

**Professor Ilaria Capua, DVM, PhD,
*Former member of the Italian Parliament***

Director, One Health Center of Excellence, University of Florida - USA

Ilaria Capua is full professor and Director of the [One Health Center of Excellence](#) at the University of Florida. She graduated as a DVM (1989) and spent most of her career as a virologist leading diagnostic and research laboratories of international status. She has also been a Member of the Italian Parliament for over three years (2013-2016). She is a [regular columnist](#) for the Italian mainstream press and the author of several books.

In her career as a virologist she dedicated most of her professional life to viral infections of animals that can be transmitted to humans, and that cause poverty and food security issues such as Avian influenza (bird flu), Newcastle disease and Rabies. In 2006, at the peak of the H5N1 bird flu panzootic, she provided global [leadership](#) by igniting an international debate on the transdisciplinary sharing of influenza virus genetic sequences to improve pandemic preparedness. This led to a paradigm shift in the approach to pandemic preparedness, and real-time sharing of genetic data is considered an essential component of the fight against Ebola, Zika, COVID 19 and other epidemic disease threats.

She has authored over [230 publications](#) in peer reviewed journals and has published scientific books on Avian Influenza and Newcastle disease and [ten books](#) for the general public. She is active in the field of science communication and in promoting female leadership in the scientific arena.

In 2007 Ilaria Capua was among the awardees of the Scientific American 50 Award for leadership in science policy, and in 2008 she was included among Seed's Revolutionary Minds series, for her leadership in promoting sharing of information at an international level. Other international awards include the most prestigious award in veterinary medicine, the Penn Vet World Leadership in Animal Health Award in 2011, and the Gordon Memorial Medal in 2012. In 2014 she was the recipient of the ESCMID Excellence Award for Clinical Microbiology and Infectious diseases. In 2019 she received a honorary PhD from her Alma Mater, University of Perugia. In 2021 She received the prestigious Hypathia prize from the European Academy of Sciences, of which she is a member.

Prior to joining UF, she was elected as a member of the Chamber of Deputies of the [Italian Parliament](#). She served for two and a half years as Vice President of the Science, Culture, and Education Commission. During her years in the legislature, she authored Parliamentary resolutions and amendments related to infectious diseases, namely antimicrobial resistance, pandemic and epidemic threats, and emerging pathogens of plants and animals.

During parliamentary office she was the victim of [fake news](#) as she was accused of being a bioterrorist, and of having committed crimes punishable with life imprisonment. This was based on a 10 year-old secret investigation which was leaked to the press. All charges against her were dismissed, with clear evidence of "fabrication of accusations, in a context

of happenings that had never occurred". She resigned from office after being [cleared](#) of all charges.

She developed the vision of [Circular Health](#), which is a natural expansion of the One Health concept. Circular Health is an integrated approach to promoting the health of humans, animals, plants and the environment which recognizes the need for an expanded multidisciplinary convergence effort. This should encompass societal and cultural, economic and financial, technological and international policies around one goal, which is the co-advancement of the health as a system.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kapme", with a horizontal line underneath it.

March 2022