



DELIBERA

Organo	COMITATO PER IL RECLUTAMENTO E LO SVILUPPO DELLE CARRIERE
Data seduta	25 settembre 2018
Sede	Via Calepina, 14 - Trento
Oggetto	Valutazione di ricercatore di cui all'art. 24, comma 3, lett. b), L. 240/2010 ai fini della chiamata nel ruolo di professore associato: dott. Giovanni PICCOLI, Centro di Biologia Integrata.
Allegati	-

Sono presenti alla deliberazione:

VALENTINA NIDER	Presidente	P
ALBERTO BELLIN	Componente	P
YURI BOZZI	Componente con funzioni di segretario	P
LUCA NOGLER	Componente	P
RAUL PAOLO SERAPIONI	Componente	P

Visto lo Statuto dell'Università degli Studi di Trento emanato con D.R. 167 del 23.04.2012;
 Vista la legge 30 dicembre 2010 n. 240 "Norme in materia di organizzazione delle Università, di personale accademico e reclutamento, nonché delega al Governo per incentivare la qualità e l'efficienza del sistema universitario" e in particolare l'art. 24, comma 5;
 Visto il Regolamento per il Reclutamento e la progressione di carriera di professori e ricercatori, emanato con D.R. n. 563 del 29 ottobre 2013 e in particolare l'art. 32 "Valutazione dei titolari dei contratti di cui all'art. 20, comma 1, lettera b) del presente Regolamento ai fini della chiamata nel ruolo di professore associato";
 Visti i "Criteri per la valutazione dei ricercatori a tempo indeterminato con contratto di cui al comma 3, lettera b), dell'art. 24 della Legge 240/2010, ai fini della chiamata nel ruolo di professore associato", approvati dal Comitato per il Reclutamento e lo Sviluppo delle Carriere nella seduta del 21 luglio 2015;
 Vista la delibera del Consiglio del Centro di Biologia Integrata del 19 marzo 2018, con la quale si esprime parere favorevole all'inquadramento del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI** nel ruolo di professore associato per il settore concorsuale 05/D1 (Fisiologia), settore scientifico disciplinare BIO/09 (Fisiologia);
 Vista la propria delibera del 8 giugno 2018, con la quale sono stati individuati i referee esterni chiamati a valutare la maturità scientifica e didattica del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI** nel ruolo di professore associato per il settore concorsuale 05/D1 (Fisiologia), settore scientifico disciplinare BIO/09 (Fisiologia);
 Vista la propria delibera del 11 settembre 2018, con la quale sono stati individuati ulteriori referee esterni chiamati a valutare la maturità scientifica e didattica del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI**, in aggiunta agli esperti già nominati nella seduta del 8 giugno 2018;
 Viste le valutazioni espresse dai tre referee sul profilo del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI**, di cui sono riportati di seguito alcuni estratti:

Referee 1:

Dear Sirs, I received your request to evaluate the recent (last three years) research achievements of Dr. Giovanni Piccoli, currently Assistant Professor (RTD-B, BIO/09) at University of Trento, in order to support his promotion application to Associate Professor.

Dr. Piccoli in the 2015-2018 period, since he joined the University of Trento, has so far published 11 Pubmed indexed papers (5 as senior author, ref #21 appears to be a book chapter, so it should be excluded from the list of peer reviewed papers). This is a good number for a relatively short period of time. At this level of career, with only a total of 25 indexed publications, neither the H factor (which is not indicated in the CV) nor the total number of citations (not indicated either) are particularly meaningful. The average impact factor (also not indicated in the CV) of the journals in which Dr. Piccoli has published his 11 papers is 4.128 (4.455 for the 5 corresponding author papers) without a significant variance (bottom paper IF=1.325; top paper IF=6.426). There are no publications with an IF>9 which is often an indication of excellence. In term of grants, Dr. Piccoli currently holds a single 5 year grant from Telethon which will end 2 years beyond his current appointment. This is obviously an excellent achievement and I believe that the availability of a such as long-term funding may lead Dr. Piccoli to express his full academic potential in the next few years. However, it would be safer to get more funding from other sources (possibly international ones), since the end of the Telethon grant is approaching. The research topic of Dr. Piccoli is potentially relevant and his research could lead to interesting twists in the future, although this remains uncertain



since the CV provided lacks of details about his unpublished results and immediate plans.

Referee 2:

I am delighted to write a letter of recommendation for Dr. Giovanni Piccoli in support of his promotion to Associate Professor at the University of Trento. As a fellow Parkinson's disease (PD) researcher with a Leucine Rich Repeat Kinase 2 (LRRK2) focused program, I have utmost respect for the high quality of science that Dr. Piccoli contributes to the field and for the collaborative and honest manner by which he executes his research.

I would like to preface this letter by stating that from its initial discovery in 2005, LRRK2 has been a notoriously difficult protein to study; the sheer size of the molecule and the lack of reliable biological tools (e.g. specific antibodies) has plagued and exasperated LRRK2 researchers over the globe, impeding the elucidation of its true functional role and at times even giving rise to misleading data. Remarkably, LRRK2 has now evolved as major player in neurodegeneration and key therapeutic target for PD. This feat would have not been possible without the diligent research efforts of certain key neuroscientists, generating reliable data that has withstood the test of time and intense scrutiny. I personally would rate Dr. Piccoli as one of those key neuroscientists, whose effort has been invaluable to the LRRK2 field.

