

Curriculum vitae

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family name, First name: Cecere, Germano

ORCID: 0000-0001-5912-3417

Date of birth: 07/11/1979

Nationality: Italian

URL for web site: <https://www.cecerelab.com>

EDUCATION

2019 **Habilitation à diriger des recherches (habilitation to direct research, HDR)**,
Université de Versailles, France.

2008 **PhD in Human Biology and Genetics**, University of Rome “La Sapienza”,
Department of Cellular Biotechnology and Hematology (BCE), Italy.
*Research Project: Molecular dissection of post-transcriptional gene silencing
pathways in Neurospora crassa. Supervisor: Prof. Carlo Cogoni*

2004 **MSc in Biotechnology, University Federico II** of Naples, Italy
*Research Project: Molecular mechanisms of interaction between plant and
antagonistic fungi. Supervisor: Prof. Matteo Lorito*

CURRENT POSITION

2022 – present **Director of Research (DR)**, Mechanisms of Epigenetic Inheritance Unit, Department
of Development and Stem Cell Biology, Institut Pasteur, Paris, FRANCE

PREVIOUS POSITIONS

2015 – 2022 **Group Leader (CR)**, G5 laboratory of Mechanisms of Epigenetic Inheritance,
Department of Development and Stem Cell Biology, Institut Pasteur, Paris, FRANCE

2011 – 2015 **Associate Research Scientist**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular
Biophysics, Columbia University Medical Center, USA

2008 – 2011 **Postdoctoral Research Scientist**, Department of Biochemistry and Molecular
Biophysics, Columbia University Medical Center, USA

EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Supervision:

3 Ph.D. students, 5 Postdocs, 2 Technicians, 2 Bioinformaticians, 10 master students.

Thesis committee:

Member of the jury of 8 Ph.D. thesis defenses and 2 HDR thesis defense.

Courses:

Since 2019 Lecturer (1.5 hours), "InterNAt" summer school on small regulatory RNAs, CNRS.

Since 2018 Lecturer (3 hours), M2 course “non-coding RNAs and epigenetics. Université Paris-
Saclay.

Since 2017 Lecturer (3 hours), M1 course “Epigenetics, from phenomena to molecular
mechanisms” at École Normale Supérieure.

Since 2015 Lecturer (3 hours), M2 Epigenetics Module. University Paris-Diderot.

2016 – 2018 Lecturer (1.5 hours), Module in épigénétique et la signalisation cellulaire. Ecole
doctorale, Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris.

2021 Lecturer (3 hours), 10th international course on Non-Coding Genome, Institut Curie.

2018 Lecturer (3 hours), Epigenetic module in the annual Molecular Biology of the Cell course at Pasteur.

Online courses:

Since 2019 Director of the MOOC on Epigenetics, Institut Pasteur. 20 speakers, 26 lectures, 134 questions, 7 weeks.

ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES

Editorial activities

Since 2018 Associate editor for *Frontiers in molecular biosciences*

Since 2022 Collection Advisors for *Open Research Europe, Epigenetics collection*

Conference organizer

2019 Abcam conference “RNA in epigenetic and chromatin regulation”. Institut Pasteur.

Journal Peer Review Activities

Since 2014 Nature Cell Biology, Nature Communications, Nature Review Genetics, Developmental Cell, Communication biology, eLIFE, Nucleic Acid Research, Cell System, Cell Reports, EMBO Journal, iScience.

Other Review Activities

2019 Member of the jury auditions blanches Aviesan ERC CoG

Since 2014 Associate Grant evaluation for ERC, Wellcome Trust, HFSP, ANR, KAUST.

