

# CURRICULUM VITAE (SHORT) PROF. PIERO PORTINCASA



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Pubmed: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/?term=portincasa+p>

Words 1171

Characters (spaces included) 8654

v. 13-03-19

**Mission: "To encourage excellent, honest, highly innovative and sound clinical science through collaborations and mobility of young investigators across Europe and worldwide"**

**Research interest keywords:** lipid metabolism, cholelithiasis, liver steatosis, enterohepatic circulation, bile acid metabolism, gastrointestinal motility, breath tests, familial mediterranean fever; metabolic disorders

## Academic appointments and scientific achievements

- Professor of Internal Medicine
- Head, Division of Internal Medicine Clinica Medica "A. Murri" (2016-), Department of Biomedical Sciences and Human Oncology, Policlinico Regional Hospital, University of Bari Medical School, Bari, Italy
- Director, Regional referral center for Familial Mediterranean Fever (FMF) (2017-)
- Director 4-yr Residency programme in Geriatrics (2016-)
- Councillor of PhD program SCIENZE DEL SUOLO E DEGLI ALIMENTI (ciclo XXX-XXXIV) (2013-2018)
- Councillor of PhD program Sanità pubblica, Medicina clinica, e Oncologia (ciclo XXXV) (2019)
- MD Degree (University of Bari, Italy, 1981)
- Internist (University of Bari, Italy, 1986)
- PhD (Utrecht University, Netherlands, 1995)
- Past-director Residency programme in Internal Medicine I (2018-12)
- Visiting Honorary Professor ("I. Hatieganu" University, Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2009-)
- Laurea H. Causa "C. Davila" University (Bucharest, Romania, 2013)
- Laurea H. Causa "I. Hatieganu" University (Cluj-Napoca, Romania, 2013)
- Laurea H. Causa Targu-Mures University (Romania, 2018)
- President European Society Clinical Investigation (ESCI) (2012-15)
- Past-President ESCI (2015-to date)
- President ESCI Foundation (2015-to date)
- President-elect ESCI Foundation (2019-)
- Member of Apulian Academy of Sciences
- National councillor (2013-17), Secretary (2015-17) Italian Society Internal Medicine (SIMI)
- President Apulian Section Italian Society Study of Artherosclerosis (SISA) (2016-)
- Active in international relations worldwide and member of several International Scientific Societies, and Journal Editorial Boards, Honorary Member of the Romanian Society Gastroenterology and Hepatology (2012-), President Società Italiana Studio Aterosclerosi (Sez. Appulo-Lucana) (2016).
- Mentor and panelist in Ph.D. programmes shared with the University of Utrecht (Netherlands), Coimbra and Porto (Portugal), Saint Louis (USA), Pamplona (Spain).

## Education - Training

- In 1985-87: Research Fellow with a Grant from the Italian Ministry of University, he studied aspects of hepato-biliary pathophysiology with Prof. R.H. Dowling at Guy's Hospital, London, UK. In 1991 he settled as Assistant Professor at the University of Bari Medical School and continued to both basic and clinical studies on gastrointestinal motility and lipid homeostasis. In 1993-95, as Internist from the University of Bari, he was Research Fellow and Staff Member with Prof. G.P. vanBerge-Henegouwen and Dr. K.J. van Erpecum at the Academic Hospital at the University in Utrecht, Netherlands, where he completed a Ph.D. Program. In 2001: Associate Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Bari. In 2005: was supported by a Fellowship from the Italian National Centre for Research (CNR) for a stage with Dr. D.Q.-H. Wang and Prof. J.T. LaMont at Harvard Medical School, Beth Israel Deaconess Medical Center, Boston, USA where he could study further aspects linked with hepatobiliary lipidology, animal and human models of cholesterol cholelithiasis and gastrointestinal motility and enterohepatic circulation, together with methodologica

aspects of research and publishing. In 2010: Full Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Bologna, Italy, following a national competition and, since 2015, he is Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Bari, Italy. In 2013 obtained the Laurea H. Causa at the Medical Schools “C. Davila”, Bucharest and Cluj-Napoca, Romania. In 2015 became Full Professor of Internal Medicine at the University of Bari Medical School.

