the candidates' preparation, experience and research aptitude. It will consist of an assessment of the professional scientific curriculum, publications and titles submitted, and an interview, where applicable.

Failure of the candidate to attend the interview will be considered as withdrawal from the selection, whatever the cause.

Candidates who intend to avail themselves of the benefits provided for by Article 20 of Law no. 104 of 1992 (need for assistance, possible use of additional time for the performance of examination tests) in relation to their disability situation, must declare this and accompany the application with appropriate medical certification in order to allow the Administration to prepare in time the means and tools to guarantee the statutory benefits; failure to submit the medical certification exempts the Administration from any obligation in this regard.

Art. 7

The Competition Selection Board is identified in Annex A to this call, of which it forms an integral part. At its first meeting, the Board appoints the Chairperson and the Secretary taking the minutes, and establishes the criteria and procedures for assessing the qualifications and the interview, where applicable.

The results of the assessment must be made known to the parties concerned at the interview, where provided for.

The Board can attribute to the selection a total number of 100 points (one hundred hundredths). At the end of its work, the Board formulates the overall merit list based on the total marks obtained by each candidate and draws up the minutes of the competition operations.

The grant may be awarded, subject to the ranking list, to candidates who have obtained a minimum overall mark of 70/100 (seventy hundredths).

The Board's judgement is final on the merits.

The ranking list will be made public exclusively by publication on the University's official notice board; the outcome of the assessment will not be the subject of personal communication to candidates.

Those who do not declare their acceptance of the research grant and do not present themselves at the structure where the research activities are to be carried out to sign the contract by the deadline communicated by the same to the email address indicated by the candidate in the application shall forfeit their right to the research grant, except for health reasons or reasons of force majeure duly documented and promptly notified.

DECRETO RETTORALE

Candidates holding qualifications obtained abroad, if successful, must submit the following, if not already attached to the application:

- **For degrees issued by a country that is a party to the Lisbon Convention (<https://www.enic-naric.net/>), the following documentation:**
 - *Supplement* Diploma or similar certificate in English issued by the competent University.
 - "Certificate of Verification of Foreign Qualification - CIMEA" issued by CIMEA (Centre for Information on Academic Mobility and Equivalences) via the "*diplome*" service at <https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login>
- **For degrees issued by a country not party to the Lisbon Convention (<https://www.enic-naric.net/>), one of the following options:**
 - Declaration of the on-site value of the qualification held and the certificate relating to the qualification with examinations and grades. The certificate in a language other than Italian or English must be accompanied by an official translation into one of those languages (certified by the competent diplomatic-consular authority or sworn at a court in Italy).
 - "Certificate of Comparability and Verification of Foreign Qualifications - CIMEA" issued by CIMEA (Centre for Information on Academic Mobility and Equivalences) via the "*diplome*" service at <https://cimea.diplome.eu/udine/#/auth/login>

If the aforementioned documentation is not available at the time of the conclusion of the contract, the candidate must prove that he or she has requested it and submit it as soon as possible; if it is not submitted within six months of the start of the contract, the candidate will forfeit the contract and will be required to repay any related sums received to date.

The selected candidate will have to undergo any health assessment deemed necessary by the competent doctor and aimed at issuing the assessment of suitability for the specific task according to the protocol of the host structure. The signature of the contract will be possible only after obtaining the judgment of suitability for the specific task by the Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale (ASU FC). Before signature of the research grant contract, the candidate awarded of reference research grant must submit a copy of the vaccination booklet or related certificate, and intradermal reaction – sec. Mantoux (performed in the last 12 months).

Art. 8

The research activity cannot be started before the contract defining the terms of the collaboration is signed.

The activity covered by the research grant must have the following characteristics:

- a) Be carried out in the context of the research programme covered by the grant and not be a purely technical support to the same.
- b) Close connection with the implementation of the research programme that is the subject of the relationship with the winner.
- c) Having a continuous and in any case temporally defined character, not merely occasional, and in coordination with the overall activity of the University.
- d) Performance in a condition of autonomy, within the sole limits of the programme prepared by the Head of the same, without predetermined working hours.

DECRETO RETTORALE

The research fellow is obliged to submit a detailed written report on the work carried out and the results achieved, together with the opinion of the scientific supervisor, to the reference structure within the deadlines laid down in the contract. The research fellow will also have to submit interim reports and time sheets if requested by the reference structure and/or the scientific supervisor.

The research fellow is bound to strict confidentiality regarding the data and information to which he/she becomes privy in the course of his/her research activity. At the request of the scientific coordinator, he/she will be required to sign an appropriate confidentiality agreement.

