


PERSONAL INFORMATION

Francesca Simonelli

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Sex F | City and Date of birth Nola 25/04/1959 | Nationality Italian

Persona Identification Code (Codice Fiscale) SMNFNC59D65F924A

JOB APPLIED FOR
POSITION
PREFERRED JOB
STUDIES APPLIED FOR

Professor of Ophthalmology

WORK EXPERIENCE

from 2010 up-to-now

Full professor of Ophthalmology

School of Medicine, University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli (formerly named Second University of Naples)

- Eye clinic chief, research and clinical activity in the field of ophthalmology

[University / Academic hospital](#)

from 2004 to 2010

Associate professor of Ophthalmology

School of Medicine, Second University of Naples, Naples, Italy

- Research and clinical activity in the field of ophthalmology

[University / Academic hospital](#)

from 1990 to 2003

Assistant professor of Ophthalmology

School of Medicine, Second University of Naples, Naples, Italy

- Research and clinical activity in the field of ophthalmology

[University / Academic hospital](#)

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

From 1984 to 1987

Postgraduate medical training - residency in Ophthalmology

8* EQF

School of Medicine, University of Naples, Naples, Italy

- Specialized clinical and surgical activities in the field of ophthalmology

From 1984 to 1987

Medical Doctor

7* EQF

School of Medicine, University of Naples, Naples, Italy

- General medical knowledge and training

PERSONAL SKILLS

Mother tongue(s)

Italian

English, French

	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	B2	B2	B2	B2	B2

French

B1	B1	B1	B1	B1

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user
Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

Job-related skills

- good leadership quality (currently responsible of eye clinic)
- training for Good Clinical Practice (last time 1 June 2018)
- Principal Investigator of several clinical studies conducted according to Good Clinical Practice
- Medical Licence: 020192 (Ordine della Provincia di Napoli)

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Principal Recent Publications
(years 2014-2020)

Colella P, Trapani I, Cesi G, Sommella A, Manfredi A, Puppo A, Iodice C, Rossi S, Simonelli F, Giunti M, Bacci ML, Auricchio A. Efficient gene delivery to the cone-enriched pig retina by dual AAV vectors. *Gene Ther.* 2014;21(4):450-6.

Di Filippo C, Zippo MV, Maisto R, Trotta MC, Siniscalco D, Ferraro B, Ferraraccio F, La Motta C, Sartini S, Cosconati S, Novellino E, Gesualdo C, Simonelli F, Rossi S, D'Amico M. Inhibition of ocular aldose reductase by a new benzofuroxane derivative ameliorates rat endotoxic uveitis. *Mediators Inflamm.* 2014;2014.

Donati S, Caprani SM, Airaghi G, Vinciguerra R, Bartalena L, Testa F, Mariotti C, Porta G, Simonelli F, Azzolini C. Vitreous substitutes: The present and the future. *BioMed research international.* 2014;2014.

Mozzillo E, Delvecchio M, Carella M, Grandone E, Palumbo P, Salina A, Aloï C, Buono P, Izzo A, D'Annunzio G, Vecchione G, Orrico A, Genesio R, Simonelli F, Franzese A. A novel CISD2 intragenic deletion, optic neuropathy and platelet aggregation defect in Wolfram syndrome type 2. *Bmc Med Genet.* 2014;15(1).

Testa F, Melillo P, Di Iorio V, Orrico A, Attanasio M, Rossi S, Simonelli F. Macular function and morphologic features in juvenile stargardt disease: Longitudinal study. *Ophthalmology.* 2014;121(12):2399-405.

Testa F, Rossi S, Colucci R, Gallo B, Di Iorio V, Della Corte M, Azzolini C, Melillo P, Simonelli F. Macular abnormalities in Italian patients with retinitis pigmentosa. *British Journal of Ophthalmology.* 2014;98(7):946-50.

van Huet RAC, Collin RWJ, Siemiatkowska AM, Klaver CCW, Hoyng CB, Simonelli F, Khan MI, Qamar R, Banin E, Cremers FPM, Theelen T, den Hollander AI, van den Born LI, Klevering BJ. IMPG2-associated retinitis pigmentosa displays relatively early macular involvement. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2014;55(6):3939-53.