### **Research Interests**

- Invited chairman and speaker at international and national meetings.
- Remarkable and consistent scientific output testified by translational studies heavily dipping into clinical medicine and aspects of metabolic hepato-biliary and gastrointestinal pathophysiology.
- Recipient of the JPI HDHL DEDIPAC Knowledge Hub on Determinants of Diet and Physical Activity” (DEDIPAC KH). Ministry of University (IT) INTEgrated Research on Eating and Physical activity Interventions and Drivers” (INTREPID), 2014.
- Recipient of the Foie Gras (Horizon 2020 - Marie Curie Early Research Training) and mtFoie Gras (RISE) (Horizon 2020) grants.
- First demonstration of a potent CCK- motilin-mediated prokinetic effect of cholestyramine alone on human gallbladder and potential use of cholestyramine in the prevention/cure of cholesterol cholelithiasis [1-5]
- First demonstration of anhydrous cholesterol crystal growing in human bile [6] and exact pathophysiological studies by quantitative polarizing light microscopy on of biliary crystals and gallstones [7-9]
- ApoE4 genotype influences gallstone recurrence in humans [10, 11]
- First demonstration that ezetimibe prevents biliary cholesterol crystallization in the animal model and gallstone patients via the specific inhibition of the intestinal NPC1L1 [12]
- Author of the largest studies on impaired gallbladder and gastrointestinal motility in gallstone patients [13, 14], obese children [15], obese newborns [16], irritable bowel syndrome [17]
- Genetic and clinical studies on cholestatic liver diseases [18-23] and liver steatosis in animal models and humans
- Original translational studies on aquaporin (AQP)-mediated water transport in the intestine and liver [24-49] Application of novel breath tests in Internal Medicine for the study of gastrointestinal and liver functions [50-53]
- Key role of mitochondrial function in physical exercise [54] and liver diseases [35, 52, 55-60]
- Gastrointestinal motility and autonomic neuropathy are impaired in patients with colonic inertia [61, 62]
- First demonstration in humans that statins increase expression of the aquaporin channel AQP2 in urines, as marker of increased apical expression of AQP2 in the kidney collecting duct. Potential treatment of X-linked nephrogenic diabetes insipidus [63, 64].
- Isolation of a cluster of families/patients with Familial Mediterranean Fever in Apulia and Basilicata, with divulgative papers and review of disease characteristics and therapeutic options [65-71]
- Tribute to the Nobel Laureate in Chemistry 2003 Peter Agre, discoverer of the water transporters AQPs [28, 46]
- Contribution to epidemiological Italian studies on the fate of atrial fibrillation – The ARAPACIS study [72]
- Contribution to a large international study on genetic variants of NAV1.5 (channelopathies) in irritable bowel syndrome [73-75].

### **Teaching**

- Undergraduate programme in Medicine (Italian/English: History of Medicine, Medical Semeiology, EBM, Principles Internal Med, Internal Medicine, Geriatrics)
- Postgraduate medical programs of the Bari University (Internal Medicine, Geriatrics, other specialties)
- Erasmus+ Delegate (School of Medicine 2000 and University of Bari -2015) for the mobility of undergraduate and postgraduate students
- Teaching coordinator 6-yr Degree Bari English Medical Curriculum (BEMC) since 2012
- Tutor-cotutor of Degree Theses and PhD Theses in Medicine and Biology in Bari and abroad
- Teacher for different Postgraduate Courses on Methodology of Research, Ultrasonography, Clinical Medicine

### **Clinical responsibilities**

- Always involved in clinical activities with in- outpatients at the Academic regional hospital of the University of Bari Medical School. While abroad: translational research and clinical medicine.
- Topics of interests: dyslipidemia, liver steatosis, hepatobiliary disorders, metabolic disorders, gallstone disease, rare diseases (Familial Mediterranean fever, food intolerances, gastrointestinal motility and application of standard and novel breath tests in gastrointestinal and liver diseases).
- Development of several diagnostic tests, novel facilities and clinical protocols at national, international level, for the relief of large populations in the region Apulia and outside.
- Involvement in several Clinical research protocols, organization of activities involving staff, nurses, residents, PhD graduate, students and to monitor foreign visitors

### **Scientific output – Bibliographic indices (13-03-19)**

**Author of >350 peer-reviewed articles**

**Editor of 3 books**

**Editor of 5 Journal issues**

**Author > 40 book chapters;**

**Total IF >1448**

**Best cited paper: Lancet 368; 230-39, 2006 (n=593 times)**

**Scopus total citations 7407, h-index 43**

**N. articles 10 yrs (2008-18) 170; N. Citations 15yrs (2003-18) 6828; H-I 15yrs (2003-18): 40**

**Google Scholar total citations 11986, h-index 57**

**WOS Total publications 524, total citations 6521, h-index 40**

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**Bari 13-03-19**