Elena Riano

Work permit: Italian **Nationality:** Italian **Date of birth:** 1979 **Place of birth:** Italy **Gender:** Female

Phone: (+39) 0000000 **Home:** (Italy)

ABOUT MYSELF

I am a Biologist with PhD in Medical Genetics and extensive experience (5 years) in neurodegenerative disorders. As research scientist I actively participated to challenging projects, which required multidisciplinary expertise as well as various technical skills, and my results have been published.
After various achievements in pre-clinical research I became interested in exploring clinical research and clinical trials area. I joined OPIS s.r.l. , a Clinical Research Organization (CRO) based in Italy-Milan area as Clinical Research Associate (CRA). After two years of experience I looked for a new challenge and career progression that placed me in an international and broad scenario so I joined PAREXEL s.r.l, an International CRO. I gained extensive experience (6 years) as CRA on multi-center phase I/II to IV clinical trials, including observational trials, from start-up to closure, external audits and inspections.
I applied to the Clinical Operation Lead (COL) role and starting from June 2015 to January 2024 I worked on international multi-center studies, coordinating team across almost all EMEA region, in US and some countries in the Asia-Pacific Area taking care of all the activities related to start-up, to recruitment, maintenance and closure phase.
While I was progressing on my scientific career, I became very passionate about textile art and craftsmanship. As self taught I learned the technique to made tridimensional shapes with yarn through the crochet technique. The application of this technique may vary from playful and aesthetic till plastic art. I am collaborating with international artists and designers to the revision of the patterns related to their creations and I joined to an artistic collective installation in Italy (Yarn Bombing Event).
Today I am a self employee and craftsman and my future goal is to start a small business activity that will include workshops and courses, exhibitions and selling products related to di□erent textile arts.

Areas of strength are problem solving attitude, ownership, communication skills, high level of attention to details, e□ciency, teamwork skills.

SKILLS

very good communication skills / Active listener, fast learner, enthusiastic, curious, positive mindset, independent, proactive / creative & artistic abilities / attention to details / -resilience / rise up to challenges / Leadership, Decision making, Critical thinking, Relationship building / Team player and independent worker / Problem analyzing and Problem solving / e□ciency / sense of responsibility / take ownership / meet deadlines / result oriented / Supervising junior sta□ / Teaching, explaining / have computer literacy

THERAPEUTIC AREA & INDICATION EXPERTISE

[08/2021 – 01/2024]
Radiology (Contrast enhanced MRI in paediatric population < 2 year of age)

[01/2023 – 01/2024]
Oncology -Solid tumors with genomic alterations/dysregulation in the Hippo pathway

[08/2021 – 09/2022]
Oncology-Metastatic Castration-resistant prostate cancer and ER- positive HER2-negative breast cancer

[09/2016 – 09/2020]
Allergy/ nutrition-in paediatrics

[04/2011 – 08/2016]
Rheumatology/immunologic diseases (Systemic Lupus Erythematosus)

[01/2013 – 12/2013]
Multiple Mieloma

[2012 – 2013]
Neurology and neurodegenerative disorders -Trigeminal Neuralgia

[2012 – 2012]
Blood disorders -Thalassemia-Hb H disease

[2011 – 2012]
Neurology and neurodegenerative disorders-Epilepsy in paediatrics

[02/2009 – 03/2011]
Breast Cancer, Stomach Cancer and Renal Cells Carcinoma

[2009 – 2010]
Respiratory -Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease

[2009 – 2010]
Neurology and neurodegenerative disorders-Multiple Sclerosis

[2009 – 2010]
Endocrinology -Male Hypogonadism

WORK EXPERIENCE

 Self employee – Milano, Italy

City: Milano | **Country:** Italy | **Business/sector:** Arts, entertainment and recreation

Artisan/ Textile Artist

[01/2024 – Current]

Handmade production and selling of 3D crocheted items. Since 2023 I was selected as exhibitor to a total of 5 craft fairs and since 2024 I hosted 5 workshops in Milano area, one of them was in collaboration with a designer who's based in USA. Since 2022 I am collaborating with international artists and designers to review and edit check the patterns related to their creations, including translation from Italian to English and vice versa, for more than 60 di erent projects. In June 2024 I joined to an artistic collective installation during the Yarn Bombing Event in Barzanò (LC, Italy).
Nowadays I am working on a small project to join a collective exhibition planned on Autumn 2025 as part of a handmade and creative fair.
I am attending courses hosted by the Camera di commercio Milano Monza Brianza Lodi with qualified experts to learn all the tools needed to start a small business activity, including local requirements, creation of an accurate business plan, digital and physical marketing. In July 2025 I joined a 3D pattern designing course hosted by a Finnish artist with the goal to learn techniques needed to start creating my own designs.

