Professor Scarlato started his scientific activity at International Institute of Genetics and Biophysics (IIGB) in Naples, carrying out research on computer DNA sequences and gene identification criteria (1978-82). In 1982, he approached molecular genetics and role of anti-sense RNAs in phage T4. He carried out his second post-doctoral fellow (1985-87) in the laboratory of Dr EP Geiduschek (University of California, San Diego) studying transcriptional regulation of *Bacillus subtilis* phage SPO1 and self-splicing of group I introns. In 1988 Dr Scarlato obtained a position as Researcher Scientist at Sclavo Research Center (Siena, Italy) where he started studies on transcriptional regulation in pathogenic bacteria. The major effort was directed to the understanding of the transcriptional regulation of virulence genes in *Bordetella pertussis*. His research has been fundamental for the comprehension of this bacterium pathogenesis' and has placed Dr Scarlato among the International experts in the field. Since 1992, he is a group leader studying regulation of virulence genes in *Bordetella pertussis* and *Helicobacter pylori*. In 1998-2000 he also coordinated a group working on genome sequence analyses of bacterial pathogens, including *Neisseria meningitidis*. In 1998 he has been appointed associate professor, and in 2002, full professor of Molecular Biology at the University of Bologna.

His research is currently focused to the comprehension of the transcriptional regulation in response to environmental changes (such as temperature, iron, nickel) in pathogenic bacteria, mainly *H. pylori* and *N. mengintidis*.

Professor Scarlato is member of 4 scientific societies: SIBBM (Società Italiana di Biofisica e Biologia Molecolare), ASM (American Society for Microbiology), SIMGBM (Società Italiana di Microbiologia Generale e Biotecnologie Microbiche), and SGM (Society of General Microbiology). He has served as referee to international scientific journals (Mol Microbiol, J. Bacteriol, Plos One, Genome Biology, MGG, NAR, Res Microbiol, Arch Virol, Microbiol, Gene, FEBS Letters, and others), to several funding agencies (UK, Ireland, The Netherlands, USA), in 1998-2006 has been Associate Editor of Microbiology (SGM), and in 2008-2011 has been a Faculty Member for Medical Microbiology of F1000 Biology. Dr Scarlato's research was partially funded by Chiron (subsequently Novartis and now GSK), by a grant from the Human Frontier Science Program Organization (1993-1996), a grant from the European Union (1998-2002), by Ministry of Research and University (1999-2004 and 2013-2016), Strategic Research University Project (2005-2008) and by the University of Bologna. During his scientific career, he published 84 papers on peer-reviewed international scientific journals, 16 book chapters, and attended several national and international meetings.