



# Cristina Santonocito, MD

Anesthesiologist and Intensivist

## Personal Info



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## Education

- **Diploma of Scientific Maturity (Secondary school)**  
Galileo Galilei Institute  
(Catania, IT)  
Sep 1996 - Jul 2001
- **Degree in Medicine and Surgery , July 23rd, 2007, 110 marks out of 110 and honors (Degree)**  
University of Catania (IT)  
Oct 2001 - Jul 2007
- **Diploma of Scientific Maturity - 100/100**
- **Degree in Medicine and Surgery at University of Catania - 110/110 and honours**
- **License to practice obtained on the II Session 2007**
- **Registration to the Italian Medical Council in Catania (Italy)**  
Feb 2008  
Registration number 13617

## Summary

I am a Consultant in Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine, I ended my training timely during the course at the University of Medicine and Surgery in Catania (IT) on 2007, after I attended the Specialty course in Anaesthesia and Critical Care and on March 2012 I've got my Specialty Degree. Immediately after, I attended several clinical fellowships in UK working in cardiac anaesthesia and cardiothoracic critical care medicine. Here, I have got trained on echocardiography achieving advanced skills and the European Diploma of TransEsophageal Ecocardiography (ESC 2014). I worked in several hospitals, private and public, in Italy dealing with critically ill patients, using modern skills and updated knowledges. During my daily clinical job I have always been involved on clinical research, skills learned during my research clinical fellowships in USA (Palm Springs, CA), in Belgium (Eram Hospital, Bruxelles) and UK (John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford and Harefield Hospital, London). I particularly care about ethics and relatives/patients communication issues.

I have good leadership skills and good interpersonal relationships with my team.

## Work Experience

### **Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine Consultant, University Hospital Policlinico "G.Rodolico- San Marco", Catania (IT)**

January 2020 - Present

I work in this University Hospital as Consultant in Anesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine , mainly in the cardiac surgery and cardiac ICU setting. This is a 12 beds ICU , 7 beds for postoperative cardiac surgery care and 5 beds for general ICU. During the COVID - 19 pandemic 2 extra bedspace have been added for COVID-19 patients on VV-ECMO.

- **Certificate of Completion of Specialty Training (CCST) in Anaesthetics and Intensive Care**

University of Catania (Italy)

Mar 2012

, issued by the , on 27.03.2012 with 70 marks out

- **Completion of Specialty Training (CCST) - 70/70 and Honors**

- **Registration at the General Medical Council (UK)**

Dec 2011 - Present

GMC number: 7222112

- **Clinical and Research Fellowship – CardioThoracic Critical Care**

“John Radcliffe Hospital”

University Hospital, Oxford – UK

Apr 2012 - Apr 2014

- **Clinical and Research Fellowship - ICU**

“Erasmee University Hospital”

Bruxelles, BE

Mar 2011 - Sep 2011

- **Research Fellowship on cardiac arrest**

“The Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine” Rancho

Mirage, Palm Springs, USA

Nov 2008 - Nov 2009

- **Professor ( Fixed term contract (14 hrs))**

School of Anaesthesia and Intensive Care Medicine

(Catania, IT)

Jul 2025 - Present

**Anaesthesia and Critical Care Medicine Consultant, Ospedale Muscatello (Part time), Augusta (IT)**

October 2018 - December 2019

I was working in theatre running Anesthesia for general surgery and I was involved for the emergencies when called for critical patients at the Emergency Department and, if needed, I run the critical patient's transfer to referral hospitals with ICU.

**Anaesthesia and Critical Care Medicine Consultant, ISMETT (Part-Time), Palermo (IT)**

March 2016 - February 2018

I have been working in cardiothoracic theatres running complex cardiac surgery cases and working in a busy ICU dealing with: postoperative cardiac, thoracic and abdominal patients; post solid organs transplant patients, VA and VV- ECMO; patients on cardiac or respiratory failure coming from other Hospitals awaiting for surgery.

**Anesthesia and Critical Care Medicine Consultant, Clinica Centro Cuore Morgagni (Part-Time), Pedara (Catania, IT)**

August

I worked here as Anaesthesiologist and ICU Consultant. My job was in theatre for elective and emergency surgery, in Cathlab and in a 8 beds Cardiovascular ICU.

