

**Nuove frontiere in Otorinolaringoiatria - tips and tricks**  
**II Edizione: Casi Rari in Otorinolaringoiatria**  
**Viagrande, 10 Aprile 2026**  
**Hotel Villa Itria**

**Responsabile scientifico**

***Dott. Vincenzo Saita***

Direttore U.O.C. di Otorinolaringoiatria Ospedale Cannizzaro – Catania)

**Relatori**

***Prof. Enrique Perello Scherdell***

già Direttore Clinica ORL e Chirurgia Cervico-facciale Hospital Universitari Vall D'Hebron-

***Prof. Massimo Libra***

Ordinario di Patologia Generale Università degli Studi di Catania

**Razionale**

A distanza di 10 anni dalla I Edizione, viene proposta la II Edizione di “Nuove frontiere in Otorinolaringoiatria” con l’obiettivo di approfondire la diagnostica e l’approccio terapeutico, partendo dalla presentazione di casi clinici non frequenti nella quotidianità della nostra attività.

L’opportunità di poter disporre della lunga e qualificata esperienza del Prof. Perello costituisce un’occasione unica per ampliare le competenze di ognuno di noi.

La discussione interattiva con tutta la platea sarà motivo di confronto e di crescita culturale, con l’obiettivo di offrire ai nostri pazienti un servizio sempre più qualificato.

**Programma**

Ore 9.30 Registrazione dei partecipanti e welcome coffee

Ore 10.00 Presentazione del Convegno

***Prof. Vincenzo Saita***

Ore 10.30 Prevenzione dei tumori in ORL

***Prof. Massimo Libra***

Ore 11.30 Casi rari in ORL”

***Prof. Enrique Perello Scherdell***

Ore 13.30 Discussione interattiva sui temi trattati e conclusioni

Ore 14.30 Chiusura dei lavori e consegna questionario di valutazione

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

## Massimo Libra

📍 Via Santa Sofia, 97 - 95123 Catania

☎ +39 095 478 1271 📠 +39 348 290 0449

✉ m.libra@unict.it

🌐 <http://www.biometec.unict.it/docenti/massimo.libra> Scopus Author's ID 6603852432

Sex M | Date of birth 03/12/1970 | Nationality Italy

**Current Position:** Full Professor of General Pathology MED/04

**PhD awarded less than 10 Years ago:** No

**Scientific Profile:** Massimo Libra is group leader of the Experimental Oncology Laboratory of the Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences of the University of Catania. His studies are focused on the identification and characterization of gene alterations and transcriptional signaling involved in the development and progression of tumors, as well as on the validation of their diagnostic, prognostic and predictive significance.

Since the beginning of his career in 1995, he was interested in the pathogenesis of solid tumors focusing his studies on the molecular pathogenesis of virus-associated lymphomas. Subsequently, he carried out internships as visiting scientist at some prestigious US universities (East Carolina University and UCLA), where he started the studies on the molecular mechanisms involved in the genesis and progression of tumors and the identification of new effective biomarkers for the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of cancer. In details, he studies the activation of Ras-Raf-MEK-ERK-MAPK and PI3K/PTEN/AKT/mTOR pathways and their interaction with tumor microenvironment.

During over 25 years of scientific career, Libra has established a fruitful Research network with Silvia Franceschi (IARC and CRO of Aviano), Riccardo Dalla Favera (Columbia University, New York, USA), James McCubrey (East Carolina University, Greenville, USA), Benjamin Bonavida (UCLA, Los Angeles, USA), Peter Ruvolo (MD Anderson, Texas, USA); Livia Augustin (St. Michael's Hospital, Toronto, Canada), Jeffrey L. Salisbury, Antonio D'Assoro (Mayo Clinic, Rochester, USA), Aristidis Tsatsakis (Crete University, Greece), Giancarlo Castellano (Institut d'Investigacions Biomèdiques August Pi i Sunyer, IDIBAPS, Barcelona, Spain), Carlo La Vecchia (Istituto Mario Negri e Università di Milano); Antonino Carbone, Paolo De Paoli, Jerry Polesel, Diego Serraino, Roberta Maestro (Centro di Riferimento Oncologico di Aviano), Egidio Celentano, Anna Crispo (Istituto Tumori Pascale of Naples); Melchiorre Cervello (CNR, Palermo); Alberto Martelli (Università di Bologna).

