



**UNIVERSITA' DEGLI STUDI DI TORINO  
DIPARTIMENTO DI PSICOLOGIA**



**Dr MARTINA AMANZIO PhD, Assistant Professor of Psychobiology**

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**Date and place of birth:** May 20, 1970, Asti, Italy

### **Studies and academic degrees**

2005-present

**Researcher at the University of Torino Department of Psychology.**

2002-2004

**Two year post-doctoral fellowship, University of Torino.**

Tutors Prof. Giuliano Geminiani and Prof. Stefano Cappa.

2001

**Ph.D. in Neurological Sciences from the University of Torino School of Medicine.**

Doctoral Thesis: The neurobiology of placebo analgesia.

2000

**Specialization in Cognitive Psychotherapy and registration as Psychotherapist.**

1997-2001

Four-year Ph.D. position at the University of Torino School of Medicine, Department of Neuroscience, under the supervision of Prof. Piergiorgio Strata and Prof. Fabrizio Benedetti.

1996

Passed the **state examination** to qualify as a **practicing psychologist**.

1995

**Graduated in Psychology** from the University of Torino Department of Psychology, with 110/110 summa cum laude, special mention and recommendation for publication. Dissertation on placebo analgesia published in Lancet 346, 1231.

### Work experience in the last 5 years

From 2005-present: Experience in neuropsychological and cerebral correlates of the progression of cognitive decline in Alzheimer's Disease patients. [Metaphor comprehension](#) and executive dysfunctions in early [Alzheimer's Disease](#). [Unawareness of deficits](#) and executive dysfunctions in [Alzheimer's](#) and [Parkinson's Disease](#). Role of the [Cingulate Cortex](#) and unawareness of deficits in early [Alzheimer's Disease](#) from an fMRI perspective. [Placebo and nocebo effects](#) from a psychophysiological and neuropsychological perspective. [Systematic reviews](#) of adverse events in placebo groups. During post-doctoral fellowship gained experience in clinical and experimental neuropsychology.

### Teaching

[Assistant Professor, Neuropsychology](#) A,B,C courses, University of Torino Department of Psychology (from 2009).

[Assistant Professor, Psychophysiology](#) course, University of Torino Department of Psychology (2005-2009).

[Contract Professor, Neuropsychology](#) course, University of Torino Department of Psychology (2004-2005).

### Editorial activities

Ad hoc reviewer of submitted manuscripts for [Brain and Cognition](#) and [Brain and Language](#), Elsevier Journals.

### Technical skills

The scientific and technical expertise of Dr. Martina Amanzio consists in her group's experience in managing psychophysiological techniques and neuropsychological methods. Both competences are testified by several papers in refereed international journals with high IF.

-From 1995-present:

- Neurobiology of placebo and nocebo effect  
See publications: 1,2,4,8,10-15, 17, 19, 21, 22
- Mental illness and placebo effect: ["Giovani Ricercatori" grant (1999) of LIT 6,500,000 awarded to M. Amanzio as Principal Investigator by the University of Torino to study the mechanisms of placebo response in mental illness]
- Neurophysiological recordings and pain perception  
See publications: 3,5-7,9,16,23
- Experimental neuropsychology in Alzheimer's and Parkinson's patients  
See publications: 18,20,24,25.

