IUIS Council Member Description

Personal description by the Candidate for 2025-2028 Council

I am the Director of the Institute of Medical Immunology at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and hold a Full Professorship at both Charité and the Free University of Berlin.

My academic journey began with medical studies at the University of Florence, followed by specialization in Oncology at the National Cancer Institute in Genoa, Italy. After completing a PhD in Immunology at the University of Genoa under the mentorship of Lorenzo Moretta in 2006, I was awarded an EMBO fellowship to pursue postdoctoral research at the German Rheumatism Research Center (DRFZ) in Berlin. There, I established my research program in innate immunity and inflammation, first as a group leader and later as a Heisenberg Professor funded by the German Research Foundation (DFG).

My research focus is in innate immunity and my work has contributed to the identification of key signals driving the differentiation and activation of Innate Lymphoid Cells (ILCs), and I was the first to demonstrate clonality and epigenetic memory in human Natural Killer (NK) cells—findings that have helped reshape our understanding of innate immune responses.

Over the years, I have remained deeply committed to supporting the immunology community at both national and international levels. I am an elected member of the German Society for Immunology and have served on review panels for major funding bodies including the European Research Council (ERC). I have also served as Editor-in-Chief of the European Journal of Immunology, reflecting my ongoing dedication to advancing the field.

I believe the International Union of Immunological Societies (IUIS) plays a pivotal role in connecting immunologists worldwide, promoting cross-border collaboration, and fostering scientific exchange. As we navigate an increasingly interconnected world, IUIS has a unique opportunity—and responsibility—to expand its mission. This includes not only advancing scientific excellence but also actively investing in the next generation of immunologists by building inclusive, supportive environments where early-career scientists can thrive and shape the future of our discipline.

It would be a true honor to contribute to the mission of IUIS and to help strengthen a global immunology community that is dynamic, equitable, and forward-looking.

European Federation of Immunological Societies

Rijeka and Zurich, 14 April 2025

To: The IUIS Board

RE: Nomination of Professor Chiara Romagnani for the IUIS Council

Dear IUIS Board and Council,

As current and past Presidents of the European Federation of Immunological Societies (EFIS), we are delighted to express the EFIS Board's wholehearted and unconditional support for the nomination of Professor Chiara Romagnani to the IUIS Council (2025–2028), as proposed by the German Society for Immunology (DGfI).

Professor Romagnani is currently the Director of the Institute of Medical Immunology at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin and a Full Professor at both Charité and the Free University of Berlin. She is a globally recognized and highly respected leader in the field of innate immunity, particularly for her groundbreaking work on Innate Lymphoid Cells. Among her many pioneering contributions, she was the first to describe clonality and epigenetic memory in human Natural Killer (NK) cells—findings that have significantly advanced our understanding of human immunology.

Her exceptional research achievements are reflected in an outstanding publication record in leading international peer-reviewed journals and have been honored by her election to the prestigious Leopoldina – German National Academy of Sciences.

Professor Romagnani is equally committed to service and leadership within the national and international immunology community. She is an elected member of the German Society for Immunology and has served as a panel member for several prominent funding agencies, including the European Research Council (ERC-LS6), the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG), the French National Research Agency (ANR), and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). From 2023 to 2025, she also served as Editor-in-Chief of the *European Journal of Immunology*, demonstrating her continued dedication to the advancement of our field.

The EFIS Board firmly believes that Professor Romagnani's scientific excellence, leadership, and deep engagement with the immunology community make her an outstanding candidate for the IUIS Council. EFIS proudly and enthusiastically supports her nomination.

