

Donata Vercelli, MD

Speaker Biography

Donata Vercelli is a Regents Professor at the University of Arizona, where she is also a Professor of Cellular and Molecular Medicine, the Director of the Arizona Center for the Biology of Complex Diseases (ABCD), the Associate Director of the Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center, and a Professor at the BIO5 Institute. Dr. Vercelli received her MD degree from the University of Florence. After training in Hematology and Immunology/Allergy, in 1986 she joined the Division of Immunology at Children's Hospital/Harvard Medical School where in 1991 she became an Assistant Professor. In 1999, she moved to the Asthma and Airway Disease Research Center at the University of Arizona.

Dr. Vercelli seeks to elucidate the impact of environment, genes and development on the pathogenesis of complex airway diseases. Her laboratory has developed powerful mouse and human models of asthma-protective environmental exposures, particularly those associated with traditional farming and microbial products. For this work, Dr. Vercelli was named a co-recipient of the 2017 Top 10 Clinical Research Achievement Award and the Herbert Pardes Clinical Research Excellence Award from the Clinical Research Forum. In 2018 she was elected the first female Secretary General of the Collegium Internationale Allergologicum and in 2022 became the Vice-President of the society. She is expected to become the society's president in 2026. In 2019 she was awarded the Rebecca Buckley Lectureship from the American Academy of Allergy, Asthma and Immunology and the Henry and Phyllis Koffler Prize in Research/Scholarship/Creative Activity from the University of Arizona. In 2022 she was elected Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS).