

## Curriculum Vitae - Francesco Piluso



European  
Union

### Personal information:

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### Work experience:

- As a thesis student, he attended the Medical Genetics Laboratory of the University of Campania 'Luigi Vanvitelli' directed by Prof. Vincenzo Nigro. Over a period of about two years (2020-2021), he gradually developed an excellent familiarity with the main molecular biology methods (nucleic acid extraction, PCR amplification, electrophoretic analysis, etc.). For his master's thesis, he gained complete autonomy in performing analyses using CGH arrays (Agilent technology).
- He is currently enrolled in the final year of the Ph.D. program in "Reproductive and Development Sciences" at the University of Trieste, Italy, since 2022, under the supervision of prof. Paolo Gasparini. His Ph.D. program is in collaboration with the Lake Lucerne Institute AG (LLUI), Vitznau, Switzerland and his main work is on taste perception, more specifically on the perception of umami and fat taste. His work also includes the investigation of the role played by genetics in the interindividual differences in taste sensitivity within the population, developing an excellent familiarity with the assessment of taste and smell perception and SNP genotyping adopting qPCR technique. During his Ph.D. programme, he was also involved in the organisation of the first LLUI Symposium – Meet Your Taste which took place in April 2024, developing skill around organisation and management related to scientific talks and conferences. During his Ph.D. programme, he attended multiple congresses with several poster presentations and two oral presentations abroad.

### Education:

- Liceo Classico Statale 'Umberto I,' Naples - Classical High School Diploma (grade 86/100), 2015/16.
- University of Naples 'Federico II' - Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences, obtained on 18/10/2019 with final mark 110/110 *cum laude* (average mark = 28.36, examinations passed with laude 6).

Title of the thesis: CO-PRESENCE OF A NEW GENE RAB39B MUTATION IN A PEDIATRIC PATIENT AFFECTED BY TYPE 1 NEUROFIBROMATOSIS, WITH SEVERE INTELLECTIVE DISABILITY AND AUTISM (Supervisor Prof. Serena Aceto; Co-Supervisor Prof. Vincenzo Nigro). The topic of the thesis has since been published (BMC Neurol. 2020 Sep 1;20(1):327. doi: 10.1186/s12883-020-01911-0).

- University of Naples 'Federico II' - Master's degree in Biological Sciences awarded on 14/12/2021 with final mark 110/110 *cum laude* (average mark = 29.04, examinations passed with laude 3).

Title of the thesis: ACACIA: A HIGH RESOLUTION, CUSTOMISED ARRAY-CGH FOR THE IDENTIFICATION OF ELUSIVE COPY NUMBERS MUTATIONS IN PATIENTS AFFECTED BY RARE DISEASES (Supervisor Prof. Serena Aceto; Co-Supervisor Prof. Vincenzo Nigro)

### Language skills:

Level B2 in English assessed by the British School of Naples. Attended a German Level A1-A2 Course (14 Lessons) in 2025.

### Computer skills:

Good competence in the use of the Microsoft Office package. Excellent skills in producing presentations in PowerPoint format. Use of CytoGenomics software (Agilent) and sufficient command

of the main bioinformatics tools available online. Good proficiency with R software for statistical analysis. Good confidence with Genome Wide Association Studies, in both preparation and analysis of the data.

Abstract presentation at Congresses:

