

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Francesca Simonelli



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Sex F | Date of birth 25/04/1959 | Nationality Italy

Enterprise	University	EPR
☐ Management Level	☒ Full professor	☐ Research Director and 1st level Technologist / First Researcher and 2nd level Technologist / Principal Investigator

WORK EXPERIENCE

from 2010 up-to-now

Full professor of Ophthalmology

School of Medicine, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Naples, Italy

▪ Research and clinical activity in the field of Ophthalmology_University / Academic hospital

from 2005 to 2010

Associate professor of Ophthalmology

School of Medicine, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Naples, Italy

▪ Research and clinical activity in the field of Ophthalmology_University / Academic hospital

from 1990 to 2005

Researcher of Ophthalmology

School of Medicine, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, Naples, Italy

▪ Research and clinical activity in the field of Ophthalmology_University / Academic hospital

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

from 1984 to 1987

Postgraduate medical training - residency in Ophthalmology

8 EQF

School of Medicine, University of Naples, Naples, Italy

▪ Specialized clinical and surgical activities in the field of Ophthalmology

from 1977 to 1983

Medical Doctor

7 EQF

School of Medicine, University of Naples, Naples, Italy

▪ General medical knowledge and training

WORK ACTIVITIES

Awards

Renato Frezzoti SOI Medal issued by Società Oftalmologica Italiana, 2017
 Foundation Fighting Blindness award for gene therapy in Leber Congenital Amaurosis, March 2009

Editorial activity

Reviewer for the following peer-review journals: American Journal of Ophthalmology, British Journal of Ophthalmology, European Journal of Ophthalmology, Expert Review of Ophthalmology, Genetic Testing, Investigative Ophthalmology & Visual Science, Journal of Inherited Metabolic Disease, Journal of Ophthalmology, Ophthalmic Genetics, Ophthalmic Surgery, Lasers and Imaging Retina, Ophthalmology, PLoS ONE, Retina, The Journal of Retinal and Vitreous Diseases

Invited presentations

"Clinical Trials for Usher Syndrome" in Usher 1F Collaborative International Virtual Conference Therapeutic Strategies for large protein coding genes in Usher Syndrome, 13-14 May, 2021
 "Gene Therapy for Leber's Congenital Amaurosis" in FLOREtina - Florence Retina Meeting, Florence, 25 June, 2020.
 "RPE65-gene therapy: our experience" in FLOREtina - Florence Retina Meeting, Florence, 7 June, 2019.
 "Our experience with gene therapy approaches for RPE65 inherited retinal diseases" in 2019 International Society for Genetic Eye Diseases and Retinoblastoma (ISGEDR), Giessen, 29 – 31 August, 2019.

Grants

“Gene therapy for Leber Congenital Amaurosis” in FLOREtina - Florence Retina Meeting, Florence, 27 - 30 April, 2017.

Italian Ministry of Health (Call PNRR – Rare Disease) Early Detection of Rare Inherited Retinal Dystrophies and Cardiac Amyloidosis enhanced by Artificial Intelligence: the impact on the patient's pathway in Campania Region – PNRR-MR1-2022-12376635 (2023-ongoing)

Italian Ministry of University (Call PNRR – National Centre) National Center for Gene Therapy and Drugs based on RNA Technology – CN000000041 (2022-ongoing)

European Commission (Horizon 2020). Clinical trial of gene therapy with dual AAV vectors for retinitis pigmentosa in patients with Usher syndrome type IB (USHTHER) – n 754848 (2018-ongoing)

MIUR (PRIN 2017) Toward the development of novel biomarkers to evaluate experimental therapies for Inherited Retinal Dystrophies: correlation between Magnetic Resonance Imaging and visual function - n 20175C22WM (2019 - ongoing) – national coordinator

MIUR (PRIN 2015) Toward new methods for early diagnosis and- screening of genetic ocular diseases in childhood - n 20158Y77NT (2017 -2020) – national coordinator

Campania Region (Call Obiettivo di Piano della Regione Campania Decreto n° 134 del 28/10/2016) Miglioramento della qualità dell'Assistenza sanitaria in Regione Campania nella gestione dei soggetti affetti da Ipovisione grave e Cecità attraverso la creazione di una rete Hub & Spoke con soluzioni di e-health (2018-ongoing)

Fondazione Roma (Call for proposals 2013) Retinitis Pigmentosa: an integrated application of novel strategies towards diagnosis and treatment (2015-2018)

Campania Region (Call Sportello dell'innovazione - Progetti di Trasferimento Tecnologico Cooperativi e di prima Industrializzazione per le Imprese Innovative ad Alto Potenziale) Computer Improved VISus (CIVIS) (2015-2016)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Publications

total number of publications in peer-review journals: 215 (Scopus)
 total Impact Factor (IF): 1089; average IF/paper): 6,6
 total number of citations: 9341 (Scopus)
 H index: 44 (Scopus)