Sincerely,

Bojan Polić
President, EFIS

Federica Sallusto
Past President, EFIS

Deutsche Gesellschaft für Immunologie e.V. (DGfI)

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The IUIS Board
FAO Prof. João P.B. Viola, Secretary-General
c/o K.I.T. Group GmbH
Kurfürstendamm 71
10709 Berlin, Germany

Via: *info@iuis.org*

April 14, 2025

Our nomination of Professor Chiara Romagnani as candidate for the IUIS Council

Dear Prof. Viola,
Dear Election Committee,
Dear IUIS Board and Council,

It is with great pleasure that the German Society of Immunology (DGfI) nominates Professor Chiara Romagnani to the IUIS Council (2025–2028). Chiara Romagnani has been a highly committed and valued member of the DGfI Advisory Board since 2018 and the DGfI board wishes to offer her unconditional support for her candidacy.

Professor Romagnani is an internationally acclaimed leader in the field of immunology. She currently serves as Director of the Institute of Medical Immunology at Charité – Universitätsmedizin Berlin, and holds a full professorship at both Charité and the Free University of Berlin.

Her pioneering research has transformed our understanding of innate immunity, particularly through her discovery of clonality and epigenetic memory in human Natural Killer (NK) cells—insights that have opened new frontiers in the study of immune memory and function. Her scientific excellence is evidenced by an outstanding body of work published in top-tier journals, and has earned her election to the Leopoldina – the German National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest honors for a scientist in Germany.

Beyond her research accomplishments, Professor Romagnani is a dedicated advocate and active contributor to the immunology community. She has served in numerous leadership roles and has provided expert service on grant review panels for leading funding agencies such as the European Research Council (ERC), the German Research Foundation (DFG), the French National Research Agency (ANR), and the Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). She has also led the European Journal of Immunology as its Editor-in-Chief, further demonstrating her commitment to shaping the future of our field.

The DGfI Board strongly believes that Professor Romagnani's scientific vision, collaborative spirit, and international leadership make her exceptionally well-suited to contribute to the mission of the IUIS Council. We are confident that she will bring both insight and impact to the role, and we are proud to endorse her candidacy without reservation.

Sincerely,

Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Schild
- President -
German Society for Immunology

Prof. Dr. Hansjörg Schild
Institut für Immunologie
Universitätsmedizin der Johannes-Gutenberg-Universität Mainz
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ROMAGNANI, Chiara

PERSONAL DATA

Title	Prof.
First name	Chiara
Name	Romagnani
Current position	Director, Institute of Medical Immunology
Current institution(s)/ site(s), country	Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
Identifiers/ORCID	0000-0002-5167-7463

QUALIFICATIONS AND CAREER

Stages	**Period**	**Details**
Degree program	1991 – 1998	Medicine, University of Florence, Italy
Doctorate (MD)	1997 – 1998	20.07.1998, supervisor: Prof. G. Del Prete, University of Florence, Italy, Medicine
Medical Specialty	1999-2002	30.10.2002, University of Genova, Italy, Oncology
Doctorate (PhD)	2003 – 2006	20.07.2006, supervisor: Prof. L. Moretta, University of Genova, Italy, Immunology
Stages of academic/ professional career	Since 2023	Full Professor (W3) and Director, Institute of Medical Immunology, Charité - Universitätsmedizin Berlin, Germany
	2020-2023	Full Professor (W3), Charité Universitätsmedizin Berlin and Chair, Leibniz Campus “Chronic Inflammation”, DRFZ, Berlin, Germany
	2017-2020	Heisenberg Professor (W2), Department for Gastroenterology, Infectious Diseases, Rheumatology, Charité, Berlin, Germany
	Since 2010	Group leader, DRFZ, Berlin, Germany
	2006 – 2009	Postdoc, Institute of Immunology, Charité and DRFZ, Berlin, Germany

ACTIVITIES IN THE RESEARCH SYSTEM

Since 2024 Elected member Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft (DFG)– Fachkollegium „Mikrobiologie, Virologie,Immunologie“

Since 2022 ERC Panel member

2022-2024 Chief Editor, *European Journal of Immunology*

Since 2021 Deputy Speaker, Else Kröner-Promotionskolleg “Rethinking Health”