I first became aware of Giovanni's work after his publication on LRRK2 in 2011 in Journal of Neuroscience, a pivotal study that demonstrated that LRRK2 participates in a protein network regulating synaptic vesicle trafficking in the presynaptic bouton. This seminal data provided the early underpinnings of molecular neurobiological explanations for the emerging in vivo neurochemical phenotypes (abnormal neurotransmitter release) that at the time were becoming apparent in the mutant LRRK2 mouse models. Importantly, this work also offered crucial mechanistic ties to human pathophysiology, since impaired dopamine turnover is an early alteration in PD. Since then, Giovanni's continued efforts have highlighted that LRRK2 WD40 domain binds and sequesters synaptic vesicles via interaction with vesicle-associated proteins (Piccoli et al 2014, Mol Cell Bio), and demonstrated that LRRK2 acts as a molecular hub at the synaptic site, connecting synaptic vesicles to cytoskeletal elements via complex [mutation-variable] kinase activity mediated protein-protein interactions (Cirnaru et al 2014, Front Mol Neuroscience; Carrion et al 2017, Sci Rep).

Through establishment of strong collaborative relationships with other leading PD researchers, Giovanni contributed to the identification of a novel interactor of LRRK2; p21-activated kinase 6 (PAK6) (Civiero et al 2015, J Neurochem; Civiero et al 2017, Front Mol Neuroscience) and substrate N-ethylmaleimide sensitive fusion (NSF) protein (Belluzzi et al 2016, Mol Neurodegen); discoveries that have provided a platform to facilitate the further unraveling of the mechanism underlying LRRK2-mediated pathophysiology. Moreover, Giovanni's application of his synaptic biology expertise to in vivo models of PD, has recently shed light on how LRRK2 phosphorylation may be linked to levodopa-induced dyskinesias, providing innovative rationale for new therapeutic avenues (Stanic et al 2016, Mol Brain).

Not being one to shy away from branching out of his comfort zone, his recent work extends to studying the role of LRRK2 in mitochondrial dynamics (Perez Carrion et al 2018, Front Mol Neuroscience) which demonstrates his flexibility and creativity, attributes that are vital to the success of an academic scientist.

[...] In summary, I believe Giovanni's promotion to Associate Professor would be a well-deserved honor and reflection of his status in the neuroscience community and particularly in the LRRK2 arena, as a wellrespected, influential thought leader.

Referee 3:

In the last three years Dr Giovanni Piccoli published nine peer-reviewed articles in international journals, with good impact factor. In five out of the nine publications Dr Piccoli is the last senior author.

The research interest of Dr Piccoli focused on the physio-pathological role of LRRK2, a protein mutated in about 13 % of familial cases of Parkinson's disease.

He investigated how sequence variants in either the C-terminal (G2385R) or at the N-terminus (E193K) of LRRK2 influences the protein function. He showed that the G2385R variant causes a perturbation of synaptic vesicle trafficking which may be at the basis of PD pathogenesis while the E193K variant causes abnormal mitochondrial fission. These results provide a significant advancement in current understanding of the pathogenic mechanisms behind Parkinson's disease.

In addition, Dr Piccoli recently showed that LRRK2 phosphorylation correlates with abnormal motor behavior induced by Levo DOPA, suggesting that LRRK2 may be a novel target for levodopa-induced dyskinesias.

Based on his recent achievements it is clear that Dr Piccoli has reached the scientific maturity needed for being promoted to the position of Associate Professor. Therefore, I strongly support his promotion to tenured Associate Professor at the Centre for Integrative Biology of the University of Trento.

Visto il curriculum vitae del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI**;

Con voto unanime;



Delibera

1. di formulare la seguente valutazione del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI**, ai fini della chiamata ai sensi dell'art. 24 comma 5, L. 240/2010 nel ruolo di professore associato per il settore concorsuale 05/D1 (Fisiologia), settore scientifico disciplinare BIO/09 (Fisiologia):

*I giudizi espressi dai referee esterni sul contributo scientifico, la qualità dell'attività di ricerca e l'esperienza professionale del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI**, nonché sulla coerenza del suo profilo con i requisiti attesi per il ruolo di professore di seconda fascia, sono molto positivi.*

*A seguito di attenta valutazione del curriculum e delle pubblicazioni, e sulla base dei giudizi formulati dai referee, il Comitato ritiene il profilo scientifico del candidato pienamente adeguato al ruolo ed esprime parere favorevole alla chiamata del dott. **Giovanni PICCOLI** nel ruolo di professore associato per il settore concorsuale **05/D1** (Fisiologia), settore scientifico disciplinare **BIO/09** (Fisiologia).*

F.to Il Presidente
Prof.ssa Valentina Nider

F.to Il Segretario
Prof. Yuri Bozzi

