



“Searching the Truth Through Science”

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Q01

Interviewer: So, you are Principal Investigator (PI) of the ASST Santi Paolo e Carlo. Tell us a little about yourself, why are you involved with the ASST and why is the ASST involved in this project.

Giulia Marchetti: I am a **professor of Infectious Diseases** at the **University of Milan** and I am also the **head** of the **Clinic of Infectious Diseases** at **ASST Santi Paolo e Carlo**. My **personal background** is an **infectious disease physician**, but I have also **dedicated** my **career** to **research**. Our **ASST** gathers **two big hospitals** in the area of **Milano**, I would call them **generic hospitals**, meaning that we mainly have **internal medicine** ward, **infectious diseases**, but also we have a **big emergency department**. Since the **beginning of COVID-19 pandemics**, which in **Italy** was at the **end of February 2020**, we had a very **big number of COVID-19 patients**. This gave us the **opportunity** of **having** many **COVID-19 hospitalized patients**, **both** with very **severe forms**, that also went in the ICU, and with **less severe forms**. The **reason** why we have been **involved** in this very interesting **project**, the **EuCARE project**, is **because** we had a **large experience** with **COVID-19 acutely hospitalized patients**. We also perform **immunological oriented research**, in the **understanding** of the **pathogenesis** of **several infectious diseases**, but in particular **HIV infection**.



Q02

Interviewer: Besides yourself, who else participates in this project from the ASST?

Giulia Marchetti: Before me, we had another PI, professor **Antonella D'Arminio Monforte** who just retired. I was **already involved** in the **project**. The **other members** of the **ASST team** involved are another **medical doctor**, **Francesca Bai**, who has been **involved** with **patients care**, **patients follow up** in **post-COVID outpatient clinics** that we set up and, in the **research**, and **data writing**. Then we have a **study manager**, **Sara De Beneditis**, she did the job of **collecting** all the **data** and **inputting** the **data** into the **database**, aside for all the **ethical committee part**. These are the **major characters**. We also had a **collaborator** who is another **study manager**, **Alessandro Tavelli**, who was an **advisor**, he **advised** Sara, Francesca and me on **how to input data** and **how to prepare the best database** to be **investigated** for **future questions**.

Q03

Interviewer: The next and final question, the EuCARE project is divided into eight workpackages (WP), right? In which ones is the ASST involved and what has been done already?

Giulia Marchetti: We are within the **WP3**. We are currently **in charge** of **studying post-COVID patients**. We **set up** a **post-COVID outpatient clinic**, meaning that all the **patients** that were either **hospitalized** or **seen** in the **outpatient system**, were **given** an **appointment** around **one month** since the **clinical discharge**. In this **outpatient clinic** we **perform** different forms of **questionnaires**. All these **questionnaires investigate** whether the patients **developed post-COVID syndrome**. We **followed up more** than **2000 patients** since **2020** until **2022**, which includes both our **own data** and **data** from the **Tor Vergata group in Rome**. We saw a **high prevalence** of **post-COVID patients** in our **cohort**, our numbers are really high, **higher** than **30%** and **more** than **50%** of the patients that we saw **developed** a form of **long-COVID**. **More** than **half** developed **physical**, and **30%** were more **psychological long-COVID**. **Since one month** we have **set up** a **telemedicine service** in our center, and we had a **connection** with all the other **EuCARE centers** and some other **already** have **telemedicine approaches**. This is one thing **I'm very proud of**, because it's an **innovative approach** and I think it'll be **well accepted by patients**. This way, the **follow up** visits can be done through **telemedicine** with specific **questionnaires**. Of course, if we see **clinical problems**, we will **address** and **see the patient in person**. We have **decided** to have **three months** of **telemedicine** and then try to **gather** the **results** to see how the **prevalence** of the **long-COVID condition** is present through this **approach**.

Interviewer: Thank you, Giulia.

Giulia Marchetti: Thank you very much!



If you want to know more about the
EuCARE project or our partners

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