The industrial property rights to the results obtained by the research fellow in the performance of the research activity belong exclusively to the University, without prejudice to the moral right of the research fellow to be recognised as an author or inventor.

The University reserves the right to revoke this call for competition for reasons of public interest, should the research project and/or the financial backing on which the research grant is based cease to exist. Should these causes arise after the contract has been signed, the University may terminate the contract without notice.

With regard to accident insurance and third-party liability, the provisions of art. 3 c. 5 of the "Internal rules for awarding research grants pursuant to Italian Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine, issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021, are applied.

The Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale (ASU FC), by authorizing with a subsequent deed the access of the selected candidate to its facilities, ensures insurance cover for professional risks and third-party liability in the course of the authorized activity. The insurance policy for accidents and occupational diseases remains at the expense of the selected candidate. In the absence of such policy, the selected candidate will not be allowed to access the facilities of the Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale (ASU FC), and it will not be possible to proceed with the signature of the contract.

Art. 9

The following apply to the grant under this call:

- On tax matters, the provisions of Article 4 of Law no. 476 of 13 August 1984, as amended.
- On social security matters, the provisions of Article 2(26) et seq. of Law no. 335 of 8 August 1995, as amended.
- On compulsory maternity leave, the provisions of the Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007.
- On sick leave, the provisions of Article 1(788) of Law No 296 of 27 December 2006, as amended.

During the period of compulsory maternity leave, the allowance paid by INPS pursuant to Article 5 of the Ministerial Decree of 12 July 2007 is supplemented by the University up to the full amount of the research grant.

The grant will be paid in monthly instalments in arrears.

Art. 10

The data collected as part of the procedure referred to in Article 5 is necessary for the proper management of the selection procedure, for the possible subsequent management of the research grant and purposes related to the management of the services provided by the University. The University of Udine is the Data Controller. At any time, the data subject may request access, rectification and, compatibly with the institutional purposes of the University, cancellation and restriction of processing or may object to the processing of his/her data. He/she can always lodge a complaint with the Italian Data Protection Authority. The full information is available on the

DECRETO RETTORALE

University of Udine website in the "Privacy" section accessible from the home page www.uniud.it Direct Link:
<https://www.uniud.it/it/it/pagine-speciali/guida/privacy>

Art. 11

For any matters not expressly mentioned in this call, reference is made to the relevant regulations in force cited in the introduction and to the "Internal regulations for the award of research grants pursuant to Law no. 240 of 30 December 2010" of the University of Udine issued by Rector's Decree no. 182 of 31 March 2021.

Art. 12

The official in charge of the proceeding is Dr. Sandra Salvador, Head of the Research Services Area of the University of Udine.

The reference office at the University of Udine is the "Area Servizi per la Ricerca - Ufficio Formazione per la Ricerca", Via Mantica 31 - 33100 Udine.

To request information on the call, please complete the following form available on the University of Udine website:
https://helpdesk.uniud.it/SubmitSR.jsp?type=req&accountId=universityofudine&populateSR_id=42105

DECRETO RETTORALE

Annex A

Responsabile scientifico della ricerca / Principal investigator:

Nome e cognome / Name and surname: Bruno Grassi
Qualifica / Position: Professore Ordinario / Full Professor
Dipartimento / Department: Medicina / Medicine
Area MUR / Research field: 05 – Scienze biologiche
Settore concorsuale e Settore scientifico disciplinare / Scientific sector: 05/BIOS-06; BIOS-06/A – Fisiologia

Titolo dell'assegno di ricerca / Topic of the research fellowship "assegno di ricerca":

I bandi sono consultabili dal sito dell'Ateneo, del MUR e di Euraxess / The calls are available on the University, MUR and Euraxess websites

Testo in italiano:

Fattori determinanti centrali (cardiorespiratori) e periferici (microvascolari e muscolari) delle limitazioni funzionali in pazienti BPCO: nuovi biomarcatori per la valutazione della gravità della malattia e delle riacutizzazioni.

Text in English:

Central (cardiorespiratory) and peripheral (microvascular and muscular) determinants of functional deterioration in COPD patients: new biomarkers for evaluating disease severity and acute exacerbations.

