

**Enrico Maria Surace, DVM.** February 23, 1971, Milan, Italy, Nationality: Italian



**Associate Professor of Medical Genetics, Department of Translational Medical Sciences (DiSMET), "Federico II" University, Napoli.**

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### Research and Professional Experience.

1995-1996	Undergraduate Student at the Institute of Pharmacology, University of Milan, Milan, Italy
1996-1998	Undergraduate Student at Telethon Institute for Genetics and Medicine, TIGEM, Milan, Italy
1999-2000	Research Fellow at TIGEM, Milan, Italy.
2000-2003	Postdoctoral Fellow at Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania USA.
2004-2018	Group leader, Telethon Institute for Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM), Pozzuoli, Italy.
2014-present	Associate Professor of Medical Genetics, "Federico II" University, Napoli.

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### BIOGRAPHY.

Following my degree as a Doctor in Veterinary Medicine (DVM) with a thesis in molecular genetics I have been trained as gene therapist in Dr Jean Bennett laboratory at Perelman School of Medicine at the University of Pennsylvania (UPENN), USA. From 2004 to 2018 I worked at the Telethon Institute of Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM) as a leader of a research group working on central nervous system (CNS) gene therapy. Based on the activities accomplished at UPENN and at TIGEM I contributed to the first gene therapy clinical trial for an inherited retinal disorder, which recently reached the market becoming the first treatment option for the treatment of LCA due to mutations in the RPE65 gene (Luxturna). I was awarded with a European Research Council (ERC) grant to develop gene therapy treatments for CNS and then awarded with a proof-of-concept ERC grant. Being an ERC awardee allowed me to become Associate Professor of Medical Genetics in 2014 at the Department of Translational Medical Sciences (DiSMet) at the University Federico II" of Napoli, where I lead a group on CNS gene therapy. In 2017 I obtained the qualification for full professorship in Medical Genetics.

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### AWARDS.

Foundation Fighting Blindness Board of directors award presented to Enrico Surace, D.V.M. For contributions toward development of a highly innovative, vision-restoring gene therapy for individuals affected by Leber congenital amaurosis, and potentially, a wide variety of other retinal degenerative diseases. Development of this treatment approach is one of the most important advances ever made in retinal and ophthalmological research. February 2009.

Vision Research Top Cited Article 2008-2010. Versatility of AAV vectors for retinal gene transfer. Surace EM, Auricchio A. Vision Res. 2008 Feb;48(3):353-9. Review.

European Research Council (ERC) grant 2012 EM Surace was awarded with a “consolidator”: “DNA binding proteins for treatment of gain of function mutations”

European Research Council (ERC) proof-of-concept POC-ERC 2018: InSight, A novel gene therapy paradigm to treat blindness

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### PATENTS.

- 1- “miR-204 and miR-211 and uses thereof”; 1. WO2014140051
  - 2- “Artificial DNA-binding proteins and uses thereof”; WO2015/0751543
  - 3- “Synthetic promoters and uses thereof”; 1. WO2017137493
  - 4- “Ectopically expressed transcription factors and uses thereof”; WO2019122425
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## Editorial Activity

- Guest editor for a special issue of *International Journal of Molecular Sciences* “Gene Therapy for Neurological Disorder”

[https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijms/special\\_issues/Gene\\_Neurological#](https://www.mdpi.com/journal/ijms/special_issues/Gene_Neurological#)

Belonging to the section “Molecular Genetics and Genomics”.

- Guest editor for a special issue of *Frontiers In Aging Neuroscience*

“Rare and common neurodegenerative retinal diseases: from molecular mechanisms to the identification of novel mutation-independent therapeutic strategies”

<https://www.frontiersin.org/research-topics/28112/rare-and-common-neurodegenerative-retinal-diseases-from-molecular-mechanisms-to-the-identification-o>

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## Memberships

American Society of Gene and Cell Therapy (ASGCT).

Scientific Committee of the Associazione Italiana Glicogenosi (AIG).

