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Universiteit Leiden



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Title: Pathophysiology of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura : pathophysiology of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura : the "two-hit" paradigm

Date: 2012-11-13

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I generally prefer to show my gratitude by deeds rather than by words, but a few more words (if you already read the other 200 pages) cannot hurt, so here goes a written acknowledgement. First, I would like to express my endless gratitude towards colleagues, co-workers and to all of my mentors: Flora Peyvandi, Pier Mannuccio Mannucci, Richard A Gibbs and Frits R Rosendaal. Second, to all the patients who participated to the research studies. Third, to my friends and people who have been supportive in all parts of the planet, with a mention to the inventor of the E-laboratory. Finally (and most importantly) to my loved ones, those who are still here and those who are not.

CURRICULUM VITAE

Luca Andrea Lotta was born in Milan (Italy) on May 16th 1983. In 2002, he obtained his high-school degree from the Giuseppe Parini Classical High-School with top marks. In the same year, he enrolled in the Medical School of the University of Milan. In 2008, he graduated *summa cum laude* in Medicine and Surgery from the University of Milan, ranking in the top 5% of the class. He then joined the Fondazione Luigi Villa research group in Milan, led by Dr Flora Peyvandi and started conducting research in the field of thrombotic and hemorrhagic diseases. In 2009, after obtaining the Medical Licence from the Board of Medical Doctors of Milan he started his PhD studies on the pathophysiology of thrombotic thrombocytopenic purpura (TTP) and on the genetic predisposition to common thrombotic diseases. In 2010-2011 he was a visiting Post-Doctoral Fellow at the Human Genome Sequencing Center, Baylor College of Medicine (Houston, Texas), where he conducted studies on the application of second-generation genome sequencing techniques in common thrombotic diseases under the supervision of Prof. Richard A Gibbs. In early 2012, he obtained a PhD degree in Methodology of Clinical Research from the University of Milan with a thesis on the genetic predisposition to common thrombotic diseases. He is currently a Research Fellow at the Fondazione IRCCS Ca' Granda – Ospedale Maggiore Policlinico, Milan.

In his three-year research experience, he was author or coauthor of several scientific publications in peer-reviewed scientific journals. He is the recipient of national and international prizes and awards, including the Bayer Hemophilia

Award 2009 and 2012 and the Professor De Biasi Prize 2011 conferred by the
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