Research for public health
The Istituto Superiore di Sanità is the leading technical and scientific body of the Italian National Health Service. Its activities include research, clinical trials, control and training in public health; it also serves as a major national clearing-house for technical and scientific information on public health issues.

The Institute is involved in collaboration and consultation with other institutions responsible for public health, including the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Policies, regional health authorities, local health agencies and hospitals. It cooperates with those responsible for the design and implementation of health and scientific programmes at local and national level and also plays a leading role in several major international research projects.

The Institute provides scientific advice and assessments in the framework of international organizations, such as EFSA, EU, IARC, OECD, UNEP and WHO.
**Research and Trial**

The Institute conducts scientific research in a wide variety of fields, from cutting-edge molecular and genetic research to population-based studies of risk factors for disease and disability. Research priorities are based on those set forth in the National Health Plan. The Institute is also involved in several major clinical trials, which are frequently conducted in cooperation with the Scientific Institutes for Research and Care (IRCCS) network and hospitals.
Inspection, Monitoring and Certification

An important activity of the Institute, which is mandated by the Minister of Work, Health and Social Policies, or the Regions, is certification of the chemical and biological purity of drugs and vaccines, as well as the inspection and quality control of medical diagnostic devices and equipment, food products and packaging. The Institute monitors trends in disease, mortality and other health factors and provides technical support for health-related environmental surveys and for investigations of epidemics and other public health problems at national, regional and local level. It also supervises the laboratories engaged in the testing of prohibited substances in sport and the national veterinary institutes. Finally, it has an important role in monitoring and coordinating blood transfusion services and plasma production in Italy. A notified body authorized to award EC certification of medical devices operates within the Institute.
Documentation, Information and Publications

The Institute serves as a major source of information relating to public health and biomedicine in Italy through online connections to national and international scientific databases and data banks. It also serves as the national reference centre for MEDLARS (MEDical Literature Analysis and Retrieval System), a comprehensive international data bank coordinated by the US National Library of Medicine (NLM). The ISS library supports the Institute’s activities and specializes in scientific documentation in the biomedical field.

The Institute produces numerous publications, including a quarterly peer-reviewed journal (*Annali*), a monthly newsletter describing major research activities and services (*Notiziario*), and different series of technical reports.
Training and Scientific Meetings

The Institute plans, develops and organises courses on health education and training activities in the field of public health for the personnel of the National Health Service (NHS), with particular respect to the educational objectives set by the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Policies through the Continuing Medical Education (CEM) project. It develops and tests innovative training methods particularly in the area of web-based distance learning. The topics addressed include: health service management and evaluation of health services, epidemiology and biostatistics, health economics, management of human resources, instructional methods for training of trainers; health promotion, including environmental health. The Institute also organises congresses, conferences, workshops and seminars on important public health issues addressed to a wide national and international audience.
International Activities

The Institute plans, implements and evaluates international public health projects, ranging from collaborations on research and development projects to humanitarian assistance. It actively promotes cooperation at three different levels: scientific partnerships with industrialised countries, scientific and development projects in partnership with economies in transition, development partnerships in Africa and with countries suffering natural emergencies or war situations. Current projects relate to the following fields: HIV/AIDS control and poverty-related diseases; tumours; vaccines; infectious disease epidemiology; capacity-building for central health administrations; technology transfer in public health management; technical support for national public health authorities, particularly within the context of health care reform; application of telematics to health issues.
Cell Biology and Neurosciences

Director: Filippo Belardelli
Tel: +39 064990 3290
E-mail: filippo.belardelli@iss.it

To study genetic, neurological and endocrine-metabolic diseases with a special focus on the development of innovative biotherapies

Units
- Applied biotherapy
- Behavioural neurosciences
- Biomarkers of degenerative diseases
- Clinical aspects diagnosis and therapy of degenerative diseases of the central nervous system
- Experimental immunotherapy
- Experimental neurology
- Gene and cell therapy
- Immunoregulation
- Inflammatory and demyelinating diseases of the nervous system
- Metabolism and molecular and cellular endocrinology
- Molecular and cellular imaging
- Molecular neurobiology
- Neurotoxicology and neuroendocrinology
To protect the human population health through the definition and control of types and sources of chemical and biological risks, especially of environmental origin (water, air, soil)

Units

Air hygiene
Bioelements and health
Environment and trauma
Environmental epidemiology
Experimental and computational carcinogenesis
Exposure and risk from materials
Fish farm and environmental quality
Genetic toxicology
Indoor environmental hygiene
Inland water hygiene
Mechanisms of toxicity
Molecular epidemiology
Pesticide
Quality of aquatic environments and bathing waters
Soil and waste
Toxicological chemistry
Department

Haematology, Oncology and Molecular Medicine

Director: Ruggero De Maria
Tel: +39 064990 3393
E-mail: demaria@iss.it

Study of the mechanisms responsible for hematologic, oncological, cardiovascular and genetic diseases.
Development of new therapies for the treatment of these diseases.
Quality and safety assessment of drugs and blood transfusion centres

