Curriculum vitae | Sala Stefano, PhD

Nationality:	Belgian
Address:	2160 South First Avenue, 60153 Maywood (Chicago), USA
E-mail:	ssala@luc.edu
Place/date of birth:	Brugge (Belgium), 8 March 1989
Languages:	Dutch (native tongue), English, Italian, French

Education and professional experience

2019-present	**Postdoctoral associate** Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology, Loyola University Chicago (IL), USA (Advisor: Prof. Dr. Patrick Oakes)
2018-2019	**Postdoctoral associate** Department of Physics and Astronomy, University of Rochester (NY), USA (Advisor: Prof. Dr. Patrick Oakes)
2012-2017	**Doctor in Health Sciences** FWO PhD fellowship, Department of Biochemistry, University of Ghent, Belgium (Advisor: Prof. Dr. Christophe Ampe, Title: Structure-function study of the focal adhesion protein and tumour suppressor testin: determination of module-specific interactomes and expansion of its conformational repertoire)
2010-2012	**Master's in Biomedical Sciences** University of Ghent, Belgium (graduated with greatest distinction) Felasa C certificate
2007-2010	**Bachelor's in Biomedical Sciences** University of Ghent, Belgium (graduated with great distinction)

Honors and Awards

2022	EMBO/EMBL mechanobiology in development and disease **symposium fellowship**
2018	**Finalist** of the Steadman family postdoctoral interdisciplinary research competition in Rochester, USA
2016	**Poster prize** at the BSCDB cell adhesion and communication meeting in Ghent, Belgium
2015	**Young investigator presentation prize** at the ECF meeting in Postojna, Slovenia
2012	**Joël Vandekerckhove award for the best master thesis in biomedical sciences** (Title: The collaboration of the domains of Testin in actin-mediated cell migration)

Teaching experience

Institution (year)	Course title	Number of lectures	Hours/lecture
Loyola University Chicago, Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology (2021)	Methods/techniques in physiological research	1. Cell transfections 2. Viruses as tools	3 3
Loyola University Chicago, Department of Cell and Molecular Physiology (2022)	Methods/techniques in physiological research	1. Cell transfections 2. Viruses as tools	3 3

Publications

Published (*equal contributions)

1. **Seetharaman S*, Sala S*,** Gardel ML, Oakes PW (2022). Quantifying strain sensing protein recruitment during stress fiber repair. ***Methods in Molecular Biology.*** *(in press)*

2. **Sala S**, Oakes PW (2021). Stress fiber strain recognition by the LIM protein testin is cryptic and mediated by RhoA. ***Molecular Biology of the Cell***. 32(18). p. 1758-1771

3. **Sala S**, Ampe C (2018). An emerging link between LIM domain proteins and nuclear receptors. ***Cellular and Molecular Life Sciences***. 75(11). p.1959-1971

4. **Sala S**, Catillon M, Hadzic E, Schaffner-Reckinger E, Van Troys M, Ampe C (2017). The PET and LIM1-2 domains of testin contribute to intramolecular and homodimeric interactions. ***PlosOne***. 12(5). e0177879

5. **Sala S**, Van Troys M, Medves S, Catillon M, Timmerman E, Staes A, Schaffner-Reckinger E, Gevaert K, Ampe C (2017). Expanding the interactome of TES by exploiting TES modules with different subcellular localizations. ***Journal of Proteome Research***. 16(5). p.2054-2071

In Preparation

1. Wagner EL, Im JS, **Sala S**, Nakahata MI, Imbery TE, Li S, Chen D, Noy Y, Archer DW, Xu W, Hashisaki G, Avraham KB, Oakes PW, Shin JB (2022). Repair of noise-induced damage to stereocilia F-actin cores is facilitated by XIRP2 and is mediated by a novel mechanosensor domain. (*In revision at eLife*)

2. Schmitt M, Colen J, **Sala S**, Gardel ML, Oakes PW, Vitelli V. Machine learning continuum models of cellular forces. *(in prep)*

3. Patel HP, Cuevas A, Wu H, Quintanilla M, **Sala S**, Patel V, Bennett M, Rotty JD, Bear JE, Oakes PW, Beach JR. Tyrosine phosphorylation of non-muscle myosin heavy chain tail modulates assembly. *(in prep)*

4. Bennett M, Demeulenaere S, Wu H, Patel H, **Sala S**, Longtine L, Oakes PW, Beach JR. Smooth muscle myosin 2 filaments dynamically assemble and stabilize during induced contractility. *(in prep)*

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Talks

2020 *Cell Bio virtual ASCB/EMBO meeting*
The LIM domain protein testin recognizes local strain in the actin cytoskeleton

2017 *Beatson institute in Glasgow, Scotland*
Structure-function study of the focal adhesion protein and tumour suppressor testin: determination of module-specific interactomes and expansion of its conformational repertoire

2015 *Cytoskeleton in intracellular trafficking and cell migration course organized by the Institut Curie in Paris, France*
The tumour suppressor Testin: effects on cancer cell migration and identification of domain specific interaction partners

2015 *University of Luxembourg, Luxembourg*
The tumour suppressor Testin: identification of domain specific interactions reveals novel interaction partners and a dimer function

2015 *ECF meeting in Postojna, Slovenia*
The tumour suppressor Testin: identification of domain specific interactions reveals novel interaction partners and a dimer function

Posters

2022 *EMBL/EMBO mechanobiology in development and disease symposium in Heidelberg, Germany*
Strain sensing in the actin cytoskeleton via testin: the odd one out among LIM domain proteins

2021 *Cell Bio virtual ASCB/EMBO meeting*
Smooth muscle myosin monomer pool is dynamic (*second author*)

2021 *Loyola University Chicago St Albert's Day meeting*
Polycystin-2 acts as a mechanosensor translocating to focal adhesions and cell-cell contacts (*second author*)

2020 *Cell Bio virtual ASCB/EMBO meeting*
The LIM domain protein testin recognizes local strain in the actin cytoskeleton

2019 *ASCB meeting in Washington DC, USA*
Mechanosensitivity mechanisms of the LIM domain protein testin

2019 *CNY Cytoskeleton meeting in Syracuse, USA*
Mechanosensitivity mechanisms of the LIM domain protein testin

2018 *ASCB meeting in San Diego, USA*
Mechanosensitivity mechanisms of the LIM domain protein testin

2016	*BSCDB cell adhesion and communication meeting in Ghent, Belgium* The tumour suppressor Testin: identification of domain specific interactions reveals novel interaction partners and a dimer function
2016	*ECF meeting in Cambridge, United Kingdom* The tumour suppressor Testin: identification of domain specific interactions and dimerization in vitro and in cells
2015	*ECF meeting in Postojna, Slovenia* The tumour suppressor Testin: identification of domain specific interactions reveals novel interaction partners and a dimer function
2013	*ECF meeting in Fribourg, Switzerland* The tumour suppressor Testin: effects on cancer cell migration and identification of domain specific interaction partners

Professional Organizations

American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB)

American Heart Association (AHA)