

CURRICULUM VITAE

Maria Paola Cecchini

- Date of Birth: 11-05-1973
- Place of Birth: Acqui Terme (AL) - Italy
- Nationality: Italian
- Telephone: +39-347-4012487
- e-mail: mariapaola.cecchini@univr.it

1987-1992 High School "Liceo classico G.Parodi" of Acqui Terme (AL),Italy

1992-1999 University of Insubria (Varese),Faculty of Medicine, Italy

Degree in Medicine

Thesis Topic: "The aetiological ambulatorial diagnosis of conjunctival chronic pathologies"

November 1999: University of Pavia, Italy

Qualifying examination to the practice of the medical profession. This certificate is acknowledged by the European Union, based on the Mandate 93/16/EU on the 5th of April 1993, as it was modified by the Mandate 2001/19/EU.

1999-2003: University of Insubria (Varese), Faculty of Medicine, Italy

School of Specialization in Medical Genetic

Thesis topic:

"Shwachman syndrome as mutator phenotype responsible for myeloid dysplasias/neoplasms characterized by karyotype instability and anomalies of chromosomes 7 and 20: analysis of 13 cases".

During the School of Specialization she worked full time on researches in cytogenetics of haematological disorders and in the Shwachman-Diamond Syndrome. She also contributed with practical demonstrations in the Cytogenetics lab, following groups of students of the Medical Faculty.

January 2007 - December 2009: University of Verona, Faculty of Medicine, Section of Anatomy and Histology, Italy

PhD student in "Multimodal Imaging in Biomedicine", under the supervision of Prof. Andrea Sbarbati. On 2010, April, 14 she concluded the PhD with the thesis topic: "Sniffin' Sticks Extended test and olfactory event-related potentials (OERPs) for the evaluation of olfactory disorders".

She followed the studies on chemoreception on major salivary glands using immunohistochemical techniques, under the supervision of Dr. Flavia Merigo.

Since January 2009, she is active in the clinical evaluation of olfaction and taste disorders with ambulatory care and research activity at Verona University Hospital "G.B. Rossi" in cooperation with Prof. Michele Tinazzi (particular research field: olfactory-taste perception in movement-disorders).

During the Academic Year 2007-2008, 2008-2009, 2009-2010, 2010-2011, 2011-2012, from February to May, she worked in the **didactic program** of Human Anatomy, Verona Faculty of Medicine, following the students with practical demonstrations in gross and microscopical anatomy. Moreover, in the same Academic Years for one week every year, within a University agreement, she attended a group of medical students at the Anatomy Department of Szeged University in Hungary, directed by Prof. Myhàli Andràs, for practical demonstrations on cadavers and organs.

September-December 2009: she worked as **visiting scientist** in the Department of Otorhinolaryngology, Smell and Taste Clinic at Uniklinikum of Dresden, Germany, under the direction of Prof. Thomas Hummel. There, she worked for a pilot study on olfactory disorders in ischemic stroke using the OERPs (Olfactory Event Related Potentials) technique. She was also involved in routine clinical activity on patients with olfactory disorders (forensic medical cases, congenital or post-traumatical anosmia, neurological olfactory disorders...).

February 2010- April 2011, post-doctoral fellow at Anatomy and Histology Section, on: "Olfactory evaluation with Sniffin'Sticks-Extended test and Olfactory Event-Related Potentials (OERPs)"

March 2011- October 2011 she spent a period of outpatient treatment clinical activity, (oncological follow-up) in a freelance system, at the Unit of Medical Oncology (Director: Dott. Bonetti Andrea), Mater Salutaris Hospital, Legnago (Verona). Since then, she occasionally collaborates as voluntary physician for the genetic counseling in familial breast and ovarian cancers.

Since November 2011: **Assistant Professor** of Human Anatomy at the Anatomy and Histology Section, Department of Neurological, Biomedical and Movement Sciences, School of Medicine, University of Verona (Teaching: Human Anatomy at Degree in Nursing at Legnago Hospital and Human Microscopic Anatomy at School of Medicine of Verona University). Since A.A. 2022/2023 Teaching Human Anatomy at Degree in "Tecniche Ortopediche", at Verona University.

