

Dr. Elena Ruggeri obtained her B.S. and M.S. degrees in veterinary biotechnology at the University of Milano, Italy. She moved to Colorado State University to pursue her PhD in Biomedical Sciences, focusing on assisted reproductive technologies in the mare and large animal reproductive physiology. She then continued her training at the University of California, San Francisco, for her postdoctoral fellowship under the Department of Obstetrics, Gynecology, and Reproductive Sciences at the Center for Reproductive Health. She concentrated her studies on epigenetic signatures in mouse embryos generated by in vitro fertilization. She then completed one year as a human embryologist before joining the San Diego Wildlife Alliance team. Her work at SDZWA has been focusing on the Northern White Rhino Project, primarily studying southern white rhino granulosa cells' transcriptomic signature as a model for the functionally extinct northern white rhino.