

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ferdinando Di Cunto

Born in Forchia (BN), Italy on 20-12-1969

EDUCATION AND POSITIONS

- 1988: Classic highschool degree, obtained at the Liceo Classico Pietro Giannone, Benevento (BN), with the score of 60/60
- 1990: visiting student, Department of Pediatrics, Children's Hospital, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, USA.
- 1991 and 1992: visiting student, Department of Pathology, Yale University, Connecticut, USA.
- 1993: visiting student, Cutaneous Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
- 1994: Degree in Medicine e Surgery, Medical School of the University of Torino with the score of 110/110 and honor.
- 1994/1996: Resident, Department of Neurosciences, University of Torino.
- 1996/1997: research fellow, Cutaneous Biology Research Center, Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, USA.
- 1999 Researcher, Department of Genetics, Biology and Biochemistry, University of Torino.
- 2001: Ph.D. in "human biology, molecular and cellular basis ", Department of Genetics, Biology and Biochemistry, University of Torino.
- 2005: Associate Professor of Molecular Biology, Department of Genetics, Biology and Biochemistry, University of Torino.
- Since 2011: Full Professor of Molecular Biology, Department of Genetics, Biology and Biochemistry, University of Torino.
- Since Jan. 2017: Group Leader, Neuroscience Institute Cavalieri Ottolenghi, Orbassano, Torino.

SCIENTIFIC PROFILE

Ferdinando Di Cunto is Professor of Molecular Biology at the University of Torino. He is member of the Italian Society of Biophysics and Molecular Biology (SIBBM), of the Italian Society of Neuroscience (SINS), of the Italian Society of Biochemistry (SIB), of the Italian Society of Bioinformatics (BITS), and of the American Society of Cell Biology (ASCB). Since many years he has developed his research activity in both the experimental and computational biology fields. In the first field, he has been mainly studying the role of cytoskeletal control pathways in the proliferation and in the differentiation of mammalian neuronal precursors, with a specific focus on the involvement of these mechanisms in microcephaly. In the second field, he has concentrated on the development of computational methods for integrative genomics and systems biology. His research activity has been supported by MURST/MIUR, Telethon Foundation, University of Torino, San Paolo Bank Foundation, Piedmont Region, Fondation Jérôme Lejeune, Italian Ministry of Health, Cavalieri Ottolenghi Foundation and lately by Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC). FDC serves as peer reviewer for several prestigious scientific Journals and is Associate Editor of PLoS-ONE.

BIBLIOMETRIC DATA

Ferdinando Di Cunto is scientifically active since 19 years and has authored 58 articles published on peer reviewed international journals. According to Google Scholar, these publications have received a total of 2787 citations, with an H-index of 24, an HC-index of 18 and an average number of citations per year of 132.

According to the 2014 Journal of Citation Reports (Thomson Reuters), the total impact factor (IF) of these publications is 342, and the average IF is 5.89

GRANTS AND AWARDS

2017, Fondation Jerome Lèjeune (Paris), two years grant. Title: Identification and initial validation of new possible treatments for intellectual disability in Down syndrome through drug repositioning. Amount: 40000 €

2016, International Foundation for CDKL5 research, one year grant. Title: Exploiting computational biology for target identification and drug repositioning in CDKL5 disorder. Amount: 30000 €

2015, AIRC, regular grant. Title: Validation of Citron kinase as a therapeutic target for medulloblastoma. Amount: 322000 €.

2013, Telethon Foundation, multicentric grant. Title: Relevance of the axonal SMN protein (a-SMN) for spinal muscular atrophy: novel cell models, transgenic mice and therapeutic approaches. Amount 130000 €.

2013, CNR, Epigen flagship project, three years Title: Disruption of circadian rhythms and epigenetic modifications in *D. melanogaster*. Amount: 83000 €.

2012, Telethon Foundation, regular grant. Title: Identification of therapeutic targets in primary microcephaly through the analysis of the CIT-K/ASPM pathway. 270000 €

2012, Fondation Jerome Lèjeune (Paris). Functional analysis of the DSCR gene TTC3 in neuronal differentiation and in a Down syndrome mouse model. Amount: 45000 €.

2011, ARISLA. Title: Molecular characterization of TDP-43 function in vivo and the mechanisms that lead to motoneuron disease in *Drosophila* models of ALS. Amount: 25000 €.

