UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DELL'AQUILA

DISCAB
Dipartimento di Scienze Cliniche Applicate e Biotecnologiche

CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION	Roberta Sferra Department of Applied Clinical and Biotecnological Sciences Via Vetoio – Coppito 2 – Building *Camillo De Meis* L'Aquila, 67100 Italy E-mail address: roberta.sferra@univaq.it

CURRENT POSITION	Associate Professor

EDUCATION OTHER QUALIFICATIONS	• **2006:** PhD in "Experimental and Clinical Hepatology" with distinction, "Sapienza" University of Rome, Italy. • **1998:** Specialization in Oncology with distinction, State University of L'Aquila, Italy. • **1993:** Degree in Medicine and Surgery with distinction, State University of L'Aquila, Italy.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	• **2021** - **Suitable** for the role of Full Professor sector 05/H1 – BIO/16 (Human Anatomy). • **2019** - Associate Professor sector 05/H1 – BIO/16 (Human Anatomy). • **2005** - **2019**: Assistant Professor - Disciplinary sector BIO/16 (Human Anatomy) – Dept. of Applied Clinical and Biotecnological Sciences, State University of L'Aquila, Italy. • **2000- 2005**: 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.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Teaching of Human Anatomy (BIO/16) at the State University of L'Aquila, Italy in the following master's 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; 2019-today: Science and Sports Technique **Bachelor's Degree Courses** in: • 2013/14 - today: Physioterapy (Coordinator) • 2014/15 - today: Motory Sciences • 2023/24 - today: Biotechnologies **Schools of Specialization for the Health Sector** in: • 2011 - today: Gastroenterology and Endoscopy Digestive **PhD** in: • 2013/14 – today: Member of the Ph.D. Committee on "Experimental Medicine" - Dept. of Applied Clinical and Biotecnological Sciences, State University of L'Aquila, Italy.

RESEARCH ACTIVITIES	Scientific Research, both basic and applied, is conducted within several biomedical topics. Special attention is given to the characterization of the gastrointestinal tract and hepatic parenchyma under normal and pathological conditions. Studies primarily focus on: • Evaluation of morpho-functional alterations of the intestinal wall in murine models of experimental colitis and in patients with inflammatory bowel diseases (IBD) through the characterization of TGF-β-dependent molecular pathways, involved in the onset and progression of inflammatory and fibrotic processes. • Investigation of natural (olive cream) and synthetic (GED-0507-34 Levo) molecules, able to modulate TGF-β signaling as potential therapeutic targets for the treatment of intestinal inflammation and fibrosis. • Assessment of changes in the intestinal wall in experimental models of metabolic disorders caused by altered nutritional intake (e.g., high-fat and high-carbohydrate diets). • Evaluation of hepatic parenchyma alteration (steatosis, inflammation, and fibrosis), in experimental models of NAFL/NASH (non-alcoholic fatty liver/non-alcoholic steatohepatitis), induced by the administration of

	hyperglucidic and lipidic diets. • Explore the effects of administering a synthetic agonist of G-protein coupled receptor 120 agonist, on the progression of the main features of NAFL/NASH. ***Other Research fields:*** •Histomorphological, immunohistochemical and immunofluorescent evaluations of several pathways involved in the pathogenesis of brain and prostatic tumors in experimental murine models and humans and identification of potential pharmacological targets. •Histomorphological, immunohistochemical, and immunofluorescent evaluations aimed to identify molecules involved in the onset and progression of inflammatory and fibrotic processes involving the pelvic floor and nasal mucosa.

RESPONSIBILITY IN ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES	**From 2020:** member of joint Students – Professor Commission, Department of Applied Clinical and Biotecnological Sciences

EDITORIAL BOARD, EDITORIAL ACTIVITIES, SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP	• Member of Editorial Board of "Universal J of Gastroenterology- open access. • Member of Italian Society of Histochemistry (SII) • Member of Italian Society of Human Anatomy and Histology (SIAI)

SCIENTIFIC ACHIEVEMENTS BIBLIOMETRIC INDICATORS	**Scopus Author ID: 6603110870 http://orcid.org 0000-0003-3893-8320** **Bibliometric Indicators:** • Scopus (http://www.scopus.com) • Web of Sciences Core Collection (http://apps.webofknowledge.com)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS	• Pompili S, Vetuschi A, Latella G, Smakaj A, **Sferra R***, Cappariello A*.PPAR-Gamma Orchestrates EMT, AGE, and cellular senescence pathways in colonic epithelium and restrains the progression of IBDs. Int J Mol Sci. 2023 May 18;24(10):8952. doi: 10.3390/ijms24108952.PMID: 37240299 (*equally contributed last authors) • Vernia F, Tatti T, Necozione S, Capannolo A, Cesaro N, Magistroni M, Valvano M, Pompili S, **Sferra R**, Vetuschi A, Latella G. Is mastocytic colitis a specific clinical-pathological entity? Eur J Histochem. 2022, 28;66(4):3499. doi: 10.4081/ejh.2022.3499. PMID: 36440694 • Pompili S, Vetuschi A, **Sferra R***, Cappariello A*. Extracellular vesicles and resistance to anticancer drugs: a tumor skeleton key for

unhinging chemotherapies. Front Oncol. 2022. 23; 12:933675. Doi: 10.3389/fonc.2022.933675 (*equally contributed last authors).

- Vetuschi A, Cappariello A, Onori P, Gaudio E, Latella G, Pompili S, **Sferra R.** Ferroptosis-resistance cooperates with cellular senescence in the progression of liver damage induced by prolonged intake of "Western-style" diet in an experimental mouse model of Nonalcoholic fatty liver disease/Nonalcoholic steatohepatitis (NAFLD/NASH). European Journal Histochemistry 2022. 21;66(3):3391. doi: 10.4081/ejh.2022.3391
- Vetuschi A, Battista M, Pompili S, Prete R, Taticchi A, Selvaggini R, Latella G, Corsetti A, **Sferra R**. Anti-inflammatory and anti-fibrotic effect of olive phenols and Lactiplantibacillus plantarum IMC513 in dextran Sodium Sulfate (DSS) induced chronic colitis. Nutrition 94(111511,2021) doi.10.1016/j.nut.2022.111511.
- **Sferra R**, 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. *Int J Mol Sci 2021; Jul 6; 22(14):7280. doi:* 10.3390/ijms22147280.
- Pompili S, Latella G, Gaudio, **Sferra R*,** Vetuschi A*. The charming word of the extracellular matrix: a dynamic and protective network of the intestinal wall. *Frontiers in Medicine gastroenterology 2021*; vol. 8, ISSN: 2296-858X, doi: 10.3389/fmed.2021.610189 (*equally contributed last authors).
- 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

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- 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 delicated 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 steam cells showing anti-tumor efficacy on preclinical glioblastoma models. Cancers 2019,11,359. doi:10.3390/cancers11030359
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- Vetuschi A, Pompili S, Gaudio E, Latella G, **Sferra R**. PPAR-γ 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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- **Sferra R**, Pompili S, Ventura L, Dubuquoy C, Speca S, Gaudio E, Latella G, Vetuschi A. Interaction between Sphingosine kinase/Sphingosine 1 phosphate and Transforming Growth Factor-β/Smads pathways in experimental intestinal fibrosis: an in vivo immunohistochemical study. Eur J Histochem. 31;62 (3) 2018. Doi 10.4081/ejh2018.2956
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- Mancinelli R, Franchitto A, Glaser S, Vetuschi A, Venter J, **Sferra R**, 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.
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L'AQUILA, JULY 2023