

Marco Ricci graduated in Chemistry cum laude at the Università "La Sapienza" in Roma in 1979. In the same year, he joined the Istituto Donegani, at the time the most important Italian industrial chemical institute, where he is currently manager of the Versalis' Green Chemistry Research Center.

In the Institute he started to work, under the guidance of dr. Carlo Venturello and the advice of prof. Gian Paolo Chiusoli, on homogeneous catalysis and, particularly, on selective oxidations of organic substrates with hydrogen peroxide. In this frame, he contributed to the discovery of a new class of catalysts, which turned out to be peroxidic phosphotungstates. In 1984 he was Research Associate at the Laboratoire de Chimie de Coordination in Toulouse (France) with dr. Bernard Meunier, working on the use of manganese porphyrins as biomimetic catalysts for the oxidation of saturated hydrocarbons and on the characterization of high-valent manganese complexes. In the following years, he worked on the synthesis of organic intermediates, on new processes with reduced environmental impact, and on the production of both fuels and chemicals from biomass.

Current Marco's research interests focus on selective oxidation, synthetic models of redox enzymes, homogeneous catalysis, energy and chemicals from biomass, and CO<sub>2</sub> fixation.

He has been awarded of the Oscar Masi prize for the industrial innovation (1991, for selective catalytic oxidations with hydrogen peroxide), the eni Innovation Award, and the National Innovation Prize (both 2011, for the production of fuel oil from domestic organic waste).

He holds 35 patents and authored 60 scientific papers, which collected more than 1700 citations.