

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Viviana Versace



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Gender Female | Date of birth 06/08/1978 | Nationality Italian

PERSONAL STATEMENT

Medicine doctor, Specialist in Neurology

Member of the Special Interest Groups of the International federation of Clinical Neurophysiology (IFCN)'s: "Nerve & Muscle Excitability" and "Brainstem"

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 05/2014 to present **Consultant in Neurology and Supervisor of the Clinical and Experimental Neurophysiology Lab**
 Department of Neurorehabilitation, Vipiteno Hospital, Südtiroler Sanitätsbetrieb - Azienda Sanitaria dell'Alto Adige, Bolzano, Italy, Teaching Hospital of Paracelsus Medical University, Salzburg, Austria.

 - Clinical focus: neurophysiological tests for in- and outpatients, including electromyography and nerve conduction studies (EMG and NCS), single-fiber EMG, multimodal evoked potentials (EP), and EMG-guided botulinum toxin injections. Clinical management of patients with neuromuscular disorders.
 - Research activity in the field of neurophysiology of sensorimotor system and of cognitive functions in healthy volunteers and in patients. Techniques: navigated transcranial magnetic stimulation (TMS), repetitive TMS, TMS-EEG, multimodal evoked potentials, EMG.
- 10/2021 to present: **Guest Lecturer on Physiology of the Nervous System**
 University of Ferrara, Bachelor's degree in Physiotherapy
 Course in German, at the Provincial College for Health Professions "Claudiana", Bolzano, Italy
- 10/2022 to present: **PhD Programme in Neuroscience at Universidad Pablo de Olavide, Sevilla, Spain**
 Chair: Prof. Jose M^o Delgado Garcia; Supervisor: Prof. Antonio Oliviero
 Line of research: Fatigue in neurological diseases. Duration: 3 years.
- 06/2013 – 05/2014: **Maternity leave**
- 03/2012 – 05/2013: **Consultant in Neurology**
 Department of Neurology and Neurorehabilitation, Hospital "Moriggia Pelascini", Gravedona (CO), Italy.
- 08/2011 – 02/2012: **Maternity leave**
- 01/2011 – 07/2011: **Guard duties in the A&E department**
 Private clinic "Città di Aprilia", in Aprilia (LT), Italy.
- 01/2009 – 07/2011: **Substitute Neurologist**
 Neurological Outpatient Clinic and Electromyography Unit at the Health District "Santa Caterina della Rosa" in Rome, at the Hospital "S. Sebastiano" in Frascati (Rome), and at the Hospital "S. Giuseppe" in Albano Laziale (Rome), Italy.
- 1/2010 – 10/2010: **Consultant in Neurology (Locum)**
 Department of Neurology, "Tor Vergata" University Hospital, Rome, Italy
- 01/2009 – 12/2009: **Researcher**
 Experimental Neuropsychobiology Lab, S. Lucia Foundation IRCCS, Rome, Italy. Lab director: Prof. Giacomo Koch.
 Research fields: investigation of cortico-cortical connectivity of brain regions involved in the planning and execution of reaching and grasping movements; non-invasive neuromodulation for rehabilitation of post-stroke neglect and levodopa-induced dyskinesia in Parkinson's patients.

EDUCATION

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- 01/12/2008: Examination in the specialty of Neurology at the "Tor Vergata" University in Rome, Italy
Grades: 50/50 *cum laude*.
- 05/2003 – 12/2008: Neurology Residency Program
"Tor Vergata" University Hospital, Rome, Italy.
- 30/06/2003: State examination for professional qualification as medical doctor
"Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore" in Rome, Italy, and Registration in the Italian List of Physicians (Bolzano Provincial Council Nr. 3851).
- 08/1999 - 09/2000: Erasmus Grant at the Faculty of Medicine of the "Albert-Ludwigs-Universität" Freiburg, Germany
Attending lectures, seminars, practical exercises and passing all exams of the 4th academic years
- 30/10/2002: Conferral of Doctorate Degree (*Laurea*) in Medicine and Surgery at the "Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore" in Rome, Italy
Grades: 110/110 *cum laude*.
- 1996-2002: Degree course in Medicine and Surgery
"Università Cattolica del Sacro Cuore", Rome, Italy

