

FRANCESCA MENGONI

Ph.D. Student

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EDUCATION

PH.D. IN NEUROSCIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF VERONA 10/2021 - Ongoing Verona, Italy

“Study of intestinal bacterial populations involved in mechanisms facilitating seizure onset in a mouse model of experimental epilepsy”:

- characterize the gut microbiota composition and secretome obtained from animals affected by experimental chronic epilepsy;
- elucidate how such microbiota, once transplanted in healthy mice, may affect brain excitability resulting in epileptic seizures.

MASTER'S DEGREE IN “MOLECULAR AND MEDICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY”

UNIVERSITY OF VERONA 10/2018 - 10/2020 Verona, Italy

- Curriculum in English;
- Final mark: 110/110 cum laude;
- Final degree project: Does pilocarpine-induced epilepsy in adult mice require *status epilepticus*? (supervisor: Prof. Paolo F. Fabene).

BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN “MEDICAL AND PHARMACEUTICAL BIOTECHNOLOGY”

UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE 10/2015 - 10/2018 Florence, Italy

- Final mark: 109/110;
- Final degree project: Identificazione di trattamenti combinati per ridurre la vitalità di cellule di melanoma esprimenti BRAFV600E (supervisor: Prof.ssa Elisabetta Rovida).

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

RESEARCH FELLOW

UNIVERSITY OF VERONA 11/2020 - 09/2021 Verona, Italy

- Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, Sect. of Anatomy and Histology, supervisor: Prof. Paolo F. Fabene;
- In-vivo* studies related to mouse model of temporal lobe epilepsy;
- In-vitro* studies related to microbiota composition.

VISITING SCIENTIST

NICO 03/2021 - 04/2021 Turin, Italy

- Neuroscience Institute Cavalieri Ottolenghi (NICO), supervisor: Prof. Alessandro Vercelli;
- In-vivo* and *ex-vivo* studies related to transgenic and knockout mouse model of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA).

UNDERGRADUATE INTERSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF VERONA 09/2019 - 09/2020 Verona, Italy

- Department of Neurosciences, Biomedicine and Movement Sciences, Sect. of Anatomy and Histology, supervisor: Prof. Paolo F. Fabene;
- In-vivo* studies related to mouse model of temporal lobe epilepsy.

UNDERGRADUATE INTERSHIP

UNIVERSITY OF FLORENCE 03/2018 - 09/2018 Florence, Italy

- Department of Experimental and Clinical Biomedical Sciences “Mario Serio”, Sect. of Experimental Pathology and Oncology, supervisor: Prof.ssa Elisabetta Rovida;
- In-vitro* studies on culture of human immortalized cell lines.

TRAINING COURSES

–“Ethics and project design”, “Biology and laboratory animal management”, National legislation and etichs” (2022, Istituto zooprofilattico Sperimentale della Lombardia e dell’Emilia Romagna);

–Cadaver Lab ICLO Teaching and Research Center San Francesco Di Sales (Verona, 16-17/04/2021);

–HarvardX Fundamentals of Neuroscience Xseries (part 1: The Electrical Properties of the Neuron; part 2: Neurons and Networks; part 3: The Brain);

–workshop “From conception to development of a research project” (University of Verona);

–C.I.R.S.A.L.-“centro interdipartimentale di servizi per la ricerca che utilizza animali da laboratorio- per il personale utilizzatore dello stabulario”, training course in animal handling and care (University of Verona).

TEACHING

–Teaching assistant in human dissection at “Cadaver Lab” ICLO Teaching and Research Center San Francesco Di Sales (Verona) in Human anatomy course of Dentistry degree;

–Teaching assistant in microscopic anatomy training dissection in Human anatomy course of Dentistry degree (University of Verona);

–Teaching assistant in Biotechnology in Neuroscience at Master's degree in Molecular and Medical Biotechnology (University of Verona).

PUBLICATIONS

1) Mengoni F*, Salari V*, Del Gallo F, Bertini G, Fabene PF. **The Anti-Inflammatory Properties of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Epilepsy: Possible Treatments and Future Perspectives.** Int J Mol Sci. 2020 Dec 18;21(24):9683. doi: 10.3390/ijms21249683. PMID: 33353235; PMCID: PMC7765947.

2) Mengoni F*, Salari V*, Kosenkova I, Tsenov G, Donadelli M, Malerba G, Bertini G, Del Gallo F, Fabene PF. **Gut microbiota modulates seizure susceptibility.** PMID: 34324703; DOI: 10.1111/epi.17009

CERTIFICATES AND AWARDS

- University of Verona, winner of “PhD Day: Science outside the box CONTEST2022”;
- IELTS Academic English (B2 level);
- University of Verona, 24 CFU for teaching;
- University of Florence, 2018 Degree Award.

SOFTWARE

Image J NeuroLucida Microsoft Office™ tools
GraphPad Prism Stereo Investigator LabChart
Noldus Ethovision XT Noldus Observer XT Imaris