



SUBSTITUTE DECLARATION OF CERTIFICATION (Art.46 D.P.R. 28.12.2000 No. 445)

The undersigned SACCO RODOLFO COSMA DAMIANO, born in FOGGIA on 01.09.1965 and residing in Foggia, aware of the criminal liabilities for declarations that do not correspond to the truth and of the consequent loss of benefits deriving from the measure issued on the basis of false declarations, pursuant to art. 76 of D.P.R. December 28, 2000 No. 445 (consolidated text of legislative and regulatory provisions regarding administrative documentation)

DECLARES THAT THE FOLLOWING IS TRUE

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name	RODOLFO COSMA DAMIANO SACCO
Address	U.O.C. GASTROENTEROLOGY AND DIGESTIVE ENDOSCOPY UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL COMPANY POLICLINICO OF FOGGIA, VIALE PINTO, 71121 FOGGIA
Phone	0881-732373; 347-8812650
Email	rodolfo.sacco@unifg.it

WORK EXPERIENCE

September 2018 – December 31, 2024. From January 1, 2025, same role but as an Associate Professor at the University of Foggia	DIRECTOR OF COMPLEX STRUCTURE OF GASTROENTEROLOGY and DIGESTIVE ENDOSCOPY, UNIVERSITY HOSPITAL COMPANY “POLICLINICO di FOGGIA”
May 2012 - August 2018	Level I Medical Director with a role of proven professionalism and specialization – Responsible for ward, outpatient activities, and Day-Service of the U.O.C of Gastroenterology and Metabolic Diseases at the Pisana University Hospital Company (A.O.U.P.).
May 2008 - April 2012	Confirmed University Researcher initially for the scientific sector MED/09 (Internal Medicine) and later MED/12 (Gastroenterology) at the University of Foggia in agreement, for clinical activity, with the Pisana University Hospital Company at the U.O. Gastroenterology and Metabolic Diseases (for which he was on leave from 2008 to 2012 without interrupting the relationship).
February 2007 - April 2008 February 2001 - January 2007	Level I Medical Director, Gastroenterology and Metabolic Diseases Unit (A.O.U.P). Level I Medical Director, Gastroenterology and Hepatology, Pisan University Hospital.
November 1999 - December 2001	Awarded a Grant and Fellowship by Japan Science and Technology (JST) and assigned by A.O.U.P. (from the employment date 9-2-2001) as Researcher at the Hepatic Virology Department, National Institute of Infectious Diseases-Tokyo- Japan.
September 1999 May - August 1999	Winner of Competition for Level I Medical Director in the Gastroenterology and Hepatology Unit (A.O.U.P). Assigned to oncological surgery-liver transplant center at National Cancer Institute Milan.
January 1997 - December 1998	Fellow at the Hepatic and Digestive Pathophysiology Laboratory, Gastroenterology Unit, Molinette Hospital-Turin.
October 1997 - November 1999	Fellow of the Ministry of Health for the Specific Training Course in General Medicine, 1st Cycle at San Paolo Hospital of Bari.
January 1992 - December 1996	Clinical and research activities in Hepato-Gastroenterology during the Internal Medicine Specialization School at the University of Bari.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1991	Degree in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Bari with a score of 110/110 and Honors, along with academic praise and a scholarship awarded for the best thesis.
1996	Specialization in Internal Medicine (with Hepato-Gastroenterological activities) at the University of Bari, achieving a score of 50/50 with Honors.
1998	Advanced course in Electrocardiography completed with Honors at the University of Bari.
1999	Advanced course in Emergency Medicine completed with Honors at the University of Bari.
2003	Doctorate in Research (Ph.D.) in Infectious Diseases (thesis topic on chronic liver disease due to HCV) awarded with Honors at Tokai University (Japan).
2004	Advanced Course in Ultrasound Diagnostics in Surgery with Honors at the University of Pisa.
2017	Master's in Managerial Training for appointments related to the functions of Director of Complex Structure, as per art. 16 quinquies, paragraph 1, of Legislative Decree n. 502/92, as amended by Legislative Decree n. 229/99 at the University S. Anna of Pisa.
TEACHING ACTIVITIES	
	National Scientific Qualification professor of First Level Competitive Sector 06/D4 announcement D.D. 1532/2016, achieved on 18-9-2019 National Scientific Qualification professor of Second Level Competitive Sector 06/D4 announcement D.D. 1532/2016, achieved on 10-4-2017
2012 -15	Member of the Faculty Board in the Doctorate of: 'Food Quality and Human Nutrition' – 27th cycle, from 11-01-2012 to 10-31-2014. Member of the Faculty Board in the Doctorate of: 'Food Quality and Human Nutrition' – 27th cycle, from 11-01-2013 to 10-31-2015.
2008 - 2012, at University of Foggia	Instructor of 'Internal Medicine' for the following Degree Programs: - Nursing Science (Bachelor's Degree - Foggia Campus); - Nursing Science (Bachelor's Degree - San Severo Campus); - Motor Sciences (Bachelor's and Master's Degrees). Instructor of 'Emergency Medicine' in the Master's Degree Program in Nursing Science (Foggia Campus). Instructor of 'Internal Pathologies from Altered Response to the Intestinal Microenvironment' in the Degree Program in Food Science and Human Nutrition. Instructor of 'Food Pathologies' in the Degree Program in Food Science and Human Nutrition. Coordinator and advisor for Bachelor's, Specialization, and Doctoral theses.

SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITIES

Since 1992, he has been involved in research within the hepatology and gastroenterology fields, initially focusing on the epidemiological aspects of viral hepatitis and liver cancer. In 1993, he began a scientific collaboration with Prof. Ferruccio Bonino at Molinette Hospital in Turin. This collaboration continued during his years in Japan and later at the A.O.U.P. During his doctoral period (1999-2003) in Tokyo at the National Institute of Infectious Diseases, where he received a research grant from the Japan Science and Technology Agency (STA grant), he designed an innovative study, characterizing a new inducible expression system for the core protein of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) at the cellular level, to later assess the pathogenic role of this protein. The study revealed that the inducible expression of the HCV core protein can be an effective system to investigate the structural and functional properties of the HCV nucleocapsid, thus providing valuable insights into the pathogenesis of liver cancer. This research was published in a significant paper (Sacco et al, Virology 2003). In subsequent years, he continued his research in hepatology and gastroenterology, leading to the publication of 169 scientific articles, with 64 as the first or last author. He is also a speaker and/or moderator at numerous national and international conferences, particularly in the fields of hepatology and chronic inflammatory bowel diseases. Recently, he was one of the authors of the Italian inter-society guidelines on liver cancer management, published by the Istituto Superiore di Sanità in February 2023 and in Digestive and Liver Diseases in 2024.

Main Research Topics and Collaborations

-Multidisciplinary Integrated Approach to the Study of Liver Cancer

Active collaboration with: Italian Reference Centers for the study and treatment of HCC, affiliated with the ITA.LI.CA group (Italian Liver Cancer), the EpaHCC group (AIGO), and the Istituto Superiore di Sanità. Multicenter studies on the clinical and therapeutic aspects of HCC have been conducted, showing significant progress in managing this disease. Additionally, extensive epidemiological studies on HCC and the real-life application of Guidelines have been carried out.

Collaboration with international reference centers such as Kinki University Osaka, Barcelona Clinic Liver Cancer, Medical University of Vienna, and the University of Paris, with a focus on treating patients with intermediate and advanced stage HCC.

Collaboration with IIT has been established to develop innovative experimental nanoparticles carrying sorafenib for the treatment of hepatocarcinoma.

Collaboration with the I.R.C.C.S. Gastroenterological "De Bellis" in Castellana Grotte (BA) for microRNA studies during TKI therapy in advanced HCC.

Ongoing research collaboration on patients with hepatocarcinoma with AOUP, focusing on staging intermediate-advanced HCC and response criteria to related therapies.

-Treatment of patients with IBD

Collaborations with national centers affiliated with IG-IBD (Italian Group-Inflammatory Bowel Disease). Partnerships with the Inflammatory Bowel Disease Center, Yokkaichi Hospital, Mie, Japan, St. Mark's Hospital London, and Hamamatsu School of Medicine, Japan. Renowned international expert in non-pharmacological therapies for IBD, such as apheretic and granulomonocyte apheresis techniques

- Antiviral therapeutic effectiveness in patients with chronic hepatitis from HCV and autoimmune liver diseases. Responsible for multicenter collaborations AIGO- Tuscan Hepatologists- CLEO, as coordinator of multicenter observational studies on HCV hepatitis therapy.
- Evaluation of antioxidant capacity of natural products in the treatment of hepatic steatosis. Collaboration with the CNR of Pisa, the University of Pisa, and the University of Foggia.
- Study of antibiotic resistance for the treatment of H.Pylori infection and related new therapeutic approaches. Collaboration with the University of Bari and the Istituto Nuovo Regina Margherita in Rome.

