

## Checking the quality of vaccines and food

When we started, we were three researchers in a room of 12 square meters, and now we have thirty-two highly qualified researchers and very structured laboratories that make us no longer a small company, but a medium-sized one at a national level.

My name is Emanuele Montomoli and I am a professor of Hygiene and Public Health at the University of Siena, and the Scientific Manager of VisMederi.

VisMederi is a company born from the experience of three researchers at the University of Siena in 2009, which essentially works on two main lines of research: the first one from which we were created is linked to public health, which is our forte. VisMederi works in this sector by validating many of the vaccines that can currently be found in pharmacies and in the area. The other line of research in which we have decided to invest a bit more recently is food and environment hygiene.

The vaccines line takes us around the world and gives us great international prestige, but there is only one company in Italy that produces vaccines, so the orders would be very limited. To be able to remain a bit more locally based we have decided to invest in a line of research that is much more local but that I am sure can give us great satisfaction.

Since VisMederi was founded we have decided to remain in Siena and have asked for support from the region through the Toscana Life Sciences Foundation, which was immediately made available to us and included everything that we needed. Both during the start-up phase and during the subsequent development phase, we were able, thanks to the Toscana Life Sciences Foundation, to have available suitable platforms, instruments and even spaces to be able to compete with other companies like ours around the world.

VisMederi is now a very structured company in the region, but with international orders. Giving a chance to all the young researchers that were part of the university group that I coordinate has definitely been my greatest satisfaction. To date all of them have a job at VisMederi.

We are very ambitious for the future of VisMederi. Even though until now VisMederi has focused its business on the sale of services, even if very specialized ones both in the field of vaccines and in the field of food, what we would like to do and what we expect from the future is to try to transfer our capacity to produce qualified services into a capacity to produce pharmaceutical products.

We are extremely proud of the results achieved, and at the level of international relationships. From the beginning VisMederi has always looked toward the company's internationalization. To date we have been able to have orders from South America to the United States, Asia, Japan and Korea, and so we have exactly reached the objective that we had set for ourselves.