CURRICULUM VITAE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Full Name: Chiara Papulino

Place of Birth: Naples, Italy

Nationality: Italian

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Scopus ID: 57195365834

276	26	11
Citations by **269** documents	Documents	*h*-index

CURRENT POSITION

Tenure-Track Researcher (RTT) in General Pathology – **SSD MEDS-02/A UniCamillus-Saint Camillus International University of Health Sciences, Rome, Italy.**

PROFESSIONAL AND ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2023–2026 Fixed-Term Researcher (RTDA) SSD MEDS-02/A – General Pathology University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" PNRR Project: "ANTHEM – AdvaNced Technologies for Human-CentrEd Medicine"

2022–Present Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), CIRCE S.r.l. CIRCE S.r.l. is an innovative start-up and academic spin-off of the Department of Precision Medicine, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", The company promotes collaborations among precision medicine, oncology and medicinal chemistry for the development of innovative anticancer therapies.

2023 Research Fellow SSD MEDS-02/A – General Pathology Research Project: "Metabolic remodeling in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma"

2022 Research Fellow SSD MEDS-02/A – General Pathology Research Project: "Epigenetic alterations in disease pathogenesis."

2022 Awarded a Teaching Tutorship Fellowship for the course General Pathology, Pathophysiology and Medical Genetics within the Medicine and Surgery Degree Programme (English Track) Department of Precision Medicine University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" Academic Year 2021/2022

2021 Awarded a Teaching Tutorship Fellowship General Pathology, Pathophysiology and Medical Genetics Medicine and Surgery Degree Programme (English Track) Department of Precision Medicine University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" Academic Year 2020/2021

2018 Research collaboration under a coordinated and continuous collaboration contract with EPI-C S.r.l., an academic spin-off operating in the field of General Pathology (SSD MEDS-02/A). Research activities focused on the synthesis, identification and biological evaluation of innovative modulators for cancer and cardiovascular diseases within the European Horizon 2020 project: Ocean Medicines Grant Agreement No. 690944

2016 Research activity for Vitroscreen S.r.l. (Milan, Italy) Project: "Application of microbiological techniques to the axillary microbiota." Research carried out at the Department of Experimental Medicine, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", on behalf of Vitroscreen S.r.l.

EDUCATION

2022 PhD in Translational Medicine University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" SSD MEDS-02/A – General Pathology PhD Thesis "Epigenetic Reprogramming of Cathepsin B in Colorectal Cancer: A Versatile Prognostic Marker." Final Grade: Cum Laude

2016 Professional Qualification as Biologist

2015 MSc in Biology (LM-6) University of Naples Federico II Graduated *summa cum laude* **(110/110 with honours)**

2012 BSc in Biological Sciences University of Naples Federico II

TEACHING ACTIVITIES

2023 – 2026 **Lecturer** in General Pathology Bachelor's Degree Programme in Healthcare Assistance University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

Academic Years:

- 2023/2024
- 2024/2025
- 2025/2026

Teaching load: 10 hours per semester (2 ECTS credits each semester).

April 2025 – June 2026 **Lecturer** in General Pathology Bachelor's Degree Programme in Nursing University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli"

Academic Years:

- 2024/2025
- 2025/2026

Teaching load:

18 hours (2 ECTS credits).

PhD Teaching Activities Department of Precision Medicine University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" PhD Programme in Translational Medicine Academic Year 2023/2024- 2024/2025-2025/2026 Teaching Module (2 ECTS): "New Therapeutic Perspectives in the Fight Against Tumors: The Role of the Tumor Microenvironment" Course delivered to first-year PhD students (39-40-41 th Cycle).

