

Irma Querques is a Group Leader and Assistant Professor at the Max Perutz Labs, University of Vienna. She earned her master's degree in biotechnology from the University of Bologna and completed a joint Ph.D. at the University of Heidelberg and the European Molecular Biology Laboratory (EMBL) in 2018. During her Ph.D. with Dr. Orsolya Barabas, she developed a novel Sleeping Beauty transposon system for CAR T therapies. In 2019 she joined the laboratory of Prof. Martin Jinek at the University of Zurich as a recipient of a Branco Weiss, FEBS, EMBO and UZH postdoctoral fellowships. There, she has been at the forefront of investigating RNA-guided CRISPR-associated transposons, paving the way for utilizing these systems as programmable gene insertion tools. In 2023, she established her research laboratory, focusing on the mechanisms, functions and applications of transposons, with support from an ERC Starting Grant.