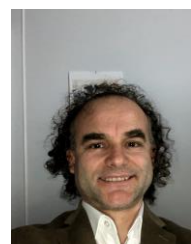


## ORJON RROJI, PHD

Gender: Male ♦ Address: Lagjia: Perash, Rruga: Rrojej 28, Shkodër 4000, Albania ♦ Date of birth: 28 September 1978 ♦ Mobile Phone: +355 69 53 70 041 ♦ E-Mail: [orjonrroji@yahoo.com](mailto:orjonrroji@yahoo.com)  
Skype: orjon rroji



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### Working Experience

#### Postdoctoral Fellow at Burke Neurological Institute

White Plains, NY, USA  
11/2019 – 10/2021

Investigating stroke recovery via NeuroCures NY project.  
Responsible for taking on clinical research & mechanism projects.  
Developing a discovery architecture NeuroCures New York project.  
Teaching “Introduction to Neuroscience – Learning, Memory, Plasticity: Behaviour & Molecular Mechanisms” course.

#### Adjunct Assistant Professor at Hunter College, CUNY

New York, USA  
01/2020 – 10/2021

Lecturing in Ethology – Animal Behavior, Psychology Department  
(Developing the class syllabus, giving lessons, course materials, exams, etc.)

#### Lecturer at Albanian University, Tirana, Albania

Tirana, Albania  
09/2016 – 10/2019

Lecturing in Medical Biochemistry, Nurse Department & Pharmacy Department  
Lecturing in Clinical Biochemistry, Nurse Department & Pharmacy Department  
Lecturing in General and Human Biology, Nurse Department & Pharmacy Department  
(Developing the class syllabus, giving lesson, course materials, exam, etc.)  
Supervising master thesis students  
Organising and participating in international conferences

#### Lecturer at University Luigj Gurakuqi, Shkodër, Albania

Shkodër, Albania  
11/2017 – 07/2019

Lecturing in Medical Biochemistry, Nurse and Physiotherapy Department  
Lecturing in Human Biology, Psychology Department  
(Developing the class syllabus, giving lesson, course materials, exam, etc.)

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### Education

#### Postdoctoral Fellow at Burke Neurological Institute, affiliate Weill Cornell Medicine University, White Plains, New York, USA

11/2019 – 10/2021

Investigating stroke recovery via NeuroCures NY project.

#### PhD in Kinesiology, Doctoral programme in Biomedical Sciences, Neuroplasticity, KU Leuven, Belgium

10/2010 – 02/2016

PhD Thesis title: “Improving neuroplasticity and motor learning by brain stimulation techniques”.

Supervisor Prof. Dr Nicole Wenderoth and Prof. Dr Bart Nuttin

#### Master of Science in Biology of Behaviour, University of Florence, Italy

11/2006 – 04/2009

Master’s Thesis title: “Variation of SORL 1 gene in Alzheimer’s disease”.  
Supervisor Prof. Dr Benedetta Nacmias and Prof. Dr Sandro Sorbi

**Bachelor of Science in General Biology,  
University of Padua, Italy**

10/2001 – 11/2006

Bachelor's Thesis title: "Behavioural effects, morphological changes and biochemical modifications induced by lesion of the olfactory mucosa in the mouse".

Supervisor Prof. Dr Carla Mucignat

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**Certificates**

Research Animal Resource Centre – Module I, II, III, Weill Cornell Medicine, USA

08/2020

FELASA – Laboratory Animal Science I & II, University of Ghent, Belgium

10/2012 – 11/2012

Writing Biomedical Research manuscripts, KU Leuven, Belgium

10/2011 – 11/2011

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**Research Experience**

**Postdoc position, Burke Neurological Institute, White Plains, USA**

11/2019 – 10/2021

- Fugl-Meyer assessment,
- Bionic Robot training & assessment,
- Recruitment of patients
- Writing grant applications

**PhD-Student and Research assistant, KU Leuven, Belgium**

10/2010 – 08/2015

- Developed an animal model, testing the effects of tDCS on recovery from stroke
- Set up a novel experimental design using transcranial Direct Current Stimulation (tDCS)
- Transcranial Magnetic Stimulation (TMS)
- Assisted and guided the human and animal model experiments
- Run behavioural experiments on humans and animals (rodents)
- Supervising master thesis and bachelor thesis students
- Performed micro neurosurgery on rats
- Transcribed, entered, and analysed data collected from the experiments
- Statistical programmes: STATA, SPSS
- Histology and Histochemistry techniques
- Microsoft office program

**Master & Bachelor thesis student, Italy**

15/2008 – 03/2009

- Extraction of genomic DNA from human blood samples
  - Analysed the data using the High-Resolution Melting (HRM) technique
  - Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)
  - Restriction Fragment Length Polymorphism (RFLP)
  - Western blot analyses
  - Electrophoresis, SDS – PAGE
  - Transcribed, entered, and analysed data collected
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## Publications

**Rroji O**, Kumar A, Karuppagounder S, and Ratan RR. Epigenetic regulators of neuronal ferroptosis identify novel therapeutics for neurological disease: HDACs, Transglutaminases, and HIF prolyl hydroxylases. *Neurobiology of Disease*, 2020 Oct 28; 147:105145 [doi.org/10.1016/j.nbd.2020.105145](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.nbd.2020.105145)

Kundu N, Kumar A, Chen Y, **Rroji O**, Karuppagounder SS, and Ratan R. A STING agonist preconditions against ischaemic stroke via an adaptive antiviral Type 1 interferon response: implications for treatment of stroke and COVID-19. *Brain Communications*, Oxford University Press. October 2020 – submitted.