**Bibliometric Indicators:**

# Publications: 297; # Citations 15267; H index 65;

**3 most relevant publications or patents:**

Donia M, et al. Acquired Immune Resistance Follows Complete Tumor Regression without Loss of Target Antigens or IFN $\gamma$  Signaling. *Cancer Res.* 2017 Sep 1;77(17):4562-4566. doi: 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-16-3172.

Falzone L, et al. Identification of Novel MicroRNAs and Their Diagnostic and Prognostic Significance in Oral Cancer. *Cancers (Basel).* 2019 Apr 30;11(5):610. doi: 10.3390/cancers11050610.

Salemi R, et al. MMP-9 as a Candidate Marker of Response to BRAF Inhibitors in Melanoma Patients With BRAFV600E Mutation detected in Circulating-Free DNA. *Front Pharmacol.* 2018 Aug 14;9:856. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2018.00856.

## GOLDEN PARAGRAPH

The research unit will be involved in the development of novel therapeutic approaches to improve the effectiveness of treatments for cancer patients. Clinical trials based on the administration of integrative treatments (supplementation of probiotics, dietary and lifestyle interventions, etc.) will be proposed in order to develop personalized therapeutic strategies specific for each patient able to reduce the side effects of immunotherapy and increasing the competence of the immune system. Consequently, these positive effects of the integrated strategies here proposed will lead to a greater adherence of patients to treatments and a better therapeutic efficacy thus increasing the disease-free survival and overall survival of patients.

The results obtained will also have an important impact on the National Health System as the reduction of side effects and the improvement of treatments will result in fewer days of hospitalization of patients who develop complications or who are in the terminal stage thus reducing health costs related to their management. In addition, novel effective diagnostic and prognostic biomarkers for the monitoring of therapeutic efficacy and management of patients will be identified.

Such activities will take advantage of the research network of the Research Center for the Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Tumors (CRS Predict) hosted at the University of Catania. In addition, the project will be supported by the collaborations with different Healthcare and Research Centers at a national and international level and by the expertise of the research group who is already involved in completed and ongoing multicentre clinical studies and case-control studies. Below are reported some of the most representative research activities:

## ROLE IN THE PROJECT

- Clinical Trial "Reduction of breast cancer recurrence in women: lifestyle strategies and microRNA expression (DEDiCa)" (Collaboration with INT IRCCS Pascale of Naples, CRO of Aviano)
- Clinical Trial "MAINTENANCE OF NORMAL GASTRO-INTESTINAL FUNCTION WITH DIETARY SUPPLEMENT CONTAINING LACTOBACILLUS RHAMNOSUS GG IN CANCER PATIENTS TREATED WITH CYTOTOXIC CHEMOTHERAPY AND/OR TARGETED THERAPY" (Collaboration with Dicofarm S.p.a.)
- Clinical Trial "MAINTENANCE OF NORMAL GASTRO-INTESTINAL FUNCTION WITH DIETARY SUPPLEMENT CONTAINING LACTOBACILLUS RHAMNOSUS GG IN PATIENTS TREATED WITH ABDOMINAL OR PELVIC RADIOTHERAPY" (Collaboration with Dicofarm S.p.a.)
- Research Project "PON - NAOCON Ricerca innovazione 2014-2020: Nuovi antimicrobici ottenuti da composti di origine naturale" (Funding received for the research group 1.219.120,47 €)
- Research Project "POFESR Misura 1.1.5 ARTICC - Associazione di biomolecole estratte dalle arance rosse di Sicilia per ridurre gli effetti collaterali della terapia antitumorale" (Funding received for the research group 600.000,00 €) (Rinuncia al finanziamento da parte del partenariato)
- Research Project "Reduction of breast cancer recurrence in women: lifestyle strategies and microRNA expression" (Funding received for the research group 68.000 €);
- Research Project "Bando Ricerca Sanitaria 5 per mille 2012 LILT - Analisi di microRNA circolanti nella diagnosi precoce del cancro della vescica" (Funding received for the research group 127.500 €)
- Biobanking of biological samples in the context of case-control epidemiological studies of the "Collaborative Studies" group

