

# CURRICULUM VITAE

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Born in Milano 28/01/1964

**ACADEMIC QUALIFICATIONS :**

from 2007 : Professore Associato in Genetica.  
1997 : Ricercatore in Genetica  
1992: Specialization in Biotechnology (PhD equivalent)  
1988: Degree in Biological Sciences, Universita' di Milano.

**RESEARCH ACTIVITY :**

2000 to present: at Dipartimento di Biotecnologie e Bioscienze, Universita' di Milano-Bicocca.  
1989-2000: at Dipartimento di Genetica e di Biologia dei Microrganismi, Universita' di Milano.  
1992-1993: National Institute for Medical Research, London (EMBO fellowship program), Prof. Frank Grosveld laboratory, to work on the molecular mechanisms controlling globins genes expression.

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

Mechanisms controlling cell specification and differentiation in hematopoiesis.  
Molecular control of erythropoiesis:  
-gene regulation in hematopoiesis  
-mechanisms of Hereditary Persistence of Fetal Hemoglobin: research on globin gene activity and function (mRNA translation, inherited structural and regulatory defects, transcriptional control).  
-transcriptional control of the expression of genes encoding erythroid transcription factors, in particular GATA 1 (and its transcriptional and post-transcriptional regulation), Sox6 and NR2F2.  
-study of the transcriptional regulation of the "stem cell" gene c-Kit  
-identification and functional analysis of genes differentially expressed during erythropoiesis  
-signal transduction mechanisms controlling cell commitment and differentiation in normal and pathological (leukemias, myelodysplastic syndromes) erythropoiesis  
-development of high-content high throughput assays to identify drugs reactivating fetal globins genes.

**EXPERIMENTAL APPROACHES:**

In vitro molecular biology and biochemical assays, cell culture, transfections, lentiviral-mediated transduction, CRISPR/Cas9-mediated knockout and mouse models are employed in these studies.