Since 2020 Speaker, PhD program “Interdisciplinary Center of Infection Biology and Immunity” (ZIBI), Berlin

Since 2020 Editorial Advisory Board, *Immunity (Cell Press)*

2020-2024 Speaker, Leibniz Science Campus “Chronic Inflammation”

Since 2019 Committee member, Robert-Koch Postdoctoral Prize

Since 2018 Board elected member, German Society of Immunology (DGfI)

ACADEMIC DISTINCTIONS

2024 Member of the Leopoldina German National Academy of Sciences
2023 Berlin University Alliance (BUA) Joint Professorship Charité Universitätsmedizin and Freie Universität Berlin
2022 ERC Advanced Grant
2016 DFG-nominated member of AcademiaNet http://www.academia-net.de/
2017 DFG-Heisenberg Professorship
2006 EMBO fellowship

Organization of Scientific Meetings

2023 NK cell & ILC Meeting 2023, Organizing Tissue Homeostasis and Immunity, Würzburg (Co-organizer)

2022 ILC 2022, 4th International Conference on Innate Lymphoid Cells, Hawaii (International Scientific Committee)

2018 ILC 2018, 3rd International Conference on Innate Lymphoid Cells, Tokyo (International Scientific Committee)

2016 EMBO Conference ILC 2016, 2nd International Conference on Innate Lymphoid Cells, Berlin (Organizer)

Regular referee for scientific Journals, including *Science, Cell, Nature, Immunity, Nature Immunol, Nature Med, Nature Rev Immunol, Nature Comm, J Exp Medicine*

Regular referee for funding agencies, including ERC, Medical Research Council MRC (UK), Wellcome Trust (UK), German Research Foundation DFG (DE), Agence Nationale de la Recherche (FR), Fondation pour la Recherche Medicale (FR), Swiss cancer league (CH), Austrian Science Fund (AU), NWO Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research (NL)

SUPERVISION OF RESEARCHERS IN EARLY CAREER PHASES (FINISHED/ONGOING)

Postdocs: 2/2; **PhD/Dr. rer. nat.:** 8/6; **MD/Dr. med.:** 1/1

Faculty, International Max-Planck Research School for Infectious Diseases and Immunology
Speaker, ZIBI Graduate School Berlin

Publications

A. Original papers:

1. Narasimhan H, Richter ML, Shakiba R, Papaioannou NE, Stehle C, Ravi Rengarajan K, Ulmert I, Kendirli A, de la Rosa C, Kuo PY, Altman A, Münch P, Mahboubi S, Küntzel V, Sayed A, Stange EL, Pes J, Ulezko Antonova A, Pereira CF, Klein L, Dudziak D, Colonna M, Torow N, Hornef MW, Clausen BE, Kerschensteiner M, Lahl K, **Romagnani C,** Colomé-Tatché M, Schraml BU. RORγt-expressing dendritic cells are functionally versatile and evolutionarily conserved antigen-presenting cells. ***Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A. 2025*** Mar 4;122(9):e2417308122. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2417308122.
2. Santosa EK, Kim H, Rückert T, Le Luduec JB, Abbasi AJ, Wingert CK, Peters L, Frost JN, Hsu KC, **Romagnani C,** Sun JC. Control of nutrient uptake by IRF4 orchestrates innate immune memory. ***Nat Immunol. 2023*** Oct;24(10):1685-1697. doi: 10.1038/s41590-023-01620-z.

