

Annamaria Locascio



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Current Position: Ricercatore

Current Affiliation:

Section Biology and Evolution of Marine Organisms

Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn

Napoli (Italy)

Education/Training/Experience

Institute and Location	Degree (if applicable)	Year	Field of Study
Stazione Zoologica "Anton Dohrn"	Undergraduate student	1991-1993	DNA methylation in sea urchin embryogenesis
University Federico II of Napoli	Degree in Biological Sciences	1993	Molecular Biology
University Federico II of Napoli	Postgraduate training	1993-1994	Homeobox genes in CNS development
EMBL, Heidelberg, Germany	short-term fellowship	1996	Microinjection techniques
University Federico II of Napoli	PhD in Molecular and Cellular Biology and Pathology	1994-1999	Homeobox genes and their regulatory cascades in anterior CNS development
Cajal Institute (CSIC), Madrid, Spain	Post-doc EU project fellowship	1999-2001	Snail genes superfamily during vertebrate EMT
Cajal Institute (CSIC), Madrid, Spain	Spanish Ministry Post-doc fellowship	2001-2002	Snail genes superfamily in evolution and development

Stazione Dohrn	Zoologica	“Anton	Post-doc (temporary researcher)	2002-2008	Development of the anterior CNS
Stazione Dohrn	Zoologica	“Anton	Research investigator	2009-present	Regulatory networks controlling pigment cells and ocellus differentiation

Appointments and awards

27-6-2000 European Patent in Biomedicine. Patent number: 00938837.2

Title: “Snail a new marker in tumor progression and a guidance protein for new anti-tumor products”

Other

2005-2008 Member of the Marine Genomics Network of Excellence: “Post-genomic validation of marine genomics through the development of medium throughput tools for expression, crystallization and functional screening of target genes”

2006-2009 Member of the Funded International CEE Project: “Pluripotency associated genes to de-differentiate neural cells into pluripotent cells. PLURIGENES”

2013-2017 Member of the FIRB Grant: “Non-Coding RNA Explosion: Novel Implications in Neurotrophin Biology”.

Students’ Supervision

PhD supervisor of two Open University Ph.D. students (internal supervisor, dir. of studies) and two Postdoctoral researchers (past and present)
Tutor of five degree thesis.

Publications

Author of 30 publications on ISI-journals (h index: 16) and 1 book chapter

List of publications of the last 10 years (2005-present):

Peer-reviewed publications:

Candiani S, Pennati R, Oliveri D, Locascio A, Branno M, Castagnola P, Pestarino M, De Bernardi F. Ci-POU-IV expression identifies PNS neurons in embryos and larvae of the ascidian *Ciona intestinalis*. *Dev. Genes Evol.* 2005; 215: 41-45.

D’Aniello S, D’Aniello E, Locascio A, Memoli A, Corrado M, Russo MT, Aniello F, Fucci L, Brown ER, Branno M. The ascidian homolog of the vertebrate homeobox gene *Rx* is essential for ocellus development and function. *Differentiation* 2006; 74: 222-234.

Sea Urchin Genome Sequencing Consortium. The genome of the sea urchin *Strongylocentrotus purpuratus*. *Science* 2006; 314: 941-952.

- Comes S, Locascio A, Silvestre F, d'Ischia M, Russo GL, Tosti E, Branno M, Palumbo A. Regulatory roles of nitric oxide during larval development and metamorphosis in *Ciona intestinalis*. *Dev. Biol.* 2007; 306: 772-784.
- Pulcrano G, Leonardo R, Piscopo M, Nargi E, Locascio A, Aniello F, Branno M and Fucci L. PLAUF binding to the 3'UTR of the H3.3 histone transcript affects mRNA stability. *Gene* 2007; 406: 124-133.
- Donizetti A, Liccardo D, Esposito D, Del Gaudio R, Locascio A, Ferrara D, Minucci S and Aniello F. Differential expression of duplicated genes for Prothymosin alpha during zebrafish development. *Dev. Dyn.* 2008; 237: 1112-1118.
- Sordino P, Andreakis N, Brown ER, Leccia NI, Squarzoni P, Tarallo R, Alfano C, Caputi L, D'Ambrosio P, D'Aniello E, D'Aniello S, Maiella S, Miraglia V, Russo MT, Sorrenti G, Branno M, Cariello L, Cirino P, Locascio A, Spagnuolo A, Zanetti L, Ristoratore F. Natural Variation of Model Mutant Phenotypes in *Ciona intestinalis*. *PLoS ONE* 2008; 3: 2344.
- Prisco M, Donizetti A, Aniello F, Locascio A, Del Giudice G, Agnese M, Angelini F, Andreuccetti P. Expression of Prothymosin alpha during the spermatogenesis of the spotted ray *Torpedo marmorata*. *Gen. Comp. Endocrinol.* 2009; 164: 70-76.
- Locascio A, Ristoratore F, Spagnuolo A, Zanetti L and Branno M. Genetic perspectives on the ascidian central nervous system. *Inv. Surv. J.* 2009; 6: S35-S45.
- D'Aniello E, Pezzotti MR, Locascio A, Branno M. Onecut is a direct neural-specific transcriptional activator of Rx in *Ciona intestinalis*. *Dev. Biol.* 2011; 355: 358-371.
- Natale A, Sims C, Chiusano ML, Amoroso A, D'Aniello E, Fucci L, Krumlauf R, Branno M, Locascio A. Evolution of anterior Hox regulatory elements among chordates. *BMC Evol. Biol.* 2011; 11: 330.
- Pezzotti MR, Locascio A, Racioppi C, Fucci L, Branno M. Auto and cross regulatory elements control Onecut expression in the ascidian nervous system. *Dev. Biol.* 2014; 390: 273-287.
- Esposito R, Racioppi C, Pezzotti MR, Branno M, Locascio A, Ristoratore F, Spagnuolo A. The ascidian pigmented sensory organs: structures and developmental programs. *Genesis* 2015; 53: 15-33.
- Crocetta F, Marino R, Cirino P, Macina A, Staiano L, Esposito R, Pezzotti MR, Racioppi C, Toscano F, Locascio A, Ristoratore F, Spagnuolo A, Zanetti L, Branno M, Sordino P. Mutation studies in ascidians: a review. *Genesis* 2015; 53:160-169.
- Vassalli QA, Anishchenko E, Caputi L, Sordino P, D'Aniello S, Locascio A. Regulatory elements retained during chordate evolution: coming across tunicates. *Genesis* 2015; 53: 66-81.

Book Chapters:

- Martinez-Morales JR, Locascio A. Vertebrate eye networks 1: Vertebrate eye evolution. In: *Biomedicine/Life sciences series, Organogenetic gene networks*. 2015, Springer, *In press*.