Public Outreach

2023 Speaker at Paris Talks, an ideas festival open to the public at BnF.

2021 Short Science Documentary film “Germano” by Nona Griffin.

2019 Scientific Day for high school students, Paris.

2018 Children book on Epigenetic: “L’incroyable aventure de la génétique” – Nathan

2017 Interview published on Cartaditalia magazine, N.3

RECOGNITION

Awards, Honours

2022 Pasteur Vallery-Radot Prize

2020 ERC Consolidator Grant Award

2015 ERC Starting Grant Award

2013 Keystone Symposia Scholarship Award. Keystone Symposia: RNA Silencing. Whistler, British Columbia Canada.

2007 Best Ph.D. thesis, Centre of Excellence for Biology and Molecular Medicine (BEMM).

2004 Doctoral Fellowship, Graduate School of “La Sapienza” University of Rome

Talks at Conferences

2024 4th EMBO Workshop on “Awakening the Genome”. Basel, Switzerland. *Invited*

2023 Chemical Biology of Epigenetic Modifications Retreat, LMU, Munich, Austria. *Invited*

2023 Technology Forum Life Sciences, Fondazione Human Technopole Milan, Italy. *Invited*

2023 Epigenetics, Gordon Research Conference. Holderness School, USA. *Invited*

2023 Clinical Epigenetics International Conference (CLEPIC), Szczecin, Poland. *Invited*

2023 Chromatin and Epigenetics. EMBL, Heidelberg. *Selected*

2023 Barbados RNA workshop. *Invited*

2023 2nd Meeting of the Italian *C. elegans* Research Community (M.I.C.e.R.Co.). *Invited*

2022 Max Planck Epigenetics Meeting. Freiburg, Germany. *Selected*

2022 EpIC conference, Granada, Spain. *Selected*

- 2022 Transgenerational Epigenetics: Mechanisms and Impact. Les Treilles, France. *Invited*
- 2022 Gene Regulation Workshop (former SKMB meeting), University of Lausanne. *Invited*
- 2022 Argonautes Meeting. University of Regensburg, Germany. *Invited*
- 2022 How Evolution Learnt to Learn Meeting, Salzburg, Austria. *Invited*
- 2022 European Worm Meeting (EWM). Vienna. *Invited*
- 2022 Curie-Pasteur Symposium, Paris, France. *Invited*
- 2022 EMBO Workshop on PIWI protein and piRNAs. Virtual. *Invited*
- 2021 Sorbonne University Conference “RNA back in real life”. France. *Invited*
- 2021 Covid Task Force Meeting, Institut Pasteur, France. *Invited*
- 2021 Club Noyau Meeting, Session 2021, Institut Jaques Monod, France. *Invited*
- 2021 FASEB conference “The Epigenome in Human Health and Diseases”.
Lorraine University, France. *Invited*
- 2020 Pasteur/Crick Symposium, France/UK. *Invited*
- 2020 Annual Symposium on Infection Diseases, UCSF, USA. *Invited*
- 2020 Covid Task Force Meeting – Diagnosis, Institut Pasteur, France. *Invited*
- 2018 One day meeting – Fundamentals in Heredity, IBPS, Paris. *Invited*
- 2018 Keynote speaker at Young Embryologist Network Conference. The Francis Crick
Institute, London, UK. *Invited*
- 2018 EMBO workshop on piRNAs and PIWI proteins. Montpellier, France. *Selected*
- 2017 VerMidi XX meeting. ENS Lyon. *Selected*
- 2017 C. elegans - CRISPR, RNAi and genetics courses. CRG, Barcellona, ES. *Invited*
- 2017 9th Bordeaux RNA club Symposium. Bordeaux, France. *Invited*
- 2016 AVIESAN meeting “RNA as an adaptor guiding molecular processes”. Paris, France.
Invited
- 2015 Transgenerational Epigenetic Inheritance Workshop. West Sussex, UK. *Selected*
- 2015 20th International C. elegans Meeting, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA. *Selected*
- 2015 20th Annual Meeting of the RNA Society, Madison, Wisconsin. *Selected*
- 2014 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meeting: Regulatory & Non-Coding RNAs, NY, USA.
Selected
- 2013 New York Area Worm Meeting (NYAWM), City University of New York, New York,
USA. *Invited*
- 2013 19th International C. elegans Meeting, UCLA, Los Angeles, USA. *Selected*
- 2013 Columbia Stem Cell Initiative. Columbia University. New York, USA. *Invited*
- 2012 Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory Meeting: Regulatory & Non-Coding RNAs. NY, USA.
Selected
- 2011 Keystone Symposia: Mechanism and Biology of Silencing. Monterey, USA. *Selected*
- 2009 New York Academy of Science (NYAS). RNAi discussion group. New York, USA.
Invited
- 2007 Italian Federation of Life Science (FISV) congress. Riva del Garda, Italy. *Selected*