Scientific Committee of the Neapolitan Brain Group (NBG).

## PUBLICATIONS (recent years).

**1. Therapeutic homology-independent targeted integration in retina and liver.** Tornabene P, Ferla R, Llado-Santaularia M, Centrulo M, Dell’Anno M, Esposito F, Marrocco E, Pone E, Minopoli R, Iodice C, Nusco E, Rossi S, Lyubenova H, Manfredi A, Di Filippo L, Iuliano A, Torella A, Piluso G, Musacchia F, **Surace EM**, Cacchiarelli D, Nigro V, Auricchio A. *Nat Commun.* 2022 Apr 12;13(1):1963. Doi: 10.1038/s41467-022-29550-8. PMID: 35414130; PMCID: PMC9005519.

**2. Inclusion of a degron reduces levels of undesired inteins after AAV-mediated protein trans-splicing in the retina.** Tornabene P, Trapani I, Centrulo M, Marrocco E, Minopoli R, Lupo M, Iodice C, Gesualdo C, Simonelli F, **Surace EM**, Auricchio A. *Molecular Therapy-Methods & Clinical Development. Mol Ther Methods Clin Dev.* 2021 Oct 19;23:448-459. Doi: 10.1016/j.omtm.2021.10.004.

**3. Challenging Safety and Efficacy of Retinal Gene Therapies by Retinogenesis.** Marrocco E, Maritato R, Botta S, Esposito M, **Surace EM**. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021 May 28;22(11):5767. Doi: 10.3390/ijms22115767.

**4. Allele-specific editing ameliorates dominant retinitis pigmentosa in a transgenic mouse model.** Patrizi C, Llado M, Benati D, Iodice C, Marrocco E, Guarascio R, **Surace EM**, Cheetham ME, Auricchio A, Recchia A. *Am J Hum Genet.* 2021 Feb 4;108(2):295-308. Doi: 10.1016/j.ajhg.2021.01.006.

**5. Gene replacement therapy provides benefit in an adult mouse model of Leigh syndrome.** Reynaud-Dulaurier R, Benegiamo G, Marrocco E, Al-Tannir R, **Surace EM**, Auwerx J, Decressac M. *Brain.* 2020 Jun 1;143(6):1686-1696. Doi: 10.1093/brain/awaa105.

**6. Light-responsive microRNA miR-211 targets Ezrin to modulate lysosomal biogenesis and retinal cell clearance.** Naso F, Intartaglia D, Falanga D, Soldati C, Polishchuk E, Giamundo G, Tiberi P, Marrocco E, Scudieri P, Di Malta C, Trapani I, Nusco E, Salierno FG, **Surace EM**, Galletta LJ, Banfi S, Auricchio A, Ballabio A, Medina DL, Conte I. *EMBO J.* 2020 Apr 15;39(8):e102468. Doi: 10.15252/embj.2019102468.

**7. AAV-miR-204 protects from retinal degeneration by attenuation of microglia activation and photoreceptor cell death.** Karali M, Guadagnino I, Marrocco E, De Cegli R, Carissimo A, Pizzo M, Casarosa S, Conte I, **Surace EM\***, Banfi S\*. *Mol Ther Nucleic Acids.* 2019 Nov 18;19:144-156. Doi: 10.1016/j.omtn.2019.11.005. \* Co-corresponding Authors.

