

ALESSANDRO SIMONATI
Curriculum Vitae

Alessandro Simonati, MD, former Associate Professor of Neurology, is Professor of Child Neurology and Psychiatry at the Department of Surgery, Dentistry, Paediatrics and Gynaecology of the Verona University.

Education

1970 Diploma di Maturità Classica at Liceo Classico S Maffei in Verona;
1976 Medical Degree at University of Padua;
1980 Board in Neurology at University of Verona;
1897 Board in Child Neurology and Psychiatry at University of Florence.

Working Position

1980-1984 Fellow of the Centre for the Neuromuscular Disease of Regione Veneto in Verona.
1984-1990 full time Staff Neurologist at Clinica Neurologica, Verona University Medical School.
1990-1997 full time Senior Staff Neurologist - Neuropathology Unit of Clinica Neurologica, Verona University Medical School.
1998-2019 Associate Professor of Neurology at the Department of Neurological and Visual Sciences of the Verona University Medical School; Consultant Neurologist and Child Neuropsychiatrist at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience (Neurology Unit B) of the University and Hospital Trust in Verona.
since 2000 Chief of the Child Neurology and Psychiatry Service of the Neurology Unit, at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience
since 2019 Professor of Child Neurology and Psychiatry at the Department of Surgery, Dentistry, Paediatrics and Gynaecology of the Verona University; Child Neuropsychiatrist and Consultant Neurologist at the Neurology Unit B, the Department of Clinical Neuroscience of the University and Hospital Trust in Verona.

Clinical Work

He is chief of the of the Child Neurology and Psychiatry Service of the Neurology Unit B, at the Department of Clinical Neuroscience of the University and Hospital Trust in Verona. He is also consultant neurologist at the Neurology Unit of the University Hospital in Verona. He has arranged the organization of the Transition Clinic from Child Neurology to Adult Neurology.

Scientific Activity

Training in Research:

Medical School: 1971-1973, Padova, University Institute of Biochemistry, Laboratory of Neurochemistry (prof L Galzigna); 1974-1976, Verona, Clinica Neurologica University Hospital, Laboratory Neuropathology (Prof N Rizzuto).

Research Activity abroad

1981-1982 Research Fellow at Applied Neurobiology Unit (head professor JB Cavanagh), Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London, UK.
1988-1990 Visiting Scientist at Section of Neuroanatomy (head professor P Rakic), Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA.

Present Interests and Research Activities

His present research work is related to both clinical issues and studies of pathogenesis:
Pathogenetic Mechanisms of Degenerative Disorders of Human Nervous in Childhood; Normal and Abnormal Mechanisms of CNS Ontogeny; Genetic Phenotyping of Neurodevelopmental Disorders of Children.

He is investigating pathological mechanisms in genetically determined CNS disorders secondary to lysosomal dysfunction and storage (mainly Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses) in vitro cellular systems, using morphological, biochemical and molecular techniques.

He is engaged in national and international collaborative studies on nosography, molecular diagnosis, pathogenesis of the Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinoses (CLN1 and CLN5 diseases), and he is Coordinator of CLNet (Italian clinical network on Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis) having in charge the Italian NCL database (supported by A_NCL)

Research Projects and Funding

1983-2001: partner of local and national projects funded by Ministry of Research and Education;
1998: Principal Investigator of the bi-annual project Epidemiological Survey of Inherited Neuropathies through Molecular Genetic and Neuropathological Approaches (funded by Regione Veneto);

2000-2008: Principal Investigator of annual and or biannual projects dealing with cell death mechanisms in human developmental encephalopathies secondary to inherited disorders of metabolism funded by Ministry of Research, and local sponsors;

2011-2014: Participant as Research Unit Leader of the FP7 Research Programme "A Treatment-Oriented Research Project of NCL Disorders as a Major Cause of Dementia in Childhood" (Grant No.281234)

2017-2019: Principal Investigator of the Joint Project "Protein of the Synaptic Compartment in an in vitro model of Infantile Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis" funded by University of Verona and IRCCS Stella Maris, Pisa (Grant No JPVR17C3MT)

2019: Participant as Research Unit Leader of Tuscany Region-project DEM-AGING

2020: Participant as Research Unit Leader of the Project Rare Neuropediatric Diseases, funded by Fondazione Mariani

Relevant Past Collaborative Projects

- Mechanisms of Peripheral Nerve Regeneration following trauma and exposure to toxic agents (part of these studies were performed during the period he spent as Research Fellow at Applied Neurobiology Unit [head professor JB Cavanagh], Institute of Neurology, Queen Square, London, UK [1981-1982]);
- Principles of CNS development in human and primate, analysis of focal, prenatal lesions in primate brains; markers of Cellular Processes during mammalian CNS development (these studies followed a stage as Visiting Scientist at Section of Neuroanatomy (head professor P Rakic), Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, CT, USA (1988-1990);
- Studies on Pathogenesis of Inherited Peripheral Neuropathy (he was partner of the project *Peripheral Neuropathy with or without Agenesis of the Corpus Callosum* [PI prof Guy Rouleau, Department of Neurology, Mc Gill University Montreal General Hospital Research Institute, Montreal, Quebec, Canada] which led to the identification of the gene responsible for the Andermann syndrome [MIM 218000]);
- Nosography and Phenotyping of Neurodegenerative diseases of childhood (he was partner of the project *Human INAD Gene Identification* [PI prof Susan Hayflick, Oregon Health & Science University, Portland, OR, USA], which led to the identification of one gene responsible for Infantile Neuroaxonal Dystrophy [MIM 256600]);
- "Phenotypic characterization of patients affected with Alpers syndrome (MIM 203700) secondary to mutations of POLGA" (PI dr M Zeviani - Istituto Neurologico C Besta, Milano);
- "Congenital Cerebellar Malformations, epidemiology, genetics, nosography of posterior fossa human malformations" (coordinator dr EM Valente - Istituto Mendel, Roma).

Ongoing Collaborative Projects

- Italian NCL database (supported by A_NCL)
- Coordinator of CLNet (Italian clinical network on Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis)

Scientific Appointments

- counsellor of the European Federation of Neuropathology Societies (2009-2021);
- co-chairman Child Neurology Scientific Panel, European Neurology Academy (2018-2021);
- representative of AOUI-VR (Health Care Provider) at the European Network on rare Metabolic Diseases (MetabERN, 2019-2022);
- member of the Scientific Board of the Italian Family Association of Neuronal Ceroidlipofuscinosis (A-NCL).

Teaching Appointments

He was Director of the Child Neurology and Psychiatry Residency Program at the Verona University School of Medicine (2016-2021).

He is teaching at the Verona University School of Medicine:

- Teacher of Child Neurology and Psychiatry to medical students and students of Speech Therapy
- Teacher of selected courses on Child Neurology and Child Development:

Residency Program in Neurology: Teacher of Child Neurology and Psychiatry;

Residency Program in Child Neurology and Psychiatry: Teacher of Neurology, Developmental Neurology and Child Development;

Residency Programme in Psychiatry: Teacher of Child Neurology and Psychiatry.

He is teacher Child Neurology and Psychiatry to students of the Human Science Department

PhD Courses - He is Teacher at the PhD Programme in Neuroscience, Psychological, Psychiatric and Movement Sciences of the University of Verona