01/06/2022

National Scientific qualification as associate Professor in the Italian higher education system, in the call 2021/2023 (Ministerial Decree n. 553/2021 and 589/2021) for the disciplinary field of 05/H1- Human Anatomy

Publications:

- Minelli A., Maserati E, Rossi G, Bernardo ME, De Stefano P, **Cecchini MP**, Valli R, Albano V, Pievani P, Leszl A, Sainati L, Lo Curto F, Danesino C, Locatelli F and Pasquali F.
Familial platelet disorder with propensity to acute myelogenous leukemia: genetic heterogeneity and progression to leukemia via acquisition of clonal chromosomes anomalies Genes, Chromosomes & Cancer, 40:165-171 (2004)
- Maserati E, Minelli A, Menna G, **Cecchini MP**, Bernardo ME, Rossi G, De Filippi P, Lo Curto F, Danesino C, Locatelli F, Pasquali
Familial myelodysplastic syndrome, monosomy 7/trisomy 8, and mutator effects
Cancer Genetics and Cytogenetics, 148:155-158 (2004)

- Sbarbati A, Tizzano M, Merigo F, Benati D, Nicolato E, Boschi F, **Cecchini MP**, Scambi I, Osculati F. Acyl homoserine lactones induce early response in the airway *AnatRec*, (Hoboken) 292:439-448 (2009)
- Merigo F, Benati D, **Cecchini MP**, Cristofolletti M, Osculati F, Sbarbati A. Amylase expression in taste receptor cells of rat circumvallate papillae *Cell Tissue Res*, 336:411-421 (2009)
- **Cecchini MP**, Merigo F, Cristofolletti M, Osculati F, Sbarbati A. Immunohistochemical localization of Clara cell secretory proteins (CC10-CC26) and Annexin-1 protein in rat major salivary glands *J Anat*, 214:752-758 (2009)
- Bovi T, Antonini A, Ottaviani A., Antonioli A., **Cecchini MP**, Di Francesco V, Bassetto MA, Zamboni M, Fiaschi A, Moretto G, Sbarbati A, Osculati F, Tinazzi M. The status of olfactory function and the striatal dopaminergic system in drug-induced parkinsonism *J Neurol*, Nov;257(11):1882-9 Epub 2010 Jul 16. Erratum in: *J Neurol*, Dec;257(12):2122 (2010)
- Merkonidis C., Gudziol V., **Cecchini M.**, Gerber J., Seo H.S., Bachert C., Hummel T. Improvement of chronic rhinitis under Aspirin *Respir Care*, Mar;57(3):460-3 (2012)
- **Cecchini MP**, Bojanowski V, Bodechtel U, Hummel T, Haener A. Olfactory function in patients with ischemic stroke: a pilot study *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*, Apr;269(4):1149-53 (2012)
- **Cecchini MP**, Pellegrini C, Bassetto MA, Osculati F, Sbarbati A, Marcolini L, Pegoraro M, Fontana R. Might *Helicobacter pylori* infection be associated with distortion on taste perception? *Med Hypotheses Sep*;81(3):496-9 (2013)
- Boschi F, Pagliuzzi M, Rossi B, **Cecchini MP**, Gorgoni G, Salgarello M, Spinelli AE. Small-animal radionuclide luminescence imaging of thyroid and salivary glands with Tc99m-pertechnetate *J Biomed Opt Jul*;18(7):76005 (2013)
- **Cecchini MP**, Parnigotto M, Merigo F, Marzola P, Daducci A, Tambalo S, Boschi F, Colombo L, Sbarbati A 3D printing of rat salivary glands: The submandibular-sublingual complex. *Anat Histol Embryol Jun*;43(3):239-44 (2014)
- **Cecchini MP**, Osculati F, Ottaviani S, Boschi F, Fasano A, Tinazzi M. Taste performance in Parkinson's disease. *J Neural Transm Feb*;121(2):119-22 (2014)
- **Cecchini MP**, Fasano A, Boschi F, Osculati F, Tinazzi M. Taste in Parkinson's disease *J Neurol*, Apr;262(4):806-13 (2015)
- **Cecchini MP**, Viviani D, Sandri M, Hummel T, Zancanaro C. Olfaction in the Down syndrome: a comprehensive assessment across four decades of age. *PLoSone*, 5:1-13 (2016)
- Ricatti J, Ottaviani S, Boschi F, Fasano A, Tinazzi M, **Cecchini MP**. A prospective evaluation of taste in Parkinson's disease. *JNT*, 124: 347-352 (2017)