- **ESHG Congress 2021, Virtual Conference, 28-31 August 2021.**  
ACACIA: A Customized Array Cgh for solving unsolvable genetic diseases. A. Torella<sup>1</sup>, F. Del Vecchio Blanco<sup>1</sup>, G. Blasio<sup>1</sup>, M. Zanobio<sup>1</sup>, R. Zeuli<sup>1</sup>, M. Onore<sup>1</sup>, F. Romano<sup>1</sup>, C. Peduto<sup>1</sup>, F. Piluso<sup>1</sup>, M. Napoli<sup>1</sup>, E. Picillo<sup>1</sup>, G. Vicidomini<sup>1</sup>, F. Secondulfo<sup>1</sup>, P. D'Ambrosio<sup>1</sup>, G. Piluso<sup>1</sup>, V. Nigro<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Università degli Studi della Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Napoli, Italy.  
<sup>2</sup>Tigem-Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine, Pozzuoli, Italy.
- **XXIV Congresso Nazionale SIGU, Virtual Edition, 17-19 November 2021.**  
ACACIA: A Customized Array Cgh for solving unsolvable genetic diseases. M.E. Onore<sup>1</sup>, A. Torella<sup>1,2</sup>, F. Piluso<sup>1</sup>, A. Budillon<sup>1</sup>, V. Bonolis<sup>2</sup>, F. Del Vecchio Blanco<sup>1</sup>, Telethon Undiagnosed Disease Program Study Group, G. Piluso<sup>1</sup>, V. Nigro<sup>1,2</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Precision Medicine, University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Naples, Italy.  
<sup>2</sup>Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM), Pozzuoli, Naples, Italy.
- **ESHG Congress 2022, Hybrid Conference, 11-14 June 2022.**  
A 1M CGH array (ACACIA) that identifies the smallest CNVs of single exons and complements with NGS results. M.E. Onore<sup>1</sup>, A. Torella<sup>1,2</sup>, F. Del Vecchio Blanco<sup>1</sup>, F. Piluso<sup>1</sup>, M. Zanobio<sup>1</sup>, F. Romano<sup>1</sup>, R. Zeuli<sup>1</sup>, V. Nigro<sup>1,2</sup>, G. Piluso<sup>1</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Campania "Luigi Vanvitelli", Department of Precision Medicine, Naples, Italy.  
<sup>2</sup>Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM), Pozzuoli, Naples, Italy.
- **NuGOweek, 5-8 September 2023.**  
Deepening the role of rs1761667 CD36 on taste perception and related traits in Italian and UK cohorts. Francesco Piluso<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2,3</sup>, Alexandra King<sup>4</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>4</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>4</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,5</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>5</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Sciences, University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy.  
<sup>2</sup>Lake Lucerne Institute, Nutrition, Vitznau, CH.  
<sup>3</sup>Cereneo foundation - Center for Interdisciplinary Research, Nutrition, Vitznau, CH.  
<sup>4</sup>St Mary's University Twickenham London, Faculty of Sport, Allied Health and Performance Science, London, UK.  
<sup>5</sup>Institute for Maternal and Child Health, IRCCS "Burlo Garofolo", Trieste, Italy.
- **SIGU, 4-6 Ottobre, 2023.**  
Elucidating the role of the CD36 gene in fat taste perception, liking, and related traits in two European cohorts. Francesco Piluso<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2,3</sup>, Alexandra King<sup>4</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>4</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>4</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,5</sup>, and Maria Pina Concas<sup>5</sup>.  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Sciences, The University of Trieste, 34127 Trieste, Italy  
<sup>2</sup>Lake Lucerne Institute, 6354 Vitznau, Switzerland  
<sup>3</sup>Cereneo Foundation—Center for Interdisciplinary Research, 6354 Vitznau, Switzerland  
<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Sport, Allied Health and Performance, St Mary's University Twickenham, London TW1 4SX, UK  
<sup>5</sup>Institute for Maternal and Child Health, IRCCS "Burlo Garofolo", 34137 Trieste, Italy
- **FENS, 14-17 November 2023.**  
Investigating the Role of Genetics in Fatty Acids Oral Perception and Related Traits in Two European Cohorts. Francesco Piluso<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2,3</sup>, Alexandra King<sup>4</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>4</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,5</sup>, and Maria Pina Concas<sup>5</sup>.  
<sup>1</sup>Department of Medical Sciences, The University of Trieste, 34127 Trieste, Italy  
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<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Sport, Allied Health and Performance, St Mary's University Twickenham, London TW1 4SX, UK  
<sup>5</sup>Institute for Maternal and Child Health, IRCCS "Burlo Garofolo", 34137 Trieste, Italy

- **NuGOweek, 2-5 September 2024.**  
Investigating a new possible taste interaction – *APPETISER* project. [Francesco Piluso](#)<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2</sup>, Bernardo Dias<sup>2,3</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>4</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>5</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,4</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy.  
<sup>2</sup>Lake Lucerne Institute (LLUI), Vitznau, Switzerland.  
<sup>3</sup>NOVA University of Lisbon, Lisboa, Portugal.  
<sup>4</sup>Burlo Garofalo Paediatric Institute, Trieste, Italy.  
<sup>5</sup>St Mary's University, London, UK.
- **NuGOweek, 2-5 September 2024.**  
The influence of genetics on the acceptance of spicy foods in two Italian populations – A Genome Wide Association Study. [Francesco Piluso](#)<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2</sup>, Silvia Camarda<sup>1</sup>, Alessandro Pecori<sup>3</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>3</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy.  
<sup>2</sup>Lake Lucerne Institute (LLUI), Vitznau, Switzerland.  
<sup>3</sup>Burlo Garofalo Paediatric Institute, Trieste, Italy.
- **EUROSENSE, 8-11 September 2024.**  
A possible interplay between fat and umami taste perception. [Francesco Piluso](#)<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>1</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>3</sup> and Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>Lake Lucerne Institute (LLUI), Rubistrasse 9, 6354 Vitznau, Switzerland.  
<sup>2</sup>Department of Medicine, Surgery and Health Sciences, University of Trieste, 34149 Trieste, Italy.  
<sup>3</sup>Institute for Maternal and Child Health—IRCCS, Burlo Garofolo, 34127 Trieste, Italy.
- **SIGU, 2-4 October 2024.**  
A new potential genetic link between umami and fat taste perception. [F. Piluso](#)<sup>1,2</sup>, H. Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, C. Maher<sup>2</sup>, M.P. Concas<sup>4</sup>, L. Pilic<sup>3</sup>, P. Gasparini<sup>1,2,4</sup>  
<sup>1</sup>University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy.  
<sup>2</sup>Lake Lucerne Institute AG, Vitznau, Switzerland.  
<sup>3</sup>St Mary's University, Twickenham, London, United Kingdom  
<sup>4</sup>IRCCS Burlo Garofolo, Trieste, Italy.
- **NuGOweek, 22–25 September 2025.**  
Is there an interplay between fat and umami taste perception and what is the role of CD36 gene? A preliminary overview. [Francesco Piluso](#)<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Bernardo Dias<sup>2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>3</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>2</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
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<sup>2</sup>Lake Lucerne Institute (LLUI), 6354 Vitznau, Switzerland.  
<sup>3</sup>Institute for Maternal and Child Health—IRCCS “Burlo Garofolo,” Trieste, Italy.
- **SIGU, 23-25 September 2025.**  
A novel insight on fat and umami taste perception interaction with respect to the role played by genetics. [Francesco Piluso](#)<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Bernardo Dias<sup>2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>3</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>2</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,3</sup>  
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<sup>3</sup>Institute for Maternal and Child Health—IRCCS “Burlo Garofolo,” Trieste, Italy.

