

Curriculum Vitae

Manlio Di Cristina

DATE OF BIRTH: November 08th, 1966

SEX: Male

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HIGHER EDUCATION

- 31 Mar. 2000** “**Imperial College Degree**” in *Cellular and Molecular Parasitology* at the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London (UK).
- 30 Jan. 2000** **PhD** in Molecular and Cellular Biology at the Department of Biology of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London (UK).
- 20 July 1990** **Bachelor’s Degree in Biological Science** with full marks at the University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy.
Thesis title: "Isolation and characterisation of a sequence coding the *Xenopus laevis* S1a ribosomal protein ".

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

- 20 July 2022 – present** **Associate Professor (Faculty member, BIO/11) in Molecular Biology** at the Department of Chemistry, Biology and Biotechnology, in the University of Perugia, Italy.
- Sep. 2011 – July 2022** **Researcher (Faculty member, BIO/11, equivalent to US Assistant Professor position) in Molecular Biology** at the Department of Chemistry, Biology and Biotechnology, in the University of Perugia, Italy.
- July 2014 – present** **Adjunct Research Investigator** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)
- May 2018 – July 2018** **Visiting Scientist** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)
- Jan. 2017 – Mar. 2017** **Visiting Scientist** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)
- Oct. 2015 – Dic. 2015** **Visiting Scientist** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)

- July 2014 – Sep. 2014** **Visiting Scientist** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)
- Aug. 2013 – Sep. 2013** **Visiting Scientist** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)
- July 2012 – Oct. 2012** **Visiting Scientist** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)
- July 2011 – Dec. 2011** **Visiting Scientist** at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (USA), in the laboratory of Prof Vernon Carruthers (Department of Microbiology and Immunology)
- Nov. 2005 – May 2011** **Researcher of declared fame (FIRB)** at the Department of Experimental Medicine and Biochemical Science, Microbiology Section, in the University of Perugia, Italy.
- Sept. 2001- Oct. 2005** **Researcher** in the Kenton Laboratories (Sigma-tau, Pomezia, Italy).
- Feb. 2000 - July 2001** **Research associate** to work in Prof. Andrea Crisanti's laboratory at the Department of Biology of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London (UK).
- July 1996 – Jan. 2000** **PhD student** at the Department of Biology of the Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine, London (UK).
- Jan. 1996 – Mar. 1996** **Short EMBO fellowship** to work in Prof. Dominique Soldati's laboratory at the ZMBH Institute in Heidelberg, Germany.
- Jan. 1996- Dic. 1997** **Istituto Superiore di Sanità, AIDS Fellowship** to work in Dr. Andrea Crisanti's laboratory at the Institute of Parasitology directed by Prof. Mario Coluzzi in the University of Rome "La Sapienza", Italy.
- Nov. 1992 - May 1995** **Research assistant**, under the supervision of Dr. Giorgio Morelli, in the Laboratory Unit of Experimental Nutrition, National Nutrition Institute (Rome).
- Nov. 1991- Oct. 1992** **Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche (CNR) Fellowship** to work in Dr. Paola Pierandrei-Amaldi's laboratory of the Cellular Biology Institute of CNR in Rome, Italy.
- Jan. 1988 - July 1990** **Experimental thesis and Graduation** in the lab of Dr. Paola Pierandrei-Amaldi at the Cellular Biology Institute of "Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche" (CNR) (Rome).

TEACHING AND SUPERVISORY ROLES

- 2012 - 2017** In charge for the courses of **Molecular Biology** and **Functional and Structural Genomics** which is held at the University of Perugia and available to master students in Biotechnology.

- 2011 - 2012** In charge for the course of **Advance Techniques in Molecular and Cellular Biology** which is held at the University of Perugia and available to master students in Molecular and industrial Biotechnology.
- 2005 - 2010** In charge for the course of **Molecular Parasitology** which is held at the University of Perugia and available to master students in Medical Biotechnology.

