

## Alberto Valero-Gracia



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**Current Position:** Ph. D. student; Marie Curie Early Stage Researcher

Director of Studies: Dr. Maria Ina Arnone

External Supervisor: Prof. Dan-Eric Nilsson

Program: Open University, XV cycle; Marie Curie ITN Neptune

**Affiliation:** Section BEOM, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn, Napoli (Italy)

### Education

Institute and Location	Degree / Function	Year	Field of Study
Department of Biology and Evolution of Marine Organisms, Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (Naples, Italy)	Ph. D.	2013-Present	Photoreceptor Cell Evolution in Ambulacraria
Department of Biology, Faculty of Sciences, Universidad Autónoma de Madrid (Madrid, Spain)	B. Sc. and M. Sc. (Licenciatura)	2007-13	Biological Sciences

### Training/Experience

Institute and Location	Function	Year	Field of Study
Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (Venice, Italy)	Course attendance	2015	“Evo-Devo, Conceptual and methodological foundations”

University of Göteborg, Sven Lovén Centre for Marine Sciences (Kristineberg, Sweden)	Course attendance	2015	“Marine Animal Models in Evolution and Development III: Focussed on neurobiology” EMBO Practical Course
Stazione Zoologica Anton Dohrn (Naples, Italy)	Course attendance	2014	“Neptune Graduate School II”
European Molecular Biology Laboratory (Heidelberg, Germany)	Course attendace	2014	“Marine Animal Models in Evolution and Development II: Focussed on functional interference”
Lund University (Lund, Sweden)	Course attendance	2014	“Sensory Ecology”
Johns Hopkins University (Baltimore, USA)	Online course attendance	2014	“Bioinformatics: Life Sciences on your computer”
Carl Zeiss Microscopy GmbH (Munich, Germany)	Course attendance	2014	“Zeiss Basics of Widefield-, Confocal-, and Lightsheet microscopy”
Feldafing, Germany	Course attendance	2014	“Neptune Graduate School I”
Friday Harbour Laboratories, University of Washington (Washington, USA)	Course attendance	2013	“Comparative Invertebrate Embryology”
Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti (Venice, Italy)	Course attendance	2013	UZI Spring School “Metazoan Phylogeny and Evolution”
Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti and Università Ca’Foscari di Venezia (Venice, Italy)	Course attendance	2012	Grade “Stephen J. Gould’s Legacy”
White Sea Biological Station of the Arctic Circle, Lomonósov Moscow State University (Kandalaksha, Russia)	Course attendance	2011	“International Polychaetes Course”

## Appointments and awards

- 2013 – Present: Marie Curie Initial Training Network Neptune research contract - Marie Curie actions within the 7<sup>th</sup> Framework Programme of the European Commission (EU)
- 2013: Robert Fernald scholarship - Friday Harbour Laboratories, University of Washington (USA)
- 2012: Réseau d'Activité Scientifique André Picard mobility grant - Villefranche sur Mer Oceanological Observatory, Pierre et Marie Curie University (France)
- 2012: Erasmus Leonardo studentship - Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, European Commission of Education & Training, and Ministry of Education and Science, Spanish Government (Spain)
- 2011 – 2012: Erasmus scholarship, academic year at the Sapienza University of Rome - Universidad Autónoma de Madrid, European Commission of Education & Training, and Ministry of Education and Science, Spanish Government (Spain)
- 2011: White Sea Biological Station studentship - Lomónosov Moscow State University, Russian National Government (Russia)
- 2001, 2004, 2005, and 2007: Award of four “Prizes to Scientific Excellence Santiago Grisolia for young researchers” - New Centre International Colleague, European Economic Community (EU)

## Membership in societies

Member of the European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology; of the Society for Integrative & Comparative Biology; of the International Society for Invertebrate Morphology; of the Marine Biological Association of the United Kingdom.

## Congress communications

**Valero-Gracia A**, and Arnone MI (2015). *Photoreceptor cell evolution in Ambulacraria: Towards the functional study of non-directional photoreception in marine invertebrate larvae*. Developmental Biology of Sea Urchins XXIII, Woods Hole Marine Biological Laboratory (Massachusetts, USA)

**Valero-Gracia A**, Ulrich-Lüter E, D'Aniello SA, Delroisse J, Arnone MI (2014). *Photoreceptor cell evolution in Ambulacraria larvae, a first contribution*. 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology (Berlin, Germany)

Ulrich-Lüter E, Arnone MI, **Valero-Gracia A**, D'Aniello SA, Delroisse J (2014). *Rhabdomeric and ciliary photoreceptors involved in echinoder vision?* 3<sup>rd</sup> International Congress on Invertebrate Morphology (Berlin, Germany)

**Valero-Gracia A**, and Arnone MI (2014). *Photoreceptor cell evolution in echinodermata*. 5<sup>th</sup> Meeting of the European Society for Evolutionary Developmental Biology (Vienna, Austria)

Delroisse J, Ulrich-Lüter E, **Valero-Gracia A**, D'Aniello S, Arnone MI, Mallefet J, Flammang P (2014). *Molecular basis on the echinoderm vision*. 20<sup>th</sup> Zoological Benelux Congress (Brussels, Belgium)

Ulrich-Lüter E, **Valero-Gracia A**, D'Aniello SA, Delroisse J, Arnone MI (2014). *The origin of deuterostome vision: Echinoderms possess r-opsin and c-opsin expressing cells, both likely to be involved in photoreception*. 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the German Zoological Society (Göttingen, Germany)

**Valero-Gracia A**, Marino R, Tiozzo S, Sordino P (2013). *First contribution of the knowledge of the central nervous system of Thalia democratica (Salpida) with insights on neural crest cell precursors*. 7<sup>th</sup> International Tunicate Meeting (Naples, Italy)

### **Publications**

D'Aniello S, Delroisse J, **Valero-Gracia A**, Lowe EK, Byrne M, Cannon JT, Halanych KM, Elphick MR, Mallefet J, Kaul-Strehlow S, Lowe CJ, Flammang P, Smith J, Ullrich-Lüter E, Wanninger A, and Arnone MI (2015). *Opsin evolution in the Ambulacraria*. Marine Genomics, EED Special issue (accepted)