

Principal Investigator: [Full name and degree(s)]
Carla Tortorella, MD, PhD

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Name: [Last, First, Middle Initial(s), Degree(s)]
Carla Tortorella, MD, PhD

Position/Title:
Neurologist at the Dept. of Medical
Basic Sciences, Neurosciences and
Sense Organs - University of Bari
Italy

Education

Institution and Location	Degree	Year Conferred	Field of Study
High School „Liceo Scientifico“ Bari, Italy	Baccalaureate	1985	
University of Bari, Italy	MD	1992	Medicine
Dept of Neurological Sciences, University of Bari, Italy	Neurologist	1996	Neurology specialist (Multiple Sclerosis - MS)
Neuroimaging Research Unit – HSR Milan	Research Training	1998	Neuroimaging (MR in MS)
Dept. of Neurological Sciences, University of Bari, Italy	PhD	2001	Neurophthalmology

Research and Professional Experience

- Since 1990 she attended, at first as student then as resident and finally as PhD, Multiple Sclerosis research group of the Dept. of Neurological Sciences of the University of Bari Italy directed by Prof M. Trojano. She took part actively in the management of Multiple Sclerosis patients using standardised protocols for diagnosis and treatment (EDMUS, IMEDweb). She is involved in many clinical multicentric trials aimed to evaluate clinical and therapeutical strategies in MS.
- In 1990 she worked on the characterisation of biochemical state of biological fluids (especially cerebrospinal fluid) using 7 Tesla Proton Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (1H-MRS) *in vitro* in collaboration with "Farmaco-Chimico" Department of the Pharmacy Faculty of the University of Bari. This work resulted in the experimental degree thesis.
- Since 1992 she worked on brain lesion biochemical characterisation in MS and other neurological diseases by 1H-MRS *in vivo*. This research was done in collaboration with Institute of Radiology of the University of Bari. This work resulted in the PhD thesis and in many scientific publications.
- In 1998 she attended a one-year fellowship at Neuroimaging Research Unit of San Raffaele Hospital working on "Quantitative magnetic resonance techniques in Multiple Sclerosis" under

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the supervision of Prof Massimo Filippi. This work resulted in the PhD thesis and in many scientific publications.

- From 2001 to 2006 she worked as clinical Neurologist at “Ospedale San Paolo” in Bari
- Since 2006 to present she worked as clinical neurologist at the Dept. of Neurological Sciences, University of Bari, (now Dept. of Medical Basic Sciences, Neurosciences and Sense Organs)
- Since 2001 research and clinical activity has been mainly focused on Multiple Sclerosis.

Research activity has been mainly focused on:

- MRI in MS
- Cerebrospinal and serum biomarkers of MS (Neurofilament, N-acetyl Aspartate)
- NMO spectrum disorders: clinical aspect and serum biomarkers.
- “Real life observational study” in MS
- She participated, also to several research projects on shared-decision making and evidence-based patient information work to enhance self-management of MS patients.

Grants:

- Grant of Health Ministry Grant for residency in Neurology (1992-1996);
- Grant of Farmades Schering for a specialisation course on quantitative magnetic resonance techniques in Multiple Sclerosis (Milan, 1998)
- Grant of Italian League of Epilepsy for young neurologists (Bergamo, 1998);
- Grant of Federazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla (FISM) (April 2001-March 2002)


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Publications

Selection of scientific publications (Art. 7 DM 120/2016)

- 1) Sormani MP, Gasperini C, Romeo M, Rio J, Calabrese M, Cocco E, Enzinger C, Fazekas F, Filippi M, Gallo A, Kappos L, Marrosu MG, Martinelli V, Prosperini L, Rocca MA, Rovira A, Sprenger T, Stromillo ML, Tedeschi G, Tintore M, Tortorella C, Trojano M, Montalban X, Pozzilli C, Comi G, De Stefano N (2016). Assessing response to interferon-beta in a multicenter dataset of patients with MS. *Neurology*, 87:134-140.
- 2) Tortorella C, Drenzo V, Taurisano P, Romano R, Ruggieri M, Zoccolella S, Mastrapasqua M, Popolizio T, Blasi G, Bertolino A, Trojano M (2015). Cerebrospinal fluid neurofilament tracks fMRI correlates of attention at the first attack of multiple sclerosis. *Mult Scler*, 21:396-401.
- 3) Trojano M, Tortorella C (2015). MS and related disorders: looking for markers of phenotypes. *Lancet Neurology*, 14:11-13.
- 4) Tortorella C, Drenzo V, D'Onghia M, Trojano M (2013). Brainstem PML lesion mimicking MS plaque in a natalizumab-treated MS patient. *Neurology*, 81:1470-1471.
- 5) Tortorella C, Romano R, Drenzo V, Taurisano P, Zoccolella S, Iaffaldano P, Fazio L, Viterbo R, Popolizio T, Blasi G, Bertolino A, Trojano M (2013). Load-dependent dysfunction of the putamen during attentional processing in patients with clinically isolated syndrome suggestive of multiple sclerosis. *Mult Scler*, 19:1153-1160.
- 6) Zoccolella S, Tortorella C, Iaffaldano P, Drenzo V, D'Onghia M, Paolicelli D, Livrea P, Trojano M (2012). Elevated plasma homocysteine levels in patients with multiple sclerosis are associated with male gender. *J Neurol*, 259:2105-2110.
- 7) Tortorella C, Ruggieri M, Di Monte E, Ceci E, Iaffaldano P, Drenzo V, Mastrapasqua M, Frigeri A, Amato MP, Hakiki B, Ghezzi A, Lugaresi A, De Luca G, Patti F, D'amico E, Sola P, Simone AM, Svelto M, Livrea P, Trojano M (2011). Serum and CSF N-acetyl aspartate levels differ in multiple sclerosis and neuromyelitis optica. *JNNP* 82: 1355-1359.
- 8) Tortorella C, Bellacosa A, Paolicelli D, Fuiani A, Di Monte E, Simone IL, Giaquinto P, Livrea P, Trojano M (2005). Age-related gadolinium-enhancement of MRI brain lesions in multiple sclerosis. *J Neurol Sci*, 239:95-99.
- 9) Tortorella C, Viti B, Bozzali M, Sormani MP, Rizzo G, Gilardi MF, Comi G, Filippi M (2000). A magnetization transfer histogram study of normal-appearing brain tissue in MS. *Neurology*, 54:186-193.
- 10) Filippi M, Tortorella C, Rovaris M, Bozzali M, Possa F, Sormani MP, Iannucci G, Comi G (2000). Changes in the normal appearing brain tissue and cognitive impairment in multiple sclerosis. *JNNP*, 68:157-161.
- 11) Tortorella C, Codella M, Rocca MA, Gasperini C, Capra R, Bastianello S, Filippi M (1999). Disease activity in multiple sclerosis studied by weekly triple-dose magnetic resonance imaging. *J Neurol*, 246:689-692.
- 12) Federico F, Simone IL, Lucivero V, Giannini P, Laddomada G, Mezzapesa DM, Tortorella C (1998). Prognostic value of proton magnetic resonance spectroscopy in ischemic stroke. *Arch Neurol*, 55:489-494.

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Carla Tortorella 

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