2011, Italian Ministry of Health. Title: Motor neuron death in Spinal Muscular Atrophy (SMA) : new animal models and innovative therapeutic strategies. Amount: 105000 €

2011, San Paolo Bank Foundation. Title: Role of the excitatory/inhibitory balance in long-term memory storage. Amount: 40000 €.

2009, San Paolo Bank Foundation, Neuroscience call. Title: Bioinformatic and experimental dissection and modeling of the molecular events underlying dendritic spine biogenesis and remodelling. 180000 €.

2009, Cavalieri Ottolenghi foundation. Title: Implementation of a two-photon microscopy setup for the dynamic analysis of cells and subcellular structures. Amount: EURO 100000 €.

2008, MIUR, PRIN 2008. Title: Computational and experimental identification of functional Citron kinase partners involved in cytokinesis. Amount: 57000 €.

2006, MIUR, PRIN 2006. Title: Identification of new cytokinesis genes by bioinformatic approaches and experimental validation in mammalian cells. Amount: 55700 €.

2009, Piedmont Region, Technological Platforms. Title: DRUIDI project. Amount 100000 €.

2007, Piedmont Region, Converging Technologies. Title: Biother project. Amount 100000 €.

2006, MIUR, PRIN 2006. Title: Identification of new cytokinesis genes by bioinformatic approaches and experimental validation in mammalian cells. Amount: 55700 €.

2005, Piedmont Region, CIPE 2005. Bioinformatic identification of new molecules involved in the pathogenesis of Alzheimer's disease and validation in neuronal cultures. e loro validazione in colture neuronali. Amount 180000 €.

2005, Fondation Jerome Lèjeune (Paris). Title: Characterization of the DCR-encoded protein TTC3 and of its interaction with Citron proteins. Amount: 50000 €.

2003, MIUR, PRIN 2003. Title: In vitro and in vivo analysis of Rho-GTPase effector Citron Kinase in mammalian cytokinesis. Amount: 71500 €.

2002, Telethon Foundation, regular grant. Title: Molecular analysis of the citron kinase pathway in human microcephalies and in experimental models. Amount: 160000 €.

2002, Fondation Jerome Lejeune (Paris). Title: Generation and analysis of new genetically modified mouse models of abnormal cortical function by targeting of the CIT-K and MRCKa transcription units. Amount: 40000 €.

2000, Italian Society of Biophysics and Molecular Biology (SIBBM), Best paper of the year award. Amount : 1000 €.

1999, Telethon Foundation, startup grant. Title: Molecular analysis of Crik, a new rho/rac interacting ser/thr kinase, in experimental models and human diseases. Amount: 52000 €.

TEACHING PROFILE

Ferdinando Di Cunto is teacher of Molecular Biology and of Computational Biology at the School of Medicine and at the Schools of Biotechnology of the University of Torino. From 2000 to 2007 he has coordinated the Master course of Bioinformatics of the University of Torino. Since october 2015 he is President of the Bachelor Course in Biotechnology of the University of Torino. He has supervised in laboratory activities tens of undergraduate students and has supervised the training of 15 PhD students.

PUBLICATIONS

1. Bianchi FT, Tocco C, Pallavicini G, Liu Y, Verni F, Merigliano C, Bonaccorsi S, El-Assawy N, Priano L, Gai M, Berto GE, Chiotto AM, Sgro F, Caramello A, Tasca L, Ala U, Neri F, Oliviero S, Mauro A, Geley S, Gatti M, Di Cunto F. 2017. Citron Kinase Deficiency Leads to Chromosomal Instability and TP53-Sensitive Microcephaly. *Cell Rep* 18:1674-1686.
2. Bosia C, Sgro F, Conti L, Baldassi C, Brusa D, Cavallo F, Di Cunto F, Turco E, Pagnani A, Zecchina R. 2017. RNAs competing for microRNAs mutually influence their fluctuations in a highly non-linear microRNA-dependent manner in single cells. *Genome Biol* 18:37.