Zernant J, Xie YA, Ayuso C, Riveiro-Alvarez R, Lopez-Martinez MA, Simonelli F, Testa F, Gorin MB, Strom SP, Bertelsen M, Rosenberg T, Boone PM, Yuan B, Ayyagari R, Nagy PL, Tsang SH, Gouras P, Collison FT, Lupski JR, Fishman GA, Allikmets R. Analysis of the ABCA4 genomic locus in Stargardt disease. *Hum Mol Genet.* 2014;23(25):6797-806.

Aboshiha J, Dubis AM, Van Der Spuy J, Nishiguchi KM, Cheeseman EW, Ayuso C, Ehrenberg M, Simonelli F, Bainbridge JW, Michaelides M. Preserved outer retina in AIPL1 Leber's congenital amaurosis: Implications for gene therapy. *Ophthalmology.* 2015;122(4):862-4.

Bellingham J, Davidson AE, Aboshiha J, Simonelli F, Bainbridge JW, Michaelides M, Van Der Spuy J. Investigation of aberrant splicing induced by AIPL1 variations as a cause of leber congenital amaurosis. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2015;56(13):7784-93.

Melillo P, Orrico A, Attanasio M, Rossi S, Pecchia L, Chirico F, Testa F, Simonelli F. A pilot study for development of a novel tool for clinical decision making to identify fallers among ophthalmic patients. *BMC Medical Informatics and Decision Making.* 2015;15(3).

Olivo G, Melillo P, Coccozza S, D'Alterio FM, Prinster A, Testa F, Brunetti A, Simonelli F, Quarantelli M. Cerebral involvement in stargardt's disease: A VBM and TBSS study. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2015;56(12):7388-97.

Rossi S, Di Filippo C, Gesualdo C, Potenza N, Russo A, Trotta MC, Zippo MV, Maisto R, Ferraraccio F, Simonelli F, D'Amico M. Protection from endotoxic uveitis by intravitreal resolvin D1: Involvement of lymphocytes, miRNAs, ubiquitin-proteasome, and M1/M2 macrophages. *Mediators Inflamm.* 2015;2015.

Rossi S, Di Filippo C, Gesualdo C, Testa F, Trotta MC, Maisto R, Ferraro B, Ferraraccio F, Accardo M, Simonelli F, D'Amico M. Interplay between intravitreal RvD1 and local endogenous sirtuin-1 in the protection from endotoxin-induced uveitis in rats. *Mediators Inflamm.* 2015;2015.

Rossi S, Orrico A, Melillo P, Testa F, Simonelli F, Della Corte M. Ocrlasmin use in a selected case with preserved visual acuity. *BMC Ophthalmol.* 2015;15(1).

Rossi S, Orrico A, Santamaria C, Romano V, De Rosa L, Simonelli F, De Rosa G. Standard versus

