

# Michele Giunta

Developmental biologist with experience in cell and molecular biology.

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## Education:

Master's degree in Biology at the University of Milan (October 2011) with an experimental thesis about the role of htt protein during zebrafish development (12 months).

## Professional Experience:

- Since June 2013 until November 2013:

**Staff Scientist** for BioAdvantex Pharma Inc. - MaRS Discovery District, 101 College Street, Toronto, ON M5G 1L7 Canada. (Part time 20 hours/week).

- Since November 2012 until June 2013:

**Staff Scientist** at BioAdvantex Pharma Inc. - MaRS Discovery District, 101 College Street, Toronto, ON M5G 1L7 Canada (full time).

**Main responsibilities:** This company produces N-acetylcysteine, a glutathione prodrug that has recently been recognised as a useful molecule for a number of diseases where there is a redox impairment and as a glutamate regulator in the brain. My job with this company was to collect the published literature about the use of this molecule and write scientific papers to explain the rationale for the use of NAC to physicians and researchers in order to propose new clinical trials and its use in clinical practice.

- Since April 2012 until August 2012

**Research biologist** at "C. Besta" Neurological Institute (Milan), Laboratory of muscle cell biology.

**Main responsibilities:** Autonomously performing the experiments after consultation with the P.I. and analyzing the data obtained. The project was about the role of dnm2 protein during zebrafish muscle development.

- Since December 2011 until April 2012

**Research assistant (postgraduate internship)** at the laboratory of zebrafish developmental biology of the University of Milan.

**Main responsibilities:** Autonomously performing the experiments after consultation with the P.I. and analyzing the data obtained. The project was about the role of htt protein during zebrafish neural system development.

**Technical skills:**

- Whole mount *in situ* hybridization;
- mRNA and DNA extraction;
- DNA transcription and mRNA retro-transcription;
- PCR and real-time PCR;
- H & E staining;
- Slides preparation for optical microscopy;
- Use of optical and fluorescence microscope;
- mRNA and morpholino microinjections;
- 2D PAGE;
- Silver and comassie blue staining;
- Zebrafish embryos microdissection;
- Immunohistochemistry and immunofluorescence;
- General management of a zebrafish facility and laboratory.

**Abstract(s):**

- Gaudenzi G, Zuccato C, Strippoli L, Pistocchi A, Bassi I, Molinari E, Giunta M, Cotelli F, Cattaneo E. **"Zebrafish as a powerful tool to study huntingtin's function and domains"**. V Meeting on the MOLECULAR MECHANISMS OF NEURODEGENERATION, May 13-15, 2011, Università' degli Studi di Milano, Via Festa del Perdono 7 - 20122 Milano (Italy).
- Bragato C, Gaudenzi G, Giunta M, Pavesi G, Gibertini S, Salerno F, Cotelli F, Mora M. **"Identification and characterization of two dynamin-2 isoforms in the zebrafish: new insights into centronuclear myopathies"**. 13° National Congress of Italian Myopathies Association (AIM). May 16-18, 2013. Stresa (VB), Italy.

**Presentation(s):**

- May 2013: **A Randomized Controlled Pilot Trial of Oral N-Acetylcysteine in Children with Autism.**  
Presented to AutismOne/Generation Rescue Conference 2013, Intercontinental Chicago O'Hare, IL, U.S.A.

**Other certificates, courses attended and professional experiences:**

- I.E.L.T.S. certificate held on 27/AUG/2011 Overall score: 7.5 (Listening: 7.5; Reading: 8.0; Writing: 6.5; Speaking: 7.0);
- Practical course of electron microscopy at University of Milan (April 2012);
- Visiting scientist at Herzenberg Laboratory at Stanford University, California, U.S. (March 2013);

**Awards:**

- 2,000 Euro study award from Telethon Foundation for the project about the role of dnm2 during zebrafish muscle development.