3. Huisman BD, Guan N, Rückert T, Garner L, Singh NK, McMichael AJ, Gillespie GM, **Romagnani C,** Birnbaum ME. High-throughput characterization of HLA-E-presented CD94/NKG2x ligands reveals peptides which modulate NK cell activation. ***Nat Commun. 2023*** Aug 9;14(1):4809. doi: 10.1038/s41467-023-40220-1.
4. Rebuffet L, Melsen JE, Escalière B, Basurto-Lozada D, Bhandoola A, Björkström NK, Bryceson YT, Castriconi R, Cichocki F, Colonna M, Davis DM, Diefenbach A, Ding Y, Haniffa M, Horowitz A, Lanier LL, Malmberg KJ, Miller JS, Moretta L, Narni-Mancinelli E, O'Neill LAJ, **Romagnani C,** Ryan DG, Sivori S, Sun D, Vagne C, Vivier E. High-dimensional single-cell analysis of human natural killer cell heterogeneity. ***Nat Immunol. 2024*** Aug;25(8):1474-1488. doi: 10.1038/s41590-024-01883-0.
5. Jarick KJ, Topczewska PM, Jakob MO, Yano H, Arifuzzaman M, Gao X, Boulekou S, Stokic-Trtica V, Leclère PS, Preußer A, Rompe ZA, Stamm A, Tsou AM, Chu C, Heinrich FR, Guerra GM, Durek P, Ivanov A, Beule D, Helfrich S, Duerr CU, Kühl AA, Stehle C, **Romagnani C,** Mashreghi MF, Diefenbach A, Artis D, Klose CSN. Non-redundant functions of group 2 innate lymphoid cells. ***Nature. 2022*** Nov;611(7937):794-800. doi: 10.1038/s41586-022-05395-5.
6. Rückert T, Lareau CA, Mashreghi MF, Ludwig LS, **Romagnani C.** Clonal expansion and epigenetic inheritance of long-lasting NK cell memory. ***Nat Immunol. 2022*** Nov;23(11):1551-1563. doi: 10.1038/s41590-022-01327-7.
7. Steffen J, Ehrentraut S, Bank U, Biswas A, Figueiredo CA, Hölsken O, Düsedau HP, Dovhan V, Knop L, Thode J, Romero-Suárez S, Duarte CI, Gigley J, **Romagnani C**, Diefenbach A, Klose CSN, Schüler T, Dunay IR. Type 1 innate lymphoid cells regulate the onset of Toxoplasma gondii-induced neuroinflammation. ***Cell Rep. 2022*** Mar 29;38(13):110564. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2022.110564.
8. Cendón C, Du W, Durek P, Liu YC, Alexander T, Serene L, Yang X, Gasparoni G, Salhab A, Nordström K, Lai T, Schulz AR, Rao A, Heinz GA, Stefanski AL, Claußnitzer A, Siewert K, Dörner T, Chang HD, Volk HD, **Romagnani C**, Qin Z, Hardt S, Perka C, Reinke S, Walter J, Mashreghi MF, Thurley K, Radbruch A, Dong J. Resident memory CD4+ T lymphocytes mobilize from bone marrow to contribute to a systemic secondary immune reaction. ***Eur J Immunol. 2022*** May;52(5):737-752. doi: 10.1002/eji.202149726.
9. Hammer Q, Dunst J, Christ W, Picarazzi F, Wendorff M, Momayyezi P, Huhn O, Netskar HK, Maleki KT, García M, Sekine T, Sohlberg E, Azzimato V, Aouadi M; Karolinska COVID-19 Study Group; Severe COVID-19 GWAS Group; Degenhardt F, Franke A, Spallotta F, Mori M, Michaëlsson J, Björkström NK, Rückert T, **Romagnani C**, Horowitz A, Klingström J, Ljunggren HG, Malmberg KJ. SARS-CoV-2 Nsp13 encodes for an HLA-E-stabilizing peptide that abrogates inhibition of NKG2A-expressing NK cells. ***Cell Rep. 2022*** Mar 8;38(10):110503. doi: 10.1016/j.celrep.2022.110503.
10. Christina Stehle, Timo Rückert, Rémi Fiancette, Dominika W. Gajdasik, Claire Willis, Carolin Ulbricht, Pawel Durek, Mir-Farzin Mashreghi, Daniela Finke, Anja Erika Hauser, David R. Withers, Hyun-Dong Chang, Jakob Zimmermann* and **Chiara Romagnani***. T-bet and ROR control lymph node formation by regulating embryonic innate lymphoid cell differentiation. ***Nat Immunol 2021***, Oct;22(10):1231-1244. *equal contribution
11. Daniela Carolina Hernández, Kerstin Juelke, Nils Christian Müller, Pawel Durek, Bilge Ugursu, Mir-Farzin Mashreghi, Timo Rückert, **Chiara Romagnani.** An in vitro platform supports generation of human innate lymphoid cells from $CD34^+$ hematopoietic progenitors that recapitulate ex vivo ILC identity. ***Immunity 2021,*** Oct 12;54(10):2417-2432.e5.
12. Cossarizza A, .., **Romagnani C**, … Eur J Immunol. 2021 Dec;51(12):2708-3145. doi: 10.1002/eji.202170126. Epub 2021 Dec 7.
13. Pascual-Reguant A, Köhler R, Mothes R, Bauherr S, Hernández DC, Uecker R, Holzwarth K, Kotsch K, Seidl M, Philipsen L, Müller W, **Romagnani C**, Niesner R, Hauser AE. Multiplexed histology analyses for the phenotypic and spatial characterization of human innate lymphoid cells. ***Nat Commun*****. 2021** Mar 19;12(1):1737. doi: 10.1038/s41467-021-21994-8.
14. Vietzen H, Rückert T, Hartenberger S, Honsig C, Jaksch P, Geleff S, Hammer Q, **Romagnani C**, Segura-Wang M, Puchhammer-Stöckl E. Extent of Cytomegalovirus Replication in the Human Host Depends on Variations of the HLA-E/UL40 Axis. ***mBio.*** **2021** Mar 16;12(2):e02996-20. doi: 10.1128/mBio.02996-20