## WORK EXPERIENCE

### **2017 – Current**

Full Professor of General Pathology (MED/04)

University of Catania, Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences, Via Santa Sofia, 97 - 95123, Catania, Italy

Main duties/responsibilities: Academic and Research activities

Sector: Academia and Research

### **2017 – Current**

Director of the Research Center for Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer

University of Catania, Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences, Via Santa Sofia, 97 - 95123, Catania, Italy

Main duties/responsibilities: Research activities on cancer

Sector: Academia and Research

#### **2014-2017**

Associate Professor of General Pathology (MED/04)

University of Catania, Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences, Via Santa Sofia, 97 - 95123, Catania, Italy

Main duties/responsibilities: Academic and Research activities

Sector: Academia and Research

#### **2011-2014**

Assistant Professor of Laboratory Medicine (MED/46)

University of Catania, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Via Androne, 78, 95123, Catania, Italy

Main duties/responsibilities: Academic and Research activities

Sector: Academia and Research

#### **2004-2010**

Research Associate of General Pathology with occupation or position held

University of Catania, Department of Biomedical Sciences, Via Androne, 78, 95123, Catania, Italy

Main duties/responsibilities: Research activities on cancer

Sector: Academia and Research

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

#### **1999-2003**

PhD in Oncology

University of Catania, Catania, Italy

Post doc fellow National Cancer Institute, Aviano, Italy

Visiting UCLA, Los Angeles, USA

Visiting East Carolina University, Greenville, USA

#### **1996-1999**

Specialization in Oncology

University of Catania, Catania, Italy

#### **1996**

Medical Doctor Qualification

University of Catania, Catania, Italy

#### **1989-1995**

Degree in Medicine and Surgery

University of Catania, Catania, Italy

## PERSONAL SKILLS

### Organisational / managerial skills

Massimo Libra is group leader of the Experimental Oncology Laboratory of the Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences of the University of Catania. He is also Director of the Research Center for Prevention, Diagnosis and Treatment of Cancer. His studies are focused on the identification and characterization of gene alterations and transcriptional signaling involved in the development and progression of tumors, as well as on the validation of their diagnostic, prognostic and predictive significance.

He is currently responsible for a research team composed of 2 Assistant Professor, 1 post-doc, 3 PhD candidate and 2 post-graduate visiting students. As Director of the Research Center PreDiCT he coordinates the research activities on cancer of more than 90 Professors of the University of Catania

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

**Most relevant publications  
in the last 10 Years**

Vivarelli S, et al. YY1 Silencing Induces 5-Fluorouracil-Resistance and BCL2L15 Downregulation in Colorectal Cancer Cells: Diagnostic and Prognostic Relevance. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021 Aug 6;22(16):8481. doi: 10.3390/ijms22168481.

Vivarelli S, et al. Patient-Derived Tumor Organoids for Drug epositioning in Cancer Care: A Promising Approach in the Era of Tailored Treatment. *Cancers (Basel).* 2020 Dec 4;12(12):3636. doi: 10.3390/cancers12123636.

Crimi S, et al. Droplet Digital PCR Analysis of Liquid Biopsy Samples Unveils the Diagnostic Role of hsa-miR-133a-3p and hsa-miR-375-3p in Oral Cancer. *Biology (Basel).* 2020 Nov 6;9(11):379. doi: 10.3390/biology9110379.