Invited Seminars

- 2023 University of Toronto Collaborative Specialization in Developmental Biology, Canada.
- 2023 Institute of Genetics, Reproduction & Development iGReD, Clermont-Ferrand, France.
- 2023 École normale supérieure (ENS), Lyon, France.
- 2023 CIBBS seminar series, Universität-Freiburg, Germany.
- 2023 Paris Talks, Ideas Festival of Arts and Science. Paris, France.
- 2023 Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (SZN), Naples, Italy.
- 2023 CBI - Centre de Biologie Intégrative, Toulouse, France.
- 2022 baRNA club, Barcelona, Spain.
- 2022 Collège National de Biochimie et Biologie Moléculaire Médicales, France.
- 2022 Worm Small RNA seminars, Virtual.
- 2021 Introduction to Prof. Edith Heard, PhD ceremony. Institut Pasteur, France.
- 2021 Internat21: Petits ARN Régulateurs. CNRS Course. Sète, France.
- 2021 Non-coding Genome - 10th edition, Institute Curie Course, France.
- 2020 Sorbonne University, lockdown mini-conference series, France.

- 2020 University of Rome Sapienza, BUGM seminar series, Italy.
 2020 Federal University of Rio de Janeiro, H. Mangold Seminar Series, Brasil.
 2019 CONICET – INSTITUT PASTEUR Bilateral Meeting, Argentina.
 2019 Département Hospitalo-Universitaire Hépatites, Departmental seminar series, France.
 2019 Institut Pasteur, Conferences of Scientific Council, France.
 2019 Institute History and Philosophy Science and Technical (IHPST), Sorbonne University. Paris, France.
 2019 “InterNAT” Summer school on small RNAs. Sete, France.
 2019 EMBL, Departmental seminar. Monterotondo, Italy.
 2014 Institut de Biologie de l’Ecole Normale Supérieure (IBENS), Departmental seminar.
 2014 Max Planck Institute for Molecular Genetics (MPIMG). Departmental seminar. Berlin, Germany.
 2012 Columbia University. Departmental seminar. New York, USA.
 2007 Centre of Excellence for Biology and Molecular Medicine (BEMM). Rome, Italy.

GRANTS

- 2022 ANR AAPG2022, ELIMINATION. Partner. Budget to my Team 170.000,00 €
 2020 ERC Consolidator RNAiHERITANCE. Coordinator. Budget: 1.997.150,00 €
 2020 URGENCE COVID-19 Pasteur grant, Coordinator. Budget: 60.000,00 €
 2019 LabEx, Revive. Partner. Budget allocated to my lab: 170.000,00 €
 2015 ERC Starting Grant RNAEPIGEN. Coordinator. Budget: 1,791,250.00 €
 2015 Institut Pasteur, Start-up package. Coordinator. Budget: 1,000,000.00 €

PUBLICATIONS

Research Articles

(*Co-first Authors, †Co-corresponding Authors, Team members underlined)