## Publications:

- Investigating the Role of Genetics in Fatty Acids Oral Perception and Related Traits in Two European Cohorts (Conference abstract)  
Francesco Piluso<sup>1,2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2,3</sup>, Alexandra King<sup>4</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>4</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,5</sup>, and Maria Pina Concas<sup>5</sup>.  
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<sup>4</sup>Faculty of Sport, Allied Health and Performance, St Mary’s University Twickenham, London TW1 4SX, UK  
<sup>5</sup>Institute for Maternal and Child Health, IRCCS “Burlo Garofolo”, 34137 Trieste, Italy  
(*Proceedings*, 2023, 91(1), 343; <https://doi.org/10.3390/proceedings2023091343>)
- The Genetics of Sweet Taste: Perception, Feeding Behaviours, and Health (Conference Abstract)  
Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Francesco Piluso<sup>1,2</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,3</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>4</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>4</sup>, Catherine Anne-Marie Graham<sup>2,5</sup>, and Maria Pina Concas<sup>3</sup>.  
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(*Proceedings*, 2023, 91(1), 343; <https://doi.org/10.3390/proceedings2023091342>)
- TAS1R2 rs35874116 Associations with Taste, Diet, and Health in an Italian Population.  
Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>2</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>4</sup>, Francesco Piluso<sup>1,2</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>2,5,6</sup>, Alexandra King<sup>5</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>5,7</sup>, and Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,4</sup>  
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<sup>3</sup>Cereneo Foundation—Center for Interdisciplinary Research, 6354 Vitznau, Switzerland  
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<sup>5</sup>Faculty of Sport, Technology and Health Sciences, St Mary’s University Twickenham, London TW1 4SX, UK  
<sup>6</sup>MyHealthChecked PLC, Cardiff, CF24 5EA, UK  
<sup>7</sup>Optimyse Nutrition Ltd., Radlett, WD7 9DJ, UK  
(*Nutrients* 2025, 17(2), 329; <https://doi.org/10.3390/nu17020329>)
- Polygenic prediction of body mass index and obesity through the life course and across ancestries.  
Smit *et al.* (listed as co-author) (*Nature Medicine*, 2025 Sep;31(9):3151-3168. doi: 10.1038/s41591-025-03827-z. Epub 2025 Jul 21)
- Associations of CD36 rs1761667 with Fat and Umami Food Perception, Diet Quality, and BMI in Two European Studies  
Francesco Piluso<sup>1,2,\*</sup>, Catherine Anne-Marie Graham<sup>2</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>1,2</sup>, Alexandra King<sup>3</sup>, Leta Pilic<sup>4</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>2</sup>, Silvia Camarda<sup>1</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>1,2,5</sup> and Maria Pina Concas<sup>5</sup>  
(*Foods* 2025 Nov 7;14(22):3813. doi: 10.3390/foods14223813.)

- Differences in smell and taste performance and food liking between patients with stroke and healthy controls.

Catherine Anna-Marie Graham<sup>1</sup>, Harry Stevens<sup>2,3</sup>, Francesco Piluso<sup>2,3</sup>, Silvia Camarda<sup>3</sup>, Yiannis Mavrommatis<sup>2</sup>, Paolo Gasparini<sup>2,3,4</sup>, Maria Pina Concas<sup>4</sup>

(Sci Rep. **2025** Nov 27;15(1):43687. doi: 10.1038/s41598-025-27469-w.)

Awards:

- Best oral presentation award at **NuGOweek, 22–25 September 2025** for the presentation titled “*Is there an interplay between fat and umami taste perception and what is the role of CD36 gene? A preliminary overview*”

**Aggiornato al 05/01/2025**