**Senior Clinical Fellow in Cardiac Critical Care Medicine, Royal Brompton and Harefield Hospital, NHS Foundation Trust (Part time), Harefield – London (UK)**

May 2014 - July 2014

One of the largest cardiac and Heart-Lung Transplant Centre in UK. In this 18 beds ITU I gained expertise in management of VA, VV ECMO, Ventricular Assisted Devices (VADs), and heart and lungs transplant patients.

**Senior Clinical Fellow in Anesthesia Cardiotoracica e Critical Care, Nuffield Dept. of Anaesthetics, John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford University Hospitals NHS Trust (Part time), Oxford (UK)**

April 2012 - April 2014

- I gained advanced skills on cardiac, thoracic and neurosurgical patients, and critically ill patients in general ICU
- I attended a difficult airways training course learning how to run endotracheal intubation guided by fibroscopy.
- I moved to Cardiac Anaesthesia and Cardiothoracic Critical Care Unit (CTCCU), working both in theatre (cardiac and thoracic surgery and cathlab) and CTCCU (21 beds)
- As Senior Fellow I must supervise junior and senior trainees

The title of this Course is "Fisiopatologia della funzione cardiovascolare e principi di ecocardiografia", previsto nel corso "Scuola di Specializzazione in Anestesia, Rianimazione, Terapia intensiva e del dolore" del DIPARTIMENTO DI CHIRURGIA GENERALE E SPECIALITÀ MEDICO-CHIRURGICHE per l'A.A. 2023/2024 (anno accademico di svolgimento dell'attività didattica è il 2024/2025), bandito con D.R. 1614 del 10/04/2025,

## Skills

Vascath access and Swan-Ganz catheter insertion - Expert

Nasal and Oral Fibre-optic intubation - Expert

Trans-Oesophageal Echocardiography - Expert

Trans-thoracic Echocardiography - Expert

Percutaneous tracheostomy - Experienced

## Languages

English - Fluent

French - Certifications A1-A6 by the "Alliance Française", Ministère de l'Éducation Nationale, République Française - Fluent

- I am able to perform Trans-Esophageal Echocardiography (TEE) and Trans-Thoracic Echocardiography for fast assessment in a critical care setting (FICE).
- I achieved my TEE Certification with the European Society of Cardiology in 2014.

### **Clinical/Research Fellow, ULB - Erasme Hospital Bruxelles (Tirocinio), Bruxelles (BE)**

March 2011 - September 2011

Here, I developed my thesis at the end of my Residency, title "C-Reactive Protein kinetics in septic patients after major surgery" (Anesth Analg. 2014). I was the PI and my Tutor was Prof JL Vincent, Head of the Department of Anesthesia and Critical Care (32 ICU beds, medical and surgical admissions/year more than 3000 critical ill patients).

I run 4 different clinical research projects (main topics: cardiac arrest and sepsis): two on biomarkers and sepsis post surgery, one on microcirculatory dysfunction and one on endothelial damage in ARDS.

During the daily ward round in ICU, run by Prof JLV and his team, my expertise has increased on hemodynamic, ventilatory, sepsis management, advanced monitoring and goal directed therapy.

### **Research Fellow, Weil Institute of Critical Care Medicine ( Palm Springs, USA) (Apprendistato), Palm Springs, CA (USA)**

November 2008 - November 2009

Here, researchers run high level scientific research on Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation (CPR) and this Institute was affiliated with the USC (University of South California) and it was one of the most active training centers on BLS and ACLS courses, promoted by the American Heart Association.

I worked on several research projects on cardiac arrest and ROSC strategies on animal models:

- we investigated CPR, therapeutic hypothermia and epinephrine impact on outcome
- we tested different values of electrical energy delivered by DAE analyzing AMSA (amplitude spectrum area), to find out the better defibrillator strategy with less electrical myocardium damage
- we tested a capsaicin derived drug to easily induce hypothermia compared with the standard cooling techniques used (external cooling, cold fluids)

During this period, I did attend the Operating Room at the Eisenhower Hospital in Palm Springs, approaching a different and well organized health system.

