



Giovanni Mirabella  
Associate Professor

Giovanni Mirabella is an Associate Professor of physiology at the University of Brescia.

His primary interest lies in the neural underpinnings of the genesis of goal-directed and voluntary actions and of our ability to suppress them. He has proposed the intriguing hypothesis that independent sets of brain regions do not specify the performance of actions and their suppression. Instead, acting and stopping seem to function emerging from specific interactions between largely overlapping brain regions, whose activity is intimately linked (directly or indirectly) to the evaluations of the pros and cons of an action.

He has also studied the relationship between action language and language understanding in the frame of the embodied theory of language, suggesting that motor cortices are involved to some extent in language understanding.

Finally, he is involved in the assessment of Art Therapy as a tool for medical rehabilitation (see Mirabella (2015) Is art therapy a reliable tool for rehabilitating people suffering from brain/mental diseases? *J Altern Complement Med.* 21:196-9). In particular, he directed two studies aimed to assess whether active theatre, in which patients are directly involved in the representations, can represent an efficient complementary therapeutic intervention for improving the quality of life of Parkinson's patients. The results of both studies strongly suggested that theatre significantly enhances the emotional well-being of patients in comparison to patients undergoing conventional physiotherapy.

**EDUCATION:** *Master's degree* in Biological Science (110/110 cum Laude, March 1995), University of Trieste, Trieste, Italy; *PhD in Neuroscience* (May 2000), Sector of Neuroscience of the International School for Advanced Studies (ISAS), Trieste, Italy

**INDEXES OF SCIENTIFIC PRODUCTION:** **Articles on peer-reviewed journals: 34** (*first name 20 papers, 58.8%; Last name 9 papers, 26.5%; corresponding author in 19 papers, 64.7%*); Total Citations: **904\***; H-index: **16\***; Citations per paper **26.6** (\* Data from Scopus, 30/1/2020). **Books Chapters: 8**

**GRANTS (as PI): total amount 675.000 €**

**GRANTS (as a group member): total amount 86.000 €**

**FELLOWSHIP AT FOREIGN INSTITUTES:** *January 1-April 30, 2018* Fellowship of the Italian Academy for Advanced Studies, University of Columbia, New York, USA. *May, 9-15, 2016* Fellowship as Visiting Professor at the National Research University Higher School of Economics (HSE) Moscow, Russia; *February, 4-7 2014* Fellowship as Visiting Professor at Stony Brook University, New York, USA; *February 1-May 31 30, 1991* Erasmus Program scholarship for one semester at Stirling University, Scotland (U.K).

**ORGANIZATION OF CONGRESSES/SYMPOSIA:** *2020* Symposium at the *12<sup>th</sup> FENS* Forum July 11-15, 2020 Glasgow, (U.K.); *2015* Symposium at the *15<sup>th</sup> ECCN*, September 30-October 3, 2015, Brno, Czech Republic; *2015* Symposium at the *1<sup>st</sup> ICPS*, 12-14 March, 2015 Amsterdam, The Netherlands; *2013* Organizer of the *5<sup>th</sup> Congress 'Dialogue between theatre and Neurosciences'*, June 6-7, 2013, Rome, Italy

**EDITORIAL EXPERIENCE:** *Associate Editor* of Frontiers in Neural Technology (IF 3.9); *Associate Editor* di Parkinson's Disease (IF 2.1); *Guest Editor* Brain Sciences (IF 2.7). *Research Topic:* "How Does Motor Inhibitory Control Emerge from the Interplay between Reactive and Proactive Inhibition"; *Guest Editor* of Frontiers in Neural Technology (IF 3.9) *Research Topic:* "Neural Electroceuticals: Interfacing with the Nervous System with Electrical Stimulation"; *Guest Editor* of Frontiers in Neuroengineering, *Research Topic:* 'Volitional inhibition: the gateway for an efficient control of voluntary movements'; *Review Editor* of Frontiers in Behavioral Neuroscience (IF 3.1); *Review Editor* of Frontiers in Psychology Section Emotion Science (IF 2.1); *Review Editor* of Brain Sciences (IF 2.7). *Ad hoc Reviewer for 31 peer-review journals.*

**ACCADEMIC AWARDS:** *2017* Frontiers Spotlight Award as author of the Research Topic of Frontiers in Systems Neuroscience 'Augmentation of brain function: facts, fiction and controversy'; *2014* Selected by the Scientific Committee of Atomium Culture for the project of 'Dissemination of Culture'; *1999* 'Giovani studiosi' prize for the divulgation article 'Il cervello che impara', Le Scienze (2000) 384: 78-84, Italian Edition of Scientific American.