

Short CV:

Andrea grew up in Procida, a little island in the bay of Naples, Italy. He received his MSc degree in Molecular Biology (*summa cum laude*) in 2002. He studied Molecular Biology at the University of Naples *Federico II* and worked on his thesis at the Italian National Cancer Institute. Subsequently, he joined Dr. Maurizio D'Esposito's group at the Institute of Genetics and Biophysics (IGB-National Council of Research, CNR), Naples, studying the role of chromatin and DNA modifications in cancer. He stayed in D'Esposito's lab to do his PhD, focusing on the epigenetic mechanism of SPRY3 gene silencing in humans. As a part of his Doctoral training, Andrea came to Prof. Neil Brockdorff's lab at the Imperial College London in 2006 as a visiting graduate student. Here he became interested in X inactivation. After having his *viva* and his PhD degree, Andrea joined the Brockdorff lab at the University of Oxford. Andrea studied the epigenetics of X chromosome inactivation, focusing on understanding how Xist mediates gene silencing. In particular, he was interested in the interplay between Xist and Polycomb Repressive Complexes. He proved that Xist and PRC2 do not interact directly, moving the balance of the much-debated Xist-mediated PRC2 recruitment model toward an indirect recruitment one. Building on this, he set up a genome-wide RNAi screen to identify novel factors involved in X chromosome inactivation and run a set of screens. The lab has identified important regulators of X inactivation based on his pioneering system. At the end of 2013, Andrea decided to move on with his career and returned to Italy. Back home, Andrea joined Prof. Phil Avner's group at the EMBL-Rome as an EMBL-fellow to study the initiation phase of mouse X inactivation, particularly the role of chromatin remodelers in Xist and Tsix regulation.

In 2018 Andrea started his laboratory at the Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London. His primary research focuses are epigenetics, X chromosome inactivation and lncRNAs. The Cerase Lab is currently working on X Chromosome inactivation (XCI) and XCI reversal using cell and animal models. The lab is also interested in X-linked neurodevelopmental disorders such as Rett and CDKL5 syndromes. The Cerase lab relocated to the University of Pisa in February 2022.