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### **Research activity**

*In vitro* experiments to assess the virucidal activity of natural compounds, including biotoxins produced by aquatic ciliates.

The assays are conducted using reference viruses, such as Human Adenovirus, a pathogen known for its high environmental stability and often used as an indicator of resistance to disinfectant treatments. Experimental tests are carried out following standardized quantitative protocols, commonly adopted to evaluate the efficacy of disinfectants and antiseptics used in healthcare settings (e.g., exposing the virus to different concentrations of the tested compound for predetermined contact times and under strictly controlled conditions of pH, temperature, and presence of interfering substances such as proteins or organic material).

### **Additional areas of expertise**

- Environmental, occupational, and food hygiene, with application of microbiological monitoring for risk analysis purposes.
- Environmental and food virology, including the detection of viral contamination across various matrices in the context of epidemiological surveillance.
- Environment and health relationships, through project-based activities exploring the links between environmental contaminants and potential health effects.