Obiettivi previsti e risultati attesi del programma di ricerca in cui si colloca l'attività dell'assegnista di ricerca / Foreseen objectives and results of the research programme performed by the research fellow "assegnista di ricerca":

I bandi sono consultabili dal sito dell'Ateneo, del MUR e di Euraxess / The calls are available on the University, MUR and Euraxess websites

Testo in italiano:

Le broncopneumopatie croniche ostruttive (BPCO) rappresentano un significativo fardello per i sistemi sanitari, e possono influire in maniera negativamente significativa sulle condizioni di salute, sulla qualità di vita e sull'aspettativa di vita dei pazienti affetti. Nei pazienti BPCO le limitazioni funzionali dipendono sia da fattori "centrali" (cardiorespiratori) sia da fattori "periferici" (microvascolari e muscolari). La disfunzione del muscolo scheletrico contribuisce infatti in maniera significativa a determinare la ridotta capacità di esercizio, componente fondamentale del quadro clinico dei pazienti, ed è associata ad un'evoluzione più sfavorevole della malattia. Alla disfunzione muscolare contribuiscono alterazioni microvascolari/endoteliali, l'infiammazione cronica, lo stress ossidativo, l'atrofia muscolare, alterazioni del metabolismo ossidativo, disfunzione mitocondriale, alterazioni della capacità di rigenerazione muscolare. I pazienti con BPCO sono caratterizzati da una condizione di infiammazione sistemica, che conduce ad atrofia muscolare, ridotta capacità di generazione di forza e alterazioni del metabolismo energetico ossidativo. Tali fenomeni sono presumibilmente associati alla gravità della malattia ed allo sviluppo ed alla gravità delle sue esacerbazioni acute, che sono principalmente responsabili del progressivo deterioramento clinico dei pazienti. In realtà, il ruolo dei fattori periferici nell'eziopatogenesi della malattia non è mai stato definito con precisione, così come non è stato finora definito il ruolo di eventuali biomarcatori delle limitazioni periferiche nel determinare la gravità della malattia.

Nel presente progetto pazienti con BPCO di gravità diversa, reclutati dalla SOC di Pneumologia, Dipartimento Cardiotoracico, ASUFC, verranno sottoposti ad una valutazione iniziale, comprendente la determinazione di parametri indicativi delle limitazioni centrali/sistemiche menzionate in precedenza, principalmente durante l'esecuzione di un test cardiopolmonare al cicloergometro. Un'attenzione particolare verrà data a variabili riguardanti l'efficacia della ventilazione polmonare e degli scambi gassosi a livello polmonare. La valutazione

DECRETO RETTORALE

iniziale comprenderà inoltre la determinazione di variabili relative a limitazioni microvascolari/endoteliali e muscolari, utilizzando approcci già in uso da tempo nei laboratori proponenti, e opportunamente modificati ed adattati alla tipologia dei pazienti. Un'attenzione particolare verrà rivolta alla valutazione della funzione microvascolare ed endoteliale, al metabolismo energetico ossidativo del muscolo ed alla respirazione mitocondriale, nonché alla presenza di infiammazione, stress ossidativo, atrofia e riduzioni di forza muscolare e ad altri segni di deterioramento. Durante riacutizzazioni della malattia i pazienti verranno sottoposti alle medesime valutazioni, con l'eccezione del test cardiopolmonare al cicloergometro. I biomarcatori centrali e periferici verranno confrontati tra pazienti con gravità diversa della malattia e soggetti sani di pari età (studio trasversale), nonché, nello stesso paziente, tra i dati raccolti in occasione della valutazione iniziale ed i dati raccolti durante la riacutizzazione (studio longitudinale).

Il progetto è finanziato dal Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (MUR), con fondi PRIN-PNRR 2022. L'assegno di ricerca della presente richiesta è cofinanziato con i fondi del progetto. Il progetto prevede la partecipazione di 3 Unità di Ricerca (RU): RU1-UNIUD_Laboratorio di Fisiologia dell'Esercizio, Dipartimento de Medicina, Università di Udine (Centro Coordinatore del Progetto, Principal Investigator Prof. Bruno Grassi, richiedente l'assegno della presente domanda); RU2-UNIVR_Dipartimento di Medicina, Università di Verona; RU3-UNIPV_Dipartimento di Medicina Molecolare, Università di Pavia.

Quindici pazienti con BPCO verranno reclutati dalla SOC di Pneumologia (Direttore Prof. Vincenzo Patruno), Dipartimento Cardiotoracico, ASUFC. Altri 15 pazienti con BPCO verranno reclutati da RU2-UNIVR. Entrambe le unità recluteranno anche i pazienti di controllo.

