

**Pitzalis
Sabrina**

Psychologist, psychotherapist

Personal Information and Contacts:

Date of birth: 24/11/1969

Married, two children

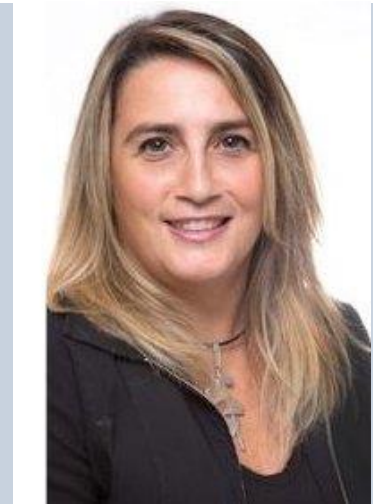
Phone +39.0636733.383

e-mail: sabrina.pitzalis@uniroma4.it

international ID:

 **Orcid:** [0000-0002-4445-0391](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4445-0391)

Scopus: [6602749229](https://scopus.com/authid/detail.uri?https://orcid.org/0000-0002-4445-0391)



Current Positions

2020-to date Associate Professor in Psychophysiology (11/E1), University of Rome "Foro Italico"

2000-to date Scientific advisor, Neuroimaging Lab, Santa Lucia Foundation (IRCCS), Rome

2017-to date Head of the University Psychological Counselling Service for students (S.A.C.S.) at The University of Rome "Foro Italico"

Education

1990-1995 Master degree in Experimental Psychology, University of Rome "La Sapienza"

1995-1999 Psychotherapist specialized in Cognitive Behavioral Therapy, Skinner Institute, Rome.

1996-1999 PhD in Psychophysiology of Perception. University of Rome "La Sapienza".

Research activities abroad

1999–2000 Researcher with Prof. M.I. Sereno at the University of California San Diego - La Jolla, California – USA

05-08 2003 Researcher with Prof. M.I. Sereno at the University of California San Diego - La Jolla, California – USA

Maternity leaves

From 31/01/2009 to 30/06/2009 Maternity leave (L. 1204/1971)

From 10/01/2012 to 09/06/2012 Maternity leave (L. 1204/1971)

National and International scientific collaborations

-Prof. M.I. Sereno, Department of Psychology, San Diego State University (SDSU), USA. Brain mapping and fMRI research on human vision.

-Prof. C. Galletti and P. Fattori, Department of Human and General Physiology, University of Bologna, Italy. Identification of human homologues of occipital and parietal areas of macaque brain.

-Prof. Markus Lappe, Institute for Psychology, University of Münster, Germany. fMRI research on the neural basis of the visual guidance of locomotion and multisensory integration between somatomotor and visual signals during leg movements in the environment.

Research Areas

From 1995 to date, the research activity has covered topics in the field of Physiological Psychology and Cognitive Neuroscience. In particular, I studied brain activity related to perceptual, cognitive

and sensorimotor functions in healthy subjects, athletes and patients. Part of the studies was dedicated to the identification of homologies between the human brain and that of the macaque. Often, the studies have combined neuroimaging (MRI and fMRI) with psychophysical and electrophysiological (ERP) methods.

Specific Research Topics

1. fMRI and Retinotopic brain mapping in human and monkey visual system
2. fMRI, wide-field set-up and Egomotion perception
3. Anatomic-functional Specialization of the posterior parietal cortex
4. Neural bases of visual perception by coregistration studies (fMRI+EEG)
5. fMRI, leg-movement set-up and multisensory integration of locomotion-related visual and motor inputs
6. Neuropsychology and Neuroimaging (Spatial Neglect and Multiple Sclerosis): behavioural deficit, neuroanatomical correlates and exoskeleton-assisted gait rehabilitation

Grants

Role: Principal Investigator

2007-2009-2014-2015--Departmental funds for Research Project, University of Rome "Foro Italico".

2018-2019--Recipient of a research grant from Santa Lucia Foundation (IRCCS) for carrying out scientific research with neuroimaging techniques (fMRI)

2018-2020--Recipient of a research grant from the University of Bologna for carrying out scientific research with neuroimaging techniques (fMRI)

Role: Collaborator

2011-2013-2016 --Departmental funds for Research Project, University of Rome "Foro Italico".