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS:

1. Chianese U, **Papulino C**, Saggese G, Ali A, Ciotola M, Lonardo E, Cortese M, Favale G, Di Mauro A, La Gioia D, Golino V, Sommella E, Campiglia P, Franco R, Ciardiello F, De Vita F, Carafa V, Altucci L, Benedetti R. Glycolytic heterogeneity drives metabolic-targeted therapy in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma. *Signal Transduction and Targeted Therapy.* PMID: 41554705
2. Cursaro I, Frattaruolo L, Scalvini L, Contri C, Bichicchi A, Tardiolo N, Tudino V, Rossi S, Manti EN, Cappello M, **Papulino C**, et al. New Vanillyl-capped HDAC inhibitors exhibit anti-tumor efficacy in neuroblastoma and glioblastoma cells. *Bioorganic Chemistry. 2025*
3. Cursaro I, Ciccone V, Tudino V**, Papulino C**, et al. Reversing TGF-β1-induced fibrotic phenotype in human lung fibroblasts using a PROTAC tool derived from an indoline-based HDAC6 inhibitor. *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry. 2025*

4. **Papulino C,** Crepaldi M, Favale G, Del Gaudio N, Benedetti R, et al. Aging and Epigenetic Implications in Radiotherapy: The Promise of BNCT. *Ageing Research Reviews.* 2025
5. Benedetti R, Chianese U**, Papulino C**, et al. Unlocking the Power of Empagliflozin: Rescuing Inflammation in Hyperglycaemia-Exposed Human Cardiomyocytes Through Comprehensive Multi-Level Analysis. *European Journal of Heart Failure.* 2025
6. **Papulino C,** Benedetti R, Altucci L. Harnessing Normalcy: The Potential of Healthy Tissue for Patient Outcomes. *International Journal of Cancer.* 2024
7. **Papulino C,** Chianese U, Ali A, et al. Inverse FASN and LDHA Correlation Drives Metabolic Resistance in Breast Cancer. *Journal of Translational Medicine.* 2024
8. Fontana A, Bergantini L, Carullo G, et al. Spirotetrahydroisoquinoline-Based Histone Deacetylase Inhibitors as Novel Antifibrotic Agents. *ACS Pharmacology & Translational Science. 2024*
9. Chianese U†, **Papulino C**†, et al. FASN Multi-Omic Characterization Reveals Metabolic Heterogeneity in Pancreatic and Prostate Adenocarcinoma. *Journal of Translational Medicine*. 2023 † Shared first authorship.
10. Chianese U†, **Papulino C†,** et al. Epigenomic Machinery Regulating pAML: Clonal Expansion Mechanisms, Therapies and Future Perspectives. *Seminars in Cancer Biology.* Impact Factor: 15.7 † Shared first authorship.
11. Chianese U†, **Papulino C**†, Passaro E., Evers T.M., Babaei M., Toraldo A., De Marchi T., Niméus E., Carafa V., Nicoletti M.M., Del Gaudio N., Iaccarino N., Randazzo A., Rotili D., Mai A., Cappabianca S., Mashaghi A., Ciardiello F., Altucci L., Benedetti R. Histone Lysine Demethylase Inhibition Reprograms Prostate Cancer Metabolism and Mechanics. *Molecular Metabolism. 2022* Impact Factor: 7.4 † Shared first authorship.
12. Ali A., Chianese U., **Papulino C**., Toraldo A., Abakar M.E.A., Passaro E., Cennamo R., Del Gaudio N., Altucci L., Benedetti R. Metabolic Pathways as a Novel Landscape in Pancreatic Ductal Adenocarcinoma. *Cancers. 2022.*
13. Campiani G., Khan T., Ulivieri C., Staiano L., **Papulino C**., et al. Design and Synthesis of Multifunctional Microtubule-Targeting Agents Endowed with Dual Pro-Apoptotic and Anti-Autophagic Activity. *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry. 2022*
14. Cuomo F., Dell'Aversana C., Chioccarelli T., Porreca V., Manfrevola F., **Papulino C**., et al. HIF3A Inhibition Triggers Browning of White Adipocytes via Metabolic Rewiring. *Frontiers in Cell and Developmental Biology. 2022*
15. Passaro E., **Papulino C**., Chianese U., et al. HDAC6 Inhibition Extinguishes Autophagy in Cancer: Recent Insights. *Cancers. 2021*
16. Benedetti R., **Papulino C**., Sgueglia G., Chianese U., et al. Regulatory Interplay Between miR-181a-5p and Estrogen Receptor Signaling Cascade in Breast Cancer. *Cancers.* 2021
17. **Papulino C**.†, Chianese U.†, Nicoletti M.M., Benedetti R., Altucci L. Preclinical and Clinical Epigenetic-Based Reconsideration of Beckwith–Wiedemann Syndrome. *Frontiers in Genetics.* 2020. Impact Factor: 4.3 † Shared first authorship.
18. Souto J.A., Sarno F., Nebbioso A., **Papulino C.,** et al. A New Family of Jumonji C Domain-Containing KDM Inhibitors Inspired by the Natural Product Purpurogallin. *Frontiers in Chemistry. 2020*
19. Benedetti R., Dell'Aversana C., De Marchi T., Rotili D., Liu N.Q., Novakovic B., Boccella S., Di Maro S., Cosconali S., Baldi A., Niméus E., Schultz J., Höglund U., Maione S., **Papulino C**., Chianese U., Iovino F., Federico A., Mai A., Stunnenberg H.G., Nebbioso A., Altucci, L. (2019). Inhibition of Histone Demethylases LSD1 and UTX Regulates ERα Signaling in Breast Cancer, *Cancers.2019*
20. Sarno F., **Papulino C.**, Franci G., et al. 3-Chloro-N′-(2-hydroxybenzylidene) benzohydrazide: An LSD1-Selective Inhibitor and Iron-Chelating Agent for Anticancer Therapy. *Frontiers in Pharmacology. 2018.*
21. Buommino E., Baroni A., Papulino C., et al. Malassezia pachydermatis Up-Regulates AhR-Related CYP1A1 Gene and Epidermal Barrier Markers in Human Keratinocytes. *Medical Mycology. 2018*

