



CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION	<p>Roberta Sferra Department of Applied Clinical and Biotechnological Sciences Via Vetoio – Coppito 2 – Building <i>Camillo De Meis</i> L'Aquila, 67100 Italy E-mail address: roberta.sferra@univaq.it</p>
CURRENT POSITION	<p>Associate Professor</p>
EDUCATION OTHER QUALIFICATIONS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>2006:</b> PhD in “Experimental and Clinical Hepatology” with distinction, “Sapienza” University of Rome, Italy.</li><li>• <b>1998:</b> Specialization in Oncology with distinction, State University of L'Aquila, Italy.</li><li>• <b>1993:</b> Degree in Medicine and Surgery with distinction, State University of L'Aquila, Italy.</li></ul>
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>2021 - Suitable</b> for the role of Full Professor sector 05/H1 – BIO/16 (Human Anatomy).</li><li>• <b>2019</b> - Associate Professor sector 05/H1 – BIO/16 (Human Anatomy).</li><li>• <b>2005</b> - 2019: Assistant Professor - Disciplinary sector BIO/16 (Human Anatomy) – Dept. of Applied Clinical and Biotechnological Sciences, State University of L'Aquila, Italy.</li><li>• <b>2000- 2005:</b> Graduated Research Technician (first level). Disciplinary sector BIO/16 (Human Anatomy) -Faculty of Medicine and Surgery – Dept. of Experimental Medicine, University of L'Aquila, Italy.</li></ul>
CLINIC APPOINTMENTS	



TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching of Human Anatomy (BIO/16) at the State University of L'Aquila, Italy in the following Master Degree Courses, Bachelor's Degree Courses, Schools of Specialization for the Health Sector and Specializing-Master Courses, PhD:

**Master's Degree Courses** in:

- 2013/14 - today: Medicine and Surgery
- 2008/09 - today: Dentistry and Dental Prosthesis (Coordinator)
- 2015- 2016: Science and Sports Technique

**Bachelor's Degree Courses** in:

- 2018/19 - today: Logopedics
- 2013/14 - today: Physiotherapy (Coordinator)
- 2013/14 - today: Orthoptics (Coordinator)
- 2014/15 - today: Motory Sciences
- 2008/09 - today: Neuro and Psychomotor Therapy of the Evolutionary Age (Coordinator)
- 2005/06 - today: Psychiatric Rehabilitation Technique (Coordinator)
- 2013/14 - 2017/18: Occupational Therapy (Coordinator)

**Schools of Specialization for the Health Sector** in:

- 2011 - today: Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Digestive

**Specializing-Master Courses** in:

- 2017 - today: Master in "Locoregional Anesthesia"
- 2014-2015: 2019-20: Master in "Neurodevelopment disorders in developmental age: clinical aspects and rehabilitation treatment"

**PhD** in:

- 2013/14 – today: Member of the Ph.D. Committee on "Experimental Medicine" - Dept. of Applied Clinical and Biotechnological Sciences, State University of L'Aquila, Italy.
- 2007/08 to 2012/13: Member of Ph.D. Committee on "Experimental Medicine and Endocrinology" - Dept. of Experimental Medicine.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Scientific activity is conducted to increase the base knowledge understanding the molecular and functional mechanisms in the following biomedical fields:

1. Structural, ultrastructural and immunohistochemical features of intestinal tract under normal and pathological conditions both in experimental models and human samples. Main findings:

- 1.1. demonstration of the key role of TGF $\beta$ /Smads pathway in the onset and in the development of intestinal fibrosis that occurs in human Inflammatory Bowel Disease and in experimental models of colitis (TNBS and Dextran Sulphate Sodium); demonstration of anti-inflammatory and antifibrotic action of molecules able to interfere with TGF $\beta$ /Smads signalling to develop therapeutic approaches.



