

CURRICULUM VITAE

Name: Roberto Testi
Birthdate: March 20, 1957
Birthplace: Rome, Italy
Citizenship: Italian
Education: M.D., 1982, University of Rome "La Sapienza"
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Present positions

Chairman of Immunology, Dept of Biomedicine and Prevention, University of Rome "Tor Vergata".

Professional experience

1982-1984 Resident, Clinical Immunology Dept., Institute of Internal Medicine, Univ. of Rome "La Sapienza"
1984-1986 Research Fellow, Lab. of Immunology, Dept. of Experimental Medicine, Univ. of Rome "La Sapienza"
1986-1987 Research Fellow in Pathology, Lab. of Immunobiology, Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard University, Boston (MA), USA
1989. 1988-1989 Research Fellow, Lab. of Immunobiology, Becton Dickinson Monoclonal Center, Mountain View (CA), USA
1989. 1988-1990 Research Associate, Cancer Research Institute, University of California, San Francisco, San Francisco (CA), USA
1989- 1992 Assistant Professor in Pathology, Dept. of Experimental Medicine, School of Medicine, University of L'Aquila
1992-2000 Associate Professor in Pathology, Dept. of Experimental Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
1994-date Founder and Director, Laboratory of Signal Transduction, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2000-date Full Professor of Immunology, Dept. of Biomedicine and Prevention, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2015-2022 Founder and President, Fratagene Therapeutics srl, Rome.

Academic governance

1998- 2001 member of the Cultural Commission of the University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2000 -2003 member of the Scientific Observatory of the School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2009-2011 member of the Research and Development Commission, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2010-2012 member of the Board, Department of Experimental Medicine, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2012-2015 member of Scientific Commission, Department of Biomedicine and Prevention, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2015-2018 President of the Research Commission, Department of Biomedicine and Prevention, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

Selected Publications

Interferon Gamma Enhances Cytoprotective Pathways via Nrf2 and MnSOD Induction in Friedreich's Ataxia Cells.

Luffarelli R, Panarello L, Quatrana A, Tiano F, Fortuni S, Rufini A, Malisan F, Testi R, Condò I. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2023 Aug 11;24(16):12687.

Drug Repositioning in Friedreich Ataxia.

Rufini A, Malisan F, Condò I, Testi R.

Front Neurosci. 2022 Feb 9;16:814445. eCollection 2022.

Hsa-miR223-3p circulating level is upregulated in Friedreich's ataxia and inversely associated with HCLS1 associated protein X-1, HAX-1.

Quatrana A, Morini E, Tiano F, Vancheri C, Panarello L, Romano S, Marcotulli C, Casali C, Mariotti C, Mongelli A, Fichera M, Rufini A, Condò I, Novelli G, Testi R, Amati F, Malisan F. *Hum Mol Genet.* 2022 Jun 22;31(12):2010-2022.

Sensitivity of Neuroimaging Indicators in Monitoring the Effects of Interferon Gamma Treatment in Friedreich's Ataxia.

Vavla M, Arrigoni F, Toschi N, Peruzzo D, D'Angelo MG, Gandossini S, Russo A, Diella E, Tirelli S, Salati R, Rufini A, Condo I, Testi R, Martinuzzi A.

Front Neurosci. 2020 Oct 9;14:872. eCollection 2020.

Frataxin deficiency in Friedreich's ataxia is associated with reduced levels of HAX-1, a regulator of cardiomyocyte death and survival.

Tiano F, Amati F, Cherubini F, Morini E, Vancheri C, Maletta S, Fortuni S, Serio D, Quatrana A, Luffarelli R, Benini M, Alfedì G, Panarello L, Rufini A, Toschi N, Frontali M, Romano S, Marcotulli C, Casali C, Gioiosa S, Mariotti C, Mongelli A, Fichera M, Condò I, Novelli G, Testi R, Malisan F.

Hum Mol Genet. 2020 Feb 1;29(3):471-482.

Safety and efficacy of interferon γ in friedreich's ataxia.

Vavla M, D'Angelo MG, Arrigoni F, Toschi N, Peruzzo D, Gandossini S, Russo A, Diella E, Tirelli S, Salati R, Scarpazza P, Luffarelli R, Fortuni S, Rufini A, Condò I, Testi R, Martinuzzi A.

Mov Disord. 2020 Feb;35(2):370-371. Epub 2020 Jan 13.

SINEUP non-coding RNAs rescue defective frataxin expression and activity in a cellular model of Friedreich's Ataxia.

Bon C, Luffarelli R, Russo R, Fortuni S, Pierattini B, Santulli C, Fimiani C, Persichetti F, Cotella D, Mallamaci A, Santoro C, Carninci P, Espinoza S, Testi R, Zucchelli S, Condò I, Gustincich S.

