



**Regenstrief Institute**

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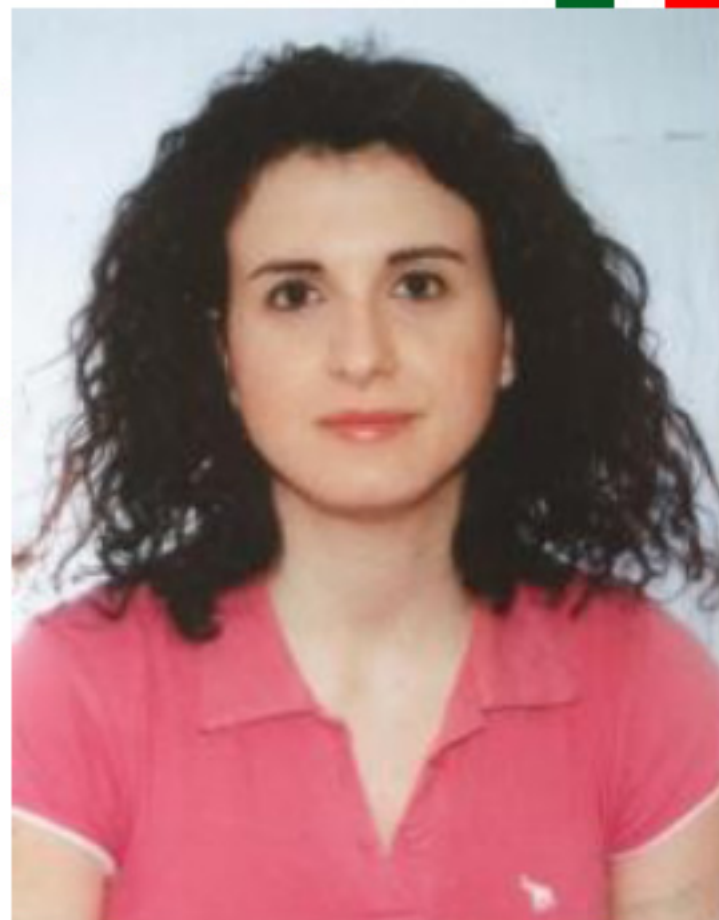
**Reporter**

## **LOINC Se Habla Italiano Pronto**



The Logical Observation Identifiers Names and Codes (LOINC), developed by Regenstrief Institute investigators so that results of the same test -- cholesterol level, or the same clinical observation -- blood pressure reading, for example, can be compared by different institutions se habla Italiano pronto!

Maria Teresa Chiaravalloti, a graduate student at the University of Calabria, is working on behalf of the Italian National Council of Research translating and mapping LOINC as well as developing an Italian version of the Regenstrief LOINC Mapping Assistant (RELMA), the computer tool used to facilitate searches through the LOINC database and to help map local codes to LOINC codes.



While she is the first Italian graduate student at the Institute, this is not the first time that LOINC terms are being translated into Italian. A Swiss Italian version exists, but this dialect, which incorporates a significant amount of French and German and whose names for tests differ significantly from the names used in the north and south of Italy, is not useable by institutions in Italy.

Maria Teresa's work is also part of her doctoral dissertation, which she is completing in pursuit of a Ph.D. from the University of Calabria, located in Cosenza, four hours south of Rome.

She grew up in the Ionian Sea resort of Soverato. She received her bachelor's degree from the University of Calabria and has studied French, German, Arabic and English.

This is Maria Teresa's first visit to the United States and she says she is seeing a lot of things she had only seen previously in American movies -- like couples taking romantic walks in the snow, burritos, Chinese food, and Starbucks. Evidently Starbucks has not taken a toe-hold on the Italian boot due to a national fondness for café italiano.

Sadly she has discovered that Italian food in America, or at least in Indianapolis, isn't as good as the original. And she is amused by the many things Americans consider to be Italian -- like Italian salad dressing -- that don't exist in Italy. American pizza is quite different from the Italian, she has found, but she is growing to like it.

When queried about the age old controversy -- "did pasta originate in Italy or China?" she demurs, saying diplomatically that as pasta dishes are prepared quite differently in each country, she thinks both nations can claim credit.