	<p>1.2. Morphological and metabolic alterations occurring in intestinal wall and in liver parenchyma (NAFLD/NASH) in experimental model of metabolic syndrome diet- induced.</p> <p>1.3. demonstration of the pathways involved in human and experimental liver diseases (Hepatic cirrhosis, Hepatocarcinoma and Cholangiocarcinoma)</p> <p>2. Morphological and immunohistochemical studies demonstrating:</p> <p>2.1. The role of TGF<math>\beta</math>/Smads and AGE/RAGE/MAPK pathways in the changes occurring in muscularis propria of anterior vaginal wall in women with Pelvic Organ Prolapse.</p> <p>2.2. The identification of the molecular mechanisms implicated in the progression of human and experimental high grade gliomas with regard to epimutations of different Histone Deacetylases (HDACs) and the role of molecules able to improve the antitumor effects of antineoplastic drugs.</p>
<p>RESPONSIBILITY IN ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES</p>	<p><b>From 2020:</b> member of joint Students – Professor Commission, Department of Applied Clinical and Biotechnological Sciences</p>
<p>EDITORIAL BOARD, EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES, SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• From 2019: Member of Editorial Board of “Universal J of Gastroenterology- open access.</li> <li>• From 2008- today: Member of Italian Society of Histochemistry (SII)</li> <li>• From 2000 – today: Member of Italian Society of Human Anatomy and Histology (SIAI)</li> </ul>
<p>SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS BIBLIOMETRIC INDICATORS</p>	<p><b>Scopus Author ID: 6603110870</b> <a href="http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3893-8320">http://orcid.org/0000-0003-3893-8320</a></p> <p><b>Bibliometric Indicators:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Scopus (<a href="http://www.scopus.com">http://www.scopus.com</a>)</li> <li>• Web of Sciences Core Collection (<a href="http://apps.webofknowledge.com">http://apps.webofknowledge.com</a>)</li> </ul>
<p>SELECTED PUBLICATIONS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sferra R</b>, Pompili S, Cappariello A, Gaudio E, Latella G, Vetuschi A. Prolonged chronic consumption of a high-fat diet may alter the integrity of the intestinal mucosa barrier. <i>Inter Journal of Molecular Sciences</i> <b>2021 Submitted for publication</b></li> <li>• Vetuschi A, Battista M, Pompili S, Prete R, Taticchi A, Selvaggini R, Latella G, Corsetti A, <b>Sferra R</b>. Anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic effect of olive phenols and Lactiplantibacillus plantarum IMC513 in dextran Sodium Sulfate (DSS) induced chronic colitis. <i>Nutrients</i> <b>2021 Submitted for publication</b></li> <li>• Pompili S, Latella G, Gaudio, <b>Sferra R*</b>, Vetuschi A*. The charming word of the extracellular matrix: a dynamic and protective network of the intestinal wall. <i>Frontiers in Medicine gastroenterology</i> 2021; vol. 8, ISSN: 2296-858X, doi: 10.3389/fmed.2021.610189 (*equally contributed last authors).</li> </ul>



- Pompili S, Vetuschi A, Gaudio E, Tessitore A, Capelli R, Alesse E, Latella G, **Sferra R\***, Onori P\*. Long-term abuse of a high-carbohydrate diet is as harmful as a high-fat diet for development and progression of liver injury in a mouse model of NAFLD/NASH. *Nutrition*. 2020 Jul-Aug;75-76:110782. doi: 10.1016/j.nut.2020.110782. (\*equally contributed last authors).
- Vetuschi A, Pompili S, Di Marco GP, Calvaruso F, Iacomino E, Angelosante L, Festuccia C, Colapietro A, **Sferra R**. Can the AGE/RAGE/ERK signalling pathway and the epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition interact in the pathogenesis of chronic rhinosinusitis with nasal polyps? *Eur J Histochem*. 2020 Jan 23;64(1):3079. doi: 10.4081/ejh.2020.3079.
- Gravina GL, Mancini A, Colapietro A, Delle Monache S, **Sferra R**, Pompili S, Vitale F, Martellucci S, Marampon F, Mattei V, Biordi L, Sherris D, Festuccia C. The Brain Penetrating and Dual TORC1/TORC2 Inhibitor, RES529, Elicits Anti-Glioma Activity and Enhances the Therapeutic Effects of Anti-Angiogenetic Compounds in Preclinical Murine Models. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2019 Oct 21;11(10). pii: E1604. doi: 10.3390/cancers11101604.
- **Sferra R**, Pompili S, D'Alfonso A, Sabetta G, Gaudio E, Carta G, Festuccia C, Colapietro A, Vetuschi A. Neurovascular alterations of muscularis propria in the human anterior vaginal wall in Pelvic Organ Prolapse (POP). *J of Anatomy*, 2019. doi: 10.1111/joa.13014
- Mancinelli R, Mammola CL, **Sferra R**, Pompili S, Vetuschi A, Pannarale L. Role of the angiogenic factors in cholangiocarcinoma. *Applied Biosciences and Bioengineering*, 2019. doi: 10.3390/app9071393.
- Varrassi M\*, **Sferra R\***, Gravina GL, Pompili S, Fidanza R, Ventura M, Splendiani A, Barile A, Vetuschi A, Di Cesare E. Carotid artery plaque characterization with a wide detector Computed Tomography using a dedicated post-processing 3D analysis: comparison with histology. *Radiol Med*, 2019 doi: 10.1007/s11547-019-01026-8 (\*equally contributed first authors).
- Gravina LG, Mancini A, Colapietro A, Delle Monache S, **Sferra R**, Vitale F, Cristiano L, Martellucci S, Marampon F, Mattei V, Beirinckx F, Pujuguet P, Saniere L, Lorenzon G, van der aaar E, Festuccia C. The small molecule ephrin receptor inhibitor, GLPG1790, reduces renewal capabilities of cancer stem cells showing anti-tumor efficacy on preclinical glioblastoma models. *Cancers* 2019,11,359. doi:10.3390/cancers11030359
- Di Emidio G, Santini SJ, D'Alessandro AM, Vetuschi A, **Sferra R**, Artini PG, Carta G, Falone S, Amicarelli F, Tatone C. SIRT1 participates in response to methylglyoxal-dependent glycativ stress in mouse oocytes and ovary. *BBA-Molecular basis of Disease*, 2019. doi:10.1016/j.bbadis.2019.02.011
- Vetuschi A, Pompili S, Gaudio E, Latella G, **Sferra R**. PPAR- $\gamma$  with its anti-inflammatory and antifibrotic action could be an effective