**Rroji O**, van Kuyck K, Nuttin B, Wenderoth N. Anodal tDCS over the Primary Motor Cortex Facilitates Long-Term Memory Formation Reflecting Use-Dependent Plasticity. *PLoS One*. 2015 May 21;10(5): e0127270. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0127270. eCollection 2015.

**Rroji O** and Sukaxhija L. Amyotrophic Lateral Schlerosis, a new disease or even known in Albania? *Optime*, Albanian University, Nr 2, December 2019. ISSN 2220-461x

## Symposium

**EPO – hypoxia and Brain Repair** (online). Burke Neurological Institute affiliated Weill Cornell Medicine. 14 January 2021 New York, USA

## Oral Presentations & Poster presentations

**Rroji O**. Rritja e Neuroplasticitetit nga perdorimi i teknikave jo – invasive. Poster ne Konferenca e IV nderkombetare Farmaceutike “Challenges and Potential Opportunities in Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences”, 11 – 12 May 2018 ne Tirana, Albania.

**O. Rroji.**, K. van Kuyck., L. Arckens., B. Fritsch., B. Nuttin., N. Wenderoth. The effect of tDCS on motor recovery in an animal model of stroke. Talk presentation presented at “Konferenca e I<sup>re</sup> Ndërkombëtare në Shkencat Mjekësore Klinike dhe Kirurgjikale”, 21 – 22 Prill 2017 in Tirana, Albania

**O. Rroji**, K. van Kuyck, B. Nuttin., N. Wenderoth. Anodal tDCS over the primary motor cortex facilitates long-term memory formation reflecting use-dependent plasticity. Talk presentation at Konferencën III<sup>te</sup> Ndërkombëtare Farmaceutike “Recent Scientific Approaches and Development in Pharmaceutical Sciences”, 12 – 13 May 2017 in Tirana, Albania

**Rroji O.**, Leenus D., van Kuyck K., Nuttin B., Hellings N., Meesen R., Swinnen S., Wenderoth N. “Interhemispheric transfer of motor skill tested in a rat model”. Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of Society for Neuroscience, 13 – 17 October 2012 in New Orleans, USA

**Rroji O.**, Hebbelinck A., Wynants K., Ceulemans E., Wenderoth N. “Reward modulates changes of corticomotor excitability by motor skills”. Poster presented at 8<sup>th</sup> FENS forum of Neuroscience conference, 14 – 18 July 2012 Barcelona, Spain

**Rroji O.**, Bekkers E., Pauwels L., Wenderoth N. “Does tDCS over the primary motor cortex have an effect on the consolidation of motor memories”. Poster presented at ECSS 17<sup>th</sup> annual Congress, 4 – 7 July 2012 Brugges, Belgium

Pauwels L., Bekkers E., **Rroji O.**, Wenderoth N. “Does non-invasive brain stimulation over the primary cortex improve consolidation of motor memories?” Poster presented at Vereniging voor Kinesiologie symposium “Beweging doorheen de jaren”, 16 December 2011 Universiteit Gent, Belgium

**Rroji O.**, Bekkers E., Pauwels L., Wenderoth N. “Does tDCS over the M1 improve consolidation of motor memories”. Poster presented at Magstim TMS Summer School 28 – 29 May 2011 Oxford, UK

**Supervision of several Bachelor and Masters’ thesis student at KU Leuven, Belgium and at Albanian University, Tirana (upon request)**

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## Work experience as a student while I was at the Universities of Padova and Firenze

Storekeeper & Bookshop assistant, Melbookstore Library, Florence, Italy	02/2007 – 05/2010
Storekeeper & Bookshop assistant, Melbookstore Library, Padova, Italy	05/2004 – 10/2005
Work as a Secretary office at the International Office, University of Padova	May – Sept 2005
Librarian at the Library Bio – Medical of University of Padova, Italy	May – Sept 2004
The waiter at Pizzeria – Trattoria Marechiaro, Padova, Italy	10/2001 – 11/2006
The waiter at Trattoria Al Prato, Padova, Italy	11/2003 – 11/2006
Interpreter, teacher, and social worker at ONG, during Kosovo war, Albania	04/2000 – 09/2001

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## Languages

English – Fluent speaking/reading/writing  
Italian – Fluent speaking/reading/writing  
French – Proficient  
Dutch – Elementary  
Albanian – Mother language

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## Interests and Activities:

Besides the scientific work, I enjoy writing poems and reading books, mostly classics.  
Passionately fond of photography, mostly nature (animals, landscapes).  
Gardening is one of my favourite hobbies. Love it!  
Love Art: theatre, classical and jazz & blues music, opera, museums.  
Playing the violin, (amateur) simply to enjoy it.  
Drawing,  
Playing chess,  
Sports (martial art: Tae Kwon Do, volleyball, running, cycling, hiking, climbing),  
Cooking healthy food, as the Latin poem says: Mens sana in corpore sano = healthy mind in a healthy body!