Nucleic Acids Res. 2019 Nov 18;47(20):10728-10743.

Drug repositioning screening identifies etravirine as a potential therapeutic for friedreich's ataxia.

Alfedì G, Luffarelli R, Condò I, Pedini G, Mannucci L, Massaro DS, Benini M, Toschi N, Alaimo G, Panarello L, Pacini L, Fortuni S, Serio D, Malisan F, Testi R, Rufini A.

Mov Disord. 2019 Mar;34(3):323-334. Epub 2019 Jan 9.

Biophysical characterisation of the recombinant human frataxin precursor.

Castro IH, Ferrari A, Herrera MG, Noguera ME, Maso L, Benini M, Rufini A, Testi R, Costantini P, Santos J.

FEBS Open Bio. 2018 Jan 25;8(3):390-405. eCollection 2018 Mar.

E3 Ligase RNF126 Directly Ubiquitinates Frataxin, Promoting Its Degradation: Identification of a Potential Therapeutic Target for Friedreich Ataxia.

Benini M, Fortuni S, Condò I, Alfedì G, Malisan F, Toschi N, Serio D, Massaro DS, Arcuri G, Testi R, Rufini A.

Cell Rep. 2017 Feb 21;18(8):2007-2017.

GIFT-1, a phase IIa clinical trial to test the safety and efficacy of IFN γ administration in FRDA patients.

Marcotulli C, Fortuni S, Arcuri G, Tomassini B, Leonardi L, Pierelli F, Testi R, Casali C.

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Analyzing the Effects of a G137V Mutation in the FXN Gene.

Faggianelli N, Puglisi R, Veneziano L, Romano S, Frontali M, Vannocci T, Fortuni S, Testi R, Pastore A.

Front Mol Neurosci. 2015 Nov 25; 8:66. eCollection 2015.

Src inhibitors modulate frataxin protein levels.

Cherubini F, Serio D, Guccini I, Fortuni S, Arcuri G, Condò I, Rufini A, Moiz S, Camerini S, Crescenzi M, Testi R, Malisan F.

Hum Mol Genet. 2015 May 6. pii: ddv162. [Epub ahead of print]

Highly specific ubiquitin-competing molecules effectively promote frataxin accumulation and partially rescue the aconitase defect in Friedreich ataxia cells.

Rufini A, Cavallo F, Condò I, Fortuni S, De Martino G, Incani O, Di Venere A, Benini M, Massaro DS, Arcuri G, Serio D, Malisan F, Testi R.

Neurobiol Dis. 2015 Mar; 75:91-9. Epub 2014 Dec 27.

Autophagy induction extends lifespan and reduces lipid content in response to frataxin silencing in *C. elegans*.

Schiavi A, Torgovnick A, Kell A, Megalou E, Castelein N, Guccini I, Marzocchella L, Gelino S, Hansen M, Malisan F, Condò I, Bei R, Rea SL, Braeckman BP, Tavernarakis N, Testi R, Ventura N.

Exp Gerontol. 2013 Feb;48(2):191-201. Epub 2012 Dec 13. Erratum in: Exp Gerontol. 2013 Sep;48(9):1001.

Interferon gamma upregulates frataxin and corrects the functional deficits in a Friedreich ataxia model.

Tomassini B, Arcuri G, Fortuni S, Sandi C, Ezzatizadeh V, Casali C, Condò I, Malisan F, Al-Mahdawi S, Pook M, Testi R.

Hum Mol Genet. 2012 Jul 1;21(13):2855-61. Epub 2012 Mar 23.

Frataxin participates to the hypoxia-induced response in tumors.

Guccini I, Serio D, Condò I, Rufini A, Tomassini B, Mangiola A, Maira G, Anile C, Fina D, Pallone F, Mongiardì MP, Levi A, Ventura N, Testi R, Malisan F.

Cell Death Dis. 2011 Feb 24;2(1): e123.

Preventing the ubiquitin-proteasome-dependent degradation of frataxin, the protein defective in Friedreich's ataxia.

Rufini A, Fortuni S, Arcuri G, Condò I, Serio D, Incani O, Malisan F, Ventura N, Testi R.

Hum Mol Genet. 2011 Apr 1;20(7):1253-61.

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A role for p53 in mitochondrial stress response control of longevity in *C. elegans*.