2008, 2012, 2015, 2020—University funds for Research Project, University of Rome "Foro Italico".

2006 PRIN funds, Operative Unit University of Bologna

2007 PRIN funds, Operative Unit University of Rome "Foro Italico"

2009 PRIN funds, Operative Unit University of Bologna

2012 PRIN funds, Operative Unit University of Rome "Foro Italico"

Prizes and Research Activity Awards

2019--National Scientific Qualification for Full Professor in 11/E1 sector

2019--National Scientific Qualification for Associate Professor in 11/E1 sector

2012--National Scientific Qualification for Associate Professor in 11/E1 sector

2018 Recipient of the Italian Financing Fund for the Basic Research Activity (FFABR)

2000 Best scientific Ph.D thesis, Italian Association of Psychology (AIP). Thesis title: Spatial Anisotropy of the Visual Field and Unilateral Neglect

Editorial committee

Scientific referee (peer reviewer) for the following Journals:

- Cerebral Cortex
- Experimental Brain Research
- Vision Research
- Journal of Neurophysiology
- PLoS ONE

- European Journal of Neuroscience
- Journal of neuroscience
- Neuropsychologia

Conferences Talks

- 2000 Cognitive Neuroscience Society, San Francisco, California, USA
 2003 Human Brain Mapping, New York, NY, USA
 2004 European Neuropsychological Societies, Modena, Italia
 2004 Human Brain Mapping, Budapest, Ungheria
 2004 Federation of European Neuroscience Societies (FENS), Lisbona, Portogallo
 2005 Human Brain Mapping, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
 2006 Vision Sciences Society (VSS) a Sarasota, Florida
 2006 Human Brain Mapping, Firenze, Italia
 2011 Cognitive Neuroscience PhD Summer School, University College of London (UCL), Londra, UK (invited talk)
 2012 Vision Sciences Society (VSS), Naples, Florida
 2018 Society for Neuroscience (sfN), San Diego, California

Teaching Activity

University of Rome "Foro Italico"

- 2014- to date Sports Neuroscience (2 CFU), Bachelor's Degree in Motor and Sport Science (L22)
 2017- to date Health Psychology (5 CFU), Master's Degree in Sciences and Techniques of Preventive and Adapted Physical Activities (LM67)
 2020- to date Sport Psychology (2 CFU), Master's Degree in Sport Sciences and Methodologies (LM68)
 2020- to date Psychology of the Communication (4 CFU), Master's Degree in Sciences and Techniques of Preventive and Adapted Physical Activities (LM67)
 2014-to date Neuroimaging Methods, PhD in Human Movement and Sport Sciences (teaching activity and research supervision of PhD students)
 2021-to date General and Sport Psychology (10 CFU), Bachelor's Degree in Motor and Sport Science (L22)

University of Rome "La Sapienza"

- 2019-to date Neuroimaging Methods in Neuropsychology (CFU 1), Postgraduate School in Neuropsychology

Former activity

University of L'Aquila

- 2005-2006 General Psychology (8 CFU), Bachelor's Degree in Psychology (L24)

Institutional Activities

- 2017-to date Head of the University Psychological Counselling Service for students (S.A.C.S.) at the University of Rome "Foro Italico"
 2017-to date Rector's Delegate for gender balance, University of Rome "Foro Italico"

Former activity

2013-2020 Member of the university Research Committee, University of Rome "Foro Italico"

