

Palermo, Dec 19th 2024

Dear SIBS members,

with this letter, I would like to express my interest and enthusiasm in applying for the position of Councillor of the “Young Council” of the Italian Society of Experimental Biology (SIBS).

This opportunity aligns with my aspirations to contribute actively to the scientific community while fostering my professional growth and expanding my network within the field of experimental biology. My name is Chiara Zichittella, and I am currently a postdoctoral researcher funded by AIRC (Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro). My project, entitled “*Pro-apoptotic role of long non-coding RNA H19 in response to HDAC inhibitors in colorectal cancer (CRC) cells,*” is conducted in the Biochemistry section of the Department of Biomedicine, Neurosciences, and Advanced Diagnostics (Bi.N.D.) at the University of Palermo, Italy.

In 2019, I graduated with top honors in Medical Biotechnology and Molecular Medicine at the University of Palermo. Following my Master's degree, I won a postgraduate research fellowship in the Biology and Genetics section of the Bi.N.D. to study hypoxia-induced non-coding RNA in CRC. In 2024, I completed my PhD in Experimental Oncology and Surgery at the University of Palermo. My doctoral research focused on *in vitro* and *in vivo* models investigating the role of lncH19 and its intragenic microRNAs, miR-675-5p and miR-675-3p, in CRC tumor progression and chemoresistance.

I am deeply motivated to join the SIBS “Youth Council” because I see it as an opportunity to expand my scientific knowledge, learn about the latest scientific advances, and engage with distinguished scientists and peers. I am eager to exchange ideas, share insights, and foster collaborations that can enrich my current and future research endeavors. Furthermore, I hope to bring innovative perspectives to my research group and to actively contribute to the scientific dialogue within SIBS.

Overall, I believe that my academic background, research expertise, and enthusiasm for collaborative learning make me a strong candidate for this position. I am excited by the prospect of contributing to the mission of SIBS, and eager to embrace the challenges that this role offers, contributing meaningfully to the Council's goals.

Thank you for taking the time to review my application. I look forward to hearing from you and contributing to the “Youth Council”.

If you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me at the email address: chiara.zichittella@unipa.it.

Sincerely,
Dr. Chiara Zichittella, PhD