- 8. miR-181a/b downregulation exerts a protective action on mitochondrial disease models.** Indrieri A, Carrella S, Romano A, Spaziano A, Marrocco E, Fernandez-Vizarra E, Barbato S, Pizzo M, Ezhova Y, Golia FM, Ciampi L, Tammamo R, Henao-Mejia J, Williams A, Flavell RA, De Leonibus E, Zeviani M, **Surace EM**, Banfi S, Franco B. *EMBO Mol Med.* 2019 May;11(5). Pii: e8734. Doi: 10.15252/emmm.201708734.
- 9. Intein-mediated protein trans-splicing expands adeno-associated virus transfer capacity in the retina.** Tornabene P, Trapani I, Minopoli R, Centrulo M, Lupo M, de Simone S, Tiberi P, Dell'Aquila F, Marrocco Iodice C, Iuliano A, Gesualdo C, Rossi S, Giaquinto L, Albert S, Hoyng CB, Polishchuk E, Cremers FPM, **Surace EM**, Simonelli F, De Matteis MA, Polishchuk R, Auricchio A. *Sci Transl Med.* 2019 May 15;11(492). Doi: 10.1126/scitranslmed.aav4523.Publications
- 10. Targeting and silencing of rhodopsin by ectopic expression of the transcription factor KLF15.** Botta S, de Prisco N, Marrocco E, Renda M, Sofia M, Curion F, Bacci ML, Ventrella D, Wilson C, Gesualdo C, Rossi S, Simonelli F, **Surace EM**. *JCI Insight.* 2017 Dec 21;2(24). Pii: 96560. Doi: 10.1172/jci.insight.96560.
- 11. MiR-211 is essential for adult cone photoreceptor maintenance and visual function.** Barbato S, Marrocco E, Intartaglia D, Pizzo M, Asteriti S, Naso F, Falanga D, Bhat RS, Meola N, Carissimo A, Karali M, Prosser HM, Cangiano L, **Surace EM**, Banfi S, Conte I. *Sci Rep.* 2017 Dec 5;7(1):17004. Doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-17331-z.
- 12. The centrosomal OFD1 protein interacts with the translation machinery and regulates the synthesis of specific targets.** Iaconis D., Monti M., Renda M., van Koppen A., Tammamo R., Chiaravalli M., Cozzolino F., Pignata P., Crina C., Pucci P., Boletta A., Belcastro V., Giles R.H., **Surace EM**, Gallo S., Pende M., Franco B. (2017). *Scientific Reports*, vol. 7, p. 1224-1238, ISSN: 2045- 2322, doi: 10.1038/s41598-
- 13. Rhodopsin targeted transcriptional silencing by DNA-binding.** Botta S, Marrocco E, de Prisco N, Curion F, Renda M, Sofia M, Lupo M, Carissimo A, Bacci ML, Gesualdo C, Rossi S, Simonelli F, **Surace EM**. *Elife.* 2016 Mar 14;5. Pii: e12242. Doi: 10.7554/eLife.12242.
- 14. Activation of Melanocortin Receptors MC1 and MC5 Attenuates Retinal Damage in Experimental Diabetic Retinopathy. Mediators of Inflammation.** Rossi S, Maisto R, Gesualdo C, Trotta Mc, Ferraraccio F, Kaneva Mk, Getting Sj, **Surace EM**, Testa F, Simonelli F, Grieco P, Merlino F, Perretti M, D'Amico M, Di Filippo C2. (2016)., p. 1-13, ISSN: 1466-1861, doi: 10.1155/2016/7368389.
- 15. A comprehensive map of CNS transduction by eight adeno-associated virus serotypes upon cerebrospinal fluid administration in pigs.** Nicolina Sorrentino, Veronica Maffia, Sandra Strollo, Vincenzo Cacace, Noemi Romagnoli, Anna Manfredi, Domenico Ventrella, Francesco Dondi, Francesca Barone, Massimo Giunti, Anne-Renee Graham, Yan Huang, Susan L. Kalled, Alberto Auricchio, Maria Laura Bacci, and **Surace EM\***, Alessandro Fraldi\*. *Mol Ther.* 2016 Feb;24(2):276-86. \* **Co- corresponding Authors.**
- 16. Transdermal spinal catheter placement in piglets: Description and validation of the technique.** Lambertin C, Ventrella D, Barone F, Sorrentino NC, Dondi F, Fraldi A, Giunti M, **Surace EM**, Bacci ML, Romagnoli N. *J Neurosci Methods.* 2015 Jul 31;255:17-21.
- 17. Gene therapy of inherited retinal degenerations: prospects and challenges.** Trapani I, Banfi S, Simonelli F, **Surace EM**, Auricchio A. *Hum Gene Ther.* 2015 Apr;26(4):193-200.
- 18. Access to cerebrospinal fluid in piglets via the cisterna magna: optimization and description of the technique.** Romagnoli N, Ventrella D, Giunti M, Dondi F, Sorrentino NC, Fraldi A, **Surace EM**, Bacci ML. *Lab Anim.* 2014 Oct;48(4):345-8.
- 19. Combined rod and cone transduction by AAV2/8.** Manfredi A, Marrocco E, Puppo A, Cesi G, Sommella A, Della Corte M, Rossi S, Giunti M, Craft CM, Bacci ML, Simonelli F, **Surace EM**, Auricchio A. *Hum Gene Ther.* 2013 Sep 25.
- 20. Recombinant vectors based on porcine adeno-associated viral serotypes transduce the murine and pig retina.** Puppo A, Bello A, Manfredi A, Cesi G, Marrocco E, Della Corte M, Rossi S, Giunti M, Bacci ML, Simonelli F, **Surace EM**, Kobinger GP, Auricchio A. *PloS One.* 2013;8(3):e59025.