15. Zeis P, Lian M, Fan X, Herman JS, Hernandez DC, Gentek R, Elias S, Symowski C, Knöpper K, Peltokangas N, Friedrich C, Doucet-Ladeveze R, Kabat AM, Locksley RM, Voehringer D, Bajenoff M, Rudensky AY, **Romagnani C**, Grün D, Gasteiger G. In Situ Maturation and Tissue Adaptation of Type 2 Innate Lymphoid Cell Progenitors. ***Immunity*. 2020** Sep 26:S1074-7613(20)30396-4. doi: 10.1016/j.immuni.2020.09.002.
16. Gajdasik DW, Gaspal F, Halford EE, Fiancette R, Dutton EE, Willis C, Rückert T, **Romagnani C**, Gerard A, Bevington SL, MacDonald AS, Botto M, Vyse T, Withers DR. Th1 responses in vivo require cell-specific provision of OX40L dictated by environmental cues. ***Nat Commun.* 2020** Jul 9;11(1):3421
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19. Romero-Suárez S, Del Rio Serrato A, Bueno RJ, Brunotte-Strecker D, Stehle C, Figueiredo CA, Hertwig L, Dunay IR, **Romagnani C**, Infante-Duarte C. The Central Nervous System Contains ILC1s That Differ From NK Cells in the Response to Inflammation. ***Front Immunol.* 2019** Oct 10;10:2337.
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24. Schleussner N, Merkel O, Costanza M, Liang HC, Hummel F, **Romagnani C,** Durek P, Anagnostopoulos I, Hummel M, Jöhrens K, Niedobitek A, Griffin PR, Piva R, Sczakiel HL, Woessmann W, Damm-Welk C, Hinze C, Stoiber D, Gillissen B, Turner SD, Kaergel E, von Hoff L, Grau M, Lenz G, Dörken B, Scheidereit C, Kenner L, Janz M, Mathas S. The AP-1-BATF and -BATF3 module is essential for growth, survival and TH17/ILC3 skewing of anaplastic large cell lymphoma. ***Leukemia.* 2018** Mar 28. doi: 10.1038/s41375-018-0045-9.
25. Kawano Y, Petkau G, Stehle C, Durek P, Heinz GA, Tanimoto K, Karasuyama H, Mashreghi MF, **Romagnani C,** Melchers F. Stable lines and clones of long-term proliferating normal, genetically unmodified murine common lymphoid progenitors. ***Blood.* 2018** Mar 23. pii: blood-2017-09-805259. doi: 10.1182/blood-2017-09-805259.
26. Stanko K, Iwert C, Appelt C, Vogt K, Schumann J, Strunk FJ, Ahrlich S, Schlickeiser S, **Romagnani C,** Jürchott K, Meisel C, Willimsky G, Kühl AA, Sawitzki B. CD96 expression determines the inflammatory potential of IL-9-producing Th9 cells. ***Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A.* 2018** Mar 27;115(13):E2940-E2949. doi: 10.1073/pnas.1708329115. Epub 2018 Mar 12.
27. Hammer Q, Rückert T, Dunst J, Romagnani C. Adaptive Natural Killer Cells Integrate Interleukin-18 during Target-Cell Encounter. ***Front Immunol.* 2018** Jan 17;8:1976. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2017.01976. eCollection 2017 *(I.F. 5.69)*.

