

Professor Paolo Riccio, PhD



Professor Paolo Riccio was born in 1942 in Bari, Italy. In 1969, he completed his studies in Chemistry at the University of Bari, and in 1970 he started his research activity working on mitochondria with Prof. Martin Klingenberg at the Faculty of Medicine, University of Munich, Germany. The most outstanding achievements were the original purification of the ADP/ATP carrier, the first mitochondrial carrier to be isolated, and the chromatographic purification of the mitochondrial respiratory chain complexes. In 1975 Paolo Riccio moved to the Institute of Biological Chemistry, Faculty of Science, in Bari, and in 1983 started with the study of the myelin membrane. The most important result in this field was the isolation of myelin basic protein (MBP) in the native, lipid-bound form. This was the first example of a membrane protein purified through a procedure able to discriminate *non-raft* from *raft* regions. The study of purified MBP promoted the setting up of new studies regarding diseases such as NeuroAIDS and Multiple Sclerosis, and their

relationship with myelin structure, including neuroimmunological aspects and proteolytic activities. In 1994 Paolo Riccio joined the Faculty of Agriculture of the University of Basilicata, in Potenza, Italy, and began his studies in the field of Food Sciences. The studies regarded wine and dairy production, fishery, and zymoproteomic analysis of fruits, vegetables and unifloral honey. Most innovative was the production of cheese from crustacean enzymes. The studies in food science allowed him to explore the aspects regarding the impact of nutrition on Multiple Sclerosis and hence on human health.

Paolo Riccio is an ex-Alumnus of EMBL, the European Molecular Biology Laboratory in Heidelberg, where he has been visiting professor three times between 1979-1983. He has been a member of the Italian Association for Multiple Sclerosis (AISM) and of the Italian Foundation for Multiple Sclerosis (FISM) (1993-2012), as well as an elected member of the National Council of the Italian Association of Neuroimmunology (AINI) (1998-2001). In 1996 he has been awarded the Quagliariello Foundation Prize for his scientific activity and moral qualities.

From 1978 to 2010, Paolo Riccio has been Lecturer of Neurochemistry at the Postgraduate School of Neurology, Faculty of Medicine, University of Bari. He also served as member of the PhD School on "Alimenti e Salute" ("Food & Health") at the 2nd University of Naples (SUN), Italy. He has participated in two BIO-MED Projects (1996-1999) on "High resolution structures of myelin proteins" and on "T cell autoimmunity in MS", and has been the chair of the European Network 'MARIE' (Myelin Autoimmunity Research In Europe) of the European Science Foundation (ESF) on Myelin Structure and Its Role in Autoimmunity, 2004-2006.

After his retirement in 2010 and until 2014, Paolo Riccio has been Adjunct Professor at the Department of Sciences in Potenza. One of his more recent findings has been the discovery that metalloproteinase isoforms exist in the form of charge variants (2014). Now he is continuing his studies on the molecular and cellular mechanisms by which dietary factors can influence the course of Multiple Sclerosis and other chronic inflammatory diseases (FISM grant 2014/S/2).