- 21. Three-year follow-up after unilateral subretinal delivery of adeno-associated virus in patients with Leber congenital Amaurosis type 2.** Testa F, Maguire AM, Rossi S, Pierce EA, Melillo P, Marshall K, Banfi S, Surace EM, Sun J, Acerra C, Wright JF, Wellman J, High KA, Auricchio A, Bennett J, Simonelli F. *Ophthalmology*. 2013 Jun;120(6):1283-
- 22. Correlation between photoreceptor layer integrity and visual function in patients with Stargardt disease: implications for gene therapy.** Testa F, Rossi S, Sodi A, Passerini I, Di Iorio V, Della Corte M, Banfi S, Surace EM, Menchini U, Auricchio A, Simonelli F. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2012 Jul 3;53(8):4409-15.
- 23. The long non-coding RNA Vax2os1 controls the cell cycle progression of photoreceptor progenitors in the mouse retina.** Meola N, Pizzo M, Alfano G, Surace EM and Banfi S. *RNA*. 2011, *RNA*. 2012 Jan;18(1):111- 23.
- 24. MicroRNA-restricted transgene expression in the retina.** Karali M, Manfredi A, Puppo A, Marrocco E, Gargiulo A, Allocca M, Corte MD, Rossi S, Giunti M, Bacci ML, Simonelli F, Surace EM, Banfi S, Auricchio A. *PloS One*. 2011;6(7).
- 25. Non-erythropoietic erythropoietin derivatives protect from light-induced and genetic photoreceptor degeneration.** Colella P, Iodice C, Di Vicino U, Annunziata I, Surace EM, Auricchio A. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2011 Jun 1;20(11):2251-62.
- 26. Evaluation of Italian Patients with Leber Congenital Amaurosis due to AIPL1 Mutations Highlights the Potential Applicability of Gene Therapy.** Testa F\*, Surace EM\*, Rossi S, Marrocco E, Gargiulo A, Di Iorio V, Ziviello C, Nesti A, Fecarotta S, Maria, Bacci ML, Giunti M, Della Corte M, Banfi S, Auricchio A, Simonelli F. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2011 Apr 7. \* Equally contributed.
- 27. Zinc finger-based transcriptional repression of rhodopsin in a model of dominant retinitis pigmentosa.** Mussolino C, Sanges D, Bonetti C, Marrocco E, Di Vicino U, Meroni G and Surace EM. *EMBO Mol Med*. 2011 Mar;3(3):118-28.
- 28. Efficacy of a combined intracerebral and systemic gene delivery approach for the treatment of a severe lysosomal storage disorder.** Spampanato C, De Leonibus E, Dama P, Gargiulo A, Fraldi A, Sorrentino, CN, Russo F, Nusco E, Auricchio A, Surace EM\* and Ballabio A\*. *Mol Ther*. 2011, May;19(5):860-9. \* Corresponding Authors.
- 29. AAV-mediated photoreceptor transduction of the pig cone-enriched retina.** Mussolino C, Della Corte M, Rossi S, Viola F, Di Vicino U, Marrocco E, Neglia S, Doria M, Testa F, Giovannoni R, Crasta M, Giunti M, Villani E, Lavitrano M, Bacci ML, Ratiglia R, Simonelli F, Auricchio A and Surace EM. *Gene Therapy*, 2011 Mar 17.
- 30. Gene therapy for Leber's congenital amaurosis is safe and effective through 1.5 years after vector administration.** Simonelli F, Maguire AM, Testa F, Pierce EA, Mingozzi F, Bennicelli JL, Rossi S, Marshall K, Banfi S, Surace EM, Sun J, Redmond TM, Zhu X, Shindler KS, Ying GS, Ziviello C, Acerra C, Wright JF, McDonnell JW, High KA, Bennett J, Auricchio A. *Mol Ther*. 2010 Mar;18(3):643-50.
- 31. Mouse embryonic retina delivers information controlling cortical neurogenesis.** Bonetti C, Surace EM. *PloS One*. 2010 Dec 8;5(12):e15211. Doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0015211.
- 32. Age-dependent effects of RPE65 gene therapy for Leber's congenital amaurosis: a phase 1 dose-escalation trial.** Maguire AM, High KA, Auricchio A, Wright JF, Pierce EA, Testa F, Mingozzi F, Bennicelli JL, Ying GS, Rossi S, Fulton A, Marshall KA, Banfi S, Chung DC, Morgan JI, Hauck B, Zelenaiia O, Zhu X, Raffini L, Coppieters F, De Baere E, Shindler KS, Volpe NJ, Surace EM, Acerra C, Lyubarsky A, Redmond TM, Stone E, Sun J, McDonnell JW, Leroy BP, Simonelli F, Bennett J. *Lancet*. 2009 Nov 7;374(9701):1597-605.
- 33. The ocular albinism type 1 (OA1) G-protein-coupled receptor functions with MART-1 at early stages of melanogenesis to control melanosome identity and composition.** Giordano F, Bonetti C, Surace EM, Marigo V, Raposo G. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2009 Dec 1;18(23):4530-45.

