

## **DR JENNY SPIGA**

Assistant Professor in Physics, University of Warwick



### **Please tell us a little about yourself.**

I am Assistant Professor in the Medical Physics Group at the University of Warwick. I have always been curious, keen to experiment and to discover. I research new radiotherapy treatments for brain tumours. I love the interdisciplinary nature of medical physics, and the fact that I am doing something to potentially help people.

### **Could you tell us about your career journey and how you got to your current position?**

I studied Physics at the University of Cagliari in Italy, where I also did my PhD whilst being a visiting scientist at the synchrotron ESRF in Grenoble, France. I joined the Department of Physics at the University of Warwick in 2017 as a Daphne Jackson Fellow, after a career break to dedicate time to my young family. I am now Assistant Professor (research focussed) in the same department.

### **Can you describe a particular challenge or set-back that you have faced in your career, and how did you overcome it?**

Being an academic is a difficult job. You often need to go out of your comfort zone, and you learn how to be resilient and cope with failure. Pressure and competition are also quite challenging. All these feelings can be amplified during a career break, but with resilience and determination they can be overcome. The Daphne Jackson Fellowship certainly gave me a willingness to help other women achieving their career dreams and receiving the same support I received when I needed.

### **Do you have an inspirational advice for people who may face similar challenges?**

My main advice is to connect with people. We can all learn from the experiences of others, and we can make individuals experiencing similar situations feel less isolated and more understood. Stories have the power to inspire and motivate, and can help people to understand different perspectives, cultures and challenges.

### **Why are the networking opportunities offered by INWES so valuable?**

INWES offers strong networking opportunities to meet like-minded individuals from all over the world. Having a strong support system helps people overcome challenges more easily.

This case study was developed in the frame of the Enhancing Research Culture project  
"Towards a Warwick STEM R&D People and Culture Hub: Empowering people's voices"