- Masala C, Saba L, **Cecchini MP**, Solla P, Loy F. Olfactory function and age: a Sniffin' Sticks Extended test study performed in Sardinia. *Chem Percept*, 11(1):19-26 (2018)
- **Cecchini MP**, Cardobi N, Sbarbati A, Monaco S, Tinazzi M, Tamburin S. Post-traumatic taste disorders: a case series. *J Neurol*, 265(4): 836-844 (2018)
- Kotzbeck P, Giordano A, Mondini E, Murano I, Severi I, Venema W, **Cecchini MP**, Kershaw EE, Barbatelli G, Haemmerle G, Zechner R, Cinti S. Brown adipose tissue whitening leads to brown adipocyte death and adipose tissue inflammation. *J Lipid Res*, 59(5):784-794 (2018)
- **Cecchini MP**, Knaapila A, Hoffmann E, Boschi F, Hummel T, Iannilli E. A cross-cultural survey of umami familiarity in European countries. *Food Quality and Preference*, 74:172-178 (2019)
- Remo A, **Cecchini MP**, Benati D, Bernardi P, Manfrin E, Giordano G, Bonomi F, Parcesepe P, Fassan M, Colombari R, Sbarbati A, Pancione M. CROCC-mutated rhabdoid colorectal carcinoma showing in intercellular spaces lamellipodia and cellular projections revealed by electron microscopy. *Virchows Archiv*, 475(2):245-249 (2019)
- **Cecchini MP**, Federico A, Zanini A, Mantovani E, Masala C, Tinazzi M, Tamburin S. Olfaction and taste in Parkinson's disease: the association with mild cognitive impairment and the single cognitive domain dysfunction. *J Neural Trasm*, 126(5):585-595 (2019)
- Lasconi C, Pifferi S, Hernandez-Clavijo A, Merigo F, **Cecchini MP**, Gonzalez-Velandia KY, Agostinelli E, Sbarbati A, Menini A. Bitter tastants and artificial sweeteners activate a subset of epithelial cells in acute tissue slices of the rat trachea. *Sci Rep*, 9(1):8834 (2019)
- Riello M, **Cecchini MP**, Zanini A, Di Chiappari M, Tinazzi M, Fiorio M. Perception of phasic pain is modulated by smell and taste. *Eur J Pain* 23 (10):1790-1800 (2019)
- Iannilli E, Knaapila A, **Cecchini MP**, Hummel T. Dataset of verbal evaluation of umami taste in Europe. *Data in Brief*, 7 (28):105102 (2020)
- Brozzetti L, Sacchetto L, **Cecchini MP**, Avesani A, Perra D, Bongiani M, Portioli C, Scupoli M, Ghetti B, Monaco S, Buffelli M, Zanusso G. Neurodegeneration-associated proteins in human olfactory neurons collected by nasal brushing. *Front in Neurosci*, 5 (14):145 (2020)
- **Cecchini MP**, Riello M, Sandri A, Zanini A, Fiorio M, Tinazzi M. Smell and taste dissociations in the modulation of tonic pain perception induced by a capsaicin cream application. *Eur J Pain*, 24(10): 1946-1955 (2020)
- **Cecchini MP**, Tamburin S, Zanini A, Boschi F, Demartini B, Goeta D, Dallochio C, Marotta A, Fiorio M, Tinazzi M. Hedonicity in functional motor disorders: a chemosensory study assessing taste. *J Neural Trasm*, 127(10):1399-1407 (2020)
- Stefani A, Iranzo A, Holzknecht E, Perra D, Bongiani M, Gaig C, Heim B, Serradell M, Sacchetto L, Garrido A, Capaldi S, Sanchez-Gomez A, **Cecchini MP**, Mariotto S, Ferrari S, Fiorini M, Schmutzhard J, Cocchiara P, Vilaseca I, Brozzetti L, Monaco S, Marti MJ, Seppi K, Tolosa E, Santamaria J, Högl B, Poewe W, Zanusso G. Alpha-synuclein seeds in olfactory mucosa of isolated rapid-eye-movement sleep behaviour disorder. *Brain*, 144(4):1118-1126 (2021)

