Surname: Lugano

Name: Gaia

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Nationality: Italian

Date of birth: 19 January 1992

Education

<u>February 2017:</u> Master's degree in Medical Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine at University of Milano, with the thesis: *Phenotypic changes of the Human Saphenous Vein-derived Smooth Muscle Cells in response to mechanical cues representative of the arterial environment.*

<u>July 2014</u>: Bachelor's degree in Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology at University of Pavia, with the thesis: *Il microscopio confocale e le sue possibili applicazioni*.

Work experiences

September 2017 - present: Research Fellow Assistant at the Orthopaedic Biotechnology

Laboratory of IRCCS Galeazzi Orthopaedic Institute.

December 2015 - February 2017: Intern student in the Research Laboratory of Tissue

Engineering of IRCCS Centro Cardiologico Monzino.

April 2014 - July 2014: Intern student in Immunology and General Pathology

Department, University of Pavia.

Lab skills

Isolation and culture of primary mammalian cells, mainly Mesenchymal stem cells (from human adipose tissue, tendons, and synovial membrane), Smooth Muscle Cells (from human Saphenous Vein) and PBMCs (from human blood samples); *in vivo* studies on rat model (surgery assistant and explant collecting and processing); *in vitro* mechanical stimulation of cells (FlexCell Tension System); viability and proliferation assays (MTT, Alamar, Live&Dead); cell cycle and apoptosis; mRNA extraction, reverse transcription-PCR, Real Time RT-PCR; protein extraction, quantification (BSA assay) and processing (Western Blot); histology sample preparation and stainings; immunofluorescence and immunohistochemistry; image analysis, data processing and statistics (ImageJ, GraphPad Prism, Excel).