3. Gai M, Di Cunto F. 2017. Citron kinase in spindle orientation and primary microcephaly. *Cell Cycle* 16:245-246.
4. Gai M, Bianchi FT, Vagnoni C, Verni F, Bonaccorsi S, Pasquero S, Berto GE, Sgro F, Chiotto AM, Annaratone L, Sapino A, Bergo A, Landsberger N, Bond J, Huttner WB, Di Cunto F. 2016. ASPM and CITK regulate spindle orientation by affecting the dynamics of astral microtubules. *EMBO Rep* 17:1396-1409.
5. El Ghouzzi V, Bianchi FT, Molineris I, Mounce BC, Berto GE, Rak M, Lebon S, Aubry L, Tocco C, Gai M, Chiotto AM, Sgro F, Pallavicini G, Simon-Loriere E, Passemard S, Vignuzzi M, Gressens P, Di Cunto F. 2016. ZIKA virus elicits P53 activation and genotoxic stress in human neural progenitors similar to mutations involved in severe forms of genetic microcephaly. *Cell Death Dis* 7:e2440.
6. Harding BN, Moccia A, Drunat S, Soukarieh O, Tubeuf H, Chitty LS, Verloes A, Gressens P, El Ghouzzi V, Joriot S, Di Cunto F, Martins A, Passemard S, Bielas SL. 2016. Mutations in Citron Kinase Cause Recessive Microlissencephaly with Multinucleated Neurons. *Am J Hum Genet* 99:511-520.
7. Sgrò F, Bianchi FT, Falcone M, Pallavicini G, Gai M, Chiotto AM, Berto GE, Turco E, Chang YJ, Huttner WB, Di Cunto F. Tissue-specific control of midbody microtubule stability by Citron kinase through modulation of TUBB3 phosphorylation. *Cell Death Differ.* 2015 Nov 20.
8. Bergo A, Strollo M, Gai M, Barbiero I, Stefanelli G, Sertic S, Cobolli Gigli C, Di Cunto F, Kilstrup-Nielsen C, Landsberger N. (2015). Methyl-CpG binding protein 2 (MeCP2) localizes at the centrosome and is required for proper mitotic spindle organization. *J Biol Chem* 290:3223-3237.
9. Berto, G. E., Iobbi, C., Camera, P., Scarpa, E., Iampietro, C., Bianchi, F., Gai, M., Sgrò, F., Cristofani, F., Gärtner, A., Dotti, C. G., and Di Cunto, F. (2014). The DCR protein TTC3 affects differentiation and Golgi compactness in neurons through specific actin-regulating pathways. *PLoS One* 9:e93721.
10. Repetto, D., Camera, P., Melani, R., Morello, N., Russo, I., Calcagno, E., Tomasoni, R., Bianchi, F., Berto, G., Giustetto, M., Berardi, N., Pizzorusso, T., Matteoli, M., Di Stefano, P., Missler, M., Turco, E., Di Cunto, F., and Defilippi, P. (2014). p140Cap regulates memory and synaptic plasticity through Src- and CitN-mediated actin reorganization. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 34(4):1542-53.
11. Di Gregorio, E., Bianchi, F. T., Schiavi, A., Chiotto, A. M., Rolando, M., Verdun di Cantogno, L., Grosso, E., Cavalieri, S., Calcia, A., Lacerenza, D., Zuffardi, O., Retta, S. F., Stevanin, G., Marelli, C., Durr, A., Forlani, S., Chelly, J., Montarolo, F., Tempia, F., Beggs, H. E., Reed, R., Squadrone, S., Abete, M. C., Brussino, A., Ventura, N., Di Cunto, F., and Brusco, A. (2013). A de novo X;8 translocation creates a PTK2-THOC2 gene fusion with THOC2 expression knockdown in a patient with psychomotor retardation and congenital cerebellar hypoplasia. *J Med Genet* 50, 543-551.
12. Fagoonee, S., Bearzi, C., Di Cunto, F., Clohessy, J. G., Rizzi, R., Reschke, M., Tolosano, E., Provero, P., Pandolfi, P. P., Silengo, L., and Altruda, F. (2013). The RNA Binding Protein ESRP1 Fine-Tunes the Expression of Pluripotency-Related Factors in Mouse Embryonic Stem Cells. *PLoS ONE* 8, e72300.
13. Molineris, I., Ala, U., Provero, P., and Di Cunto, F. (2013). Drug repositioning for orphan genetic diseases through Conserved Anticoexpressed Gene Clusters (CAGCs). *BMC Bioinformatics* 14, 288.