Maguire, A.M., Russell, S., Wellman, J.A., Chung, D.C., Yu, Z.-F., Tillman, A., Wittes, J., Pappas, J., Elci, O., Marshall, K.A., McCague, S., Reichert, H., Davis, M., Simonelli, F., Leroy, B.P., Wright, J.F., High, K.A., Bennett, J. Efficacy, Safety, and Durability of Voretigene Neparvovec-rzyl in RPE65 Mutation-Associated Inherited Retinal Dystrophy: Results of Phase 1 and 3 Trials(2019) Ophthalmology, 126 (9), pp. 1273-1285.

Russell, S., Bennett, J., Wellman, J.A., Chung, D.C., Yu, Z.-F., Tillman, A., Wittes, J., Pappas, J., Elci, O., McCague, S., Cross, D., Marshall, K.A., Walshire, J., Kehoe, T.L., Reichert, H., Davis, M., Raffini, L., George, L.A., Hudson, F.P., Dingfield, L., Zhu, X., Haller, J.A., Sohn, E.H., Mahajan, V.B., Pfeifer, W., Weckmann, M., Johnson, C., Gewaily, D., Drack, A., Stone, E., Wachtel, K., Simonelli, F., Leroy, B.P., Wright, J.F., High, K.A., Maguire, A.M.Efficacy and safety of voretigene neparvovec (AAV2-hRPE65v2) in patients with RPE65-mediated inherited retinal dystrophy: a randomised, controlled, open-label, phase 3 trial(2017) The Lancet, 390 (10097), pp. 849-860.

Bennett, J., Wellman, J., Marshall, K.A., McCague, S., Ashtari, M., DiStefano-Pappas, J., Elci, O.U., Chung, D.C., Sun, J., Wright, J.F., Cross, D.R., Aravand, P., Cyckowski, L.L., Benniselli, J.L., Mingozi, F., Auricchio, A., Pierce, E.A., Ruggiero, J., Leroy, B.P., Simonelli, F., High, K.A., Maguire, A.M.Safety and durability of effect of contralateral-eye administration of AAV2 gene therapy in patients with childhood-onset blindness caused by RPE65 mutations: a follow-on phase 1 trial(2016) The Lancet, 388 (10045), pp. 661-672.

Testa, F., Maguire, A.M., Rossi, S., Pierce, E.A., Melillo, P., Marshall, K., Banfi, S., Surace, E.M., Sun, J., Acerra, C., Wright, J.F., Wellman, J., High, K.A., Auricchio, A., Bennett, J., Simonelli, F.Three-year follow-up after unilateral subretinal delivery of adeno-associated virus in patients with leber congenital amaurosis type 2(2013) Ophthalmology, 120 (6), pp. 1283-1291.

Testa, F., Rossi, S., Sodi, A., Passerini, I., Di orio, V., Della Corte, M., Banfi, S., Surace, E.M., Menchini, U., Auricchio, A., Simonelli, F.Correlation between photoreceptor layer integrity and visual function in patients with stargardt disease: Implications for gene therapy(2012) Investigative Ophthalmology and Visual Science, 53 (8), pp. 4409-4415.

Bennett, J., Ashtari, M., Wellman, J., Marshall, K.A., Cyckowski, L.L., Chung, D.C., McCague, S., Pierce, E.A., Chen, Y., Benniselli, J.L., Zhu, X., Ying, G.-S., Sun, J., Wright, J.F., Auricchio, A., Simonelli, F., Shindler, K.S., Mingozi, F., High, K.A., Maguire, A.M.Gene therapy: AAV2 gene therapy readministration in three adults with congenital blindness(2012) Science Translational Medicine, 4 (120), .

Mussolino, C., Della Corte, M., Rossi, S., Viola, F., Di Vicino, U., Marrocco, E., Neglia, S., Doria, M., Testa, F., Giovannoni, R., Crasta, M., Giunti, M., Villani, E., Lavitrano, M., Bacci, M.L., Ratiglia, R., Simonelli, F., Auricchio, A., Surace, E.M.AAV-mediated photoreceptor transduction of the pig cone-enriched retina(2011) Gene Therapy, 18 (7), pp. 637-645.

Ashtari, M., Cyckowski, L.L., Monroe, J.F., Marshall, K.A., Chung, D.C., Auricchio, A., Simonelli, F., Leroy, B.P., Maguire, A.M., Shindler, K.S., Bennett, J.The human visual cortex responds to gene therapy-mediated recovery of retinal function(2011) Journal of Clinical Investigation, 121 (6), pp. 2160-21

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