ACTIVE FUNDING

Principal Investigator: 308,854 \$ “Parasite autophagy as a key survival mechanism for the AIDS-associated pathogen *Toxoplasma gondii*.”, **R01 grant funded by National Institute of Health (NIH), R01AI120607**, start date: 04 August 2021 - 31 July 2026. Coordinator: Prof V.B. Carruthers of the University of Michigan (USA). (total project: 2.229.327\$)

Coordinator: 5,735.90 €. 2019-2021 Progetto di Ateneo (intra-campus project)– Dipartimento di Chimica, Biologia e Biotecnologie. FBR-2014: “Identificazione e caratterizzazione di proteine residenti nel compartimento vacuolare di *Toxoplasma gondii* (Identification and characterization of VAC proteins in *Toxoplasma gondii*)”. From 19/12/2019 to 18/12/2021

Participant: 50,000.00 €. Generation of an integrated university laboratory for biomolecular assays and development of new therapies for SARS-CoV-2 infections; Project funded by “Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Perugia”, Bando Settore Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica 2020: "Pandemia Covid-19 in Umbria: conseguenze ed indicazioni per interventi mirati". Coordinator Prof Gabriele Cruciani.

Participant: 48,000.00 €. Identification of inhibitors of SARS-COV-2 3a and m-pro proteins to develop therapeutic strategies for Covid-19 treatment, Project funded by “Fondazione Cassa di Risparmio di Perugia”, Coordinator Prof Carla Emiliani.

PENDING

Principal Investigator: “Molecular characterization of energy metabolism for cyst differentiation and persistence in *Toxoplasma gondii* ”, **R21 grant submitted to National Institute of Health (NIH)**, 10.02.2021, start date: 01 September 2021 - 31 August 2023. Coordinator: Prof Zhicheng Dou of Clemson University (USA).

PREVIOUS FUNDING

Principal Investigator: 324,000.00\$. “ENDOLYSOSOMAL FUNCTION IN CHRONIC TOXOPLASMA INFECTION.”, grant **funded by National Institute of Health (NIH), R01: 1R01AI120607-01A1**, 01 Dic 2015- 30 Nov. 2020. *Coordinator:* Prof V.B. Carruthers of the University of Michigan. (total project: 1,810,015\$)

Participant: 15,000.00€. **2015-2017 Progetto di Ateneo** – Dipartimento di Chimica, Biologia e Biotecnologie. FBR-2014: “Identificazione di network di biomarcatori dell’Invecchiamento”. Dal 15/05/2015 al 30/10/2017

Principal Investigator: 10,000.00\$. “*Novel Therapeutics for Toxoplasma infections*”, grant funded by **The Stanley Medical Research Institute** through Prof. V.B. Carruthers of the University of Michigan. Subcontract between the University of Michigan and the University of Perugia. From the 1st of May 2014 to the 30rd of April 2016.

Principal Investigator: 62,000.00\$. “Development of a high throughput screening assay to identify new cystocidal compounds”. grant funded by **The Stanley Medical Research Institute** as “supplemental project”. 1 December 2014- 31 December 2015.

Partecipant: PRIN 2010-2011. (2010FM738P): Proprietà fotofisiche e fotochimiche di composti organici e di interesse biologico in soluzione e in sistemi organizzati. 01/02/2013-01/02/2016
Coordinator Prof. Fausto Elisei