-Implementation and development of Robotic Colonoscopy and ecoendoscopy

Study of the diagnostic and operational potential of the wireless robotic colonoscope e-worm, with A.O.U.P. and Università S. Anna of Pisa. Collaborations with leading Japanese centers utilizing the methodology.

Research activities in the field of ecoendoscopy with the Esophageal Surgery team

	Publications and Editorial Activities Author of 200 full-length publications (Scopus) and over 350 abstracts in international journals with impact factor, along with book chapters. Member of the Editorial Board: World Journal of Gastroenterology, Journal of Hepatocellular Carcinoma, World Journal of Hepatology, Vaccines, Hepatoma Research, Cancers, Life. Reviewer for numerous international scientific journals (Gastroenterology, Hepatology, Liver International, Alimentary Pharmacology and Therapeutics, Cancers, BMC Gastroenterology) Former Co-editor of the website www.epatoncologia.it.
	Coordination of National and International Clinical Studies
1999-2001	Project Leader: "The tightly regulated inducible expression system of HCV proteins: the core protein modulates Fas- and TNF alpha-mediated apoptosis in human liver cells" during Fellowship at the Department of Virology II, National Institute of Infectious Diseases, Tokyo, Japan with grant from Japan Science and Technology Agency.
2008-present	Head of Unit and national coordinator of the research group for the project: Epa-HCC promoted by A.I.G.O.
2010	Unit Lead for the research team in the project: Primary clarithromycin resistance in <i>Helicobacter pylori</i> : the Multicentric Italian Clarithromycin Resistance Observational (MICRO) study.
2012-Present	Unit Lead for the research team in the project: ITA.LI.CA.: Italian Liver Cancer Group.
2015-2016	Unit Lead for the research team in the project: The effect of reduced Glutathione intake on circulating gamma-glutamyltranspeptidase fractions
2015-2018	Scientific Head and Project Coordinator: "Evaluation of tumor progression risk in cirrhotic patients treated with antiretroviral therapy" funded by: Fellowship Program.
2016-2018	National Coordinator and Unit Head for the research team in the project: Sustained virological response in HCV patients treated with daclatasvir+sofosbuvir, with or without ribavirin: a multicenter, field-practice experience, promoted by C.L.E.O.
2016-2019	Unit Head for the project: A multicenter, randomized, open-label phase 3 study of two anti-angiogenic strategies in advanced hepatocellular carcinoma patients with cross-over at first-line failure: metronomic Capecitabine/Sorafenib (Arm A) vs Sorafenib/metronomic Capecitabine (Arm B). Funded by AIFA as a winner in the 2012 independent research call.
2002-2005	Co-investigator Trial AI463-022: A Phase III Study of Entecavir vs Lamivudine in Adults With Chronic Hepatitis B Infection and Positive for Hepatitis B E Antigen. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT00035633. Sponsor: Bristol-Myers Squibb.
2008-2012	Responsabile di Unità nello Studio RAD01 Acronimo Precision Italia: Trattamento dell'epatocarcinoma (HCC) mediante chemioembolizzazione (TACE) selettiva tradizionale versus TACE selettiva con microsfere caricate con Doxorubicina: studio multicentrico, randomizzato in aperto, controllato (PRECISION – Italia). Clinical trials.gov n. NCT00936689 TACE (Traditional Chemoembolization) Versus Microsphere TACE (PRECISION-IT) Promosso da Università di Bologna).
2012-2015	Responsabile per la Regione Toscana dello studio: Sorafenib in Hepatocellular Carcinoma Clinical Practice in Italy (STELLA). Prospective, non-interventional, multi-center study. (ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01539681). Sponsor: Bayer.
2012-2014	Responsabile di Unità nello studio: "Evaluation of Sorafenib in combination with local micro-therapy guided by Gd-EOB-DTPA enhanced MRI in patients with inoperable hepatocellular carcinoma" (SORAMIC) trial (Sponsor Medical Faculty, Magdeburg University), ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01126645.
2012-2015	Responsabile di Unità: Study of Tivantinib in Subjects With Inoperable Hepatocellular Carcinoma Who Have Been Treated With One Prior Therapy (METIV-HCC). ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01755767 Sponsor: Daiichi Sankyo Inc.

