

## IRENE PERSICONI

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### Education:

<b>PhD student Cellular and Developmental Biology PhD School</b>	<b>11/2011 - Present</b>
Sapienza University of Rome, Rome (Italy)	
Title of project: Cellular, molecular and functional alterations in the nervous system in <i>mdx</i> mice, an animal model of Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD)	
Supervisor: Prof. Maria Egle De Stefano	
<b>Master Degree in Biology Applied to Biomedical Research</b>	<b>10/2008 - 6/2011</b>
Sapienza University of Rome, Rome (Italy)	
Graduated with Summa cum laude	
Title of thesis: "Significance of Cys67 in HLA-B27 molecule's structure and function"	
Supervisor: Prof. Rosa Sorrentino	
<b>Bachelor Degree in Biological Sciences</b>	<b>10/2005 - 10/2008</b>
Sapienza University of Rome, Rome, (Italy)	
Graduated with Summa cum laude	
Title of thesis: "Local gene expression in axons and nerve endings: the glia-neuron unit"	
Supervisor: Prof. Maria Egle De Stefano	

### Professional training:

<b>PhD Fellow, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy</b>	<b>11/2011 - Present</b>
Laboratory of Neurobiology coordinated by Prof. Maria Egle De Stefano, Sapienza University of Rome, Dept. of Biology and Biotechnology "C. Darwin"	
<b>Master Degree Internship, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy</b>	<b>11/2008 - 6/2011</b>
Laboratory of Experimental Pathology coordinated by Prof. Rosa Sorrentino, Sapienza University of Rome, Dept. of Biology and Biotechnology "C. Darwin"	

### Skills acquired:

PCR; Separation of DNA fragments by Gel Electrophoresis; RNAi; Immunoprecipitation; Production of recombinant proteins containing epitopes restricted to specific allelic variants of HLA (Human Leukocyte Antigen) molecules, in particular HLA-B27 and the widespread HLA-A2; Affinity chromatography; Creation of C67S mutants in HLA-B27 subtypes and V67C mutant in HLA-A2; Transfection; Immunofluorescence; Cell separation by magnetic beads; FACS (fluorescent-activated cell sorter) analysis; Generation, from peripheral blood mononuclear cells of healthy donors, of CD8+ cytotoxic T lymphocytes and verifying their specificity by performing cytotoxicity assay and flow cytometric analysis for the production of Interferon gamma (IFN $\gamma$ ); Immortalization of human B lymphocytes by Epstein-Barr virus.

Manipulation of laboratory animals (mice), Dissection of mouse brain areas (Hippocampus, Cerebellum, Cortex), peripheral ganglia (Superior Cervical Ganglion - SCG) and retinas at different pre- and post-natal stages; set up of primary neuron cell cultures from SCG, hippocampus, cerebellum and cortex; Histological sample preparation for Light Microscopy; Immunohistochemistry on frozen section; Immunocytochemistry; use of both conventional fluorescence microscope and confocal microscope; RNA extraction from tissues and Real Time RT-PCR; Protein extraction from cells and tissue and Western blotting.

Expert in Microsoft Office Packet, Photoshop and ImageJ usage.

### Scholarship, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy

**1/2012 - Present**

Exerciser in Biology, Histology, Comparative Anatomy and Botany and plant diversity laboratories at the Dept. of Biology and Biotechnology "C. Darwin"

**1/2007 - 12/2010**

Library assistant (organize library resources and make them available to users) and Guide of tours at the museum of Comparative Anatomy at the Dept. of Biology and Biotechnology "C. Darwin"

### Grants:

Young investigator grant, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy	<b>2014</b>
Sapienza University Funding, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy	<b>2013</b>
Young investigator grant, Sapienza University of Rome, Italy	<b>2012</b>

## Publication:

Magnacca A, **Persiconi I**, Nurzia E, Caristi S, Meloni F, Barnaba V, Paladini F, Raimondo D, Fiorillo MT and Sorrentino R (2012) “*Characterization of a proteasome and TAP-independent presentation of intracellular epitopes by HLA-B27 molecules*”, J Biol Chem 287(36): 30358–30367.

Mannironi C, Camon J, De Vito F, Biundo A, De Stefano ME, **Persiconi I**, Bozzoni I, Fragapane P, Mele A, Presutti C (2013) “*Acute stress alters amygdala microRNA miR-135a and miR-124 expression: inferences for corticosteroid dependent stress response*”, PloS ONE 8(9): e73385.

## Meeting presentation:

Lombardi L, Lanni I, **Persiconi I**, Gallo A, Paggi P and De Stefano ME (2012) “*Responsiveness to NGF is reduced in sympathetic neurons of mdx mice, affecting axon outgrowth and regeneration both in vivo and in vitro*” 63<sup>th</sup> SIF (Italian Physiological Society), Verona (Italy), Abs: P1.31

Lombardi L, Lanni I, **Persiconi I**, Gallo A, Paggi P and De Stefano ME (2012) “*Responsiveness to NGF is reduced in sympathetic neurons of mdx mice, affecting axon outgrowth and regeneration both in vivo and in vitro*” 12<sup>th</sup> FISV (Italian Federation of Life Sciences), Rome (Italy), Abs: O13.2

**Persiconi I**, Lupo G, Licursi V, Guadagno NA, Negri R and De Stefano ME (2013) “*Post-natal developmental alterations in the retina of dystrophic mdx mice*” 64<sup>th</sup> SIF (Italian Physiological Society), Portonovo-AN (Italy), Abs: P1.17

Lombardi L, Gallo A, **Persiconi I**, De Virgiliis F and De Stefano ME (2013) “*Early axonal growth of hippocampal neurons is reduced and less sensitive to BDNF in dystrophic mdx mice compared to wild-type*” 64<sup>th</sup> SIF (Italian Physiological Society), Portonovo-AN (Italy), Abs: P1.9

**Persiconi I**, Lupo G, Licursi V, Guadagno NA, Negri R and De Stefano ME (2013) “*Post-natal developmental alterations in the retina of dystrophic mdx mice*” XV SINS (Italian Society of Neuroscience), Rome (Italy), Abs P02.4.

Lombardi L, Gallo A, **Persiconi I**, De Virgiliis F and De Stefano ME (2013) “*Early axonal growth of hippocampal neurons is reduced and less sensitive to BDNF in dystrophic mdx mice compared to wild-type*” XV SINS (Italian Society of Neuroscience), Rome (Italy), Abs: P02.4.

De Stefano ME, **Persiconi I**, Lupo G, Licursi V, Guadagno NA, Negri R (2013) “*Post-natal developmental alterations in the retina of dystrophic mdx mice*” Society for Neuroscience, San Diego (USA), Abs: 511.29.

**Persiconi I**, Guadagno NA, Candelise N, Lupo G, De Stefano ME (2014) “*Retina early post-natal differentiation is delayed in dystrophic mdx mice*” 9<sup>th</sup> FENS forum of neuroscience, Milan (Italy), Abs FENS-1201.

## References

Maria Egle De Stefano, PhD, Sapienza University of Rome (egle.destefano@uniroma1.it)

Rosa Sorrentino, PhD, Sapienza University of Rome (rosa.sorrentino@uniroma1.it)