**34. The ocular albinism type 1 protein, an intracellular G protein-coupled receptor, regulates melanosome transport in pigment cells.** Palmisano I, Bagnato P, Palmigiano A, Innamorati G, Rotondo G, Altimare D, Venturi C, Sviderskaya EV, Piccirillo R, Coppola M, Marigo V, Incerti B, Ballabio A, **Surace EM**, Tacchetti C, Bennett DC, Schiaffino MV. *Hum Mol Genet.* 2009 Dec 1;18(23):4530-45.23.

**35. AAV-mediated tyrosinase gene transfer restores melanogenesis and retinal function in a model of oculocutaneous albinism type (OCA1).** Gargiulo A, Bonetti C, Montefusco S, Neglia S, Di Vicino U, Marrocco E, Corte MD, Domenici L, Auricchio A, **Surace EM**. *Mol Ther.* 2009 Aug; 17(8): 13.

**36. Safety and efficacy of gene transfer for Leber's congenital amaurosis.** Maguire AM, Simonelli F, Pierce EA, Pugh EN Jr, Mingozzi F, Bennicelli J, Banfi S, Marshall KA, Testa F, **Surace EM**, Rossi S, Lyubarsky A, Arruda VR, Konkle B, Stone E, Sun J, Jacobs J, Dell'Osso L, Hertle R, Ma JX, Redmond TM, Zhu X, Hauck B, Zelenia O, Shindler KS, Maguire MG, Wright JF, Volpe NJ, McDonnell JW, Auricchio A, High KA, Bennett J. *N Engl J Med.* 2008 May 22;358(21):2240-8.