## **Courses**

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**American Heart Association ACLS instructor certification**

2013

**Advanced Life Support (ALS) provider, United Kingdom Resuscitation Council**

May 2013

**Trans Thoracic Echocardiography – FICE UK – Focus Intensive Care Echocardiography (FICE) Accreditation, Oxford – UK**

September 2013

**Principal Investigator (PI) accreditation for Research Project, Oxford - UK**

October 2013

**Trans Esophageal Echocardiography Accreditation, European Society of Cardiology**

July 2014

**Advanced Life Support and Defibrillation (ALS) provider – Italian Resuscitation Council re-certification, Catania IT**

December 2022

**Advanced Communication Skills , Oxford (UK)**

June 2012

**The Newcastle Echo Course, Newcastle (UK)**

September 2012

**Official Course FICE attended. OXFICE, Oxford**

September 2013

**Lungs getting at the Heart of it (ESICM Conference), Dublin (Ireland)**

June 2015

**Corso di ecocardiografia transesofagea 3D, Lugano (Svizzera)**

November 2016

**GIMBE (Italian Group on EBM). Applicazione nella pratica quotidiana dei principi e delle procedure dell'Evidence-Based Practice, Palermo (Title: "Introduzione alla metodologia della ricerca clinica")**

July 2016

**PALS Course – ISMETT, Palermo**

2017

**CORSI GIMBE (Italian Group on EBM), ISMETT, Palermo (Title: "Trial Clinici: pianificazione, conduzione, analisi e reporting")**

March 2017

**CORSI GIMBE (Italian Group on EBM), ISMETT, Palermo (Title: "Studi Osservazionali: pianificazione, conduzione, analisi e reporting")**

June 2017

**Abilitazione Scientifica Nazionale con licenza di Professore di II fascia settore Anestesiologia, rilasciata dal in data 19 Settembre 2022,, MIUR**

September 2022

**Certificazione in Ecocardiografia Transesofagea (TEE)- ITACTA BESt, Scientific Society ITACTA**

March 2023

**Vincitore come Co-PI del GRANT PNRR-MCNT2-2023-12377946 "The use of Landiolol in mitral valve surgery: a randomized, controlled, double-blind trial. (LUNA)" Study code: PNRR-MCNT2-2023-12377946 Phase III., PNRR (Italy)**

May 2025

**RCT : "Acute normovolemic hemodilution in cardiac surgery. A randomized trial – ANH", Promoted by the San Raffaele hospital (Milano, IT) (I was the Local PI for the site of Catania.)**

2022

**Local PI (Catania) - External Validation of AKI predictor in Postoperative setting – EVAP STUDY, AOU Parma**

2022

**Local PI (Catania) "PERICLE – Perioperative use of Clevidipine", ITACTAIC**

2025

**Italian Resuscitation Council (IRC)**

2015

I was in charge for the translation from English to Italian of the European Resuscitation Council (ERC) guidelines 2015 on CPR.

**ESICM Member**

2018 - Present

- Member of the "NEXT Committee" (2018 - 2021)
- Member of the "E-learning Committee" (to present)
- Member of the "Cardiovascular Dynamics" Section (to present)

**SIAARTI Member**

2015 - Present

## Directory Board of ITACTAIC

2024 - 2026

### M&M meeting

I was actively involved during the M&M meeting when I worked in Bruxelles, Oxford and Londra. Among them: antibiotic prophylaxis for cardiac surgery, the use of acid tranexamic in theatre, bleeding and transfusions in cardiac surgery; difficult airways management. Some of these audits have been published on Minerva Anestesiologica.

**GRANT PNRR-MCNT2-2023-12377946: "The use of Landiolol in mitral valve surgery: a randomized, controlled, double-blind trial. (LUNA)"**  
**Study code: PNRR-MCNT2-2023-12377946 Phase III.**

2023

**Best Quality Award projects, title: "End-of-Life – ESMO (end-of-life symptom's management orders) Protocol"**

December 2017

- In ISMETT I won the second place among the best quality projects for the year 2017
- Policy improvement on: End of Life Care Management

**Away from clinical and research job - from May 2023 to April 2024 (12 months) - and for high risk pregnancy and maternity leave from March 2018 to September 2018 (7 months).**

I am able to use Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Power Point) and run advanced search on Internet. I did work with several software for patients management in ICU (ICIP Phillips Carevue®, Allscripts Sunrise®). I use Pubmed, NHS Athens for systematic search in several database (MEDLINE e EMBASE).

## Editorial Board and reviewer activity

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**Associate Editor in Frontiers in Anesthesiology**

2022 - Present

– Specialty Section of Cardiothoracic Anesthesiology

**Editor in BMC Anesthesiology**

2024 - Present

07/08/2025