Torgovnick A, Schiavi A, Testi R, Ventura N.
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Molecular control of the cytosolic aconitase/IRP1 switch by extramitochondrial frataxin.
Condò I, Malisan F, Guccini I, Serio D, Rufini A, Testi R.
Hum Mol Genet. 2010 Apr 1;19(7):1221-9. Epub 2010 Jan 6.

p53/CEP-1 Increases or Decreases Lifespan, Depending on Level of Mitochondrial Bioenergetic Stress.
Ventura N, Rea SL, Schiavi A, Torgovnick A, Testi R, Johnson TE.
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Silencing of SH-PTP2 defines a crucial role in the inactivation of epidermal growth factor receptor by 5-aminosalicylic acid in colon cancer cells.
Monteleone G, Franchi L, Fina D, Caruso R, Vavassori P, Monteleone I, Calabrese E, Naccari GC, Bellinvia S, Testi R, Pallone F.
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The ganglioside GD3 as the Greek goddess Hecate: several faces turned towards as many directions.
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Reduced expression of frataxin extends the lifespan of *Caenorhabditis elegans*.
Ventura N, Rea S, Henderson ST, Condo I, Johnson TE, Testi R.
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Differential regulation of apoptotic cell death in senescent human cells.
Hampel B, Malisan F, Niederegger H, Testi R, Jansen-Dürr P.
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A caspase-like activity is triggered by LPS and is required for survival of human dendritic cells.
Franchi L, Condò I, Tomassini B, Nicolò C, Testi R.
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Malisan F, Testi R.
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GD3 in cellular ageing and apoptosis.
Malisan F, Testi R.
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Disialoganglioside GD3 is released by microglia and induces oligodendrocyte apoptosis.

Simon BM, Malisan F, Testi R, Nicotera P, Leist M.
Cell Death Differ. 2002 Jul;9(7):758-67.

Lipid signaling in CD95-mediated apoptosis.
Rufini A, Testi R.
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Mitochondria as sensors of sphingolipids.
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Nicolò C, Tomassini B, Rippo MR, Testi R.
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Intracellular mediators of programmed cell death initiated at the cell surface receptor Fas.
Condo I, Testi R.
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GD3 ganglioside directly targets mitochondria in a bcl-2-controlled fashion.
Rippo MR, Malisan F, Ravagnan L, Tomassini B, Condo I, Costantini P, Susin SA, Rufini A, Todaro M, Kroemer G, Testi R.
FASEB J. 2000 Oct;14(13):2047-54.

Lipopolysaccharide induces jun N-terminal kinase activation in macrophages by a novel Cdc42/Rac-independent pathway involving sequential activation of protein kinase C zeta and phosphatidylcholine-dependent phospholipase C.
Procyk KJ, Rippo MR, Testi R, Hofmann F, Parker PJ, Baccharini M.
Blood. 2000 Oct 1;96(7):2592-8.

Primary macrophages infected by human immunodeficiency virus trigger CD95-mediated apoptosis of uninfected astrocytes.
Aquaro S, Panti S, Caroleo MC, Balestra E, Cenci A, Forbici F, Ippolito G, Mastino A, Testi R, Mollace V, Calìò R, Perno CF.
J Leukoc Biol. 2000 Sep;68(3):429-35.

Distinct mechanisms target stress and extracellular signal-activated kinase 1 and Jun N-terminal kinase during infection of macrophages with Salmonella.
Procyk KJ, Rippo MR, Testi R, Hoffmann F, Parker PJ, Baccharini M.
J Immunol. 1999 Nov 1;163(9):4924-30.

Lipid signaling in CD95-mediated apoptosis.
Malisan F, Testi R.
FEBS Lett. 1999 Jun 4;452(1-2):100-3. Review.

Fas/Fas ligand-driven T cell apoptosis as a consequence of ineffective thyroid immunoprivilege in Hashimoto's thyroiditis.
Stassi G, Todaro M, Bucchieri F, Stoppacciaro A, Farina F, Zummo G, Testi R, De Maria R.
J Immunol. 1999 Jan 1;162(1):263-7.

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Nervi C, Ferrara FF, Fanelli M, Rippo MR, Tomassini B, Ferrucci PF, Ruthardt M, Gelmetti V,

Gambacorti-Passerini C, Diverio D, Grignani F, Pelicci PG, Testi R.
Blood. 1998 Oct 1;92(7):2244-51.

Fas-FasL interactions: a common pathogenetic mechanism in organ-specific autoimmunity.
De Maria R, Testi R.
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De Maria R, Rippon MR, Schuchman EH, Testi R.
J Exp Med. 1998 Mar 16;187(6):897-902.

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Stassi G, De Maria R, Trucco G, Rudert W, Testi R, Galluzzo A, Giordano C, Trucco M.
J Exp Med. 1997 Oct 20;186(8):1193-200.

Requirement for GD3 ganglioside in CD95- and ceramide-induced apoptosis.
De Maria R, Lenti L, Malisan F, d'Agostino F, Tomassini B, Zeuner A, Rippon MR, Testi R.
Science. 1997 Sep 12;277(5332):1652-5. Erratum in: Science 1998 Apr 17;280(5362):363.