- trans-epithelial collagen cross-linking in keratoconus patients suitable for standard collagen cross-linking. *Clin Ophthalmol*. 2015;9:503-9.
- Rossi S, Testa F, Santamaria C, Orrico A, Attanasio M, Simonelli F, De Rosa G. Photorefractive keratectomy on purely refractive accommodative esotropia. *Seminars in Ophthalmology*. 2015;30(1):25-8.
- Trapani I, Banfi S, Simonelli F, Surace EM, Auricchio A. Gene therapy of inherited retinal degenerations: Prospects and challenges. *Hum Gene Ther*. 2015;26(4):193-200.
- Trapani I, Toriello E, De Simone S, Colella P, Iodice C, Polishchuk EV, Sommella A, Colecchi L, Rossi S, Simonelli F, Giunti M, Bacci ML, Polishchuk RS, Auricchio A. Improved dual AAV vectors with reduced expression of truncated proteins are safe and effective in the retina of a mouse model of Stargardt disease. *Hum Mol Genet*. 2015;24(23):6811-25.
- Bennett J, Wellman J, Marshall KA, McCague S, Ashtari M, DiStefano-Pappas J, Elci OU, Chung DC, Sun J, Wright JF, Cross DR, Aravand P, Cyckowski LL, Bencicelli JL, Mingozzi F, Auricchio A, Pierce EA, Ruggiero J, Leroy BP, Simonelli F, High KA, Maguire AM. Safety and durability of effect of contralateral-eye administration of AAV2 gene therapy in patients with childhood-onset blindness caused by RPE65 mutations: a follow-on phase 1 trial. *The Lancet*. 2016;388(10045):661-72.
- Bonnet C, Riahi Z, Chantot-Bastarud S, Smaghe L, Letexier M, Marcaillou C, Lefèvre GM, Hardelin JP, El-Amraoui A, Singh-Estivalet A, Mohand-Saïd S, Kohl S, Kurtenbach A, Sliesoraityte I, Zobor D, Gherbi S, Testa F, Simonelli F, Banfi S, Fakin A, Glavač D, Jarc-Vidmar M, Zupan A, Battelino S, Martorell Sampol L, Claveria MA, Catala Mora J, Dad S, Møller LB, Rodriguez Jorge J, Hawlina M, Auricchio A, Sahel JA, Marlin S, Zrenner E, Audo I, Petit C. An innovative strategy for the molecular diagnosis of Usher syndrome identifies causal biallelic mutations in 93% of European patients. *European Journal of Human Genetics*. 2016;24(12):1730-8.
- 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. Rhodopsin targeted transcriptional silencing by DNA-binding. *eLife*. 2016;5(MARCH2016).
- Melillo P, Testa F, Rossi S, Di Iorio V, Orrico A, Auricchio A, Simonelli F. En face spectral-domain optical coherence tomography for the monitoring of lesion area progression in stargardt disease. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2016;57(9):OCT247-OCT52.
- Mozzillo E, Cozzolino C, Genesio R, Melis D, Frisso G, Orrico A, Lombardo B, Fattorusso V, Discepolo V, Della Casa R, Simonelli F, Nitsch L, Salvatore F, Franzese A. Mulibrey nanism: Two novel mutations in a child identified by Array CGH and DNA sequencing. *American Journal of Medical Genetics, Part A*. 2016;170(8):2196-9.
- Rossi S, Maisto R, Gesualdo C, Trotta MC, Ferraraccio F, Kaneva MK, Getting SJ, Surace E, Testa F, Simonelli F, Grieco P, Merlino F, Perretti M, D'Amico M, Di Filippo C. Activation of Melanocortin Receptors MC₄ and MC₅ Attenuates Retinal Damage in Experimental Diabetic Retinopathy. *Mediators Inflamm*. 2016;2016.
- Rossi S, Testa F, Melillo P, Orrico A, Della Corte M, Simonelli F. Functional improvement assessed by multifocal electroretinogram after Ocriplasmin treatment for vitreomacular traction. *BMC Ophthalmol*. 2016;16(1).
- Saksens NTM, Krebs MP, Schoenmaker-Koller FE, Hicks W, Yu M, Shi L, Rowe L, Collin GB, Charette JR, Letteboer SJ, Neveling K, Van Moorsel TW, Abu-Ltaif S, De Baere E, Walraedt S, Banfi S, Simonelli F, Cremers FPM, Boon CJF, Roepman R, Leroy BP, Peachey NS, Hoyng CB, Nishina PM, Den Hollander AI. Mutations in CTNNA1 cause butterfly-shaped pigment dystrophy and perturbed retinal pigment epithelium integrity. *Nature Genetics*. 2016;48(2):144-51.
- Wong R, Dell'Aversana Orabona G, Simonelli F, Howard C. Novel technique for removal of persistent subretinal fluid following nondrain retinal detachment surgery. *Taiwan Journal of Ophthalmology*. 2016;6(4):199-200.
- Zacchia M, Zacchia E, Zona E, Capolongo G, Raiola I, Rinaldi L, Trepiccione F, Ingrosso D, Perna A, Iorio VD, Simonelli F, Moe OW, Capasso G. Renal phenotype in bardet-biedl syndrome: A combined defect of urinary concentration and dilution is associated with defective urinary aqp2 and umod excretion. *American Journal of Physiology - Renal Physiology*. 2016;311(4):F686-F94.
- Di Iorio V, Karali M, Brunetti-Pierri R, Filippelli M, Di Fruscio G, Pizzo M, Mutarelli M, Nigro V, Testa F, Banfi S, Simonelli F. Clinical and genetic evaluation of a cohort of pediatric patients with severe inherited retinal dystrophies. *Genes*. 2017;8(10).
- Donati S, Caprani SM, Semeraro F, Vinciguerra R, Virgili G, Testa F, Simonelli F, Azzolini C. Morphological and Functional Retinal Assessment in Epiretinal Membrane Surgery. *Seminars in Ophthalmology*. 2017;32(6):751-8.
- Esposito G, Testa F, Zacchia M, Crispo AA, Di Iorio V, Capolongo G, Rinaldi L, D'Antonio M, Fioretti T, Iadicicco P, Rossi S, Franzè A, Marciano E, Capasso G, Simonelli F, Salvatore F. Genetic characterization of Italian patients with Bardet-Biedl syndrome and correlation to ocular, renal and audio-vestibular phenotype: Identification of eleven novel pathogenic sequence variants. *Bmc Med Genet*. 2017;18(1).
- Jiao X, Li A, Jin ZB, Wang X, Iannaccone A, Traboulsi EI, Gorin MB, Simonelli F, Hejtmancik JF. Identification and population history of CYP4V2 mutations in patients with Bietti crystalline corneoretinal dystrophy. *European Journal of Human Genetics*. 2017;25(4):461-71.