## Publications (selected)

### Full papers

1. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Maggi G (1995) Potentiation of placebo analgesia by proglumide. *Lancet* 346, 1231.
2. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M** (1997) The neurobiology of placebo analgesia: from endogenous opioids to cholecystokinin. *Prog Neurobiol* 52, 109-125.
3. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Casadio C, Cavallo A, Cianci R, Giobbe R, Mancuso M, Ruffini E, Maggi G (1997). Control of postoperative pain by transcutaneous electrical nerve stimulation after thoracic operations. *Ann Thorac Surg* 63, 773-6.
4. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Casadio C, Oliaro A, Maggi G (1997) Blockade of nocebo hyperalgesia by the cholecystokinin antagonist proglumide. *Pain* 71, 135-140.
5. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Casadio C, Filosso PL, Molinatti M, Oliaro A, Pischedda F, Maggi G (1997). Postoperative pain and superficial abdominal reflex after posterolateral thoracotomy. *Ann Thorac Surg* 64, 207-210.
6. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Casadio C, Cavallo A, Cianci R, Giobbe R, Mancuso M, Ruffini E, Maggi G (1997). Postthoracoscopic pain: Is TENS the answer? *Ann Thorac Surg* 64, 890-891.
7. Benedetti F, Vighetti S, **Amanzio M**, Casadio C, Oliaro A, Bergamasco B, Maggi G (1998). Dose response relationship of opioids in nociceptive and neuropathic postoperative pain. *Pain* 74, 205-211.
8. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Baldi S, Casadio C, Cavallo A, Mancuso M, Ruffini E, Oliaro A, Maggi G (1998) The specific effects of prior opioid exposure on placebo analgesia and placebo respiratory depression. *Pain* 75, 313-319.
9. Benedetti F, Vighetti S, Ricco C, **Amanzio M**, Bergamasco L, Casadio C, Cianci R, Giobbe R, Oliaro A, Bergamasco B, Maggi G (1998). Neurophysiologic assessment of nerve impairment in posterolateral and muscle-sparing thoracotomy. *J Thorac Cardiovasc Surg* 115, 841-847.
10. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Baldi S, Casadio C, Maggi G (1999) Inducing placebo respiratory depressant responses in humans via opioid receptors. *Eur J Neurosci* 11, 625-631.
11. **Amanzio M**, Benedetti F (1999) Neuropharmacological dissection of placebo analgesia: expectation-activated opioid systems versus conditioning-activated specific sub-systems. *J Neurosci* 19(1), 484-494.
12. Benedetti F, Arduino C, **Amanzio M** (1999) Somatotopic activation of opioid systems by target-directed expectations of analgesia. *J Neurosci* 19, 3639-3648.
13. **Amanzio M**, Benedetti F (1999). L'effetto placebo. *Giornale dell'Accademia di Medicina di Torino* 214-229.
14. **Amanzio M**, Pollo A, Maggi G, Benedetti F (2001) Response variability to analgesics: a role for non-specific activation of endogenous opioids. *Pain* 90, 205-215.
15. Pollo A, **Amanzio M**, Arslanian A, Casadio C, Maggi G, Benedetti F (2001) Response expectancies in placebo analgesia and their clinical relevance. *Pain*, 93, 77-84.
16. Rainero I, **Amanzio M**, Vighetti S, Bergamasco B, Pinessi L, Benedetti F (2001) Quantitative EEG responses to ischaemic arm stress in migraine. *Cephalalgia* 21, 224-229.
17. Benedetti F, **Amanzio M**, Vighetti S, Asteggiano G (2006) The biochemical and neuroendocrine bases of the hyperalgesic nocebo effect. *J Neurosci* 26(46), 12014-12022.
18. **Amanzio M**, Geminiani G, Leotta D, Cappa S (2008) Metaphor comprehension in Alzheimer's disease: Novelty matters. *Brain and Language* 107 (1), 1-10.
19. **Amanzio M.**, Latini Corazzini L., Vase L., Benedetti F. (2009). A systematic review of adverse events in placebo groups of anti-migraine clinical trials. *Pain* doi: 10.1016/j.pain.2009.07.010.

20. **Amanzio M.**, Monteverdi S, Giordano A, Soliveri P, Filippi P, Geminiani G (2009). Impaired awareness of movement disorders in Parkinson's Disease. *Brain and Cognition in press.*

### Book chapters

21. **Amanzio M**, Benedetti F (1998) *Clinical Perspective of cholecystokinin antagonists in pain management.* In: Regional Anaesthesia and Pain Management. M Tiengo, VA Paladini, N Rawal Eds, Springer-Verlag, 127-133.

22. **Amanzio M**, Benedetti F (1999) *L'analgesia da placebo.* In: *Il dolore: una sfida nelle neuroscienze e nella clinica.* M Tiengo Ed, Springer-Verlag, 62-72.

23. **Amanzio M**, Benedetti F (2000) *Attività elettrica cerebrale e percezione dolorifica.* In: *Il dolore e la mente.* M Tiengo Ed, Springer-Verlag, 243-248.

24. **Amanzio M** (2008) *Malattia degenerativa e perdita di competenze relazionali.* In: *Competenze Relazionali nelle Organizzazioni,* A cura di Giorgio Soro e Daniela Acquadro Maran. Raffaello Cortina editore, Milano, pp. 151-166.

25. **Amanzio M**, Torta DME (2009) *Unawareness of deficits in Alzheimer's disease through a biopsychosocial perspective.* In: *Metacognition: New Research Developments.* Clayton B. Larson Ed., Nova Science Publishers, Hauppauge, NY, AV. Chapter 14, pp. 239-253.

26. **Amanzio M**, Veglia F (2009) *Prospettive cognitive.* In Albasi C.: *Psicopatologia e ragionamento clinico.* Raffaello Cortina editore, Milano, pp. 223-234.

### Research and Scientific collaborations

- CCS fMRI, Ospedale Koelliker, Divisione di Neuroradiologia [Dr. Sergio Duca]
- Centro U.V.A., ASL 2 Torino [Dr. Daniela Leotta]
- Department of Psychology, University of Aarhus, Denmark [Dr. Lene Vase]
- Dipartimento di Neuroscienze, Sezione di Fisiologia, Torino [Prof. Fabrizio Benedetti]
- Istituto Nazionale Neurologico Carlo Besta, Divisione di Neurologia, Milano [Dr. Paola Soliveri]
- Ospedale Martini, Divisione di Neurologia, Torino [Dr. Daniela Leotta]
- Ospedale Ville Turro, Unità di Neuropsicologia, HSR, Milano [Prof. Stefano Cappa]

### Memberships

- Center for Cognitive Science, University and Polytechnic of Turin
- Neuroscience Institute of Turin (NIT)
- Società Italiana di Neuropsicologia

### Web references (selected)

- <http://www.time.com/time/printout/0,8816,1929869,00.html>
- <http://www.scientificamerican.com/article.cfm?id=placebo-effect-a-cure-in-the-mind>
- <http://www.xisu.net.cn/archives/2008-12-10/neural-substrates-of-metaphor/>
- <http://www.thehumanist.org/humanist/Krause.html>
- <http://www.skeptdic.com/conditioning.html>
- <http://www.sceptiques.qc.ca/dictionnaire/conditioning.html>