**37. Versatility of AAV vectors for retinal gene transfer.** **Surace EM**, Auricchio A. *Vision Res* 2008Feb;48(3):353-9. Review.

#### GRANTS (recent years).

Programme FP7-HEALTH – Specific Programme “Cooperation”: Health **EUCLYD 201678 A European Consortium for Lysosomal Storage Diseases** (Start date 1 May 2008 End date 30 April 2011) <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/201678>. Co-investigator: Enrico Maria Surace

Programme FP7-HEALTH – Specific Programme “Cooperation”: Health **AAVEYE 223445 Gene therapy for severe neuronal photoreceptor diseases** (1 November 2008 End date 31 October 2011) <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/223445>. Co-investigator: Enrico Maria Surace

**Towards clinical trials for AAV-mediated eye- and liver-direct gene therapy.** Fondazione Telethon (07/2011-06/2014). PI: Enrico Maria Surace Alberto Auricchio Nicola Brunetti Pierri

**Efficacy and safety of transcriptional repressors as biotherapeutics for the treatment of autosomal dominant retinitis pigmentosa (ADRP)- RetSwitches.** Fondazione Telethon (07/2011-06/2014) PI: Enrico Maria Surace

**CNS Gene Therapy Program.** Shire Pharmaceutical (1/10/2012 -1/10/2016) PI: Enrico Maria Surace

Programme FP7-HEALTH – Specific Programme “Cooperation”: Health **MEUSIX 304999 Clinical trial of gene therapy for MPS VI – a severe lysosomal storage disorder.** (Start date 1 December 2012 End date 30 November 2017) <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/304999>. Co-investigator: Enrico Maria Surace

Programme FP7-IDEAS-ERC. **AlleleChoker 311682 DNA binding proteins for treatment of gain of function mutations.** (Start date 1 February 2013 End date 31 January 2018) <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/311682>. PI: Enrico Maria Surace

**MicroRNA miR-204, a new potential therapeutic tool for inherited retinal dystrophies** Foundation Fighting Blindness (FFB) 1/07/2016-30/10/2019 Co-investigator: Enrico Maria Surace

Programme H2020-EU.1.1. – EXCELLENT SCIENCE – European Research Council (ERC). **“Insight” 813223. Moving a novel gene therapy paradigm to treat blindness to the market** (Start date 1 June 2019 End date 31 May 2021). <https://cordis.europa.eu/project/id/813223>. PI: Enrico Maria Surace

## PRESENTATIONS.

Keynote lecture: **“Development of retinal gene therapy strategies for translational research”**. The ISCEV XLVII Annual Symposium, Padova, Italy, 6-10 July, 2009.

**“Development of retinal gene therapy from basic therapeutic principles to clinical translational research”**. EUROHEAR: Theoretical training course on Therapy 19-25 September 2009, Padova (hosted by Venetian Institute of Molecular Medicine, VIMM).

**“RPE65 gene therapy for Leber’s congenital amaurosis: a phase 1 dose escalation trial”**. The Ophthalmologica Belgica, Flemish Chapter (BOG) 2009 meeting, 27/11/2009 Brussels.

Keynote lecture: **“Promises and challenges of gene therapy for inherited retinal diseases”**. SWISS EYE RESEARCH MEETING 2010 (SERM2010), Biel, Switzerland, Jan 28 –29, 2010.

**“The development of AAV vectors for retinal gene therapy: Advantages and limitations”** Sunday, March 7, 2010. The World Congress on Controversies in Ophthalmology (COPHy) Prague, Czech Republic, March 4-7, 2010.

**“Progresses and challenges of gene therapy for inherited retinal degenerations, a lesson from the first clinical trial”** Hereditary Hearing Impairment and Therapeutic Strategies. Nobel Forum, Karolinska Institutet 25 March 2010.