- Sandri A, **Cecchini MP**, Riello M, Zanini A, Nocini R, Fiorio M, Tinazzi M. Pain, Smell, and Taste in Adults: A Narrative Review of Multisensory Perception and Interaction. *Pain Ther*, 10(1):245-268. doi: 10.1007/s40122-021-00247-y (2021)
- Cecchetto C, Di Pizio A, Genovese F, Calcinoni O, Macchi A, Dunkel A, Ohla K, Spinelli S, Farruggia MC, Joseph PV, Menini A, Cantone E, Dinella C, **Cecchini MP**, D'Errico A, Mucignat-Carretta C, Parma V, Di Battista M. Assessing the extent and timing of chemosensory impairments during COVID-19 pandemic. *Sci Rep*, 11(1):17504. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-96987-0 (2021)
- **Cecchini MP**, Mantovani E, Federico A, Zanini A, Ottaviani S, Masala C, Tinazzi M, Tamburin S. Olfaction in patients with Parkinson's disease: a new threshold test analysis through turning points trajectories. *J Neural Transm (Vienna)*, Jul 30. doi: 10.1007/s00702-021-02387-z. Online ahead of print (2021)
- **Cecchini MP**, Brozzetti L, Cardobi N, Sacchetto L, Gibellini D, Montemezzi S, Cheli M, Manganotti P, Monaco S, Zanusso G. Persistent chemosensory dysfunction in a young patient with mild COVID-19 with partial recovery 15 months after the onset. *Neurol Sci*, 43(1):99-104. doi: 10.1007/s10072-021-05635-y (2022)
- Masala C, Cavazzana A, Sanna F, **Cecchini MP**, Zanini A, Gasperi F, Menghi L, Endizzi I, Borgogno M, Drago S, Cantone E, Ciofalo A, Macchi A, Monti G, Parma V, Piochi M, Pinna I, Torri G, Pasquariello B, Cavaliere C, Iacono V, Hummel T. Correlation between olfactory function, age, sex, and cognitive reserve index in the Italian population. *Eur Arch Otorhinolaryngol*, 279(10):4943-4952. doi: 10.1007/s00405-022-07311-z (2022)
- Sandri A, **Cecchini MP**, Zanini A, Nocini R, Boschi F, Zanette G, Marcon A, Fiorio M, Tinazzi M. Unpleasant olfactory and gustatory stimuli increase pain unpleasantness in patients with chronic oral burning pain: an exploratory study. *Eur J Pain*, 26(5):1094-1106. doi: 10.1002/ejp.1933 (2022)
- Bongianini M, Catalan M, Perra D, Fontana E, Janes F, Bertolotti C, Sacchetto L, Capaldi S, Tagliapietra M, Polverino P, Tommasini V, Bellavita G, Kachoe EA, Baruca R, Bernardini A, Valente M, Fiorini M, Bronzato E, Tamburin S, Bertolasi L, Brozzetti L, **Cecchini MP**, Gigli G, Monaco S, Manganotti P, Zanusso G. Olfactory swab sampling optimization for α -synuclein aggregate detection in patients with Parkinson's disease. *Transl Neurodegener*, 11(1):37. doi: 10.1186/s40035-022-00311-3 (2022)
- Brozzetti L, Scambi I, Bertoldi L, Zanini A, Malacrida G, Sacchetto L, Baldassa L, Benvenuto G, Mariotti R, Zanusso G, **Cecchini MP**. RNAseq analysis of olfactory neuroepithelium cytological samples in individuals with Down syndrome compared to euploid controls: a pilot study. *Neurol Sci*, 44(3):919-930. doi: 10.1007/s10072-022-06500-2 (2023)
- Mantovani E, Zanini A, **Cecchini MP**, Tamburin S. The Association between neurocognitive disorders and gustatory dysfunction: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Neuropsychol Rev*, Feb 20. doi: 10.1007/s11065-023-09578-3. Online ahead of print (2023)
- Ricatti MJ, Savazzi S, Cesari P, **Cecchini MP**. Olfaction and gustation in blindness: a state of the art of the literature. *Neurol Sci*, 44(7):2251-2263. doi: 10.1007/s10072-023-06734-8 (2023)