PUBLICATIONS

1. Possenti A*, **Di Cristina M***, Nicastro C, Lunghi M, Messina V, Piro F, Tramontana L, Cherchi S, Falchi M, Bertuccini L and Spano F (2022) Functional Characterization of the Thrombospondin-Related Paralogous Proteins Rhoptry Discharge Factors 1 and 2 Unveils Phenotypic Plasticity in *Toxoplasma gondii* Rhoptry Exocytosis. *Front. Microbiol.* 13:899243. doi: 10.3389/fmicb.2022.899243
(* These authors have contributed equally to this work and share first authorship).
2. Piro F., Focaia R., Dou Z., Masci S., Smith D. and **Di Cristina M.** (2021) An uninvited seat at the dinner table: how apicomplexan parasites scavenge nutrients from the host. *Microorganisms* 9 (12), 2592; <https://doi.org/10.3390/microorganisms9122592> - 15 Dec 2021. (This article belongs to the Special Issue The Molecular Life of Apicomplexa).
3. Rivera-Cuevas Y, Mayoral J., **Di Cristina M.**, Lawrence A.E., Olafsson E.B., Patel R.K., Thornhill D., Waldman B.S., Ono A., Sexton J., Lourido S., Weiss L.M. and Carruthers V.B. (2021) *Toxoplasma gondii* exploits the host ESCRT machinery for parasite uptake of host cytosolic proteins. *Plos Pathogens*, 17(12):e1010138. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1010138.
4. Bartolini D., Stabile A.M., Bastianelli S., Giustarini D., Pierucci S., Busti C., Vacca C., Gidari A., Francisci D., Castronari R., Mencacci A., **Di Cristina M.**, Focaia R., Sabbatini S., Rende M., Gioiello A., Cruciani G., Rossi R. and Galli F. (2021) SARS-CoV2 infection impairs the metabolism and redox function of cellular glutathione. *Redox Biology*, 10.1016/j.redox.2021.102041
5. Smith D., Kannan G., Coppens I., Wang F., Nguyen H.M., Cerutti A., Schultz T., Rimple P.A., **Di Cristina M.**, Besteiro S. and Carruthers V. B. (2021) *Toxoplasma* TgATG9 is critical for autophagy and long-term persistence in tissue cysts. *Elife*, 10:e59384. doi: 10.7554/eLife.59384.
6. Klionsky D.J..... **Di Cristina M.** and Tong C. (2021) Guidelines for the use and interpretation of assays for monitoring autophagy (4th edition). *Autophagy*, 17 (1), 1-382. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548627.2020.1797280>
7. McDonald C., Smith D., **Di Cristina M.**, Kannan G., Dou Z. and Carruthers VB. (2020) *Toxoplasma* Cathepsin Protease B and Aspartyl Protease 1 Are Dispensable for Endolysosomal Protein Digestion. *mSphere*, 12;5(1):e00869-19. doi: 10.1128/mSphere.00869-19.
8. Mayoral J., **Di Cristina M.**, Carruthers VB. and Weiss LM. (2020) Bradyzoite culture. *Methods Mol Biol.*, 2071:269-282. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-9857-9_15.
9. Piro F., Carruthers VB. and **Di Cristina M.** (2020) PCR screening of *Toxoplasma gondii* single clones directly from 96-well plates without DNA purification. *Methods Mol Biol.*, 2071:117-123. doi: 10.1007/978-1-4939-9857-9_6.
10. Kannan G., **Di Cristina M.**, Schultz AJ., Huynh MH., Wang F., Schultz TL., Lunghi M., Coppens I., Carruthers VB. (2019) Role of *Toxoplasma gondii* Chloroquine Resistance Transporter in Bradyzoite Viability and Digestive Vacuole Maintenance. *MBio*, 10(4). pii: e01324-19. doi: 10.1128/mBio.01324-19.

