

Sergio Pistoï, Ph.D

RESUME

SERGIO PISTOI

Personal information

Born in Alba (Piedmont), Italy, 1968

Address:

Via Funghini, 10

52100 Arezzo, Italy

Phone: +39-0575-401666

Email: pserioga (at) gmail (dot) com

Homepage: www.greedybrain.com

Selected works: <http://www.greedybrain.com/category/selected-articles>

SUMMARY

-Strong biomedical background and communication expertise (Ph.D. in molecular biology and ten-years-work as a journalist and Public Information Officer).

-An experienced and passionate science writer with knowledge of media and news sense; able to convey complex scientific concepts and the value of research to the public at any level.

-A specialist in science communication, can help to raise an organization's profile and recognition through strategic thinking and effective planning.

-Concurrent experience in management of research portfolio and strategic planning for research charities and scientific organizations.

-An organized and motivated team-player, acquainted with academic, media and corporate environments.

SELECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS

a) Science Communication (consultant)

- Developed and tracked media campaigns and communication plans to publicize the activities of Telethon Foundation, contributing to the foundation's current position as one of the most recognized research charities in Italy and among the international scientific community.

-Selected, wrote and/or edited over 80 scientific news and press releases publicizing Telethon-funded projects, that generated over 1500 press/radio/tv stories. Responded to national and international media requests. Contributed to the production of five editions of Italian Telethon TV Marathon, selecting research themes and writing interviews.

- Successfully coordinated a group of 2 to 4 co-workers and took an active role in many team projects at Telethon. Supervised interns from a science communication master.

- Has held about 20 workshops and media training sessions for an international audience of researchers and students. Is a teacher at the Master in Science Communication at the University of Rome Tor Vergata.

- Created and managed an information website on genetic diseases (informagene.it) reaching >150,000 visitors/month. Set up and oversaw an e-mail/phone information service for patients and families with an average of 3,000 request/year.

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- Telethon is an Italian fund-raising charity investing about 30Million€/year in research on muscular dystrophy and genetic diseases, with over 100 employees.

b) Strategic Planning and Portfolio Analysis for Research Organizations (consulting)

- Implemented the first annotated database of Telethon research activities, including about 1,800 projects, providing a useful tool for research portfolio management, benchmarking and reporting.

- Developed the Strategic Plan for Research 2006-2010: assisted an International Scientific Advisory Board outlining the strategic goals and priorities; wrote edited drafts and final version of the Strategic Plan. Worked in a team of 3 reporting directly to the Chief Scientific Officer.

- Contributed to develop original approaches and tools to monitor a charities' research portfolio and to assess the progress towards the mission's goals.

- Produced reports on the state of the art of biomedical research in various field for Telethon's Boards.

c) Writing and journalism (freelance writer)

(Selected writing samples available at: <http://www.greedybrain.com/stories/>)

-Wrote >200 news and feature stories covering scientific research, health and science policy. Credits include Scientific American, Nature, The New Scientist, The Lancet, the NPR, Panorama (Italy), Corriere della Sera (Italy).

-Interviewed prominent scientists and physicians, including Judah Folkman, Severino Antinori, and the "father" of Mp3 for Scientific American and other publications.

-Was an intern at Scientific American, a stringer for Reuters Health and the National Public Radio.

-Awarded a Golinelli-European Genetics Foundation prize for the best articles on genetics and biotechnology (runner-up).

-Included as author in the anthology book "Genome, a collection of the best essays and articles on unlocking the secrets of the Human Genome", River Cove Press, 2003.

-Co-author of books: "The Science of Dune" and "The Science of Michael Crichton"

-Author of a popular science blog (in Italian), > 15,000 contacts/month
(www.divulgazionescientifica.it)

WORK HISTORY

2007-pres. Tutor
UNIVERSITY OF ROME TOR VERGATA, Master in Science Communication

2004-pres., Consultant, Science Communication
(selected clients)
TELETHON ITALY, Rome, Italy
BIOPOP (EU-FUNDED PROJECT), Bologna, Italy and Delft, Nederland
LINK ITALIA, Modena, Italy
ASTER, Bologna, Italy

2004-pres. (concurrent) Consultant, Research Planning and Portfolio Management
TELETHON ITALY, Rome, Italy

1998-2003, Communication Specialist / P.I.O.
TELETHON ITALY.

1998-pres. (concurrent), Freelance Science/Medical writer
SELECTED WRITING SAMPLES AVAILABLE at: <http://www.greedybrain.com/stories/>

1998, Reviewer/consultant for science school texts
PARAVIA, Turin
LOESCHER, Turin

EDUCATION

1996-1998: Post-doc,
UNIVERSITY OF TURIN, Dept. Of Biomedical Science, Italy (Carola Ponzetto's lab)

1992-1996: Ph.D student,
INSTITUT PASTEUR, Paris (Charles Babinet's lab)

1989-1992: Graduate student,
UNIVERSITY OF TURIN, Dept. of Genetics, Italy (Lorenzo Silengo's, lab).

Miscellaneous professional activities:

- Produced independent interviews and footage for national TV programs; featured as a guest in radio and TV programs; host and panelist at round table and events; holds courses and workshops for academic, students and corporate audiences, occasionally acted in local TV commercials.

AWARDS

2000, Golinelli-European Genetics Foundation award for the best articles on genetics and biotechnology, Milan (runner-up)

1991-1996, Research grants and fellowships from Human Frontier Science Program Organization (HFSP), Association Recherche sur le Cancer (ARC), Associazione Italiana Ricerca Cancro (AIRC), Telethon.

BOOKS

-The Science of Dune, Benbella Books, 2007, coauthor,

-The Science of Michael Crichton, Benbella Books, 2008, coauthor.

-Genome: a collection of the best essays and articles on unlocking the secrets of the Human Genome, River Cove Press, 2003, included with 2 stories.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

-2002, Armenise Foundation/UGIS Fellow,
HARVARD MEDICAL SCHOOL PRESS OFFICE, Boston.

-2001, Intern
SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN EDITORIAL, New York.

-1996, Ph.D. (*Molecular Biology*), magna cum laude
INSTITUT PASTEUR-UNIVERSITÉ PIERRE ET MARIE CURIE, Paris.

-1991: B.S. (*Biology*), magna cum laude
UNIVERSITY OF TURIN, Italy.