## PUBLICATIONS

- Mantovani R., Malgaretti N., Nicolis S., **Ronchi A.**, Giglioni B. and Ottolenghi S. "The effect of HPFH mutations in the human  $\gamma$ -globin promoter on binding of ubiquitous and erythroid specific nuclear factors." *Nucleic Acids Res.* 16, 7783-7797 (1988).
- Nicolis S., **Ronchi A.**, Malgaretti N., Mantovani R., Giglioni B. and Ottolenghi S. "Increased erythroid-specific expression of a mutated HPFH  $\gamma$ -globin promoter requires the erythroid factor NFE1." *Nucleic Acids Res.* 17, 5509-5516 (1989).
- Giglioni B., Comi P., **Ronchi A.**, Mantovani R. and Ottolenghi S. "The same nuclear proteins bind the proximal CACCC box of the human  $\beta$ -globin promoter and a similar sequence in the enhancer." *Biochemical and Biophysical Res Comm.* 164, 149-155 (1989).
- Ronchi A.**, Nicolis S., Santoro C. and Ottolenghi S. "Increased Sp1 binding mediates erythroid-specific overexpression of a mutated (HPFH)  $\gamma$ -globin promoter." *Nucleic Acids Res.* 17, 10231-10241 (1989).
- Crotta S., Nicolis S., **Ronchi A.**, Ottolenghi S., Ruzzi L., Shimada Y., Migliaccio A.R. and Migliaccio G. "Progressive inactivation of the expression of an erythroid transcriptional factor in GM- and G-CSF-dependent myeloid cell lines." *Nucleic Acids Res.* 18, 6863-6869 (1990).
- Nicolis S., Bertini C., **Ronchi A.**, Crotta S., Lanfranco L., Moroni M., Giglioni B. and Ottolenghi S. "An erythroid specific enhancer upstream to the gene encoding the cell-type specific transcription factor GATA-1." *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 19, 5285-5291 (1991).
- Dalyot N., Fibach E., **Ronchi A.**, Rachmiliewitz E., Ottolenghi S. and Oppenheim A. "Erythropoietin triggers a burst of GATA-1 in normal human erythroid cells differentiating in tissue culture." *Nucleic Acids Res.*, 21, 4031-4037 (1993).
- Trentesaux C., Ngo Nyoung M., Aries A., Morceau F., **Ronchi A.**, Ottolenghi S., Jardillier J.C., Jeannesson P. "Increased expression of GATA-1 and NFE-2 Erythroid transcription factors during Aclacinomycin-Mediated Differentiation of Human Erythroleukemic Cells." *Leukemia*, .7, 452-457 (1993).
- Migliaccio A.R., Jiang Y., Migliaccio G., Nicolis S., Crotta S., **Ronchi A.**, Ottolenghi S., Adamson J.W. "Transcriptional and post-transcriptional regulation of the expression of the Erythropoietin receptor (Epo-R) gene in human Epo-responsive cell-lines." *Blood*, 82, 3760-3769 (1993).
- Privitera E., Schirò R., Longoni D., **Ronchi A.**, Rambaldi A., Bernasconi S., Ottolenghi S., Masera G., Biondi A. "Constitutive expression of GATA-1, EpoR,  $\alpha$  and  $\gamma$  globin genes in myeloid clonogenic cells from Juvenile chronic myelocytic leukemia." *Blood*, 86, 323-328 (1995).
- Ronchi A.**, Bottardi S., Mazzucchelli C., Ottolenghi S. and C. Santoro. "Differential binding of the NFE3 and CP1/NFY transcription factors to the human  $\beta$  and epsilon globin CCAAT boxes". *J. Biol. Chem.* 270, 21934-21941 (1995).
- Ronchi A.**, Berry M., Raguz S., Yannoutsos N., Ottolenghi S., Grosveld F. and Niall Dillon. "Role of the duplicated CCAAT box region in the  $\gamma$ -globin gene regulation and Hereditary Persistence of Fetal Hemoglobin." *EMBO J.* 15, 143-149 (1996).
- Ronchi A.**, Bellorini M., Mongelli N. and Mantovani R. "CCAAT-box binding protein NFY (CBF, CP1) recognizes the minor groove and distorts DNA". *Nucleic Acids Res.* 23, 4565-4572 (1995).
- Bonsi L., Grossi A., Stippoli P., Tumietto., Tonelli R., Vannucchi L., **Ronchi A.**, Ottolenghi S., Avanzi G., Pegoraro L., Bagnara G.P. "An erythroid and megakaryocytic common precursor cell line (B1647) expressing both c-mlp and EpoR proliferates and modifies globin chain synthesis in response to MGDF but not to Erythropoietin". *British Journal of Hematology* 98, 549-559 (1997).
- Ronchi A.**, Cirò M., Basilico L., Cairns L., Corbella P., Ricciardi P., Ghysdael J., Ottolenghi S.

"Molecular heterogeneity of regulatory elements of the mouse GATA-1 gene". *Genes and Function* 1, 254-258 (1997).

Liberati C., **Ronchi A.**, Lievens P., Ottolenghi S., Mantovani R. "NF-Y organizes the  $\gamma$ -globin CCAAT boxes region." *J. Biol. Chem.* 273, 16880-16889 (1998).

Bolognese F, Wasner M., Dohna C.L., Gurtner A., **Ronchi A.**, Muller H., Manni I., Mossner J., Piaggio G., Mantovani R., Engeland K. "The cyclin B2 promoter depends on NF-Y, a trimer whose CCAAT-binding activity is cell-cycle regulated" *Oncogene* 18, 1845-1853 (1999).

Liberati C., Cera M.R., Secco P., Santoro C., Mantovani R., Ottolenghi S. and **Ronchi A.** "Cooperation and competition between the binding of COUP-TFII and NF-Y on human  $\epsilon$ - and  $\gamma$ -globin gene promoters" *J. Biol. Chem.*, 276, 41700-41709 (2001).

Cairns L., Cirò M., Minuzzo M., Morlé F., Starck J., Ottolenghi S. and **Ronchi A.** "Induction of globin mRNA expression by interleukin-3 in a Stem Cell Factor-dependent SV 40 T-antigen-immortalized multipotent hematopoietic cell line." *J. Cell. Physiology*, 195, 38-49 (2003).

Testa A., Lotti F., Cairns L., Ottolenghi S., Ferrari G. and **Ronchi A.** "Deletion of a negatively acting sequence in a chimeric gata-1 enhancer-Itr greatly increases retroviral-mediated erythroid expression." *J. Biol. Chem.*, 279, 10523-10531 (2004).