22. Nocera F.P., **Papulino C.**, Del Prete C., et al. Endometritis Associated with *Enterococcus casseliflavus* in a Mare: A Case Report**.** *Asian Pacific Journal of Tropical Biomedicine. 2017*

BOOK CHAPTERS

1.**Papulino C.**, Chianese U., Scisciola L., Ali A., Barbieri M., Paolisso G., Altucci L., Benedetti R. Current Preclinical Applications of Pharmaco-Epigenetics in Cardiovascular Diseases. In: Cancer Epigenetics. Epigenetics and Human Health, Vol. 11.Springer Nature. 2023

2. **Papulino C.**, Crepaldi M., Favale G., Chianese U., Del Gaudio N., Conte M., et al. In-Depth Exploration of Radiation-Induced Cell Death Mechanisms in Tumors. Book: Cell Death Regulation in Pathology IntechOpen.

3. Ciaglia E., Basile C., Benedetti R., **Papulino C.,** Puca A.A., Altucci L. Sex, Gender and Epigenetics of Aging and Longevity. Book: Role of Sex and Gender in Aging and Longevity Elsevier.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

September–October 2018 Research Fellow **University of the Western Cape** Cape Town, South Africa Institute for Microbial Biotechnology and Metagenomics (IMBM) Horizon 2020 Project **Ocean Medicines**

June–August 2018 Research Fellow **University of Aberdeen** Marine Biodiscovery Centre Scotland, United Kingdom Horizon 2020 Project **Ocean Medicines**

February–June 2018 Research Fellow **UiT – The Arctic University of Norway** Tromsø, Norway Horizon 2020 Project **Ocean Medicines**

September 2017–January 2018 Research Fellow **Fundación MEDINA** Granada, Spain Horizon 2020 Project **Ocean Medicines**

SCIENTIFIC AND METHODOLOGICAL SKILLS

- Establishment and maintenance of **2D and 3D cancer cell cultures**, including spheroids and organoids.
- Cell proliferation, viability, clonogenic, migration and pharmacological inhibition assays.
- Molecular and cellular biology techniques, including RT-qPCR, Western blotting, immunofluorescence, immunohistochemistry and flow cytometry.
- Epigenetic analyses, including the evaluation of histone post-translational modifications and chromatin-associated proteins.
- Cellular metabolism studies and integration of multi-omics approaches (transcriptomics, metabolomics and epigenomics).
- Bioinformatic analysis of transcriptomic datasets and pathway enrichment analyses.
- Development and preclinical evaluation of novel epigenetic compounds for cancer therapy.

