

STAFF

LAURA SAVINI

MY NAME IS LAURA SAVINI.

I started working at PPTA in May 2009 as a National Affairs Assistant and I have recently been promoted to National Affairs Manager. Currently I have three main responsibilities, first of all I take care of PPTA European National groups, including Belgium, France, the United Kingdom and Greece. Work for these groups varies from long-term projects to flashpoints, so it is quite diversified and very interesting. Since the beginning of my tenure at PPTA I have been progressively assisting PPTA Europe Health Policy Directors, formerly Johan Prevot and now Siada El Ramly. This means being involved in the current projects of the Health Policy Steering Committee (HPSC) but also monitoring relevant European health policies and providing updates to the Committee. Finally, I also assist Kara Flynn, the Director of Global Communications in some of the European communications activities, such as the electronic newsletter, *Leader-*

ship Briefing, *The Source*, the *European Health Policy Update*, and other issues.

Tell us about your background.

I was born in Torino, Italy from an Italian father and Belgian mother. When I was 15 I moved to Brussels with my family and have been living here ever since. After high school, I enrolled in a secretarial school in Brussels. Following that, I felt I wanted to improve my English and live abroad for a while so I enrolled in a Master's program in Information Science in Wales, United Kingdom. This program lasted a year and focused on the different ways information is used (and most often underused) as a resource across one particular organization. My final dissertation was the analysis of a digital repository, at the time developed in the University where I was studying, aiming at storing academic papers and Ph.d students' thesis.

At present I live in Brussels with my boyfriend, Oliver. Mostly, I travel during my vacation time to visit my dispersed family: in fact, my brother and his family live in Thailand, my sister and her family live in Torino, plus Oliver is from Australia, so actually, there is a great deal of traveling! In my spare time I enjoy cooking and hiking.

What is your proudest professional achievement?

My proudest professional achievement was one of the first assignments I had starting at PPTA, which was the logistical organization of the 2009 planning meeting in Lucca, Italy. It was very gratifying planning a successful meeting in which the feedback was so positive from members.

What is most rewarding about working in this industry?

Knowing that in the end this business helps people with rare and life-threatening diseases. 