- Maisto R, Gesualdo C, Trotta MC, Grieco P, Testa F, Simonelli F, Barcia JM, D'Amico M, Di Filippo C, Rossi S. Melanocortin receptor agonists MCR<inf>1-5</inf> protect photoreceptors from high-glucose damage and restore antioxidant enzymes in primary retinal cell culture. *J Cell Mol Med.* 2017;21(5):968-74.
- Melillo P, Orrico A, Chirico F, Pecchia L, Rossi S, Testa F, Simonelli F. Identifying fallers among ophthalmic patients using classification tree methodology. *PLoS ONE.* 2017;12(3).
- Melillo P, Riccio D, Di Perna L, Sanniti Di Baja G, De Nino M, Rossi S, Testa F, Simonelli F, Frucci M. Wearable Improved Vision System for Color Vision Deficiency Correction. *IEEE Journal of Translational Engineering in Health and Medicine.* 2017;5.
- Porta M, Boscia F, Lanzetta P, Mannucci E, Menchini U, Simonelli F. Systematic screening of Retinopathy in Diabetes (REaD project): An Italian implementation campaign. *Eur J Ophthalmol.* 2017;27(2):179-84.
- Rossi S, De Rosa G, D'Alterio FM, Orrico A, Banfi S, Testa F, Simonelli F. Intrafamilial heterogeneity of congenital optic disc pit maculopathy. *Ophthalmic Genetics.* 2017;38(3):267-72.
- Rossi S, Gesualdo C, Maisto R, Trotta MC, Di Carluccio N, Brigida A, Di Iorio V, Testa F, Simonelli F, D'Amico M, Di Filippo C. High levels of serum ubiquitin and proteasome in a case of HLA-B27 uveitis. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2017;18(3).
- Russell S, Bennett J, Wellman JA, Chung DC, Yu ZF, Tillman A, Wittes J, Pappas J, Elci O, McCague S, Cross D, Marshall KA, Walshire J, Kehoe TL, Reichert H, Davis M, Raffini L, George LA, Hudson FP, Dingfield L, Zhu X, Haller JA, Sohn EH, Mahajan VB, Pfeifer W, Weckmann M, Johnson C, Gewaily D, Drack A, Stone E, Wachtel K, Simonelli F, Leroy BP, Wright JF, High KA, Maguire AM. Efficacy and safety of voretigene neparvovec (AAV2-hRPE65v2) in patients with RPE65-mediated inherited retinal dystrophy: a randomised, controlled, open-label, phase 3 trial. *The Lancet.* 2017;390(10097):849-60.
- Testa F, Filippelli M, Brunetti-Pierri R, Di Fruscio G, Di Iorio V, Pizzo M, Torella A, Barillari MR, Nigro V, Brunetti-Pierri N, Simonelli F, Banfi S. Mutations in the PCYT1A gene are responsible for isolated forms of retinal dystrophy. *European Journal of Human Genetics.* 2017;25(5):651-5.
- Testa F, Melillo P, Bonnet C, Marcelli V, De Benedictis A, Colucci R, Gallo B, Kurtenbach A, Rossi S, Marciano E, Auricchio A, Petit C, Zrenner E, Simonelli F. CLINICAL PRESENTATION and DISEASE COURSE of USHER SYNDROME because of MUTATIONS in MYO7A or USH2A. *Retina.* 2017;37(8):1581-90.
- Alagia M, Cappuccio G, Pinelli M, Torella A, Brunetti-Pierri R, Simonelli F, Limongelli G, Oppido G, Nigro V, Brunetti-Pierri N. A child with Myhre syndrome presenting with corectopia and tetralogy of Fallot. *American Journal of Medical Genetics, Part A.* 2018;176(2):426-30.