2013-2015	Hepatocellular Carcinoma (RESORCE- ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01774344) Sponsor: Bayer
2015-2017	Unit Head in study: code TS-104 (acronym YES-P): An international Phase III prospective randomized clinical trial evaluating yttrium-90 trans-arterial radioembolization (TheraSphere®) versus the standard of care (sorafenib) for the treatment of advanced hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC) with portal vein thrombosis (PVT). ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01887717. Biocompatibles UK Ltd.
	Awards and Funding
1999-2001	Recipient of Grant and fellowship from Japan Science and Technology Agency (JSTA).
2012	National FISMAD Congress (Italian Federation of Digestive System Disease Societies) - Award for best oncological presentation (HCC).
2014	Japan Digestive Disease Week - Award for the best study on apheresis for the treatment of IBD.
2015	National FISMAD Conference - Award for the best hepatology oral presentation and award for the best poster in hepatology.
2015	Winner of the Grant under the Gilead Fellowship Program for liver research funding 2015-2016.
ASSOCIATIVE AND ORGANIZATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MANAGEMENT	April 2024-present National Executive Board Member Coordinator of the Italian Association of Hospital Gastroenterologists (A.I.G.O.), 2022-April 2024: National Coordinator of the Hepatology Commission A.I.G.O. 2016-2018 and 2020-2022 Member of the Hepatology Commission A.I.G.O. 2016-2018 Regional Secretary Director, A.I.G.O Tuscany President, National Hospital Hepatologists (C.L.E.O.) Member of the Italian Liver Study Association (A.I.S.F.) Member of the Italian Group of Inflammatory Bowel Disease (IG-IBD) Former Member of the Executive Committee of the Tuscan Hepatologists Association (E.T.) Clinical Risk Facilitator for Pisa University Hospital (A.O.U.P), later for the Foggia Polyclinic Organizer of interdepartmental clinical pathways for the belonging U.O. within Pisa University Hospital and currently at Foggia Polyclinic Responsible for the prescribing center of new hepatitis C drugs and biological drugs for chronic inflammatory bowel diseases for the belonging U.O. Former component of the Rare Diseases Network at A.O.U.P. Organizer of national and international scientific and educational events since 1996, participating as scientific director or speaker or moderator at about 400 conferences

PERSONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

Native Language

Italian

Additional Languages

- Reading Skills
- Writing Skills

English
Outstanding
Outstanding

- Reading Skills
- Writing Skills

French
Good
Good

- Reading Skills
- Writing Skills

Japanese
Fair
Fair

RELATIONAL SKILLS AND COMPETENCIES

The undersigned has been evaluated throughout their career advancement. Initially at A.O.U.P. and later at the Foggia polyclinic, the management of both hospitals emphasized the effective collaborative atmosphere they established with colleagues and healthcare team members, fostering scientific and cultural growth within the work group (as evidenced by high scientific output) and maintaining an absence of any internal or external disputes within the organization. They create a harmonious work environment with a proven ability to bring staff together for optimizing and enhancing the skills and human resources available. They implement shareable systems for the immediate resolution of any management issues that arise in the workplace. They avoid disputes but make decisions decisively and promptly, adhering to the guidelines set by senior management while respecting agreed strategies. They exhibit flexibility and enthusiasm in acquiring new skills, experiences, and management procedures.

Technical Skills and Competencies

They hold no racial, religious, or social prejudices.

Throughout professional training and experience, the undersigned has developed clinical and instrumental skills in the fields of gastroenterology and hepatology, as well as internal medicine (performs diagnostic-interventional ultrasounds, paracentesis, traditional, advanced, and robotic endoscopic procedures). Additionally, possesses laboratory skills and methodological expertise for conducting research projects and clinical trials.

Graphic design of organized scientific events.

Using PowerPoint and other graphic software, utilizes images for quick and efficient understanding of proposed verbal communication. Scientific and managerial organizational skills for all organized scientific events, whether residential, provincial, regional, national, or international.

Management of the Press Office and communication with the media and the public.

"In accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of April 27, 2016 concerning the protection of individuals regarding the processing of personal data, I authorize the processing of the data and information contained in the curriculum vitae for the ECM procedure, aware that the CV will be included as an attachment to the validation of the accreditation request, and that it will be visible in the ECM website database, accessible to all users and via the INTERNET (search engines). I also authorize the processing for transmission (following the completion of the training event) to the National Continuous Education Commission."

Foggia, 14-7-2025

Rodolfo Cosma Damiano Sacco