11. Thornton LB., Teehan P., Floyd K., Cochrane C., Bergmann A., Riegel B., Stasic AJ., **Di Cristina M.**, Moreno SNJ., Roepe PD. and Dou Z. (2019) An ortholog of *Plasmodium falciparum* chloroquine resistance transporter (PfCRT) plays a key role in maintaining the integrity of the endolysosomal system in *Toxoplasma gondii* to facilitate host invasion. *PLoS Pathog.*, 15(6):e1007775. doi: 10.1371/journal.ppat.1007775.
12. **Di Cristina M.** and Carruthers V.B. (2018) New and emerging uses of CRISPR/Cas9 to genetically manipulate apicomplexan parasites. *Parasitology*, 145(9), 1119-1126. doi:10.1017/S003118201800001X, Invited Review.
13. Afonso C., Paixão V., Klaus A. Lunghi M., Piro F., Emiliani C., **Di Cristina M.*** and Costa R* (2017) *Toxoplasma*-induced changes in host risk behaviour are independent of parasite derived AaaH2 tyrosine hydroxylase. *Scientific Reports*, 7(1):13822. doi: 10.1038/s41598-017-13229-y (*corresponding authors)
14. **Di Cristina M.**, Dou Z., Lunghi M., Kannan G., Huynh M.H., McGovern O.L., Schultz T.L., Schultz A.J., Miller A.J., Hayes B.M., van der Linden W., Emiliani C., Bogyo M., Besteiro S., Coppens I. and Carruthers V.B. (2017) *Toxoplasma* depends on lysosomal consumption of autophagosomes for persistent infection. *Nat Microbiol.*, 2:17096. doi: 10.1038/nmicrobiol.2017.96.
15. Lunghi M, Spano F, Magini A, Emiliani C, Carruthers VB and **Di Cristina M.** (2016) Alternative splicing mechanisms orchestrating post-transcriptional gene expression: intron retention and the intron-rich genome of apicomplexan parasites. *Curr Genet.*, 62(1):31-8.
16. Hammoudi P.M., Jacot D., Muller C., **Di Cristina M.**, Dogga S.K., Marq J.B., Romano J., Tosetti N., Dubrot J., Emre Y., Lunghi M., Coppens I., Yamamoto M., Sojka D., Pino P. and Soldati-Favre D. (2015) Fundamental roles of the Golgi-associated *Toxoplasma* aspartyl protease, ASP5, at the host-parasite interface. *Plos Pathogens*, 16(11) e1005211.
17. Lunghi M., Galizi R., Magini A., Carruthers V.B. and **Di Cristina M.** (2015) Expression of the glycolytic enzymes enolase and lactate dehydrogenase during the early phase of *Toxoplasma* differentiation is regulated by an intron retention mechanism. *Molecular Microbiology*, 96(6):1159-75.
18. Castellano L., Rizzi E., Krell J., **Di Cristina M.**, Galizi R., Mori A., Tam J., De Bellis G., Stebbing J., Crisanti A. and Nolan T. (2015) The germline of the malaria mosquito produces abundant miRNAs, endo-siRNAs, piRNAs and 29-nt small RNAs. *BMC Genomics*, 16 (100), 1-16.
19. Dou Z., McGovern O.L., **Di Cristina M.** and Carruthers V.B. (2014) *Toxoplasma gondii* ingests and digests host cytosolic proteins. *MBio.*, 5 (4), e01188-14.
20. Magini A., Polchi A., Tancini B., Urbanelli L., **Di Cristina M.**, Mannucci R., Nicoletti I. and Emiliani C. (2014) Methods to discriminate the distribution of acidic glycohydrolases between the endosomal-lysosomal systems and the plasma membrane. *Methods in Enzymology*, 534, 25-45.
21. Galizi R., Spano F., Giubilei M.A., Capuccini B., Magini A., Urbanelli L., Ogawa T., Dubey J.P., Spaccapelo R., Emiliani C. and **Di Cristina M.** (2013) Evidence of tRNA cleavage in apicomplexan parasites: half-tRNAs as new potential regulatory molecules of *Toxoplasma gondii* and *Plasmodium berghei*. *Molecular and Biochemical Parasitology*, 188 (2), 99-108.
22. Spaccapelo R., Aime E., Caterbi S., Arcidiacono P., Capuccini B., **Di Cristina M.**, Dottorini T., Rende M., Bistoni F. and Crisanti A. (2011). Disruption of plasmepsin-4 and merozoites surface protein-7 in *Plasmodium berghei* induces a combined virulence-attenuated phenotype. *Scientific Reports*, 1 (39), 1-9.
23. **Di Cristina M.**, Nunziangeli L., Giubilei M.A., Capuccini B., d'Episcopo L., Mazzoleni G., Baldracchini F., Spaccapelo R. and Crisanti A. (2010) An antigen microarray immunoassay for multiplex screening of mouse monoclonal antibodies. *Nature Protocols*, 5 (12), 1932-1944. (Cover of the issue).
24. Spaccapelo R., Janse C.J., Caterbi S., Franke-Fayard B., Bonilla J.A., Syphard L.M., **Di Cristina M.**, Dottorini T., Savarino A., Cassone A., Bistoni F., Waters A.P., Dame J.B. and Crisanti A. (2010) Plasmepsin 4-Deficient *Plasmodium berghei* Are Virulence Attenuated and Induce