Falzone L, et al. Identification of Modulated MicroRNAs Associated with Breast Cancer, Diet, and Physical Activity. *Cancers (Basel).* 2020 Sep 8;12(9):2555. doi: 10.3390/cancers12092555.

Vivarelli S, et al. Role of the Transcription Factor Yin Yang 1 and Its Selectively Identified Target Survivin in High-Grade B-Cells Non-Hodgkin Lymphomas: Potential Diagnostic and Therapeutic Targets. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2020 Sep 3;21(17):6446. doi: 10.3390/ijms21176446.

Falzone L, et al. Identification of Novel MicroRNAs and Their Diagnostic and Prognostic Significance in Oral Cancer. *Cancers (Basel).* 2019 Apr 30;11(5):610. doi: 10.3390/cancers11050610.

Candido S, et al. EpiMethEx: a tool for large-scale integrated analysis in methylation hotspots linked to genetic regulation. *BMC Bioinformatics.* 2019 Feb 4;19(Suppl 13):385. doi: 10.1186/s12859-018-2397-6.

Salemi R, et al. MMP-9 as a Candidate Marker of Response to BRAF Inhibitors in Melanoma Patients With BRAFV600E Mutation detected in Circulating-Free DNA. *Front Pharmacol.* 2018 Aug 14;9:856. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2018.00856.

Falzone L, et al. Integrated analysis of colorectal cancer microRNA datasets: identification of microRNAs associated with tumor development. *Aging (Albany NY).* 2018 May 18;10(5):1000-1014. doi: 10.18632/aging.101444.

Donia M, et al. Acquired Immune Resistance Follows Complete Tumor Regression without Loss of Target Antigens or IFN $\gamma$  Signaling. *Cancer Res.* 2017 Sep 1;77(17):4562-4566. doi: 10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-16-3172.

Augustin LS, et al. Low glycemic index diet, exercise and vitamin D to reduce breast cancer recurrence (DEDiCa): design of a clinical trial. *BMC Cancer.* 2017 Jan 23;17(1):69. doi: 10.1186/s12885-017-3064-4.

Vivarelli S, et al. Novel insights on gut microbiota manipulation and immune checkpoint inhibition in cancer (Review). *Int J Oncol.* 2021 Sep;59(3):75. doi: 10.3892/ijo.2021.5255. Epub 2021 Aug 13.

Vivarelli S, et al. Gut Microbiota and Cancer: From Pathogenesis to Therapy. *Cancers (Basel).* 2019 Jan 3;11(1):38. doi: 10.3390/cancers11010038.

Full List of Publications available on:

<https://www.scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?authorId=660385243>

**Projects/Grants**
**2022-2025**

Scientific Coordinatore Spoke UNICT – Project PNRR MUR – M4C2 – Investimento 1.4 – Avviso “Centri Nazionali” – D.D. n. 3138 del 16 dicembre 2021 rettificato con D.D. 3175 del 18 dicembre 2021 – CN00000041 “National Center for Gene Therapy and Drugs based on RNA Technology” – Spoke 2 (Cancer).

**2018-2022**

Co-investigator of the project Horizon 2020 - Call: H2020-SC1-2016-2017 (Personalised Medicine); Topic: SC1-PM-16-2017 Type of action: Research and Innovation action, Proposal number: 777123; Title: In Silico Trial for Tuberculosis Vaccine Development (STriTuVaD);

Total funded budget: 4,549,527.50;

Total budget UniCT: 909.393,75;

**2019-2022**

Principal Investigator of the Project "ARTICC - Association of biomolecules extracted from Sicilian blood oranges to reduce the side effects of anticancer therapy" PO FESR Sicilia 2014-2020. Action 1.1.5;

Total funded budget: € 2,000,000.00;

Total budget UniCT: € 600,000.00.