**“From animal models to gene therapy approaches to treat dominant forms of inherited retinal degenerations”**. 26<sup>th</sup> Retina International World Congress – 7 Stresa, 26/27 June 2010.

**“Zinc finger-based strategies to treat dominant forms of retinal dystrophies”**. ISER 2010 Biennial Meeting. July 18-23 in Montreal, Canada.

**“Gene therapy for retinal dystrophies successes and new challenges”**. Robin Ali laboratory UCL, London, UK, October 5<sup>th</sup>, 2010.

**“Gene therapy for recessive and dominant eye diseases”**. Course in Eye Genetics, October 13-15, 2013, University Residential Center of Bertinoro (Bertinoro di Romagna, Italy).

**“Artificial Transcription Factors as Therapeutics”** Gene & Regenerative Medicine of Eye Disease Lecture Series November 20, 2013. Schepens Eye Research Institute, Harvard, Boston, MA 02114. USA.

**“DNA binding proteins in therapy”**. Shire November 21, 2013. Shire, Lexington, MA 02421. USA.

**“Treatment of albinism, gene therapy, clinical trials. First gene therapy pre-clinical attempts”**. 2<sup>nd</sup> European Days of Albinism (2EDA) 5-6 April 2014, Valencia, Spain.

**“Retinal Gene Therapy via Transcriptional Modulation”** September 26<sup>th</sup> 2015, Friday. Cédric LETELLIER Institut de la Vision. Fondation Voir & Entendre Service Achats 17, Paris.

**“Defining safety and efficacy end-points for OCAI gene therapy-based clinical studies”**. III EDA 3<sup>rd</sup> European Day of Albinism, April, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, 2016, Milano, Italy.

**“Treating Retinitis Pigmentosa with synthetic and endogenous transcription factors”** VII Congresso Società Italiana di Oftalmologia Genetica (SIOG) Rare Ocular Diseases: European Network and New Therapeutic Strategies Napoli October 20/21, 2017.

**“Modulating transcription factor spatial pattern to generate gene-targeted therapeutics”**. The Association for Research in Vision and Ophthalmology (ARVO); Honolulu, USA; May 2, 2018.

“**Treating Retinitis Pigmentosa with transcriptional-based therapeutics**”. European Society of Human Genetics (ESHG); C04.6 Epigenetics and Gene Regulation. June 16 – 19, 2018 in Milan, Italy.

“**Gene Therapy by Tuning Transcription with DNA-Binders**”. January 12<sup>th</sup> 2022. Sapienza Università di Roma. Host, Prof. Giulia Ricci.

## **MENTORING/TUTORING.**

### **Major contributions to the early careers of excellent researchers.**

The mentoring/tutoring scheme operating in Enrico Maria Surace’s laboratory has proved highly successful in securing positions at all levels. Various former graduate students in the past 10 years have now successfully integrated in excellent research Institutions, and R&D division of companies: **Annagiusti Gargiulo, PhD**: Quality Control Analyst Advent S.r.l./GSK group (Pomezia, Roma, Italy); **Ciro Bonetti, PhD**: Research Scientist at Regeneron Pharmaceuticals, Inc. (110 Allen Road Basking Ridge, NJ, USA); **Claudio Mussolino, PhD**: Group leader, University of Freiburg Institute for Cell and Gene Therapy & Center for Chronic Immunodeficiency at Center for Translational Cell Research (ZTZ Freiburg, Germany); **Fabiola Curion, PhD**: Institute of Computational Biology (ICB) Helmholtz Zentrum München (München, Germany); **Elena Marrocco, Anna Manfredi, Martina Sofia, Mariangela Lupo, Mario Renda, PhD**, Staff Scientists at Telethon Institute for Genetics and Medicine (TIGEM), Pozzuoli, Italy. **Salvatore Botta**: Research Associate, Departments of Genetics & Development Columbia University Medical Center (New York, USA). **Nicola de Prisco, PhD**: Postdoctoral Research Fellow Departments of Genetics & Development Columbia University Medical Center (New York, USA).