

## CURRICULUM VITAE - **Stefano Sensi, M.D., Ph.D.**

### **Research Activity:**

The focus of the research performed by the Molecular Neurology Unit of the Center of Excellence on Aging and Translational Medicine of The University of Chieti-Pescara that I lead concerns mechanisms of neurodegeneration in conditions like brain aging, ALS, cerebral ischemia, Huntington's and Alzheimer's disease. Particular emphasis is put on excitotoxic conditions resulting from glutamate receptor overactivation. Key factors leading to glutamate-driven neuronal death are the loss of intracellular homeostasis for divalent ions including calcium and zinc, alterations of mitochondrial function and subsequent generation of oxidative stress as well as activation of apoptotic, necrotic, and autophagic pathways. Over the years, our group has employed advanced ionic imaging and electrophysiological techniques along with genomic and proteomic approaches to providing critical insights on intracellular changes in living neurons exposed to excitotoxic challenges. These techniques have been employed in "in vivo" and "in vitro" models of neurological diseases. Our unit is involved in preclinical studies aimed at finding neuroprotective strategies in these conditions. The group has also made use of pharmacological as well as non-pharmacological approaches to delay cognitive decline in aging individuals, MCI, and AD patients. To that aim, we have employed a wide range of techniques including proteomic, metabolomic, genomic, and neuroimaging (fMRI, MRI) approaches to investigate the response to cognitive training programs as well as cognitive enhancing compounds.

### **Present Position:**

Full Professor of Neurology University of Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy

Deputy Director of the Center of Excellence on Aging and Translational Medicine (CeSI-MET) of The University of Chieti-Pescara, Chieti, Italy

Head of the Molecular Neurology Unit, CeSI-MET

Visiting Professor of Neurology and Pharmacology, University of California-Irvine

Dean of the School of Occupational Therapy, University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti, Italy

### **Academic Positions/Employment:**

Research Associate in Neurology at the Center for the Study of Neural Injury directed by Dennis Choi, Washington University, St. Louis (02/92-08/97)

Visiting Researcher in Neurology at University of California at Irvine (10/97-06/98)

Assistant Adjunct Professor in Neurology University of California at Irvine (07/98-06/02)  
Researcher (tenured position) in Neurology University of Chieti-Pescara, (05/2000-03/2006)  
Associate Adjunct Professor in Neurology University of California at Irvine (07/02-present time)  
Adjunct Professor in Neurology University of Texas Medical Branch, Galveston (12/05- present time)  
Associate Professor in Rehabilitative Neurology and Psychiatry University of Chieti-Pescara (04/06-08-2017)  
Full Professor of Neurology University of Chieti-Pescara  
Dean School of Occupational Therapy, University "G. d'Annunzio", Chieti, Italy (06/06-present time)  
Associate Adjunct Professor in Pharmacology University of California at Irvine (07/12-present time)

**Honors and Awards:**

Medical degree Magna cum Laude; Residency Degree in Neurology Magna cum Laude  
1999 NIH K01 Award 1999-2004;  
2001 UCI –College of Medicine Research Award  
2002 Van den Noort Award for outstanding research by a junior faculty of the Dept. of Neurology

**Professional Societies and Organizations:**

Italian Society of Neurology ; Italian Society for the Study of Alzheimer's Disease and Dementia (SINDEM); Italian Society of Physiology; European Society for Neuroscience; American Academy of Neurology; Society for Neuroscience; Founding member of the International Society for Zinc Biology; Member of the Steering Committee of the International Society for Zinc Biology; (2008-2010). Member of the Steering Committee of the SINDEM: 2014-present time)