- Brancati N, Frucci M, Gragnaniello D, Riccio D, Di Iorio V, Di Perna L, Simonelli F. Learning-based approach to segment pigment signs in fundus images for Retinitis Pigmentosa analysis. *Neurocomputing.* 2018;308:159-71.
- Caporali L, Iommarini L, La Morgia C, Olivieri A, Achilli A, Maresca A, Valentino ML, Capristo M, Tagliavini F, Del Dotto V, Zanna C, Liguori R, Barboni P, Carbonelli M, Cocetta V, Montopoli M, Martinuzzi A, Cenacchi G, De Michele G, Testa F, Nesti A, Simonelli F, Porcelli AM, Torroni A, Carelli V. Peculiar combinations of individually non-pathogenic missense mitochondrial DNA variants cause low penetrance Leber's hereditary optic neuropathy. *PLoS Genet.* 2018;14(2).
- Kurtenbach A, Hahn G, Kernstock C, Hipp S, Zobor D, Stingl K, Kohl S, Bonnet C, Mohand-Saïd S, Sliesoraityte I, Sahel JA, Audo I, Fakin A, Hawlina M, Testa F, Simonelli F, Petit C, Zrenner E. Usher Syndrome and Color Vision. *Current Eye Research.* 2018;43(10):1295-301.
- Maddalena A, Tomabene P, Tiberi P, Minopoli R, Manfredi A, Mutarelli M, Rossi S, Simonelli F, Naggert JK, Cacchiarelli D, Auricchio A. Triple Vectors Expand AAV Transfer Capacity in the Retina. *Mol Ther.* 2018;26(2):524-41.
- Melillo P, Prinster A, Di Iorio V, Olivo G, D'alterio FM, Coccozza S, Orrico A, Quarantelli M, Testa F, Brunetti A, Simonelli F. Visual cortex activation in patients with stargardt disease. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci.* 2018;59(3):1503-11.
- Napolitano F, Di Iorio V, Testa F, Tirozzi A, Reccia MG, Lombardi L, Farina O, Simonelli F, Gianfrancesco F, Di Iorio G, Melone MAB, Esposito T, Sampaolo S. Autosomal-dominant myopia associated to a novel P4HA2 missense variant and defective collagen hydroxylation. *Clinical Genetics.* 2018;93(5):982-91.
- Rossi S, Santamaria C, Boccia R, De Rosa L, D'Alterio FM, Simonelli F, De Rosa G. Standard, transepithelial and iontophoresis corneal cross-linking: clinical analysis of three surgical techniques. *Int Ophthalmol.* 2018;38(6):2585-92.
- Testa F, Melillo P, Rossi S, Marcelli V, de Benedictis A, Colucci R, Gallo B, Brunetti-Pierri R, Donati S, Azzolini C, Marciano E, Simonelli F. Prevalence of macular abnormalities assessed by optical coherence tomography in patients with Usher syndrome. *Ophthalmic Genetics.* 2018;39(1):17-21.
- Viggiano D, Zaccchia M, Simonelli F, Di Iorio V, Anastasio P, Capasso G, De Santo NG. The renal lesions in Bardet-Biedl Syndrome: history before and after the discovery of BBS genes. *Giornale italiano di nefrologia : organo ufficiale della Societa italiana di nefrologia.* 2018;35:95-100.
- Cappuccio G, Brunetti-Pierri R, Torella A, Pinelli M, Castello R, Casari G, Nigro V, Banfi S, Simonelli F, Brunetti-Pierri N. Retinal dystrophy in an individual carrying a de novo missense variant of

