

## Curriculum vitae

### SILVIA COCO

Actual position: Researcher/Assistant professor, University of Milano-Bicocca

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Dr. Silvia Coco graduated in 1994 in Biological Sciences at the University of Milano (Dept. Medical Pharmacology, Toxicology and Chemotherapy, under the supervision of Dr. Michela Matteoli), where she also obtained the title of Specialist (Scuola di Specializzazione) in Pharmacology (1997) and Doctor of Research (PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology, 2001), at the CNR Institute of Neuroscience (Milano Section). During her period at the University of Milano/CNR she was awarded with a few fellowships and awards: by FIRB, by CNR-ASI, CNR-HFSP (Human Frontier Science Program), CNR-EC (European Community), by MURST and Pharmacia & Upjohn.

During her PhD program she spent a period, as PhD visiting student, at Yale University (CT, USA), in Dr. De Camilli's lab, Dept. of Cell Biology.

In 1995 she passed the State Examination for the admission to the Board of Biologists

Since 1 March 2005 Dr. Coco is a permanent Researcher at the Department of Medicine and Surgery, University of Milano-Bicocca.

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

Currently Dr. Coco's main research interest concerns the investigation of the molecular mechanisms underlying the therapeutic effects of Mesenchymal Stem Cells (MSC) on CNS cells. In particular, the lab aims at studying the paracrine action exerted by MSCs through the release of bioactive molecules including soluble factors and microvesicles/exosomes (i.e. extracellular vesicles) able to affect the activity of target cells, in particular in the context of Alzheimer's Disease and in neurodevelopment.

Past research interests concerned the characterization of the mechanisms of synaptogenesis in primary cultured hippocampal neurons: structural and functional analysis of the pre- and postsynaptic compartments during the formation of synaptic contacts; study of the mechanisms of neurotransmitter release; study of the mechanisms of secretion in primary cultures of astrocytes.

### ACADEMIC ASSIGNMENTS

From 2012 to 2022 she was a Member of the Commission of career counselling (Commissione Orientamento di Ateneo and for the Department of Medicine and Surgery). For that reason in 2016, she attended to a course entitled "Lavorare in rete. Dai servizi di orientamento di Ateneo buone pratiche, bisogni, risultati" (25 February, 1 April, 29 April, 9 June 2016).

From 2015 to 2018 she was also coordinator of the Job Placement Commission for the Dept. of Medicine and Surgery.

In addition to carry out research projects, Dr. Coco exerts teaching tasks at the University of Milano-Bicocca. In particular:

Since 2011 she is being Coordinator of the integrated courses of Pharmacology at the following Degree courses

- Biomedical Laboratory Techniques
- Dental hygiene

She is also Lecturer in Pharmacology at the following Degree courses

- School of Medicine and Surgery (both at the Italian and English Master Degrees)
- Childhood Neuro and Psychomotricity
- Techniques of Medical Radiology for Imaging and Radiotherapy

Since 2016 she is lecturer in Pharmacology at the Nursing's Faculty, University of Milano-Bicocca

She is tutor for thesis of students of Medical Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Degree Courses (Master degrees).

From 2011 up to 2020 she was the coordinator of the course of Pharmacology for the MIX MODE course at the International College of Osteopathic medicine (ICOM) Cinisello Balsamo, Milano.

From 2005 to 2008 she was lecturer in Pharmacogenomics, Biotechnology Faculty, University of Milano-Bicocca.

She is Mentor at the Virgilio Program-Excellence in Research Track A PRE-GRADUATE PROGRAM FOR TRAINING MEDICAL STUDENTS AS PHYSICIAN SCIENTISTS

Since September 2022 she is a member of the Department Board

#### **Recent Grants awarded**

- July 2023: Italian Ministry of Health PRIN 2022, as Head of the UNIMIB Unit for the project n. 202229X8HW (PI prof. Elena Tamagno, UNITO). Title: *Extracellular vesicles derived from preconditioned Mesenchymal stem cell: a new challenge for AD therapy?*
- July 2023: Italian Ministry of Health PRIN-PNRR 2022, as PI of the project n. P2022LR49L. Title: *Mesenchymal Stem Cell-derived Extracellular Vesicles: a new potential tool for restoring altered GABA switch in neurodevelopmental disorders.*

#### **MEMBERSHIPS:**

Dr. Coco is member of the Italian Society for Neuroscience (SINS), the Milan Center for Neuroscience (NEUROMI), member of the Federation European Neuroscience Societies (FENS); the Forum of Italian Researchers on Mesenchymal Stromal Stem Cells (FIRST), and the International Society of Extracellular Vesicle (ISEV).

She is a member of the Register of Expert Peer Reviewers For Italian Scientific Evaluation (REPRISE).

She is also reviewer for the following journals: PLOS ONE, Cellular and Molecular Neurobiology, Neural Regeneration Research (NRR), Journal of Neuroscience Methods, Histology and Histopathology, Neuroscience, Stem Cells, Cellular and Molecular Neuroscience, Behavioural Neurology, Annals of Hematology, Theranostics.

She is also grant reviewer for the Futuro in Ricerca (FIRB), by MIUR (Ministero dell'Istruzione, dell'Università e della Ricerca)

#### **THIRD MISSION**

Neurozone

Dr. Silvia Coco was a cofounding partner of Neurozone S.r.l. ([www.neuro-zone.com](http://www.neuro-zone.com)), a company operating in the area of neuroscience and stem cells, founded in 2007. It remained a partner until 2014.

#### **Recent participations in academic commissions**

Dr. Coco has participated in various commissions for the assignment of research grants, scholarships and tutoring and for the assignment of a permanent position of technician at the Department of Medicine and Surgery.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

Dr. Coco is authors of 38 peer reviewed publications, reaching 26 h-index and 2.361 Citations by 1.987 documents, SCOPUS, August 2023) and 4 book chapters.

In 2020 she has been the Guest Editor of the Special Issue "Applications of Mesenchymal Stem Cells in Neuroscience" for the International Journal of Molecular Sciences, an Open Access Journal by MDPI, together Dr. Maria Luisa Malosio (CNR, Institute of Neuroscience, Milano).