14. Pavan, S., Musiani, D., Torchiario, E., Migliardi, G., Gai, M., Di Cunto, F., Erriquez, J., Olivero, M., and Di Renzo, M. F. (2013). HSP27 is required for invasion and metastasis triggered by hepatocyte growth factor. *Int J Cancer*.
15. Piro, R. M., Molineris, I., Di Cunto, F., Eils, R., and Konig, R. (2013). Disease-gene discovery by integration of 3D gene expression and transcription factor binding affinities. *Bioinformatics* 29, 468-475.
16. Spaccarotella, E., Pellegrino, E., Ferracin, M., Ferreri, C., Cuccuru, G., Liu, C., Iqbal, J., Cantarella, D., Taulli, R., Provero, P., Di Cunto, F., Medico, E., Negrini, M., Chan, W. C., Inghirami, G., and Piva, R. (2013). STAT3-mediated activation of microRNA cluster 17~92 promotes proliferation and survival of ALK positive anaplastic large cell lymphoma. *Haematologica*.
17. Ugolotti, R., Mesejo, P., Zongaro, S., Bardoni, B., Berto, G., Bianchi, F., Molineris, I., Giacobini, M., Cagnoni, S., and Di Cunto, F. (2013). Visual Search of Neuropil-Enriched RNAs from Brain In Situ Hybridization Data through the Image Analysis Pipeline Hippo-ATESC. *PLoS ONE* 8, e74481.
18. Piro, R. M., and Di Cunto, F. (2012a). Computational approaches to disease-gene prediction: rationale, classification and successes. *Febs J* 279, 678-696.
19. Piro, R. M., Molineris, I., Ala, U., and Di Cunto, F. (2012b). Evaluation of candidate genes from orphan FEB and GEFS+ loci by analysis of human brain gene expression atlases. *PLoS ONE* 6, e23149.
20. Bosio, Y., Berto, G., Camera, P., Bianchi, F., Ambrogio, C., Claus, P., and Di Cunto, F. (2012). PPP4R2 regulates neuronal cell differentiation and survival, functionally cooperating with SMN. *Eur J Cell Biol* 91, 662-674.
21. Lembo, A., Di Cunto, F., and Provero, P. (2012). Shortening of 3'UTRs correlates with poor prognosis in breast and lung cancer. *PLoS ONE* 7, e31129.
22. Piro RM, Di Cunto F. 2012. Computational approaches to disease gene prediction: rationale, classification and successes. *Febs J*.
23. Tay Y, Kats L, Salmena L, Weiss D, Tan SM, Ala U, Karreth F, Poliseno L, Provero P, Di Cunto F, Lieberman J, Rigoutsos I, Pandolfi PP. 2011. Coding-Independent Regulation of the Tumor Suppressor PTEN by Competing Endogenous mRNAs. *Cell* 147:344-357.
24. Bianchi FT, Camera P, Ala U, Imperiale D, Migheli A, Boda E, Tempia F, Berto G, Bosio Y, Oddo S, LaFerla FM, Taraglio S, Dotti CG, Di Cunto F. 2011. The collagen chaperone HSP47 is a new interactor of APP that affects the levels of extracellular beta-amyloid peptides. *PLoS One* 6:e22370.
25. Gai M, Camera P, Dema A, Bianchi F, Berto G, Scarpa E, Germena G, Di Cunto F. 2011. Citron kinase controls abscission through RhoA and Anillin. *Mol Biol Cell*.
26. Piro R, Molineris I, Ala U, Di Cunto F. 2011. Evaluation of candidate genes from orphan FEB and GEFS+ loci by analysis of human brain gene expression atlases.
27. Piro RM, Ala U, Molineris I, Grassi E, Bracco C, Perego GP, Provero P, Di Cunto F. 2011. An atlas of tissue-specific conserved coexpression for functional annotation and disease gene prediction. *Eur J Hum Genet*.