Lo studio è di tipo osservazionale, condotto su pazienti BPCO e su soggetti di controllo. Tutte le misure condotte da RU1-UNIUD sono di natura non-invasiva, verranno condotte seguendo procedure standard di sicurezza, vengono abitualmente condotte su soggetti sani e soggetti di controllo, e non espongono i pazienti a rischi significativi. Le misurazioni proposte, inoltre, non interferiscono con il trattamento standard dei pazienti.

Text in English:

Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) is a major burden for health systems and may negatively affect the patients' health status, quality of life and life expectancy. Functional impairment depends on both cardiorespiratory (systemic/central) and microvascular/skeletal muscle (peripheral) factors. Skeletal muscle dysfunction substantially contributes to exercise intolerance, a major hallmark of the disease, and it is associated with worse outcomes. Microvascular/endothelial impairments, chronic inflammation, oxidative stress, muscle atrophy, altered skeletal muscle oxidative metabolism, mitochondrial dysfunction, impaired capacity of muscle regeneration and other factors may contribute to the muscular dysfunction. COPD patients are characterized by systemic inflammation, leading to muscle atrophy, reduced capacity of force production and impaired oxidative function. These phenomena are presumably related to the severity of COPD and the occurrence and severity of acute exacerbations, which are mainly responsible for the progressive clinical deterioration of the patients. The role of "peripheral" factors in the pathogenesis of the disease has not been settled yet, and the use of biomarkers related to peripheral alterations in evaluating the severity of COPD has not been investigated so far.

In the present study patients with COPD of different severity, selected by SOC of Pneumology, Cardiothoracic Department, Udine Hospital will undergo, at a baseline examination, an evaluation of parameters of systemic/central impairments, mainly determined during a cardiopulmonary exercise test, as well as an evaluation of parameters of peripheral (microvascular/endothelial) and skeletal muscle impairments. Specific attention will be devoted to evaluating skeletal muscle oxidative metabolism and mitochondrial respiration, to the presence of inflammation, oxidative stress, muscle atrophy, mitochondrial dysfunction, skeletal muscle deterioration. During acute exacerbations of the disease the patients will undergo the same measurements mentioned above, except for the cardiopulmonary exercise test.

Systemic/central and peripheral biomarkers of impairment will be compared between patients with different disease severity and a group of control subjects (cross-sectional study) and, in each patient, at baseline and during acute exacerbations (longitudinal study).

DECRETO RETTORALE

The present project has been approved by the Italian Ministry of Research (MUR) among the PRIN PNNR 2022 Proposals (n. P2022XX7YL). Three Research Units (RU) are involved: RU1-UNIUD, Laboratory of Exercise Physiology, Department of Medicine, University of Udine, Coordinator of the Project; RU2-UNIVR, Department of Medicine, University of Verona; RU3-UNIPV, Department of Molecular Medicine, University of Pavia.

Fifteen patients with COPD of different severity will be recruited by the SOC Pneumology, Cardiothoracic Department, Udine Hospital (Director Dr. Vincenzo Patruno). A similar number of patients will be recruited by RU2-UNIVR. A control group of age-and sex-matched subjects, with no signs/symptoms of BPCO, will also be recruited.

The present is an observational study carried out on COPD patients and control subjects. All measurements which will be performed by RU1-UNIUD are non-invasive, will be carried out under standard safety procedures, are commonly performed on healthy subjects and patients, and do not expose the patients to significant risks. The proposed measurements, moreover, will not interfere with the standard treatment of the patients.

Struttura dell'Università di Udine presso la quale verrà sviluppata l'attività di ricerca / Department or other structure of the University of Udine where research activities will be carried out:

Laboratorio di Fisiologia dell'Esercizio, Dipartimento di Medicina (DMED). / Exercise Physiology Laboratory, Department of Medicine.

Tipologia di attività prevista in relazione alle esigenze del programma di ricerca / Type of activity scheduled in relation to the needs of the research program:

Attività di laboratorio diagnostico o assistenziale. / Diagnostic laboratory activities or activities with assistance purposes.

Struttura ospedaliera coinvolta / Hospital facility involved:

Azienda Sanitaria Universitaria Friuli Centrale (ASU FC), Presidio Ospedaliero Universitario Santa Maria della Misericordia – Udine, SOC Pneumologia.