TRAINING

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- 15-30/05/2019: Visiting fellow in the "EMG and Motor Control Unit" at Hospital Clínic, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain.
Training in the field of human eyeblink reflex and startle reactions under the supervision of Prof. Josep Valls-Solé.
- 01-31/03/2012: Visiting Fellow at the Neurology and Neurorehabilitation Department (Prof. Leopold Saltuari) at Hochzirl Hospital, Zirl, Austria.
- 11/2007- 03/2008: Internship at the service for Intraoperative Neuromonitoring at the Neurosurgery Department of the University Clinic "José de San Martín" in Buenos Aires, Argentina (Prof. Armando Basso).
- 07-17/09/2007: EMG Training Academy: "XXVII Corso Teorico-Pratico in Elettromiografia e Neurofisiologia Clinica" (Dr. Domenico De Grandis), Lido degli Estensi, Ferrara, Italy.
- 1-30/03/2000: Clinical traineeship in epileptology at the Königin Elisabeth Herzberge Hospital in Berlin, Germany (Prof. Hans-Joachim Meencke).

GRANTS

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- 04/2021: Funder: Südtiroler Sanitätsbetrieb - Azienda Sanitaria dell'Alto Adige, Bolzano, Italy, Grant holders: Dr. Viviana Versace (PI), Dr. Serafeim Predikis, PhD (co-PI)
Title: Study of Functional Electrical Stimulation with assistive support driven by a Brain-Computer Interface on the upper limb rehabilitation of chronic stroke patients. Total amount: €123,000, duration: 3 years.

CONFERENCE TALKS

- 07/09/2022: 32nd International Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology, September 4–8, 2022, Geneva, Switzerland. Talk: "Fatigue and "Brain Fog" After COVID-19: Evidence of Frontal Lobe Dysfunction" in Symposium 4.1c: The Importance of Neurophysiological Assessment in Acute and Long-Term COVID-19.
- 07/01/2022: Lab Seminars, Brain-Computer Interfaces and Neural Engineering Laboratory, University of Essex, UK
Invited talk: "How to assess brain plasticity with transcranial magnetic stimulation"
- 14/07/2021: International PhD Program: Seminars in Biomedical Neurosciences. Università della Svizzera Italiana, Lugano.
Invited lecture: "Brain fog and fatigue after COVID-19: evidence of frontal lobe dysfunction"
- 05-08/06/2019: The 17th European Congress of Clinical Neurophysiology (ECCN 2019), Warsaw, Poland.
Oral communication: "Control over supraorbital nerve stimulation overrules the facilitation of blink reflex in defensive peripersonal space"
- 01-02/12/2017: Jahrestagung der Österreichischen Gesellschaft für Klinische Neurophysiologie und funktionelle Bildgebung (ÖGKN), Vienna, Austria.
Invited lecture: „Exterozeptive EMG-Suppression im peripersonalen Raum“
- 04-05/11/2016: "Akademie Neuromuskuläre Erkrankungen" organized by the Österreichische Gesellschaft für Neurologie (ÖGN), Linz, Austria.
Case presentation: „Viele Indizien sind noch kein Beweis. Der seltsame Fall von Herrn M.“

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Other language(s)	Italian				
	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2
German	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
Bilingual certification (German / Italian) issued by the autonomous province of Bolzano, Italy, Level A, equivalent to Level C1 of the CEFR, February 2013					
Spanish	C1	C1	C1	C1	C1
French	B1	B1	B1	B1	B1

Levels: A1/A2: Basic user - B1/B2: Independent user - C1/C2 Proficient user
[Common European Framework of Reference for Languages \(CEFR\)](#)