Collavin L., Gostissa M., Avolio F., Secco P., **Ronchi A.**, Santoro C., Del Sal G. "Modification of the erythroid transcription factor GATA-1 by SUMO-1". *PNAS*, 101:8870-5 (2004).

Catena R, Tiveron C, **Ronchi A**, Porta S, Ferri AL, Tatangelo L, Cavallaro M, Favaro R, Ottolenghi S, Reinbold R, Scholer H, Nicolis SK. "Conserved POU-binding DNA sites in the Sox2 upstream enhancer regulate gene expression in embryonic and neural stem cells." *J Biol Chem.* 279:41846-57 (2004).

Bosè F., Fugazza C., Casalgrandi M., Capelli A., Cunningham J.M., Zhao Q., Jane S., Ottolenghi S. and **Ronchi A.** "Functional interaction of Cp2 with Gata-1 in the regulation of erythroid promoters". *Molecular and Cellular Biology* 26:3942-54 (2006).

Cavallaro M, Mariani J, Lancini C, Latorre E, Caccia R, Gullo F, Valotta M, Debiassi S, Spinardi L, **Ronchi A**, Wanke E, Brunelli S, Favaro R, Ottolenghi S, Nicolis SK. "Impaired generation of mature neurons by neural stem cells from hypomorphic Sox2 mutants." *Development.* 135:541-57 (2008).

Zanoni I, Ostuni R, Capuano G, Collini M, Caccia M, **Ronchi A**, Rocchetti M, Mingozzi F, Foti M, Chirico G, Costa B, Zaza A, Ricciardi-Castagnoli P, Granucci F. CD14 regulates the dendritic cell life cycle after LPS exposure through NFAT activation. *Nature* 264-8 (2009).

Cantu' C., Grande V., Alborelli I., Cassinelli L., Cantù I., Colzani M.T., Ierardi R., Ronzoni L., Cappellini M.D., Ferrari G., Ottolenghi S., **Ronchi A** "A highly conserved Sox6 double binding site mediates Sox6 gene downregulation in erythroid cells" *Nucleic Acids Research* 39:486-501 (2011).

Cantù C, Ierardi R, Alborelli I, Fugazza C, Cassinelli L, Piconese S, Bosè F, Ottolenghi S, Ferrari G, Ronchi A. "Sox6 enhances erythroid differentiation in human erythroid progenitors" *Blood* 117:3669-79 (2011).

Cantù C, Bosè F, Bianchi P, Reali E, Colzani MT, Cantù I, Barbarani G, Ottolenghi S, Witke W, Spinardi L, **Ronchi A** Defective erythroid maturation in gelsolin mutant mice. *Haematologica* 97:980-8 (2012).

Mariani J, Favaro R, Lancini C, Vaccari G, Ferri AL, Bertolini J, Tonoli D, Latorre E, Caccia R, **Ronchi A**, Ottolenghi S, Miyagi S, Okuda A, Zappavigna V, Nicolis SK. Emx2 is a dose-dependent negative regulator of Sox2 telencephalic enhancers. *Nucleic Acids Res.* 40:6461-76 (2012).

Shimizu R, Hasegawa A, Ottolenghi S, **Ronchi A**, Yamamoto M. Verification of the in vivo activity of three distinct cis-acting elements within the Gata1 gene promoter-proximal enhancer in mice. *Genes Cells* 11:1032-41 (2013).

**Ronchi A**, Ottolenghi S. To respond or not to respond to hydroxyurea in thalassemia: a matter of stress adaptation? *Haematologica* 9:657-9 (2013).

Aspesi A, Pavesi E, Robotti E, Crescitelli R, Boria I, Avondo F, Moniz H, Da Costa L, Mohandas N, Roncaglia P, Ramenghi U, **Ronchi A**, Gustincich S, Merlin S, Marengo E, Ellis SR, Follenzi A, Santoro C, Dianzani I. Dissecting the transcriptional phenotype of ribosomal protein deficiency: implications for Diamond-Blackfan Anemia. *Gene* 545:282-9 (2014).

Durlak M, Fugazza C, Elangovan S, Marini MG, Marongiu MF, Moi P, Fraietta I, Cappella P, Barbarani G, Font-Monclus I, Mauri M, Ottolenghi S, Gasparri F, **Ronchi A**. A Novel High-Content Immunofluorescence Assay as a Tool to identify at the Single Cell Level  $\gamma$ -Globin Inducing Compounds. *PLoS One* 10(10):e0141083. (2015).