- Protective Immunity against Experimental Malaria. *The American Journal of Pathology*, 176 (1), 205-217.
25. **Di Cristina M.**, Marocco D., Galizi R., Proietti C., Spaccapelo R. and Crisanti A. (2008) Temporal and spatial distribution of *Toxoplasma gondii* differentiation into bradyzoites and tissue cyst formation in vivo. *Infection and Immunity*, 76 (8), 3491-3501.
 26. Minenkova O., Pavoni E., Monteriù G., **Di Cristina M.**, Vaccaro P. and Santapaola D. (2007) Display Approaches to Identify Novel Targets for Anticancer Therapy. *Current Research In Cancer*, 1, 117-133.
 27. **Di Cristina M.**, Minenkova O., Pavoni E., Beghetto E., Spadoni A., Felici F. and Gargano N. (2007) A novel approach for identification of tumor-associated antigens expressed on the surface of tumor cells. *International Journal of Cancer*, 120 (6), 1293-1303.
 28. Nielsen H.V., **Di Cristina M.**, Beghetto E., Spadoni A., Petersen E. and Gargano N. (2006) *Toxoplasma gondii*: DNA vaccination with bradyzoite antigens induces protective immunity in mice against oral infection with parasite cysts. *Experimental Parasitology*, 112 (4), 274-279.
 29. Buffolano W., Beghetto E., Del Pezzo M., Spadoni A., **Di Cristina M.**, Petersen E. and Gargano N. (2005) Use of Recombinant Antigens for Early Postnatal Diagnosis of Congenital Toxoplasmosis. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 43 (12), 5916-5924.
 30. **Di Cristina M.**, Del Porto P., Buffolano W., Beghetto E., Spadoni A., Guglietta S., Piccolella E., Felici F. and Gargano N. (2004) The *Toxoplasma gondii* bradyzoite antigens BAG1 and MAG1 induce early humoral and cell-mediated immune responses upon human infection. *Microbes and Infection*, 6 (2), 164-71.
 31. Beghetto E., Buffolano W., Spadoni A., Del Pezzo M., **Di Cristina M.**, Minenkova O., Peterson E., Felici F. and Gargano N. (2003) Use of an Immunoglobulin G Avidity Assay Based on Recombinant Antigens for Diagnosis of Primary *Toxoplasma gondii* Infection during Pregnancy. *Journal of Clinical Microbiology*, 41 (12), 5414-5418.
 32. Opitz C., **Di Cristina M.**, Reiss M., Ruppert T., Crisanti A. and Soldati D. (2002) Intramembrane cleavage of microneme proteins at the surface of the apicomplexan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. *The EMBO Journal*, 21 (7), 1577-1585.
 33. Spano F., Ricci I., **Di Cristina M.**, Possenti A., Tinti M., Dendouga N., Tomavo S. and Crisanti A. (2002) The SAG5 locus of *Toxoplasma gondii* encodes three novel proteins belonging to the SAG1 family of surface antigens. *International Journal for Parasitology*, 32 (2), 121-131.
 34. Mezzasoma L., Bacarese-Hamilton T., **Di Cristina M.**, Rossi R., Bistoni F. and Crisanti A. (2002) Antigen microarrays for serodiagnosis of infectious diseases. *Clinical Chemistry*, 48 (1), 121-130.
 35. Reiss M., Viebig N., Brecht S., Fourmaux M., Soete M., **Di Cristina M.**, Dubremetz J.F. and Soldati D. (2001) Identification and characterization of an Escorter for two secretory adhesins in *Toxoplasma gondii*. *The Journal of Cell Biology*, 152 (3), 563-578.
 36. **Di Cristina M.**, Spaccapelo R., Soldati D., Bistoni F. and Crisanti A. (2000) Two conserved amino acid motifs mediate protein targeting to the micronemes of the apicomplexan parasite *Toxoplasma gondii*. *Molecular and Cellular Biology*, 20 (19), 7332-41.
 37. Lombardo F., **Di Cristina M.**, Spanos L., Louis C., Coluzzi M. and Arcà B. (2000) Promoter sequences of the putative *Anopheles gambiae* Apyrase confer salivary gland expression in *Drosophila melanogaster*. *The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 275 (31), 23861-68.
 38. **Di Cristina M.**, Ghouze F., Kocken C.H., Naitza S., Cellini P., Soldati D., Thomas A.W. and Crisanti A. (1999) Transformed *Toxoplasma gondii* tachyzoites expressing the circumsporozoite protein of *Plasmodium knowlesi* elicit a specific immune response in rhesus monkeys. *Infection and Immunity*, 67 (4), 1677-82.
 39. Morelli G., Baima S., Carabelli M., **Di Cristina M.**, Lucchetti S., Sessa G., Steindler C. and Ruberti I. (1998) Homeodomain-leucine zipper proteins in the control of plant growth and development. In *Cellular Integration of Signaling Pathways in Plant Development* (ed. R. Last, F. Lo Schiavo, G. Morelli, N. Raikel), pp. 251-262. Berlin: Springer Verlag.