- Remo A, Grillo F, Mastracci L, Simbolo M, Fassan M, **Cecchini MP**, Miscio G, Sassano A, Parente P, Vanoli A, Sabella G, Giordano G, Urso ED, Cerulo L, Scarpa A, Fiorica F, Pancione M. Loss of Primary Cilia Potentiates BRAF/MAPK Pathway Activation in Rhabdoid Colorectal Carcinoma: A Series of 21 Cases Showing Ciliary Rootlet CoiledCoil (CROCC) Alterations. *Genes (Basel)*, 14(5):984. doi: 10.3390/genes14050984 (2023)
- Fontana E, Bongiani M, Benussi A, Bronzato E, Scialo C, Sacchetto L, Cagnin A, Castriciano S, Buratti E, Gardoni F, Italia M, Schreiber A, Ferracin C, Fiorini M, Newell KL, Cracco L, Garringer HJ, **Cecchini MP**, Polymenidou M, Padovani A, Monaco S, Legname G, Gheti B, Borroni B, Zanusso G. Detection of TDP-43 seeding activity in the olfactory mucosa from patients with frontotemporal dementia. *Alzheimers Dement*, Oct 31. doi: 10.1002/alz.13541. Online ahead of print (2023)

Books chapters/Conference papers

- Sbarbati A, **Cecchini MP**, Crescimanno C, Merigo F, Benati D, Tizzano M and Osculati F. The solitary chemosensory cells the airways of mammals, Chapter of the Book: "Airway Chemoreceptors in the Vertebrates, *Structure, Evolution and Function*", Team of Editors: G. Zaccone, E. Cutz, D. Adriansen, C. Nurse, A. Mauceri, Editing House: Science Publisher, Enfield, N.H. U.S.A. (31-07-2009)
- Hummel T, Iannilli E, Gudziol V, **Cecchini MP**, Zucco GM Olfactory impairment in sinonasal disease. In: Ferrario F (ed) Update in tema di patologia ostruttiva dei turbinati. XXXIV Convegno Nazionale di Aggiornamento. Associazione Otorinolaringoiatri Ospedalieri Italiani, Verona, pp. 161-177 (2010)

Research Grants participation

PRIN 2010-2011: Contributor to the project "Integrated analysis of molecular and cellular processes responsible for the processing of sensory signals under normal and pathological conditions" at the University of Verona. Project local manager: Prof. Carlo Zancanaro; National Scientific Coordinator: Prof. Anna Maria Menini, Advanced International School of Advanced Studies in Trieste. Outcome: FUNDED. Work published.

2012: Research Clinical Reference Researcher for the project submitted to the "Fondation Jérôme Lejeune" in Paris entitled "The Smell in Down Syndrome: An Experimental and Clinical Approach". Scientific Director: Prof. Carlo Zancanaro. Outcome: FINANCED (Grant agreement: 23/07/2012). Work published.

2014: Head of Unit in a multicentric international project with leading "Smell & Taste Clinic" in Dresden, Germany, entitled "Categorical evaluation of Umami perception in various countries" (Germany, Italy, Sweden). The data collection has ended. Work published.

2015/2016: Applicant at the Alzheimer's Association (Chicago, USA) under the New Investigator Research Grant program with a project entitled "Preclinical Markers of Neurodegeneration in Down Syndrome Olfactory Mucosal". Outcome: evaluated positively but not funded

2016: Project manager of a University of Verona "Joint Project" entitled "Profiling of olfactory receptor genes expression in Down syndrome olfactory neurons" in collaboration with BMR Genomics, Padua. Outcome: FUNDED. Work published.

