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Shepherding precision gene editing with CRISPR-Cas9 variants and adenoviral vectors

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Citation

Tasca, F. (2023, June 15). *Shepherding precision gene editing with CRISPR-Cas9 variants and adenoviral vectors*. Retrieved from <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/3620378>

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Note: To cite this publication please use the final published version (if applicable).

Curriculum Vitae

Francesca Tasca was born on February 23, 1993, in Marostica, Italy. She holds a Bachelor's degree in Biotechnology from the University of Padova, Italy, which she obtained between 2012 and 2015. She then pursued a Master's degree in Cellular and Molecular Biotechnology at the University of Trento, Italy, from 2015 to 2017. As part of her master's studies, Francesca also had the opportunity to attend an Erasmus exchange program at the University of Coimbra in Portugal. Following her Erasmus exchange, Francesca completed a six-month research internship at the Leiden University Medical Center in the Laboratory of Genome Editing, under the supervision of Dr. M.A.F.V. Gonçalves. In September 2017, Francesca successfully graduated with first-class honors (110/110L) from her Master's program.

In March 2018, Francesca started her PhD as part of the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Doctoral Network IMGENE - Improving Genome Editing Efficiency (European Union's Horizon 2020 Programme). She worked under the supervision of Dr. M.A.F.V. Gonçalves in the Genome Editing laboratory, part of the Virus and Stem Cell Biology group of Prof. Dr. Rob Hoeben. The results of her research are presented in this thesis.

List of Publications

1. **Tasca F.***, Wang Q.*, Gonçalves M.A.F.V. Adenoviral Vectors Meet Gene Editing: A Rising Partnership for the Genomic Engineering of Human Stem Cells and Their Progeny. *Cells*. 2020; 9:953. doi: 10.3390/cells9040953. * Shared first co-authorship.

2. **Tasca F.**, Brescia M., Liu J., Janssen J.M., Mamchaoui K., Gonçalves M.A.F.V. High-capacity adenovector delivery of forced CRISPR-Cas9 heterodimers fosters precise chromosomal deletions in human cells. *Molecular Therapy Nucleic Acids*. 2023; 31:746-762. doi:10.1016/j.omtn.2023.02.025

3. **Tasca F.**, Brescia M., Wang Q., Liu J., Janssen J.M., Szuhai K., Gonçalves M.A.F.V. Large-scale genome editing based on high-capacity adenovectors and CRISPR-Cas9 nucleases rescues full-length dystrophin synthesis in DMD muscle cells. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2022; 50:7761-7782. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkac567.

4. Chen X.*, **Tasca F.***, Wang Q., Liu J., Janssen J.M., Brescia M.D., Bellin M., Szuhai K., Kenrick J., Frock R.L., Gonçalves M.A.F.V. Expanding the editable genome and CRISPR-Cas9 versatility using DNA cutting-free gene targeting based on in trans paired nicking. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2020; 48:974-995. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkz1121. * Shared first co-authorship.

5. Wang Q., Liu J., Janssen J.M., **Tasca F.**, Mei H., Gonçalves M.A.F.V. Broadening the reach and investigating the potential of prime editors through fully viral gene-deleted adenoviral vector delivery. *Nucleic Acids Res*. 2021; 49:11986-12001. doi: 10.1093/nar/gkab938.

Acknowledgements

As I reach the end of my PhD journey, I reflect on the challenging and exciting moments that have passed, and the wonderful people I have met along the way. I am grateful for the path that has brought me here, and I couldn't have been happier with the people who were with me during this journey. I am deeply thankful for their support, encouragement, and friendship, which have made this experience truly unforgettable.

I am thankful to Rob Hoeben for his input and support during my PhD training. I would also like to express my deepest gratitude to my supervisor, Manuel Gonçalves, for his invaluable guidance and support throughout my PhD journey, for challenging me to think critically, and for always pushing me to do better. I am fortunate to have had the opportunity to work under their supervision and will always cherish the memories and lessons learned during this time.

I am grateful to my lab mates who have supported me day after day in my research. A special thank you to Marcella, my paranimf, who has always been there for me, from discussing scientific matters to offering moral support and sharing a good laugh. Your openness to mentor me and your positivity have made my PhD journey unique and have helped shape me into the scientist that I am today. I would also like to thank Igno, who welcomed me in Leiden, and showed me the ropes of both the lab and life in the Netherlands. Special thanks to Kim and Jin, who have always helped me in the lab and were always available for a chat in the office. I would like to give a thanks to Hidde for his camaraderie and thank you to my colleagues Chen, Qian, Li, and Xiaoling for their discussions, and kindness.

I am grateful to all the members of the IMGENE consortium who have inspired me to think outside the box and pushed me to challenge myself scientifically and personally.

Thank you to all the former and current members of the Department of Cell and Chemical Biology and in particular to the member of the Virus and Stem Cell Biology group (VSB) for the discussion and the help. Thank you to Timo, Vera, Sanne, Sophia, Willemijn, Selas, Diana, Steve, Martijn and Iris.

I got to give a huge shoutout to all the friends in Leiden. From the borrels in the terrace to the lunches, dinners and parties you made me forget about the stress and just enjoy life. Thanks to Dylan, Ale, David, Virginie, Frederick, Thilo, Ale, Ila, Sebastain, Robyn, Nicolette, Daniel, Rossella, Jesse, Mike and all the others wonderful people I had the opportunity to share this years with. I would also like to express my gratitude to Nanda, my paranimf, who has been a supportive friend since the beginning not only during my PhD but throughout my life in the Netherlands. I also want to thank Leo, who helped me through the quarantine period and was always ready to listen and offer advice. Special thanks go to the B.W. group Nanda, Leo, and Marghe, who shared the burden and reminded me of the importance of life beyond the lab.

Thanks to Pietro that from Italy to the Netherlands has been supportive in my adventures. Thanks to my lovely neighbours Silvia and Phil for being a certainty in always sticking to the

plan and to Tiso for always pointing out the bright side of every situation.

Thanks to Andy that more than anybody else hold my hand throughout this journey.

Thank you also to the M.U.G. group, that I can always count on. And thanks to my Italian friends Annalisa and Matilde for always being close despite the distance.

Finally thanks to my family that never doubt me and supported me throughout this PhD. Thank you to my mother and father for inspiring me to always explore outside my limits and thank you to my brother for being on my side while I navigated the water of the academic life.