Barbarani G, **Ronchi A**, Ruoppolo M, Santorelli L, Steinfeld R, Elangovan S, Fugazza C, Caterino M. Unravelling pathways downstream Sox6 induction in K562 erythroid cells by proteomic analysis. *Sci Rep*. Oct 26;7(1):14088. PMID: 29074889 (2017).

Barbarani G, Fugazza C, Barabino SML, **Ronchi AE**. SOX6 blocks the proliferation of BCR-ABL1(+) and JAK2V617F(+) leukemic cells. *Sci Rep*. Mar 4;9(1):3388. PMID: 30833651 (2019).

Barbarani G, Fugazza C, Strouboulis J, **Ronchi AE**. The Pleiotropic Effects of GATA1 and KLF1 in Physiological Erythropoiesis and in Dyserythropoietic Disorders. *Front Physiol*. Feb 12;10:91. PMID: 30809156 (2019).

Fugazza C, Barbarani G, Elangovan S, Marini MG, Giolitto S, Font-Monclus I, Marongiu MF, Manunza L, Strouboulis J, Cantù C, Gasparri F, Barabino SML, Nakamura Y, Ottolenghi S, Moi P, **Ronchi AE**. The Coup-TFII orphan nuclear receptor is an activator of the  $\gamma$ -globin gene. *Haematologica*. 2020 Feb 27:haematol.2019.241224. doi: 10.3324/haematol.2019.241224. Online ahead of print.

Loffreda A, Nizzardo M, Arosio A, Ruepp MD, Calogero RA, Volinia S, Galasso M, Bendotti C, Ferrarese C, Lunetta C, Rizzuti M, **Ronchi AE**, Mühlemann O, Tremolizzo L, Corti S, Barabino SML. miR-129-5p: A key factor and therapeutic target in amyotrophic lateral sclerosis. *Prog Neurobiol*. Jul;190:101803. doi: 10.1016/j.pneurobio.2020.101803.. PMID: 32335272 Epub 2020 Apr 24.

Levone BR, Lenzken SC, Antonaci M, Maiser A, Rapp A, Conte F, Reber S, **Ronchi AE**, Mühlemann O, Leonhardt H, Cardoso MC, Ruepp MD, Barabino SLM. FUS-dependent liquid-liquid phase separation is an early event in double-strand break repair, Biorxiv doi: <https://doi.org/10.1101/798884>

Gloria Barbarani, Agata Łabedz and **Ronchi AE** Beta-Hemoglobinopathies: The Test Bench for Genome Editing-Based Therapeutic Strategies. *Frontiers in Genome Editing*. Manuscript accepted for publication

Gloria Barbarani, Agata Łabedz, Sarah Stucchi, Alessia Abbiati and **Ronchi AE**. Physiological and aberrant  $\gamma$ -globin transcription during development. *Frontiers in Cell and developmental biology*. Manuscript accepted for publication

**REVIEWER** for different international journals including: *Haematologica*, *Cancer Research*, *BBA*, *Cell Cycle*, *Frontiers*, *Stem cells and Development*, *Differentiation*, *Human Mutation*, *Journal of Translational Medicine*, *Hemasphere*, *Neoplasia*, *PLoS One*, *BMC Dev. Biology*, *IUBMBLife*.

**REVIEWER** of Italian and International grant and fellowships programs

**COORDINATOR** of the European Marie Curie projects:

- - HEM-ID: hematopoietic cell identity: genetic and epigenetic regulation in normal and malignant hematopoiesis (HEM-ID PITN-GA-2011-289611). 11 partners, from 7 countries. Duration: 1 November 2011 - 31 October 2015. Project budget: 3.269.702,05€

- -ARCH: age-related changes in hematopoiesis (ARCH H2020-MSCA-ITN-2018-813091). 15 Beneficiaries + 5 Partner organizations from 10 Countries. Starting date: June 1<sup>st</sup> 2019-ongoing. Project budget: 3,969,936.36€. <https://arch-project.eu>

Milano, 23 Marzo 2021

Autorizzo il trattamento dei miei dati personali ai sensi del regolamento (EU) 2016/679 in materia di protezione dei dati personali ai fini della procedura in oggetto.

In fede  
Antonella Ellena Ronchi