2018: Head of Unit for the “regione Veneto” in a multicentric project:

“Assessment of the olfactory function in the Italian population”. Coordinators: Prof Thomas Hummel, Dr. Annachiara Cavazzana (“*Smell and Taste Clinic*”, Dresden, Germany) la Dr. Carla Masala (Dip. Scienze Biomediche, Università di Cagliari) and Dr. Giancarlo Ottaviano (Dip. Di Neuroscienze, Università di Padova). The project was approved by the Ethical Committee of the Verona University (CARU) Il progetto è stato approvato da parte del Comitato etico di Approvazione per la Ricerca sull’Uomo dell’Ateneo di Verona (CARU, March 14th, 2018). Work published.

2018: (CARIVERONA-Bando Ricerca Scientifica di Eccellenza 2018) participant for the project: “Development and validation of a novel molecular assay for alpha-synuclein in olfactory brushing of patients with Parkinson disease and other alpha-synucleinopathies”. Principal investigator: Prof. Gianluigi Zanusso, Unità di Neurologia, Università di Verona. Duration: 3 years (**Data inizio: 01/10/2019**). Outcome: **FINANCED**

2018: (CARIVERONA-Bando Ricerca Scientifica di Eccellenza 2018) participant for the projects: “The ciliary neurotrophic factor: a possible novel regulator of body weight and energy balance in mammals”. Principal investigator: Prof. Antonio Giordano, Sezione di Anatomia, Università Politecnica delle Marche. Duration: 3 years. (**Starting date: December 5th 2019**) Outcome: **FINANCED**

2020: participant for the “Brain Research Foundation Verona Onlus (BRF)” project: “Evaluation of expression levels of genes potentially involved in α -synuclein aggregation in olfactory mucosa of patients with sporadic Parkinson’s disease”. Principal investigator: Prof Gianluigi Zanusso, Unità di Neurologia, Università di Verona. Duration: 1 year. Outcome: **FINANCED**

Member of the Teaching Committee of PhD in “Neuroscience, Psychological and Psychiatric Sciences, and Movement Sciences” of Verona University (since October 1st, 2020).

Professional Master's program in Clinical and experimental neuropsychology (II level) of Verona University. Teaching activity on olfactory system. Director: Prof. Stefano Tamburin

Referee Activities: Archives of Oral Biology, Elite Research Journal, European Journal of Gastroenterology & Hepatology, Medical Hypotheses, European Journal of Histochemistry, The Anatomical Record, Tissue & Cell, Nutrition Metabolism and Cardiovascular Diseases, Current Medical Res & Opinion, International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health, Journal of Neuroscience Methods, Scientific Reports, Brain Imaging and Behavior, Journal of Neurology, Movement Disorders, Frontiers in Neuroscience, Frontiers in Neuroanatomy, Frontiers in Neurology

Editorial board member as *Review Editor* in Frontiers in Neuroscience (invited: since April, 2020)

Scientific Societies membership

SIAI (*Società Italiana di Anatomia e Istologia*)

GISN (*Gruppo Italiano per lo Studio della Neuromorfologia*)

Associazione per le Neuroscienze Giuseppe Moruzzi

ECRO (European Chemoreception Research Organization)

GCCR (Global Consortium of Chemosensory Researchers)

Computer skills: Internet, Power point, Office

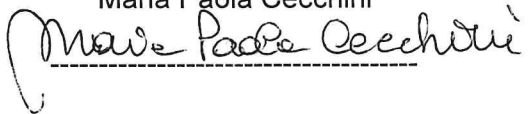
Languages:

•English

•Modern Greek (Certificate issued by the School of Philosophy, Faculty of Philology, Department of Linguistics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on June, 8th, 2005)

Verona, November 9th 2023

Maria Paola Cecchini

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Maria Paola Cecchini". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a horizontal dashed line.

La sottoscritta

Maria Paola Cecchini

consapevole che le dichiarazioni false comportano l'applicazione delle sanzioni penali previste dall'art. 76 del D.P.R. 445/2000, dichiara che le informazioni riportate nel presente curriculum vitae, corrispondono a verità. La sottoscritta inoltre autorizza il trattamento dei dati personali ai sensi del Decreto Legislativo 30 giugno 2003, n. 196 "Codice in materia di protezione dei dati personali" come modificato dal Decreto Legislativo 10 agosto 2018, n. 101 e all'art. 13 del Regolamento UE 2016/679 relativo (GDPR).