

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Provide the following information for the Senior/key personnel and other significant contributors.



NAME: Fiorio Pla, Alessandra

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POSITION TITLE: Associate Professor in Physiology, University of Torino

EDUCATION/TRAINING (*Begin with baccalaureate or other initial professional education, such as nursing, include postdoctoral training and residency training if applicable. Add/delete rows as necessary.*)

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Start Date MM/YYYY	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Turin, Italy	M. Sc.	Oct 1992	March 1998	Molecular Biology
University of Milan, Italy	Ph.D.	Oct 1998	Dec 2001	Physiology
NINDS, NIH, Bethesda, US	Post-Doc	Jan 2002	Oct 2004	Cell Physiology
NDCR, NIH, Bethesda, US	Visiting Researcher	Jan 2009	Sept 2009	Cell Physiology

A. Personal Statement

Alessandra Fiorio Pla obtained her degree in molecular biology in 1998 at the University of Turin, Italy and her PhD in physiology in 2001 at the University of Milan, Italy, under the supervision of Prof. Luca Munaron (Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, University of Torino). Alessandra Fiorio Pla performed her postdoctoral training in the laboratory directed by Jeffrey Barker in close collaboration with the laboratory of Indu Ambudkar at National Institute of Health (NIH) in Bethesda, USA. Since her PhD, she has been interested in dissecting the molecular mechanisms involved in tumor progression and angiogenesis with a particular emphasis on the role of Ca²⁺ signaling mechanisms and ion channels in cancer invasion and angiogenesis. In 2007, Fiorio Pla took up a position as assistant professor in physiology at the Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, University of Torino. In 2015, she was appointed Associate Professor and in January 2020, she obtained the national entitlement as full professor in Physiology. Since 2009 she is closely collaborating as Visiting Scientist with Prof. Prevarskaya's group, Cell Physiology Laboratory in Lille. Her research focuses on cell physiology and Ca²⁺ signals and has resulted in important publications in prestigious journals such as *Oncogene*, *Journal of Cell Biology*, *PNAS*, *EMBO Journal*, *Journal of Neuroscience*, *American Journal of Physiology*... (more than 50 publications).

Since 2018 Fiorio Pla is involved in different projects focused on the role of ion channels in pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma progression: she is indeed partner of the Marie Curie Innovative Training Network (Acronym: pHioniC), focused on the role of pH and Ion Transport in Pancreatic Cancer and since 2019 PI of the project funded by the Italian Ministry of research (Acronym: LIONESS). She is also PI of the International Associated Laboratory (Acronym: CaPANCIInv), between University of Torino, University of Lille (Inserm U1003) and University of Munster (Cell migration group headed by Prof. Schwab) which is focused on the effect of microenvironmental triggers (pH, mechanical stress, hypoxia) on Ca²⁺ signaling in pancreatic cancer (PDAC) cells and stroma (PSC) stellate cells.

In terms of institutional responsibilities, since 2020 she is strongly involved in the internationalization strategy of the University of Torino, covering the role of Delegate for Scientific relations with France and the Francophone countries and delegate for the International Mobility for UNITO. She is also Delegate for the Executive and strategic board of the Italo-French University. Since October 2021 she is Vice Director of the Internationalization at the Department of Life Sciences and Systems Biology, UNITO.

Since 2018, she is part of the board and Responsible for the teaching committee of the PhD program in Complex Systems for life sciences, University of Torino.