2022

1. Singh M*, Chazal M*, Quarato P, Bourdon L, Malabat C, Vallet T, Vignuzzi M, van der Werf S, Behillil S, Donati F, Sauvonnnet N, Nigro G, Bourguine M, Jouvenet N†, Cecere G†. A virus-derived microRNA targets immune response genes during SARS-CoV-2 infection. *EMBO Reports*. 2022 Feb 3;23(2):e54341. doi: 10.15252/embr.202154341. Epub 2021 Dec 16. PMID: 34914162
2. Cornes E, Bourdon L, Singh M, Mueller F, Quarato P, Wernersson E, Bienko M, Li B, Cecere G. piRNAs initiate transcriptional silencing of spermatogenic genes during *C. elegans* germline development. *Developmental Cell*. 2022 Jan 24;57(2):180-196.e7. doi: 10.1016/j.devcel.2021.11.025. Epub 2021 Dec 17. PMID: 34921763. (Highlighted in Previews on *Developmental Cell*)

2021

3. Quarato P†, Cecere G†. Global Run-On sequencing to measure nascent transcription in *C. elegans*. *STAR Protocols*. 2021 Dec 4;2(4):100991. doi:10.1016/j.xpro.2021.100991. PMID: 34927098
4. Ibarra-Morales D, Rauer M, Quarato P, Rabbani L, Zenk F, Schulte-Sasse M, Cardamone F, Gomez-Auli A, Cecere G, Iovino N. Histone variant H2A.Z regulates zygotic genome activation. *Nature Communications*. 2021 Dec 1;12(1):7002. doi: 10.1038/s41467-021-27125-7. PMID: 34853314
5. Rhoades N, Nguyen TS, Witz G, Cecere G, Hammond T, Mazur AK, Gladyshev E. Recombination-independent recognition of DNA homology for meiotic silencing in

Neurospora crassa. *Proc Natl Acad Sci U S A*. 2021 Aug 17;118(33):e2108664118. doi: 10.1073/pnas.2108664118. PMID: 34385329

6. Singh M, Cornes E, Li B, Quarato P, Bourdon L, Dingli F, Loew D, Proccacia S, Cecere G. Translation and codon usage regulate Argonaute slicer activity to trigger small RNA biogenesis. *Nature Communications*. 2021 Jun 9;12(1):3492. doi: 10.1038/s41467-021-23615-w. PMID: 34108460 (*Featured in the Editor's highlight collection*)
7. Sinha A, Baumgarten S, Distiller A, McHugh E, Chen P, Singh M, Bryant JM, Liang J, Cecere G, Dedon PC, Preiser PR, Ralph SA, Scherf A. Functional Characterization of the m6A-Dependent Translational Modulator PfYTH.2 in the Human Malaria Parasite. *mBio*. 2021 Apr 27;12(2):e00661-21. doi: 10.1128/mBio.00661-21. PMID: 33906926; PMCID: PMC8092261. IDHAL: hal-03249953
8. Quarato P, Singh M, Cornes E, Li B, Bourdon L, Mueller F, Didier C, Cecere G. Germline inherited small RNAs facilitate the clearance of untranslated maternal mRNAs in *C. elegans* embryos. *Nature Communications*. 2021 Mar 4;12(1):1441. doi: 10.1038/s41467-021-21691-6. PMID: 33664268 (*Featured in the Editor's highlight collection*)

2020

9. Barucci G*, Cornes E*, Singh M*, Li B, Ugolini M, Samolygo A, Didier C, Dingli F, Loew D, Quarato P, Cecere G. Small-RNA-mediated transgenerational silencing of histone genes impairs fertility in piRNA mutants. *Nature Cell Biology*. 2020 Feb;22(2):235-245. doi: 10.1038/s41556-020-0462-7. Epub 2020 Feb 3. PMID: 32015436 (*Featured as the issue cover*)

2019

10. Serrat X, Kukhtar D, Cornes E, Esteve-Codina A, Benlloch H, Cecere G, Cerón J. CRISPR editing of sftb-1/SF3B1 in *Caenorhabditis elegans* allows the identification of synthetic interactions with cancer-related mutations and the chemical inhibition of splicing. *PLoS Genetics*. 2019 Oct 21;15(10):e1008464. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1008464. PMID: 31634348