Publications: 75 publications in peer-reviewed journals, of which 22 as first or last author.
 Citations: **Scopus:** 1526 (**H-Index: 20**)
 Scholar: 2146 (H-Index: 23, i10-index: 36)

References on request Prof. Markus Kofler: markus.kofler@i-med.ac.at
 Prof. Giacomo Koch: g.koch@hsantalucia.it
 Prof. Antonio Oliviero: antonio@sescam.jccm.es
 Prof. Leopold Saltuari: leopold.saltuari@sabes.it

LIST OF SELECTED PUBLICATIONS IN PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS

- 1) **Versace V**, Campostrini S, Dezi S, Sebastianelli L, Ortelli P, Saltuari L, Valls-Solé J, Kofler M.
Conscious agency vs. pre-conscious sensory filtering: disparate suppression of trigeminal blink reflex by self-stimulation and by prepulses. *Psychophysiology*. 2022 Sep 27:e14190. doi: 10.1111/psyp.14190.
- 2) Ortelli P, Ferrazzoli D, Sebastianelli L, Maestri R, Dezi S, Spampinato D, Saltuari L, Alibardi A, Engl M, Kofler M, Quartarone A, Koch G, Oliviero A, **Versace V**.
Altered motor cortex physiology and dysexecutive syndrome in patients with fatigue and cognitive difficulties after mild COVID-19. *Eur J Neurol*. 2022 Feb 9. doi: 10.1111/ene.15278
- 3) Nardone R, Langthaler PB, Schwenker K, Kunz AB, Sebastianelli L, Saltuari L, Trinkka E, **Versace V**.
Visuomotor integration in early Alzheimer's disease: A TMS study. *J. Neurol. Sci.* 2022 Volume 434, 120129, doi:10.1016/j.jns.2021.120129.
- 4) Nardone R, Sebastianelli L, Ferrazzoli D, Brigo F, Lochner P, Saltuari L, Trinkka E, **Versace V**.
Brain functional reorganization in children with hemiplegic cerebral palsy: Assessment with TMS and therapeutic perspectives. *Neurophysiol Clin*. 2021 Oct 3:S0987-7053(21)00089-7.
- 5) Ortelli P, Ferrazzoli D, Maestri R, Saltuari L, Kofler M, Alibardi A, Koch G, Spampinato D, Castagna A, Sebastianelli L, **Versace V**.
Experimental Protocol to Test Explicit Motor Learning-Cerebellar Theta Burst Stimulation. *Front Rehabil Sci*. 2021 Sep 8;2:720184. doi: 10.3389/fresc.2021.720184.
- 6) **Versace V**, Sebastianelli L, Ferrazzoli D, Romanello R, Ortelli P, Saltuari L, D'Acunto A, Porrazzini F, Ajello V, Oliviero A, Kofler M, Koch G.
Intracortical GABAergic dysfunction in patients with fatigue and dysexecutive syndrome after COVID-19. *Clin Neurophysiol*. 2021 13;132(5):1138-1143.
- 7) **Versace V**, Campostrini C, Sebastianelli L, Saltuari L, Valls-Solé J, Kofler M.
Prepulse inhibition vs cognitive modulation of the hand-blink reflex. *Sci Rep*. 2021 25;11(1):4618.
- 8) **Versace V**, Sebastianelli L, Ferrazzoli D, Saltuari L, Kofler M, Löscher W, Uncini A.
Case Report: Myopathy in Critically Ill COVID-19 Patients: A Consequence of Hyperinflammation? *Front Neurol*. 2021 Jan 29;12:625144.
- 9) Ortelli P, Ferrazzoli D, Sebastianelli L, Engl M, Romanello R, Nardone R, Bonini I, Koch G, Saltuari L, Quartarone A, Oliviero A, Kofler M, **Versace V**.
Neuropsychological and neurophysiological correlates of fatigue in post-acute patients with neurological manifestations of COVID-19: Insights into a challenging symptom. *J. Neurol. Sci.* 420, 117271.
- 10) Nardone R, Sebastianelli L, Brigo F, Golaszewski S, Trinkka E, Pucks-Faes E, Saltuari L, **Versace V**.
Effects of intrathecal baclofen therapy in subjects with disorders of consciousness: a reappraisal. *J Neural Transm (Vienna)*. 2020;10.1007/s00702-020-02233-8.
- 11) **Versace V**, Campostrini C, Sebastianelli L, Saltuari L, Valls-Solé J, Kofler M.
Threat vs control: Potentiation of the trigeminal blink reflex by threat proximity is overruled by self-stimulation. *Psychophysiology*. 2020 Oct;57(10):e13626. doi: 10.1111/psyp.13626.
- 12) **Versace V**, Campostrini S, Rastelli E, Sebastianelli L, Nardone R, Pucks-Faes E, Saltuari L, Kofler M, Uncini A.
Understanding hyper-reflexia in Guillain-Barré syndrome. *Neurophysiologie clin*. 2020; S0987-7053(20)30056-3.
- 13) **Versace V**, Schwenker K, Langthaler PB, Golaszewski S, Sebastianelli L, Brigo F, Pucks-Faes E, Saltuari L, Nardone R.
Facilitation of auditory comprehension after Theta Burst Stimulation of Wernicke's area in stroke patients: A pilot study. *Front Neurol* 2020 Jan 8.
- 14) **Versace V**, Campostrini S, Sebastianelli L, Saltuari L, Valls-Solé J, Kofler M.
Influence of posture on blink reflex prepulse inhibition induced by somatosensory inputs from upper and lower limbs. *Gait Posture*