Units
Clinical biochemistry and molecular biology
Hemoglobinopathies and hematopoiesis
Lipids and arteriosclerosis
Medical oncology
Molecular oncology
Oncological and hematological biotechnologies
Physiopathology of genetic diseases
Physiopathology of renal diseases and correlated pathologies
Stem cells and endothelium
Tranfusion methodologies
Department

Infectious, Parasitic and Immune-Mediated Diseases

Director: Giovanni Rezza
Tel: +39 064990 6133
E-mail: giovanni.rezza@iss.it

To protect the human population from diseases caused by pathogenic micro-organisms, viruses and parasites, and to study the mechanisms of immune-mediated diseases

Units
Anti-infectious immunity
Epidemiology
Gastroenteric and neurologic bacterial diseases
Gastroenteric and tissue parasitic diseases
Immune-mediated diseases
Molecular pathogenesis
Respiratory and systemic bacterial diseases
Superficial and systemic mycoses
Vector-borne diseases and international health
Viral diseases and inactivated viral vaccines
Viral diseases and live attenuated viral vaccines
Viral hepatitis
Department

Technology and Health

Director: Velio Macellari  
Tel: +39 064990 2089  
E-mail: velio.macellari@iss.it

To research, develop and assess new biomedical and physical techniques for the protection and improvement of public health

Units

Biomaterials and biosystems  
Biomechanics and rehabilitation technologies  
Biomedical technology assessment and quality  
Cardiovascular bioengineering  
Complex systems  
Ionising radiation biophysics and biomedical physics  
Non ionizing radiation  
Nuclear physics and technology for health  
Radiation dosimetry and radiation induced defects  
Radioactivity and its health effects  
Ultrastructural infectious pathology  
Ultrastructural methods for innovative anticancer therapies  
Ultrastructure of pollutants and materials
Department

Therapeutic Research and Medicines Evaluation

Director: Stefano Vella
Tel: +39 064990 6015-6016
E-mail: stefano.vella@iss.it

To contribute to public health by controlling the quality, efficacy and safety of drugs and through research into new drugs and treatments for human diseases

Units

Antitumor drugs
Biochemical pharmacology and technical-scientific advice coordination unit
Cell aging and degeneration
Central nervous system pharmacology
Clinic research
Complementary, natural and traditional medicine. Cosmetic products safety
Drug dependence and doping
Drugs and health for the child and the woman
Molecular and cellular pharmacology
Pharmacogenetics, drug resistance and experimental therapeutics
Pharmacology and therapy of viral diseases
Pharmacopoeia and drug quality
Pre-clinical pharmacology
Quality of chemical drugs
Department

Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety

Director: Agostino Macrì
Tel: +39 064990 2330
E-mail: agostino.macri@iss.it

All technical and scientific activities concerning aspects of public health related to food safety, veterinary public health and nutritional diseases

Units

Chemical contaminants in food
Dietetics
Food and veterinary toxicology
Food chemical safety and human health
Food science, human nutrition and health
Foodborne zoonoses
GMOs and mycotoxins
Microbiological foodborne hazards
Microorganisms and food technologies
Nutrition
Nutrition and aging
Prions and emerging infectious diseases
Prophylaxis and control of bacterial zoonoses
Relations with the European Union and public health
Viral zoonoses
National Centre
National AIDS Centre

Director: Barbara Ensoli
Tel: +39 064990 3207-3209
E-mail: barbara.ensoli@iss.it

To develop and clinically test preventive and therapeutic vaccines as well as new interventions against HIV/AIDS and related syndromes based on pathogenesis and correlates of protection

Units
Clinical trials (immunology and virology core-lab)
Experimental retrovirology and non-human primate models (virology core-lab)
Pathogenesis of retroviruses
Retrovirus infections in developing countries
Virus-host interaction (immunology core-lab)

National Centre
National Centre for Chemical Substances

Director: Roberto Binetti
Tel: +39 064990 2593
E-mail: roberto.binetti@iss.it

Technical and scientific application of the European Regulation no. 1907/2006 on registration, evaluation, authorisation and restrictions of chemical substances (REACH Regulation). Responsibility of biocides evaluation and other related issues

Units
Data management, exposure and risk characterization
Hazard evaluation of chemical substances
Hazard evaluation of preparations and mixtures
National Centre
National Centre for Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Promotion

Director: Stefania Salmaso
Tel: +39 064990 4010
E-mail: stefania.salmaso@iss.it

To develop and apply epidemiological and biostatistical methods to monitor and protect human health and to evaluate health services

Units
Bureau of statistics
Cancer epidemiology
Clinical epidemiology and guidelines
Communicable disease epidemiology
Epidemiology of cerebro and cardiovascular disease
Genetic epidemiology
Mental health
Pharmacoepidemiology
Population health and health determinants
Woman, child and adolescent health
National Centre
Centre for Immunobiologicals
Research and Evaluation

