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**“The Whole is Greater  
than the Sum of its  
Parts!”**

**Maurizio Zazzi**

Professor of Microbiology at the  
Department of Medical Biotechnology  
at Università Di Siena

# Interview of the EuCARE partners

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## Q01

**Interviewer:** So, you are the Principal Investigator (PI) of the Università Di Siena (UNISI). Tell us a little about yourself, why are you involved with the UNISI and why is the UNISI involved in this project.

**Maurizio Zazzi:** I am **Full Professor** in **Microbiology** at the **Department** of **Medical Biotechnology** of the **University of Siena, Italy**. The **Department** has a **strong** and **long-standing commitment** in **human virology**, and I **am** one of the **original founders** of the **EuResist consortium**. My **career started** with the **beginning of the HIV epidemic** and indeed I **have been devoting** most of **my research time to HIV**, particularly **advanced virology** and **antiretroviral drug resistance**. However, in the **last ten years** I have considerably **expanded** my **interest** to **include several other viruses** including **West Nile, Zika, Dengue** and **SARS-CoV-2**. Thus, I **enthusiastically** supported the **EuCARE** plan, which is **perfectly in line** with **my view** of **translational research** in a **multidisciplinary environment**.



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## Q02

**Interviewer:** Besides yourself, who else participates in this project from UNISI?

**Maurizio Zazzi:** Two postdocs are participating to the project. **Ilaria Vicenti** developed the **live virus antibody neutralization assay** we are using in the project to investigate **immune response** to **SARS-CoV-2**. She is **also responsible** for the **large collection** of **SARS-CoV-2 virus lineages** which is functional to **analyze** the **impact** of **virus variability** on **immunity**. **Both** she and **Francesco Saladini** are also **expert** in **SARS-CoV-2 sequencing** and **antiviral drug testing**. They are **supervising** **four PhD students** who are **partly working** on **EuCARE**.

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## Q03

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

**Maurizio Zazzi:** I am **leading WP2** which **comprises** all the “**wet**” **lab work** and **complementing** the work done **on collected data**. Our **main task** is **investigating** the **humoral** and **cell-mediated immunity** to **SARS-CoV-2**, particularly **how** the **different immunization events** (natural infection and vaccination) **impact** on our **ability** to **control** the **different variants**. In addition, we are **evaluating** how **virus variability** affects **SARS-CoV-2 diagnostics**.

**Interviewer:** Thank you, Maurizio.

**Maurizio Zazzi:** Thank you very much!





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

Contact us:

<https://eucareresearch.eu/contact-us/>

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