2019;73:120-125.

- 15) **Versace V**, Campostrini S, Sebastianelli L, Soda M, Saltuari L, Lun S, Nardone R, Kofler M.
Adult-Onset Gilles de la Tourette Syndrome: Psychogenic or Organic? The Challenge of Abnormal Neurophysiological Findings. *Front Neurol*. 2019 May 3;10:461. doi: 10.3389/fneur.2019.00461.
- 16) **Versace V**, Campostrini S, Sebastianelli L, Saltuari L, Kofler M.
Modulation of exteroceptive electromyographic responses in defensive peripersonal space. *J Neurophysiol* 2019;121(4):1111-1124.
- 17) **Versace V**, Campostrini S, Tezzon F, Martignago S, Kofler M, Saltuari L, Sebastianelli L, Nardone R.
Atypical Electrophysiological Findings in a Patient with Acute Motor and Sensory Axonal Neuropathy. *Front Neurol*. 2017 Nov 8;8:594.
- 18) **Versace V**, Langthaler PB, Höller Y, Frey VN, Brigo F, Sebastianelli L, Saltuari L, Nardone R.
Abnormal cortical neuroplasticity induced by paired associative stimulation after traumatic spinal cord injury: A preliminary study. *Neurosci Lett*. 2018 Jan 18;664:167-171.
- 19) **Versace V**, Langthaler PB, Sebastianelli L, Golaszewski S, Kunz AB, Brigo F, Saltuari L, Nardone R.
Cholinergic neurotransmission and olfactory function in obstructive sleep apnea syndrome: a TMS study. *Sleep Med*. 2017 Sep;37:113-118.
- 20) **Versace V**, Langthaler PB, Sebastianelli L, Höller Y, Brigo F, Orioli A, Saltuari L, Nardone R.
Impaired cholinergic transmission in patients with Parkinson's disease and olfactory dysfunction. *J Neurol Sci*. 2017 15;377:55-61.
- 21) **Versace V**, Gutmann B, Sebastianelli L, Martignago S, Saltuari L, Nardone R, Wiedermann CJ.
Tick-borne viral encephalomyelorradiculitis complicated by severe autonomic myenteric involvement resulting in irreversible adynamic ileus. *Clin Auton Res*. 2017 ;27(3):205-207.

Vipiteno, 24.10.2022