#### **2018-2020**

- Principal Investigator of the Research Project "PON - NAOCON Ricerca innovazione 2014-2020: Nuovi antimicrobici ottenuti da composti di origine naturale" PNR 2015-2020

Total funded budget: € 5.157.408,70

Total budget UniCT: € 1.219.120,47

#### **2017-2023**

Principal Investigator of the Research Project "Effetti del Lactobacillus Rhamnosus GG\* (ATCC 53103) in ambito oncologico" - Attività Conto Terzi

Total budget Unict: € 450.000 €

#### **2015-2021**

- Coordinator of Research Unit Ricerca Finalizzata 2013 - PE-2013-02358099 "Reduction of breast cancer recurrence in women: lifestyle strategies and microRNA expression"

Total budget UniCT: € 68.000

#### **2015-2017**

Research Project "Bando Ricerca Sanitaria 5 per mille 2012 LILT - Analisi di microRNA circolanti nella diagnosi precoce del cancro della vescica"

Total Budget: € 127.500,00

### **Conferences**

Faculty member of the International congress "World Congress on Advances in Oncology and the International Symposium on Molecular Medicine" annually organized in Greece (2011-2018).

### **Honours and awards**

#### **2021**

"Cancers 2019 Best Paper Award" "Gut Microbiota and Cancer: From Pathogenesis to Therapy." Cancers

#### **2015-2019**

Ambassador "Society of Hematologic Oncology (SOHO)", MD Anderson, Houston, Texas, USA

#### **2007**

Most Cited Article Award "BBA Molecular Cell Research" Elsevier "Roles of the Raf/MEK/ERK pathway in cell growth, malignant transformation and drug resistance" McCubrey et al. BBA MCR

#### **2008 - Current**

Contributing Member AACR Tumor Microenvironment Scientific Working Group (Philadelphia, USA)

***According to law 679/2016 of the Regulation of the European Parliament of 27th April 2016, I hereby express my consent to process and use my data provided in this CV***

I, the undersigned declare that I have not had any commercial interests in the health care field in the last two years.

Catania, 17/11/2022

Signature



## **Curriculum Vitae**

### **Prof. Dr. Perelló Scherdel Enrique**

Medico chirurgo, specialista in Otorinolaringoiatria e Foniatria  
Iscritto al Col·legi Oficial de Metges de Barcelona (n. 8929)

### **Profilo professionale**

Medico abilitato, otorinolaringoiatra e foniatra con lunga esperienza clinica, accademica e gestionale in ambito ospedaliero e universitario.

### **Esperienza professionale**

- Presidente della Gioventù Medica della Catalogna (1972–1974)
- Medico specializzando e medico curante in Otorinolaringoiatria presso l'Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron (1974–1992)
- Responsabile del Servizio di Otorinolaringoiatria, Hospital Universitari Vall d'Hebron, Barcellona (2005–2012)
- Attività clinica di otorinolaringoiatria presso studio privato nel centro di Barcellona (Spagna)
- Medico del Gran Teatre del Liceu di Barcellona

### **Attività accademica**

- Professore Ordinario del Dipartimento di Otorinolaringoiatria, Universitat Autònoma de Barcelona (1990–2012)
- Professore presso la Scuola di Logopedia dell'Hospital de Sant Pau (1977–2004)

### **Incarichi scientifici e associativi**

- Membro della Società Spagnola di Otorinolaringoiatria
- Presidente della Commissione per il Russamento Cronico
- Vicepresidente della Società Catalana di Otorinolaringoiatria (2003–2004)
- Segretario Generale e Direttore della rivista "Anales ORL Ibero-Americanos" (1974–2007)

FURMATO EUROPEO  
PER IL CURRICULUM  
VITAE

**INFORMAZIONI PERSONALI**

Nome	SAITA VINCENZO
Indirizzo	Via Wezi 2, 95126 CATANIA
Telefono	095374662
Fax	0957262419
E-mail	vincenzosaita@yahoo.it
<del>CODICE FISCALE</del>	4TR ve u 56 Ø a 6 9. 4 z fl T
Nazionalità	Italiana
Data di nascita	06/02/1956