40. **Di Cristina M.**, Sessa G., Dolan L., Linstead P., Baima S., Ruberti I. and Morelli G. (1996) The *Arabidopsis* Athb-10 (GLABRA2) is an HD-ZIP protein required for regulation of root hair development". *Plant Journal*, 10 (3), 393-402.
41. Cardinali B., **Di Cristina M.**, and Pierandrei-Amaldi P. (1993) Interaction of proteins with the mRNA for ribosomal protein L1 in *Xenopus*: structural characterization of *in vivo* complexes and identification of proteins that bind in vitro to its 5'UTR. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 21 (10), 2301-2308.
42. **Di Cristina M.**, Menard R., and Pierandrei-Amaldi P. (1991) *Xenopus laevis* ribosomal protein S1a cDNA sequence. *Nucleic Acids Research*, 19 (8), 1943.

PATENTS

1. Gargano N., Felici F., **Di Cristina M.** "Frammenti antigenici di *Toxoplasma gondii*, metodo per il loro ottenimento, loro uso in kit diagnostici e per la preparazione di vaccini" (Antigen fragments for the diagnosis of *Toxoplasma gondii*). 13 November 2002, Domanda n. RM 2002 A 000568, App n./Patent n. 03715354.1-2405-IT0300162, Applicant/Proprietor Kenton S.r.l.

CONFERENCES

1. Smith D., Thaprawat P., **Di Cristina M.**, Carruthers V.B. (2021) *Toxoplasma* autophagy and persistence of a pervasive brain parasite. FASEB Microbial Pathogenesis: Mechanisms of Infectious Diseases, virtual conference July 13-16
2. **Di Cristina M.** (2020) La persistenza delle cisti di *Toxoplasma* nell'ospite. *Toxoplasma gondii* e toxoplasmosi in una prospettiva One Health, Webinar, Società Italiana di Parassitologia (SOIPA), 30 giugno 2020
3. Kannan G., Schultz A., Huynh M., Wang F., Schultz T., Lunghi M., Coppens I., **Di Cristina M.**, Carruthers V. (2019). A role for *Toxoplasma gondii* chloroquine resistance transporter in bradyzoite digestive vacuole maintenance and viability. In: International *Toxoplasma* Congress (Toxo XV), Quindío 2019. vol. 23 (S2), INFECTIO Revista de la asociación Colombiana de infectología, Quimbaya, Quindío, COLOMBIA, 19-22 giugno 2019
4. **Di Cristina M.**, Dou Z, Lunghi M., Kannan G., Huynh M.H., McGovern O.L., Schultz T.L., Schultz A.J., Miller A.J., Hayes B.M., van der Linden W., Emiliani C., Bogyo M., Besteiro S., Coppens I. and Carruthers V.B. (2017) *Toxoplasma* depends on lysosomal consumption of autophagosomes for persistent infection. The 14th biennial conference of the *Toxoplasma gondii* research community, Tomar, Portugal, 31 May – 4 June 2017.
5. Chiara N. Possenti A, Lunghi M. Cherchi S., Messina V., Piro F., Dubey J.P., Emiliani C., Pozio E., **Di Cristina M.** and Spano F. (2017) A new class of apically confined, transmembrane micronemal protein playing a pivotal role in host cell invasion by *Toxoplasma gondii* tachyzoites. The 14th biennial conference of the *Toxoplasma gondii* research community, Tomar, Portugal, 31 May – 4 June 2017.
6. Carruthers V.B. and **Di Cristina M.** (2015) Seeding new options for targeting chronic Toxoplasmosis. The 21st Annual Stanley Meeting, Baltimora (USA), 02 December 2015 - 04 December 2015.