28. Cossarizza A, Chang HD, Radbruch A, ... **Romagnani C**, et al. Guidelines for the use of flow cytometry and cell sorting in immunological studies. ***Eur J Immunol.*** **2017** Oct;47(10):1584-1797.
29. Hammer Q, **Romagnani C**. OMIP-039: Detection and analysis of human adaptive NKG2C+ natural killer cells. ***Cytometry A*****. 2017** Oct;91(10):997-1000. *(I.F. 3.22)*
30. Ni J, Hölsken O, Miller M, Hammer Q, Luetke-Eversloh M, **Romagnani C**, Cerwenka A. Adoptively transferred natural killer cells maintain long-term antitumor activity by epigenetic imprinting and $CD4^+$ T cell help. ***Oncoimmunology.*** **2016** Aug 5;5(9):e1219009.
31. Laginha I, Kopp MA, Druschel C, Schaser KD, Brommer B, Hellmann RC, Watzlawick R, Ossami-Saidi RR, Prüss H, Failli V, Meisel C, Liebscher T, Prilipp E, Niedeggen A, Ekkernkamp A, Grittner U, Piper SK, Dirnagl U, Killig M, **Romagnani C**, Schwab JM. Natural Killer (NK) Cell Functionality after human Spinal Cord Injury (SCI): protocol of a prospective, longitudinal study. ***BMC Neurol.*** **2016** Sep 13;16:170.
32. Gerstner S, Köhler W, Heidkamp G, Purbojo A, Uchida S, Ekici AB, Heger L, Luetke-Eversloh M, Schubert R, Bader P, Klingebiel T, Koehl U, Mackensen A, **Romagnani C**, Cesnjevar R, Dudziak D, Ullrich E. Specific phenotype and function of CD56-expressing innate immune cell subsets in human thymus. ***J Leukoc Biol.*** **2016** Dec;100(6):1297-1310.
33. Liu LL, Landskron J, Ask EH, Enqvist M, Sohlberg E, Traherne JA, Hammer Q, Goodridge JP, Larsson S, Jayaraman J, Oei VY, Schaffer M, Taskén K, Ljunggren HG, **Romagnani C**, Trowsdale J, Malmberg KJ, Béziat V. Critical Role of CD2 Co-stimulation in Adaptive Natural Killer Cell Responses Revealed in NKG2C-Deficient Humans. ***Cell Rep.*** **2016** May 3;15(5):1088-99.
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PATENTS

“Activation and expansion of NKG2C^{+} NK cells": granted in U.S. (10,864,245) and Europe (EP3539553)