Director: Carlo Pini
Tel: +39 064990 2585
E-mail: carlo.pini@iss.it

Evaluation, control, and surveillance of immunobiological drugs, including biotechnological drugs, by analytical procedures and documentation assessment at the national level and in cooperation with international bodies. Research aimed at the quality and safety of immunobiological drugs

Units
Bacterial vaccines
Biologics
Viral vaccines

National Centre
National Centre for Rare Diseases

Director: Domenica Taruscio
Tel: +39 064990 4018
E-mail: malattierare@iss.it

Research, advice and documentation on rare diseases and orphan drugs for prevention, treatment and surveillance

Units
European and international networks for rare diseases
Genetic tests
Molecular markers and biological models
Orphan drugs
Prevention, surveillance, training and information
National Centre
Evaluation and Accreditation Body

Director: Rosa Draisci
Tel: +39 064990 2327
E-mail: rosa.draisici@iss.it

Evaluation and accreditation of food control laboratories
and of other structures which require evaluation
and accreditation, if applicable, to operate in the field
of food safety, environment and human health

Units
- Evaluation and accreditation
- Technical-scientific activity
- Training and communication
National Centre
Technical body of the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Policies

National Blood Centre

Director: **Giuliano Grazzini**
Tel: +39 064990 4953
E-mail: cns@iss.it

To carry on coordination and technical-scientific control of all transfusion medicine issues ruled by Italian and European legislative provisions

**Areas**
*Medical and scientific section*
*Blood transfusion safety*
*Communication and education*
*Administration, general secretariat*
*Information system*

National Centre
Technical body of the Ministry of Work, Health and Social Policies

National Transplant Centre

Director: **Alessandro Nanni Costa**
Tel: +39 064990 4040
E-mail: cnt@iss.it

To organise and manage the activities of organ donation, procurement and transplants throughout Italy

**Areas**
*Organisation, communication and institutional relationships*
*Statistical analysis and survival reporting*
*Transplant activity management*
*Transplant information system*
Technical Service
Service for Biotechnology and Animal Welfare

Director: Rodolfo Lorenzini
Tel: +39 064990 2844
E-mail: rodolfo.lorenzini@iss.it

To produce, manage and preserve microbiological cultures for experimental purposes.
To monitor the housing, health and welfare of the animals used by the Institute for research purposes

Sectors
Biotechnology
Quality and safety of animal testing

Technical Service
Data Management, Documentation, Library and Publishing Activities

Acting Director: Franco Toni
Tel: +39 064990 3409
E-mail: ftoni@iss.it

To support institutional activities through:
collection, processing and automation of health and technical-scientific data;
management of database consultation systems;
provision of library and information services;
editing, printing, and dissemination of the Institute’s publications

Sectors
Data management
Documentation service
Library
Publishing activities
Governing Bodies
President: Enrico Garaci
Director General: Monica Bettoni
Board of Directors
Scientific Committee
Board of Auditors

Office of the President
Secretariat: Cristina D'Addazio
External Relations: Giovanni De Virgilio
Corporate Bodies: Giuliana Eramo
Press Office: Mirella Taranto
Bioethics Unit: Carlo Petrini
Cosmetics Evaluation Unit: Luigi Gagliardi
Evaluation and Strategic Control Service

Departments
Cell Biology and Neurosciences
Environment and Primary Prevention
Haematology, Oncology and Molecular Medicine
Infectious, Parasitic and Immune-Mediated Diseases
Technology and Health
Therapeutic Research and Medicines Evaluation
Veterinary Public Health and Food Safety

National Centres
AIDS
Chemical Substances
Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Promotion
Immunobiologicals Research and Evaluation
Rare Diseases
Evaluation and Accreditation Body
Blood
Transplant

Technical-Scientific Services
Biotechnology and Animal Welfare
Data Management, Documentation, Library and Publishing Activities
Office of the Director-General
Director-General: Monica Bettoni
Secretariat: Tiziana Di Mauro

Central Directorate
Human Resources and General Affairs
Director: Maurizio Pasquali
   I. Legal Affairs
   II. General Affairs, Trade Union Relations and Internal Services
   III. Regulations and Disciplinary Measures
   IV. Remuneration, Welfare and Pensions
   V. Organization, Training and Human Resources Development
   VI. Recruitment and Grants

Central Directorate
Administrative Affairs and Financial Resources
Director: Rosa Maria Martoccia
   I. Accounts and Budget, Outsourcing
      II. Tax Affairs
   III. Contracts, Ordinary Services and Expenses, Foreign Contracts
      IV. Consortia, Foundations, Company Holdings, Patents
      V. Data Processing, Administrative Affairs and Public Relations

Building and Equipment Maintenance, Workers’ Health and Safety

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