 Parexel International s.r.l. – Milano, Italy

Address: Via Pietro Paleocapa, 7- Milano MI, 20121 Milano (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.parexel.com | **Name of unit/ department:** Global Clinical Operations - **Business/sector:** Professional, scientific and technical activities

Senior Clinical Operation Leader

[06/2015 – 01/2024]

Gained experience working on international, multi-center clinical trials in phase I, phase II and phase III across almost all countries in EMEA , US, Asia-Pacific area according to GCP and local regulation and requirements. Coordinating and management tasks over life cycle of clinical trial, monitor timelines, patient recruitment, reports revision, retention and data cleaning to ensure successful outcome of the project. Proactive identification of potential problems and timely action to correct or alleviate the issues. Coordinating activities across all assigned countries. Plan, schedule and regularly review study activities to ensure deliverables are met. Provide mentoring to direct reports including junior study members to ensure that the best quality can be achieved. Participate in client, investigator and team meetings. Prepare, participate in and follow up on audits / inspections. Oversee maintenance and quality check of Central Files. Interact with client and team leadership to ensure that projects proceed on time and within budget. Evaluate and identifying resourcing needs. Production and ongoing review of critical study documents related to start up, maintainance and termination phase of the project.

□ *Parexel International s.r.l* – Milano, Italy

Address: Via Pietro Paleocapa, 7- Milano MI, 20121 Milano (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.parexel.com | **Name of unit/ department:** Global Monitoring Operations - **Business/sector:** Professional, scientific and technical activities

Senior Clinical Research Associate

[03/2011 – 06/2015]

Conduct the monitoring aspects of Clinical Trials in phase II and phase III and Observational Studies in accordance to ICH GCP. Perform clinical on-site monitoring activities including qualification, initiation, monitoring and termination visits of investigational sites (the activities included data entry in clinical trial related database and source data and source document verification through paper and electronic patient's medical records) Prepare, participate in and follow up on audits and inspections. Participate in client, investigator and team meetings. Mentoring of junior study members. Recognize any potential problems and formulate contingency plans in coordination with the COL. Manage site level study budgets, financial tracking and follow up. Report review activity.

□ *OPIS s.r.l.* – Desio (Milano), Italy

Address: Via Matteotti 10 -Desio | Milano, 20832 Desio (Milano) (Italy) | **Website:** https://opisresearch.com | **Name of unit/ department:** Clinical Operation - **Business/sector:** Professional, scientific and technical activities

Clinical Research Associate

[02/2009 – 03/2011]

Conduct the monitoring aspects of Clinical Trials in phase III and Observational Studies in accordance to ICH GCP. Perform clinical on-site monitoring activities including qualification, initiation, monitoring and termination visits of investigational sites (the activities included data entry in clinical trial related database and source data and source document verification through paper and electronic patient's medical records). Participate in investigator and team meetings. Mentoring of junior study members.

□ *Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta* – Milano, Italy

Address: Via Celoria 11, Milano, 20133 Milano (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.istituto-besta.it | **Name of unit/department:** Laboratory of Genetic and Molecular Pathology, Division of Biochemistry & Genetics - **Business/sector:** Professional, scientific and technical activities

Ph.D. Student and Post Doctoral Research Scientist

[07/2004 – 12/2008]

Investigating the functional role in neurons of spastin, the *SPG4* gene product responsible for autosomal dominant hereditary spastic paraplegia. The study's results were published and provided new perspectives on the molecular mechanism implicated in neurodegenerative disorders.
Main laboratory techniques and knowledge acquired: primary cultures of mouse hippocampal neurons; use of confocal and time-lapse microscopes; RNA interference technique; main proteomics techniques.

