

UM academics: publications and citations



[Professor Rena Balzan](#), a retired Associate Professor at the [Department of Physiology & Biochemistry](#), is one of **UM's most cited female academics**. Her co-authored paper, '[Guidelines for the use and interpretation of assays for monitoring autophagy](#)', has been cited over 7,200 times since it first appeared in 2016.

'Autophagy' is the natural, regulated mechanism of the cell that removes unnecessary or dysfunctional components. Defects in autophagy may lead to the accumulation of mutated, unfolded and degraded proteins, which can be toxic and manifest in ageing or in disease, particularly degenerative diseases.

*Do you have an example of good QA practice at your unit which you would like us to share?
Get in touch with us at qac@um.edu.mt*