therapeutic target in IBD. *Eur Rev Med Pharmacol Sci* 22 (24): 8839-8848, 2018. doi: 10.26355/eurrev\_201812\_16652.

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Epidermal growth factor-like domain multiple 7 (EGFL7): expression and possible effect on biliary epithelium growth in cholangiocarcinoma. *Eur J Histochem*. 2018 Nov 30;62(4). doi:10.4081/ejh.2018.2971. PMID:30504933.
- **Sferra R**, Pompili S, Ventura L, Dubuquoy C, Specca S, Gaudio E, Latella G, Vetuschì A. Interaction between Sphingosine kinase/Sphingosine 1 phosphate and Transforming Growth Factor- $\beta$ /Smads pathways in experimental intestinal fibrosis: an in vivo immunohistochemical study. *Eur J Histochem*. 31;62 (3) 2018. Doi 10.4081/ejh2018.2956
- Vetuschì A, Pompili S, Gallone A, D'Alfonso A, Carbone AG, Carta G, Festuccia C, Gaudio E, Colapietro A, **Sferra R**.  
Immunolocalization of Advanced Glycation End Products, Mitogen Activated Protein Kinases and Transforming Growth Factor- $\beta$ /Smads in Pelvic Organ prolapse. *J Histochem & Cytochem*. May 2018. doi:10.1369/0022155418772798.
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Design of a Classification Strategy for Light Microscopy Images of the Human Liver. *Image Analysis and Processing* 2017. Doi: org/10.1007/978-3-319-68560-1\_56
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The possible prognostic role of histone deacetylase and transforming growth factor  $\beta$ /Smad signaling in high grade gliomas treated by radio-chemotherapy: a preliminary immunohistochemical study. *Eur J Histochem* 2017, 61(2): 69-105. doi: 10.4081/ejh.2017.2732

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HDAC4 and HDAC6 sustain DNA double strand break repair and stem-like phenotype by promoting radioresistance in glioblastoma cells. *Cancer Lett*. 2017 Jul 1;397:1-11. doi:10.1016/j.canlet.2017.03.028.

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Role of glycogen synthase kinase-3 $\beta$  and PPAR- $\gamma$  on epithelial-to-mesenchymal transition in DSS-induced colorectal fibrosis. *PLoS One*.2017 Feb 16;12(2):e0171093.doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0171093. (\*equally contributed first author)

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Pannarale L, Oliviero F, Carpino G, Alpini G, Onori P, Gaudio E. Vasopressin regulates the growth of the biliary epithelium in polycystic liver disease. *Lab Invest*, 2016, 6(11):1147-1155. Doi: 10.1038/labinvest.2016.93.

- Vetuschi A, D'Alfonso A, **Sferra R**, Zanelli D, Pompili S, Patacchiola F, Gaudio E, Carta G. Changes in muscularis propria of anterior vaginal wall in women with pelvic organ prolapse. *Eur J Histochem*. 2016 Feb 16;60(1):2604. doi: 10.4081/ejh.2016.2604.
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L'AQUILA, MARCH 1, 2021