□ *TIGEM- TELETHON Institute of Genetics and Medicine-POZZUOLI (NA)* – Napoli, Italy

Address: Via Campi Flegrei, 34 **|** Pozzuoli (NA),, 80078 Napoli (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.tigem.it | **Name of unit/ department:** Head of Laboratory: Elena Irene Rugarli, MD, Full Professor of Medicine - **Business/sector:** Professional, scientific and technical activities

Research scientist

[10/2003 – 07/2004]

Identification and characterization of the mouse *Umodl1* gene as a potential new element implicated in guidance and targeting of olfactory sensory neurons. The gene *Umodl1,* previously undescribed, has been characterized and the study's results were published. This will lead to a better understanding of the mechanism of axons guidance in mammals.
Main laboratory techniques and knowledge acquired: human genomic sequencing and mutation detection analysis by DHPLC; embryonic and adult mouse tissues preparation and cryosection; main cell biology techniques.

□ *Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn of Naples* – Napoli, Italy

Address: Villa Comunale, Napoli , 80121 Napoli (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.szn.it | **Name of unit/department:** Biology and Evolution of Marine Organisms (ex Laboratory of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology) - **Business/sector:** Professional, scientific and technical activities

Fellow

[01/2002 – 07/2003]

Analyze the expression profile and the function of the transcription factor Ci- TCF during the ascidian embryo development in order to dissect complex pathways implicated in cell-to-cell interactions during embryogenesis.
Main laboratory techniques and knowledge acquired: microinjection of antisense oligonucleotides; In situ Hybridization and Immunohistochemistry techniques; main molecular biology techniques; use of visible and fluorescent microscopes.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

Ph.D. in Medical Genetics

Università degli Studi della Campania Luigi Vanvitelli, ex Seconda Università [01/2004 – 12/2007]

Address: Viale Abramo Lincoln n. 5, Caserta (ITALY), 81100 Caserta (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.unicampania.it | **Field(s) of study:** medical genetics | **Level in EQF:** EQF level 8 | **Thesis:** The role of spastin in the axonal cytoskeleton

Investigating the functional role in neurons of spastin, the *SPG4* gene product responsible for autosomal dominant hereditary spastic paraplegia. This study provided new perspectives on the molecular mechanism implicated in neurodegenerative disorders.

Bachelor and Master Magna cum Laude in Biological Sciences

Università degli Studi di Napoli "Federico II", Italy. [09/1997 – 07/2003]

Address: Corso Umberto I 40 -Napoli, 80138 Napoli (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.unina.it | **Field(s) of study:** Developmental biology | **Final grade:** 110/100 cum Laude | **Level in EQF:** EQF level 7 | **Thesis:** Ci-TCF, un fattore trascrizione della famiglia HMG: profilo di espressione e analisi funzionale durante lo sviluppo dell'ascidia Ciona Intestinalis.

Analyze the expression profile and the function of the transcription factor Ci- TCF during the ascidian embryo development in order to dissect complex pathways implicated in cell-to-cell interactions during embryogenesis.

ESOL Certificate (English for Speakers of Other Languages)

British Institutes [02/2011 – 02/2012]

Address: Via Carducci 5- Milano, 20123 Milano (Italy) | **Website:** https://www.britishinstitutes.it | **Final grade:** 81/100 | **National classification:** Level 3

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Italian

Other language(s):

English	**French**
LISTENING B1 **READING** C1 **WRITING** B1	**LISTENING** A1 **READING** A2 **WRITING** A1
SPOKEN PRODUCTION B1 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** B1	**SPOKEN PRODUCTION** A1 **SPOKEN INTERACTION** A1

Levels: A1 and A2: Basic user - B1 and B2: Independent user - C1 and C2: Proficient user

PUBLICATIONS

[2009]

Pleiotropic e□ects of spastin on neurite growth depending on expression levels Hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) is characterized by weakness and spasticity of the lower limbs, owing to degeneration of corticospinal axons. The most common form is due to heterozygous mutations in the SPG4 gene, encoding spastin, a microtubule (MT)-severing protein. Here, we show that neurite growth in immortalized and primary neurons responds in pleiotropic ways to changes in spastin levels. Our study reveals that SPG4 is a dosage-sensitive gene, and broadens the understanding of the role of spastin in neurite growth and MT dynamics.