Importo dell'assegno di ricerca (al lordo oneri carico assegnista) / Total grant gross for the research fellowship:

€ 32.426,08

Durata dell'assegno di ricerca / Duration of the research fellowship "assegno di ricerca":

16 mesi / months

Finanziamento / Financed by:

La copertura finanziaria graverà sui fondi/progetti:

- progetto PRIN 2022 PNRR - "Central (cardiorespiratory) and peripheral (muscular) determinants of functional deterioration in COPD: new biomarkers for evaluating disease severity and acute exacerbations?"; Prot. n. P2022XX7YL. Avviso pubblico n. 1409 del 14/09/2022. Decreto di finanziamento n. 1366 del 01/09/2023 - Settore LS4. Codice CUP G53D23007470001. Ministero dell'Università e della Ricerca (Finanziato dall'Unione Europea, NextGenerationEU);
- fondi di ricerca libera del prof. Bruno Grassi - RICLIB_GRASSI.

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Requisiti di ammissione / Minimum qualifications necessary:

Possesso del titolo di Dottore di ricerca o titolo equivalente conseguito all'estero. / Possession of a Research doctorate or equivalent qualification obtained abroad.

Modalità di presentazione della documentazione oggetto di valutazione / Arrangements for the submission of documents:

La modalità di presentazione della documentazione oggetto di valutazione è specificata all'art. 4 del bando. / The way of presenting the documentation under evaluation is specified in art. 4 of the present notice.

Ai fini valutativi, i candidati potranno presentare le pubblicazioni e ogni altro titolo ritenuto utile a comprovare la propria qualificazione in relazione al programma di ricerca descritto nell'Allegato A, nelle seguenti lingue: / For evaluation purposes, candidates may present publications and any other qualifications deemed useful to demonstrate their qualification in relation to the research program described in Attachment A, in the following languages:

- Italiano / Italian
- Inglese / English

Procedura selettiva / Competition procedure:

Valutazione per titoli e colloquio. / Evaluation of titles and oral exam.

I risultati della valutazione dei titoli saranno resi noti agli interessati nel corso del colloquio. / The evaluation of the qualifications will be disclosed to candidates during the interview.

Calendario del colloquio / Calendar of the oral exam	Modalità / Modality	Videoconferenza / Videoconference
	Data / Date	31 luglio / July 2024
	Ora / Time	16:00 / 4:00 pm (Italian time)
	Luogo / Place	-

Per sostenere il colloquio i candidati devono esibire un valido documento di riconoscimento. / Candidates must come to the interview with a valid identity document.

Eventuali variazioni saranno rese note esclusivamente mediante pubblicazione all'albo ufficiale on line dell'Ateneo / Any change will be made public solely through publication on the University web site http://web.uniud.it/ateneo/normativa/albo_ufficiale

Nota / Note: Le indicazioni sulle modalità di svolgimento della prova in modalità telematica saranno inviate ai candidati con successiva email da parte del Presidente della Commissione. Ai fini dell'identificazione e a pena di esclusione dalla procedura selettiva, ciascun candidato è tenuto ad identificarsi prima che il colloquio abbia inizio, esibendo il medesimo documento di identità allegato alla domanda di ammissione al concorso. Il candidato deve risultare reperibile nella giornata e all'orario indicato sul bando. Il mancato collegamento, l'irreperibilità del candidato nel giorno o nell'orario stabilito o la mancata esibizione del documento identificativo, sono motivo di esclusione dalla procedura selettiva. La registrazione delle prove orali è vietata. L'Ateneo adotterà pertanto tutti i

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provvedimenti in suo potere per tutelare i soggetti coinvolti qualora venissero diffuse tramite internet – o altri mezzi di diffusione pubblica – video, audio o immagini della procedura selettiva. / Instructions on how the video interviewing will be conducted will be provided to candidates by the Chairman of the Examining Board via email. For identification purposes, each candidate is required to identify him/herself before the interview by exhibiting the same identification document attached to the application. Candidates must be available on the day and time established by the call for applications. Failure of the candidate to establish a video connection, the unavailability of the candidate on the day and/or time established or failure of the candidate to provide the required identification document are all grounds for exclusion from the selection procedure. Recording of the video interviews is prohibited. The University will adopt all the measures within its power to protect all personnel involved as a result of dissemination via the internet or via other forms of public dissemination, of videos, audios or other pictures of the selection procedures.

Commissione giudicatrice / Examining Board:

Nome e Cognome	Qualifica	SSD	Università
Membri Effettivi / Permanent members			
Bruno Grassi	PO	BIOS-06/A	Università degli Studi di Udine
Stefano Lazzer	PA	MEDF-01/A	Università degli Studi di Padova
Miriam Isola	PO	MEDS-24/A	Università degli Studi di Udine
Membro Supplente / Temporary member			
Giovanna Lippe	PO	BIOS-07/A	Università degli Studi di Udine