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Giordano C, Stassi G, De Maria R, Todaro M, Richiusa P, Papoff G, Ruberti G, Bagnasco M, Testi R, Galluzzo A.
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potential role for the acidic sphingomyelinase pathway in normal immunoregulation.
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Triggering of human monocyte activation through CD69, a member of the natural killer cell gene complex family of signal transducing receptors.
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Eur J Immunol. 1993 Nov;23(11):2993-7.

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J Immunol. 1992 May 1;148(9):2867-71.

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Structural and serological heterogeneity of gamma/delta T cell antigen receptor expression in thymus and peripheral blood.

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Patents

Testi R., Incani O., Compositions and methods for treating Friedreich's ataxia, 2014, US Patent 8,807,749

Testi R., Tomassini B. Methods for treating Friedreich's ataxia with interferon gamma, 2014, US Patent 8,815,230

Testi R., Tomassini B. Methods for treating Friedreich's ataxia with interferon gamma, 2014, EU Patent 2,611,457

Testi R. Frataxin Mutants, 2015, US Patent 9,217,019

Testi R. Frataxin Mutants, 2015, EU Patent, 2,598,525

Testi R. Frataxin Mutants, 2017, US Patent 9,944,906

Testi R., Incani O., Rufini A., De Martino G. Compositions and methods for treating Friedreich's ataxia, 2019, US Patent 10,442,779

Rufini A., Alfedì G., Testi R. Methods for treating Friedreich's ataxia with etravirine, 2019, US Patent 10,426,775

Lecturing activity

Prof. Testi received >100 invitations to serve as speaker, session chairman, keynote lecturer as well to give scientific seminars, at national and international meetings and locations, on topics related to lymphocyte and dendritic cell activation and differentiation, to molecular mechanisms governing programmed cell death and to the pathogenesis and treatment of Friedreich's Ataxia.

Scientific revision

Journals: Science, Nature Immunology, Nature Cell Biology, Journal of Biological Chemistry, Immunology Today, Trends in Immunology, FASEB Journal, EMBO Journal, Cancer Research, Oncogene, Journal of Immunology, European Journal of Immunology, International Immunology, Journal of Immunological Methods, Journal of Leukocyte Biology, Cell Death and Differentiation, Gut, Gastroenterology, BBA, Journal of Cell Science, Human Molecular Genetics, Movement Disorders

Funding Agencies: European Commission, Human Frontier Science Program Organization, Dutch Cancer Society, Cancer Research UK, Associazione Italiana Ricerca sul Cancro, Fondazione Italiana Sclerosi Multipla, Agenzia Spaziale Italiana, Ataxia UK, Friedreich Ataxia Research Alliance USA, Ataxia Ireland.

Consulting, Board memberships

2006-2008 Consulting expert for Sterne, Kessler, Golstein and Fox LLP, Attorneys at Law, Washington DC, USA.

2009-2015 Advisory Board Member at HansaBiomed OU.

Awards

Winner of the "Il Golfo d'Oro", XVI edition, Citta' del Vasto 1998. For the studies on programmed cell death of tumors.

Funding

National Agencies

1990-2000 Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche
1992-2008 Associazione Italiana Ricerca sul Cancro
1992-2006 Ministero Universita' e Ricerca (PRIN, FIRB programs)
1997-1999 Telethon
1997-2001 Istituto Superiore di Sanita'
1996-2009 Agenzia Spaziale Italiana
2006-2009 Telethon
2011-2014 Telethon

International Agencies

1994-1998 European Commission, III framework Program
1997-2001 European Commission, IV framework Program
2000-2004 European Commission, V framework Program (Coordinator)
1999-2000 Families of Spinal Muscular Atrophy (USA)
2005-2006 National Ataxia Foundation (USA)
2003-2007 European Commission, VI framework Program
2006-2009 Association Française de l'Ataxie de Friedreich (France)
2007-2013 Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (USA)
2007-2013 Ataxia UK (UK)
2010-2011 National Ataxia Foundation (USA)
2011-2014 Friedreich's Ataxia Research Alliance (USA)
2012-2015 European Research Council, Advanced Grant
2015-2017 European Research Council, Proof-of-Concept Grant

Teaching

Medical School

2000. 1994-2000 Pathology, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
2001-date Immunology and Immunopathology, School of Medicine, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"

PhD Programs

2004. 1996-2004 Professor, Immunology, PhD in Immunology, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
- 1999-2005 Coordinator, PhD in Physiopathology of Programmed Cell Death, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"
- 2002-2004 Professor, Physiopathology of cell death, PhD in Biotechnology, Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla (Spain)
- 2007-2020 Vice-Coordinator, PhD in Immunology and Biotechnology, University of Rome "Tor Vergata"