**ESPERIENZA LAVORATIVA**

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dale (da —a)</li></ul>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dal 1 Dicembre 2017 ad oggi Direttore di ruolo dell'UOC di Otorinolaringoiatria dell'AOE Cannizzaro di Catania</li><li>• Da ottobre 2014 al 30 Novembre 2017 Direttore Incaricato UOC di Otorinolaringoiatria e Chirurgia cervico-facciale dell'AOE Cannizzaro di Catania</li><li>• Da settembre 2011 al 30 Novembre 2017 Responsabile di struttura semplice a valenza dipartimentale di Chirurgia Cervico-Facciale ad indirizzo oncologico AO Cannizzaro Catania</li><li>• Da marzo 2005 a settembre 2011 Responsabile di struttura semplice a valenza dipartimentale di Fonochirurgia AO Cannizzaro Catania</li><li>• Da aprile 2000 a marzo 2005 Responsabile di struttura semplice nell'area della Fonochirurgia tipologia B2 AO Cannizzaro Catania</li><li>• Da gennaio 1998 ad aprile 2000 Dirigente tipologia C1 nell'area ORL dell'AO Cannizzaro di Catania</li><li>• Da maggio 1994 a gennaio 1998 Responsabile del modulo organizzativo di Endoscopia e Laserchirurgia delle VAS AO Cannizzaro Catania</li><li>• Da novembre 1990 a maggio 1994 Aiuto Ospedaliero di ruolo presso il Servizio di Foniatria AO Cannizzaro Catania</li><li>• AA 1991-92 e 1992-93 docente a contratto di Diagnostica per Immagini in ORL presso le Scuole di Specializzazione di ORL e di Audiologia e Foniatria dell'Università di Catania</li><li>• Dal 01/01/1985 al novembre 1990 Funzionario Tecnico con compiti assistenziali presso Istituto di ORL Università di Catania</li><li>• Dal 01/01/1980 al 31/12/1984 Medico interno con compiti assistenziali presso Istituto di ORL Università di Catania</li></ul> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nome e indirizzo del datore di lavoro</li></ul>               | AO Cannizzaro di Catania, via Messina 829, 95126 Catania  |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Tipo di azienda o settore</li><li>• Tipo di impiego</li></ul> | Azienda Ospedaliera, Settore Sanità Pubblica<br>UOC di Otorinolaringoiatria   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Principali mansioni e responsabilità</li></ul>                | Direttore di ruolo  |

**ISTRUZIONE E FORMAZIONE**

- Date (da - a)
- None e tipo di istruzione  
o formazione
- Qualifica conseguita

- Scuola di Specializzazione in Otorinolaringoiatria dal 1980 al 1983
- Corso di Laurea in Medicina e Chirurgia dal 1974 al 1980

Università degli Studi di Catania

- Idoneità nazionale a Primario di Otorinolaringoiatria nel 1989 con voti 91/100
- Specialista in Otorinolaringoiatria conseguita in data 11/07/1983 con massimo dei voti e lode
- Laurea in Medicina e Chirurgia conseguita in data 08/07/1980 con voti 110/110 e lode

**CAPACITÀ E COMPETENZE**

**PERSONALI**

Acquisite nel corso della vita e della carriera, non necessariamente riconosciute da certificati e diplomi

MADRELINGUA

ITALIANO

ALTRE LINGUE

- Capacità di lettura
- Capacità di scrittura
- Capacità di espressione orale

**INGLESE**

buono  
elementare

**CAPACITÀ E COMPETENZE  
TECNICHE**

Oltre 30.000 interventi in ogni settore della specialità ORL secondo le tecniche più moderne ed aggiornate, in particolare per quanto attiene alla chirurgia oncologica del distretto cervico-cefalico, alla chirurgia ricostruttiva della laringe ed alla chirurgia endoscopica laser-assistita. Autore di 85 pubblicazioni su riviste nazionali ed internazionali.

PATENTE O PATENTI

Patente di guida A, B e nautica

