

PERSONAL INFORMATION

Name	CASTELLI, Michele
Qualification	PhD in Biology
Administration	Dipartimento di Biologia, Università di Pisa
Current Employment	Ricercatore Tenure-Track
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ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL QUALIFICATIONS AND WORK EXPERIENCE

Highest academic degree	2016: PhD in Biology at the University of Pisa (Supervisor Prof. Giulio Petroni). Dissertation title: “Bacterial symbionts of ciliates, from biodiversity to comparative genomics”
Other academic and professional qualifications	-2010: Bachelor’s degree in Molecular Biological Sciences at the University of Pisa, graded 110/110 <i>cum laude</i> (Supervisor Prof. Robert Vignali) -2012: Master’s degree in Molecular and Cell Biology at the University of Pisa, graded 110/110 <i>cum laude</i> (Supervisor Prof. Robert Vignali)
Professional experiences	-April 2016– March 2017: Post-Doc researcher (“Assegnista di ricerca”) at the University of Milan on the project “Biology, genomics and potential infectivity of bacteria of family <i>Midichloriaceae (Rickettsiales)</i> ” (Principal investigator: Prof.ssa Chiara Bazzocchi) -April 2017– March 2020: Post-Doc researcher (“Assegnista di ricerca”) at the University of Milan on the project “Genomic evolutionary and metabolic analyses on host/intracellular symbiont systems” (Principal investigator: Prof. Claudio Bandi) -May 2020– April 2021: Post-Doc researcher (“Assegnista di ricerca”) at the University of Pavia on the project “Genome evolutionary analyses on intracellular bacterial symbionts” (Principal investigator: Prof. Davide Sasserà) -May 2021– July 2021: Granted fellow (“Borsista di ricerca”) at the University of Pavia on the project “Bioinformatic analyses for the setting of novel diagnostic methods for echinococcosis” (Principal investigator: Prof. Davide Sasserà) -August 2021-July 2024: Researcher (“Ricercatore a tempo determinato: contratto RTD –lettera a, SSD VET/06”) at the Department of Biology Biotechnology, University of Pavia -August 2024-January 2026: Researcher (“Ricercatore Tenure-Track, SSD VET/06”) at the Department of Biology Biotechnology, University of Pavia -February 2026-present: Researcher (“Ricercatore Tenure-Track, SSD BIO/05”) at the Department of Biology, University of Pisa -February 2026-present: Adjunct Professor (“Docente a contratto”) at the Department of Biology Biotechnology, University of Pavia
Langue capabilities	Italian (native); English (advanced); French (Intermediate); Spanish (basic)
Technology usage capabilities	Usage of office software, and bash, python, R programming languages
Other	Teaching activity Academic years 2021-2022; 2022-2023; 2024-2025; 2025-2026: module 2 of the course “Micologia e Parassitologia con Tecniche di Laboratorio” (“Mycology and Parasitology with Laboratory Techniques”; 3 CFU- university credits), Master’s degree in “Biologia sperimentale ed applicata” (“Experimental and Applied Biology”), University of Pavia. Academic years 2023-2024; 2024-2025; 2025-2026: module “Genomics and epidemiology of infectious diseases” of the course “Genomics and evolution in emerging infectious diseases” (6 CFU), Master’s degree in Molecular Biology

and Genetics, University of Pavia.

Scientific research activity

The research activity of Michele Castelli are developed along the central topic of symbiosis *sensu lato*, focusing on the study of the interactions between different organisms, spanning from parasitism to mutualism, from an evolutionary and functional perspective.

These subject were developed along several research lines pertaining to numerous systems of study, such as in particular unicellular eukaryotes, arthropods (including vector organisms), and bacteria, and involved multiple approaches, including experimental and field activities with live organisms, molecular biology, bioinformatics and “-omic” sciences, optical and electron microscopy.

Funding

2022-2026: Unit coordinator for the European Commission-funded H2020-MSCA-RISE-2019 (Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions - Research and Innovation Staff Exchange) project NGTax (Next Generation Taxonomy: Ciliophora and their bacterial symbionts as a proof of concept) (project no. 872767). Funding for the unit: **147.200 €**

2022-2026: Critical mass participant of the European Union-funded project “NextGenerationEU-MUR PNRR Extended Partnership initiative on Emerging Infectious Diseases” (Project no. PE00000007, INF-ACT), within the RESEARCH NODE 2: “Arthropod Vectors and Vector-Borne Pathogens”. Individual funding: **200.000 €**

2023-2025: Principal investigator of the national PRIN 2022 project “Closing the Cycle: a meta-genomic approach to characterise the life cycle of a *Midichloria*-like bacterium and the evolution of *Rickettsiales* in aquatic environments”. Funding for the unit: **87.485 €**

Scientific production

Author of **50** publications on international peer-reviewed journals (**13** as first author and 13 as corresponding author), **4** book chapters, and **24** presentations at national and international congresses (3 as invited speaker)

Bibliometric indices (updated on 19th March 2026):

H-index: **18** (Scopus); **22** (Google Scholar)

Total citations: **970** (Scopus); **1346** (Google Scholar)

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The undersigned declares to have received the information on the processing of personal data, published at the following link: <https://privacy.unipv.it>.

The undersigned is aware that this document could be published for transparency purposes on the website of the University of Pavia.

Pavia, 19th March 2026

Michele Castelli