7. Dou Z., **Di Cristina M.** and Carruthers V. (2015) Chloroquine resistance transporter homolog (TgCRT) is a potential redox regulator in *Toxoplasma gondii*. (MPM XXVI), Woods Hole, Massachusetts (USA), 20-24 September 2015.
8. McGovern O., Dou Z., **Di Cristina M.** and Carruthers V. (2014) Trafficking of host proteins into *Toxoplasma* via a novel ingestion pathway. 25th Molecular Parasitology Meeting. (MPM XXV), Woods Hole, Massachusetts (USA), 14-18 September 2014.
9. Dou Z., **Di Cristina M.**, McGovern O.L., Hayes B.M., Schultz T.L. and Carruthers V.B. (2014) The *Toxoplasma gondii* vacuolar compartment and its roles in digestion of host proteins, immune evasion and persistence. 13th International Congress Of Parasitology (ICOPA XIII), Mexico City, Mexico, 10-15 August 2014.
10. Carruthers V.B., Dou Z., McGovern O.L., **Di Cristina M.** (2013) *Toxoplasma* evades innate immune effectors using a novel endocytic uptake pathway. 24th Molecular Parasitology Meeting. (MPM XXIV), Woods Hole, Massachusetts (USA), 08-12 September 2013.
11. Dou Z., **Di Cristina M.**, McGovern O.L., Shultz T., Carruthers V.B. (2013). *Toxoplasma gondii* uses endocytosis as a counter defence against innate immune elimination. FASEB, Molecular Pathogenesis: Mechanisms of infection disease. Snomass village, Colorado (USA), 21-26 July 2013.
12. Polchi A., Magini A., Tancini B., Urbanelli L., Ercolani L., **Di Cristina M.**, Polidoro M., Emiliani C. (2012). TFEB overexpression promotes the translocation of lysosomal glycohydrolases beta-hexosaminidase and beta-galactosidase to cell surface lipid microdomains. FEBS JOURNAL, Volume: 279, Special Issue: Supplement: 1 vol. 279 Sup 1, p. 382, Seville, SPAIN, 04-09 September 2012.
13. Spaccapelo R., Aime E., Caterbi S., Arcidiacono P., Dottorini T., Rende M., **Di Cristina M.**, Bistoni F., Crisanti A. (2012). Development of virulence-attenuated *Plasmodium berghei* parasites. 8th Annual BioMalPar, EVIMalaR Conference. Heidelberg, Germania, 14-16 May 2012.
14. d'Episcopo L., **Di Cristina M.**, Nunziangeli L., Giubilei M.A., Cappuccini B., Mazzoleni G., Baldracchini F., Maccari M., Spaccapelo R. and Crisanti A. (2011) Role of the protein microarray technology in the development of a rapid immunoassay for the influenza virus. *International Meeting on Emerging Diseases and Surveillance (IMED)*, 4-7 February 2011 Vienna, Austria.
15. **Di Cristina M.**, Nunziangeli L., Giubilei M.A., Cappuccini B., Blasi E. and Crisanti A. (2009) Sviluppo di una piattaforma microarray per la diagnosi selettiva dei sottotipi del virus dell'influenza. XXXVIII Congresso Nazionale Associazione Microbiologi Clinici Italiani (AMCLI), 17-20 November 2009, Rimini, Italy.
16. Possenti A., Bizzarro T., Tinti M., Messina V., Cherchi C., **Di Cristina M.**, Galizi R., Dubey J.P. and Spano F. (2009) The LCCL domain identifies a family of *Toxoplasma gondii* secretory proteins espresse in the sporozoite. *10th International Congress on Toxoplasmosis*, 19-23 June 2009, Kerkrade, Netherlands.
17. Crisanti A., Janse C., Franke-Fayard B., Spaccapelo R., Bonilla A., Syphard L.M., Dame J.B., Waters A.P., Caterbi S., **Di Cristina, M.** and Dottorini, T. (2009) Plasmepsin 4 deficient *Plasmodium berghei* are virulence-attenuated and induce protective immunity against experimental malaria. *Fifth Annual BioMalPar Conference*, 18-20 May 2009, EMBL Heidelberg, Germany.
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