THIRD MISSION AND TECNHOLOGY TRASFER ACTIVITIES

2022 – Present Co-founder and Chief Executive Officer (CEO), CIRCE S.r.l.

CIRCE S.r.l. is an innovative start-up funded by the Campania Region through the Campania Startup 2020 Programme. CIRCE is an academic spin-off of the Department of Precision Medicine, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", operating within the Scientific Disciplinary Sector MEDS-02/A – General Pathology.

2023–2026

Technology transfer activities as **Chief Executive Officer of CIRCE S.r.l.**, an academic spin-off of the University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", funded by the Campania Region under the Campania Startup 2020 Programme.

SCIENTIFIC COLLABORATIONS

- Scientific collaboration with **Prof. Silva Bortolussi**, Laboratory of Applied Nuclear Energy (LENA), Department of Physics "Alessandro Volta", University of Pavia, within the PNRR **ANTHEM** project.
- Scientific collaboration with **Prof. Pietro Formisano**, University of Naples Federico II.
- Scientific collaboration with **Prof. Carlo Altucci**, University of Naples Federico II.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES

2019 Invited Speaker at the Final Conference of the **Ocean Medicines** Horizon 2020 – MSCA-RISE Project. Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn Naples, Italy

2022 Presentation of an abstract and poster at the **Clinical Epigenetics International Conference (CLEPIC)** Szczecin, Poland.

2023 Presentation of an abstract and poster at the **Clinical Epigenetics International Conference (CLEPIC)** Contribution: **"Breast Cancer Multi-Omics Characterization Points to Metabolic Features as Acquired Traits of Resistance."**

2025 Invited Speaker The International Society for Molecular and Clinical Epigenetics (isMOCLEP) Presentation: **"LAT1 and Boron Neutron Capture Therapy: Unveiling a New Target to Improve Osteosarcoma Treatment."**

2025: Organizer of the Pre-Meeting of the Italian Society of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology (SBBM) – June 16–17, 2025
Co-organized the scientific and logistical activities of the SBBM Pre-Meeting, supporting the coordination of the scientific program and conference activities.

2026: Member of the Poster Committee, SIPMeT National Congress
Served on the Poster Committee of the National Congress of the Italian Society of Pathology and Translational Medicine (SIPMeT), contributing to the selection, evaluation, and organization of the poster sessions.

NATIONAL CONFERENCES

2021 Speaker at the **SIPMeT Congress** Italian Society of Pathology and Translational Medicine Perugia, Italy Contribution: **"Epigenetic Reprogramming of Cathepsin B in Colorectal Cancer: A Versatile Prognostic Marker."**

2022 Speaker at:

- **Italian Tech Week**, Turin (CIRCE start-up presentation)
- **MIND – Milano Innovation District**
- **Start Cup Campania 2022**
- **PNI – Premio Nazionale Innovazione**

GRANTS (As CEO and Co-founder of CIRCE S.r.l.)

- **Campania Startup 2020 Grant**, Campania Regional Government (approximately €80,000 for industrial Research & Development).
- **Industrial Impact Research Award 2022**, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" (€25,000).
- **Industrial Impact Research Award 2023**, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli" (€25,000).
- **Start Cup Campania 2022** – Second Prize and "Mario Raffa" Special Award.
- **Marzotto 2031 Award**, Bio4Dreams Incubator (Innovation services valued at €30,000).
- **Innovation Village 2023** – EIT Health InnoStars Special Award.
- **America Innovation Award (2023)**.
- **Best Start-up 2023**, Vanvitelli Day for Spin-offs.

AWARDS

2022

- Industrial Impact Academic Research Award.
- Second Prize – Start Cup Campania.
- Mario Raffa Special Award.

2023

- Best University Spin-off Award.
- SIPMeT Best Poster Award.
- Industrial Impact Academic Research Award.

LANGUAGE SKILLS: English C1 level Certification: **Mastery English Skills (M.E.S. 1)**

COMPUTER SKILLS Microsoft Office Suite**,** GraphPad Prism**,** ImageJ**,** Adobe Photoshop**,** Adobe Illustrator**,** EndNote**,** Scientific databases and reference management software**,** EIPASS (European Informatics Passport).