28. Damasco, C., Lembo, A., Somma, M. P., Gatti, M., Di Cunto, F., and Provero, P. (2011). A Signature Inferred from *Drosophila* Mitotic Genes Predicts Survival of Breast Cancer Patients. *PLoS ONE* 6, e14737.
29. Molineris, I., Grassi, E., Ala, U., Di Cunto, F., and Provero, P. (2011). Evolution of promoter affinity for transcription factors in the human lineage. *Mol Biol Evol*.
30. Amoresano, A., Di Costanzo, A., Leo, G., Di Cunto, F., La Mantia, G., Guerrini, L., and Calabro, V. (2010). Identification of DeltaNp63alpha protein interactions by mass spectrometry. *J Proteome Res* 9, 2042-2048.
31. Forlani, G., Giarda, E., Ala, U., Di Cunto, F., Salani, M., Tupler, R., Kilstrup-Nielsen, C., and Landsberger, N. (2010). The MeCP2/YY1 interaction regulates ANT1 expression at 4q35: novel hints for Rett syndrome pathogenesis. *Hum Mol Genet* 19, 3114-3123.
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33. Piro, R. M., Molineris, I., Ala, U., Provero, P., and Di Cunto, F. (2010). Candidate gene prioritization based on spatially mapped gene expression: an application to XLMR. *Bioinformatics* 26, i618-624.
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35. Muzzi, P., Camera, P., Di Cunto, F., and Vercelli, A. (2009). Deletion of the citron kinase gene selectively affects the number and distribution of interneurons in barrelfield cortex. *J Comp Neurol* 513, 249-264.
36. Schiavone, D., Dewilde, S., Vallania, F., Turkson, J., Di Cunto, F., and Poli, V. (2009). The RhoU/Wrch1 Rho GTPase gene is a common transcriptional target of both the gp130/STAT3 and Wnt-1 pathways. *Biochem J* 421, 283-292.
37. Ala, U., Piro, R. M., Grassi, E., Damasco, C., Silengo, L., Oti, M., Provero, P., and Di Cunto, F. (2008). Prediction of human disease genes by human-mouse conserved coexpression analysis. *PLoS Comput Biol* 4, e1000043.
38. Somma, M. P., Ceprani, F., Bucciarelli, E., Naim, V., De Arcangelis, V., Piergentili, R., Palena, A., Ciapponi, L., Giansanti, M. G., Pellacani, C., et al. (2008). Identification of *Drosophila* Mitotic Genes by Combining Co-Expression Analysis and RNA Interference. *PLoS Genetics* 4, e1000126.
39. Camera, P., Schubert, V., Pellegrino, M., Berto, G., Vercelli, A., Muzzi, P., Hirsch, E., Altruda, F., Dotti, C. G., and Di Cunto, F. (2008). The RhoA-associated protein Citron-N controls dendritic spine maintenance by interacting with spine-associated Golgi compartments. *EMBO Rep* 9, 384-392.
40. Meccariello, R., Berruti, G., Chianese, R., De Santis, R., Di Cunto, F., Scarpa, D., Cobellis, G., Zucchetti, I., Pierantoni, R., Altruda, F., and Fasano, S. (2008). Structure of msj-1 gene in mice and humans: A possible role in the regulation of male reproduction. *Gen Comp Endocrinol* 156, 91-103.

41. Miozzi, L., Piro, R. M., Rosa, F., Ala, U., Silengo, L., Di Cunto, F., and Provero, P. (2008). Functional Annotation and Identification of Candidate Disease Genes by Computational Analysis of Normal Tissue Gene Expression Data. *PLoS ONE* 3, e2439.
42. Berto, G., Camera, P., Fusco, C., Imarisio, S., Ambrogio, C., Chiarle, R., Silengo, L., and Di Cunto, F. (2007). The Down syndrome critical region protein TTC3 inhibits neuronal differentiation via RhoA and Citron kinase. *J Cell Sci* 120, 1859-1867.
43. Fagoonee S, Di Cunto F, Voizzi D, Volinia S, Pellegrino M, Gasparini P, Silengo L, Altruda F, Tolosano E. (2006) Microarray and large-scale in silico--based identification of genes functionally related to Haptoglobin and/or Hemopexin. *DNA Cell Biol.* 25, 323-30.
44. Olivero M, Ruggiero T, Saviozzi S, Rasola A, Coltella N, Crispi S, Di Cunto F, Calogero R, Di Renzo MF. (2006) Genes regulated by hepatocyte growth factor as targets to sensitize ovarian cancer cells to cisplatin. *Mol Cancer Ther.* 5,1126-35.
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55. Di Cunto, F., Topley, G., Calautti, E., Hsiao, J., Ong, L., Seth, P. K. and Dotto, G. P. (1998) Inhibitory function of p21Cip1/WAF1 in differentiation of primary mouse keratinocytes independent of cell cycle control. *Science* 280, 1069-1072, 1998.
56. Di Cunto, F., Calautti, E., Hsiao, J., Ong, L., Topley, G., Turco, E. and Dotto, G. P. (1998) Citron rho-interacting kinase, a novel tissue-specific ser/thr kinase encompassing the Rho-Rac-binding protein Citron. *J Biol Chem* 273, 29706-29711.
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Torino 24/07/2017



Ferdinando Di Cunto