Postdoctoral and Ph.D. Research Articles

2014

11. Cecere G, Grishok A. RNA Chromatin Immunoprecipitation (RNA-ChIP) in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *Bio Protocols*. 2014 Dec 20;4(24):e1358. doi: 10.21769/BioProtoc.1358. PMID: 29170745
12. Cecere G, Hoersch S, O'Keeffe S, Sachidanandam R, Grishok A. Global effects of the CSR-1 RNA interference pathway on the transcriptional landscape. *Nature Structural Molecular Biology*. 2014 Apr;21(4):358-65. doi: 10.1038/nsmb.2801. Epub 2014 Mar 30. PMID: 24681887 (*Comment in Gene expression: RNAi as a global transcriptional activator. Nat Rev Mol Cell Biol.*)

2013

13. Cecere G, Hoersch S, Jensen MB, Dixit S, Grishok A. The ZFP-1(AF10)/DOT-1 complex opposes H2B ubiquitination to reduce Pol II transcription. *Molecular Cell*. 2013 Jun 27;50(6):894-907. doi: 10.1016/j.molcel.2013.06.002. PMID: 23806335
14. Avgousti DC, Cecere G, Grishok A. The conserved PHD1-PHD2 domain of ZFP-1/AF10 is a discrete functional module essential for viability in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *Molecular and*

Cellular Biology. 2013 Mar;33(5):999-1015. doi: 10.1128/MCB.01462-12. Epub 2012 Dec 21. PMID: 23263989; PMCID: PMC3623080.

2012

15. **Cecere G**, Zheng GX, Mansisidor AR, Klymko KE, Grishok A. Promoters recognized by forkhead proteins exist for individual 21U-RNAs. *Molecular Cell*. 2012 Sep 14;47(5):734-45. doi: 10.1016/j.molcel.2012.06.021. Epub 2012 Jul 19. PMID: 22819322 (*F1000 Prime Recommendation*)

2011

16. Mansisidor AR*, **Cecere G***, Hoersch S, Jensen MB, Kawli T, Kennedy LM, Chavez V, Tan MW, Lieb JD, Grishok A. A conserved PHD finger protein and endogenous RNAi modulate insulin signaling in *Caenorhabditis elegans*. *PLoS Genetics*. 2011 Sep;7(9):e1002299. doi: 10.1371/journal.pgen.1002299. Epub 2011 Sep 29. PMID: 21980302

2009

17. **Cecere G**[‡], Cogoni C[‡]. Quelling targets the rDNA locus and functions in rDNA copy number control. *BMC Microbiology*. 2009 Feb 25;9:44. doi: 10.1186/1471-2180-9-44. PMID: 19243581

2008

18. Nolan T*, **Cecere G***, Mancone C, Alonzi T, Tripodi M, Catalanotto C, Cogoni C. The RNA-dependent RNA polymerase essential for post-transcriptional gene silencing in *Neurospora crassa* interacts with replication protein A. *Nucleic Acids Research*. 2008 Feb;36(2):532-8. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkm1071. Epub 2007 Nov 29. PMID: 18048414

Review Articles

2022

1. Quarato P, Singh M, Bourdon L, **Cecere G**. Inheritance and maintenance of small RNA-mediated epigenetic effects. *Bioessays*. 2022 Jun;44(6):e2100284. doi: 10.1002/bies.202100284. PMID: 35338497

2021

2. **Cecere G**. Small RNAs in epigenetic inheritance: from mechanisms to trait transmission. *FEBS Letters*. 2021 Dec;595(24):2953-2977. doi: 10.1002/1873-3468.14210. Epub 2021 Oct 29. PMID: 34671979. (*Featured as the issue cover*)

2014

3. **Cecere G**, Grishok A. A nuclear perspective on RNAi pathways in metazoans. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2014 Mar;1839(3):223-33. doi: 10.1016/j.bbagr.2013.11.009. Epub 2013 Dec 17. PMID: 24361586

Patents

2021

1. **Cecere G**. A virus-encoded micro RNA for use in the diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment of SARS-COV-2 infection and associated disease. Patent application EP 21305192.3.