SMARCA4. *Molecular Genetics and Genomic Medicine*. 2019;7(6).

Di Iorio V, Esposito G, De Falco F, Boccia R, Fioretti T, Colucci R, De Rosa G, Melillo P, Salvatore F, Simonelli F, Testa F. CHM/REP1 transcript expression and loss of visual function in patients affected by choroideremia. *Invest Ophthalmol Vis Sci*. 2019;60(5):1547-55.

Di Iorio V, Orrico A, Esposito G, Melillo P, Rossi S, Sbordone S, Auricchio A, Testa F, Simonelli F. Association between genotype and disease progression in Italian stargardt patients: A retrospective natural history study. *Retina*. 2019;39(7):1399-409.

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Stingl K, Kurtenbach A, Hahn G, Kernstock C, Hipp S, Zobor D, Kohl S, Bonnet C, Mohand-Saïd S, Audo I, Fakin A, Hawlina M, Testa F, Simonelli F, Petit C, Sahel JA, Zrenner E. Full-field electroretinography, visual acuity and visual fields in Usher syndrome: a multicentre European study. *Doc Ophthalmol*. 2019;139(2):151-60.

Testa F, Di Iorio V, Gallo B, Marchese M, Nesti A, De Rosa G, Melillo P, Simonelli F. Carbonic anhydrase inhibitors in patients with X-linked retinoschisis: effects on macular morphology and function. *Ophthalmic Genetics*. 2019;40(3):207-12.

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Van de Sompele S, Smith C, Karali M, Corton M, Van Schil K, Peelman F, Cherry T, Rosseel T, Verdin H, Derolez J, Van Laethem T, Khan KN, McKibbin M, Toomes C, Ali M, Torella A, Testa F, Jimenez B, Simonelli F, De Zaeytijd J, Van den Ende J, Leroy BP, Coppieters F, Ayuso C, Inglehearn CF, Banfi S, De Baere E. Biallelic sequence and structural variants in RAX2 are a novel cause for autosomal recessive inherited retinal disease. *Genet Med*. 2019;21(6):1319-29.

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I hereby authorize the use of my personal data in compliance with the Italian law

Naples, 26 July 2021

Prof. Francesca Simonelli