Authors: Riano E., Martignoni M., Mancuso G., Cartelli D., Crippa F., Toldo I., Siciliano G., Di Bella D., Taroni F., Bassi M.T., Cappelletti G., Rugarli E.I. | **Journal Name**: Journal of Neurochemistry | **Volume, Issue and Pages**: 108(5):1277-88

2009 Mar

[2008]

The role of ZFYVE27/protrudin in hereditary spastic paraplegia. Hereditary spastic paraplegia (HSP) is a hereditary condition characterized by selective retrograde degeneration of corticospinal motor axons and is therefore a model disease for studying mechanisms of axonal degeneration. Although HSP is genetically heterogeneous, the most common form is due to heterozygous mutations in the *SPG4* gene, encoding the microtubule-severing protein spastin. We read with great interest the report in *The American Journal of Human Genetics* of the identification of ZFYVE27 (also known as protrudin) as a spastin interactor in a two-hybrid screening and the finding of a missense mutation (p.G191V) in the protein in a German family with classical features of autosomal-dominant HSP[3]This study has important implications for our understanding of the role of protrudin in HSP and also provides an opportunity to address the functional role of the p.G191V substitution.

Authors: Martignoni M., Riano E., Rugarli E.I. | **Journal Name**: American Journal of Human Genetics | **Volume, Issue and Pages**: 83(1):127-8

2008 Jul

[2006]

Functional dissection of the Dosophila Kallmann's Sindrome protein DmKal-1. Anosmin-1, the protein implicated in the X-linked Kallmann's syndrome, plays a role in axon outgrowth and branching but also in epithelial morphogenesis. The molecular mechanism of its action is, however, widely unknown. *Drosophila melanogaster* Kal-1 (DmKal-1) has the same protein structure with minor di□erences. We present a structure-function analysis of the di□erent DmKal-1 domains. We suggest that the role played by the various protein domains di□ers in di□erent extracellular contexts. This might explain why the same mutation analyzed in di□erent tissues or in di□erent cell culture lines often gives opposite phenotypes.

Authors: Andrenacci D., Grimaldi MR., Panetta V., Riano E., Rugarli E.I., Graziani F. | **Journal Name**: BMC Genetics | **Volume, Issue and Pages**: 11;7:47

2006 October

[2005]

Spastin subcellular localization is regulated through usage of di□erent translation start sites and active export from the nucleus. Most cases of autosomal-dominant hereditary spastic paraplegia are linked to mutations in SPG4 encoding spastin, a protein involved in microtubule dynamics and membrane tra□cking. In pyramidal neurons of the motor cortex and in immortalized motor neurons, spastin is localized to the synaptic terminals and growth cones. However, in other neurons and in proliferating cells spastin is prevalently nuclear. The mechanisms that determine targeting of spastin to the nucleus or the cytoplasm are unknown. We show here that the SPG4 mRNA is able to direct synthesis of two spastin isoforms, 68 and 60 kDa, respectively, through usage of two di□erent translational start sites. Our data indicate that spastin function is modulated through usage of alternative translational start sites and active nuclear import and export, and open new perspectives for the pathogenesis of hereditary spastic paraplegia.

Authors: Claudiani P., Riano E., Errico A., Andolfi G., Rugarli E.I. | **Journal Name**: Experimental Cell Research | **Volume, Issue and Pages**: 1;309(2):358- 69

2005 October

[2005]

UMODL1/Olfactorin is an extracellular membrane- bound molecule with a restricted spatial expression in olfactory and vomeronasal neurons. The olfactory system provides a unique model for developmental neurobiology. Precise targeting of axonal projections from sensory neurons located in the olfactory epithelium to specific neurons in the olfactory bulb establishes a

highly refined spatial sensory map. Here we describe olfactorin, the protein product of the mouse Umodl1 gene, as a potential new element in this process. Kallmann syndrome is a genetic disease in which olfactory axons fail to connect to target neurons in the bulb. We tested whether olfactorin might be responsible for an autosomal form of this disease and show that this is not the case. However, based on its domain composition and on the expression in olfactory neurons we suggest that olfactorin may play a role in correct olfactory axon navigation to the brain.

Authors: DiSchiavi E., Riano E., Heye B., Bazzicalupo P., Rugarli E.I. | **Journal Name**: European Journal of Neurosciences | **Volume, Issue and Pages**: 21(12) :3291-300

2005 June

I hereby grant permission to use my personal data in accordance with the Legislative Decree n. 196/2003 (personal data protection code) and Regulation (EU) n- 2016/679 (GDPR-General Data Protection Regulation).

Milano, 10/10/2025

Elena Riano