International Scientific Publications

1. **Pitzalis S**, Spinelli D, Zoccolotti P (1997). Vertical neglect: behavioral and electrophysiological data, *Cortex*, 33, 679-688.
2. Viggiano M P & **Pitzalis S** (1998). Identification of fragmented pictures in patients with brain damage. *Applied Neuropsychology*, 5, 93-99.
3. **Pitzalis S**, Di Russo F, Spinelli D, Zoccolotti P (2001). Influence of the radial and vertical dimensions on lateral neglect. *Experimental Brain Research*, 136, 281-294.
4. **Pitzalis S** & Di Russo F (2001). Spatial anisotropy of saccadic latency in normal subjects and brain damaged patients. *Cortex*, 37, 475-492.
5. Sereno MI, **Pitzalis S**, Martínez A (2001). Mapping of Contralateral Space in Retinotopic Coordinates by a Parietal Cortical Area in Humans. *Science*, 294, 1350-1354.
6. Di Russo F, Martínez A, Sereno MI, **Pitzalis S**, Hillyard SA (2001). Cortical sources of the early components of the visual evoked potential. *Human Brain Mapping*, 15, 95-111.
7. Di Russo F, **Pitzalis S**, Spinelli D (2003). Fixation stability and saccadic latency in elite shooters. *Vision Research*, 43, 1837-1845.
8. **Pitzalis S**, Di Russo F, Figliozzi F, Spinelli D (2004). Underestimation of contralateral space in neglect: a deficit in the "where" task. *Experimental Brain Research*, 159-3, 319-328.
9. Di Russo F, **Pitzalis S**, Aprile T, Spitoni G, Patria F, Spinelli D and Hillyard SA (2005). Identification of the neural sources of the pattern-reversal VEP. *NeuroImage*, 24-3, 874-886.
10. Pizzamiglio L, Aprile T, Spitoni G, **Pitzalis S**, Bates E, D'Amico S and Di Russo F (2005). Separate neural systems for processing action- or non-action related sounds. *NeuroImage*, 24-3, 852-861.
11. Castriota-Scanderbeg A, Hagberg G, Cerasa A, Committeri G, Galati G, Patria P, **Pitzalis S**, Caltagirone C, Frackowiak R (2005). The appreciation of wine by sommeliers: a functional magnetic resonance study of sensory integration. *NeuroImage*, 25, 570-578.
12. **Pitzalis S**, Di Russo F, Spinelli D (2005). Loss of visual information in neglect: The effect of chromatic- versus luminance-contrast stimuli in a 'what' task. *Experimental Brain Research*, 163, 527-534.
13. Di Russo F, **Pitzalis S**, Aprile T, Spinelli D (2005). Effect of Practice on Brain Activity: An investigation in Top-Level Rifle Shooters. *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, 37, 1586-1593.
14. Di Russo F, Committeri G, **Pitzalis S**, Spitoni G, Piccardi L, Galati G, Catagni M, Nico D, Guariglia C and Pizzamiglio L (2006). Cortical Plasticity Following Surgical Extension of Lower Limbs. *NeuroImage*, 30-1, 172-83.
15. Morrillo M, Di Russo F, **Pitzalis S** and Spinelli D (2006). Latency of prosaccades and anti saccades in professional shooters. *Medicine and Science in Sport and Exercise*, 38, 388-394.
16. **Pitzalis S**, Galletti C, Huang R-S, Patria F, Committeri G, Galati G, Fattori P, and Sereno MI (2006). Wide-field retinotopy defines human cortical visual area V6. *Journal of Neuroscience*, 26, 7962-

73.

17. Di Russo F, **Pitzalis S**, Aprile T, Spitoni G, Patria F, Stella A, Spinelli D, Hillyard SA (2007). Spatio-Temporal Analysis of the Cortical Sources of the Steady-State Visual Evoked Potential. **Human Brain Mapping** 28:323-334.
18. Committeri G, **Pitzalis S**, Galati G, Patria F, Pelle G, Sabatini U, Castriota-Scanderbeg A, Piccardi L, Guariglia C and Pizzamiglio L (2007). Neural bases of personal and extrapersonal neglect in humans. **Brain**, 130, 431-41.
19. Dick F, Saygin AP, Galati G, **Pitzalis S**, Bentrovato S, D'Amico S, Wilson S, Bates E and Pizzamiglio L (2007). What is involved and what is necessary for complex linguistic and non-linguistic auditory processing: evidence from fMRI and lesion data. **Journal of Cognitive Neuroscience**, 19(5):799-816.
20. Galati G, Committeri G, Spitoni G, Aprile T, Di Russo F, **Pitzalis S**, Pizzamiglio L (2008). A Selective Representation of the Meaning of Actions in the Auditory Mirror System. **NeuroImage**, 40(3):1274-86.
21. Fattori P, **Pitzalis S**, Galletti C (2009). The cortical visual area V6 in macaque and human brains. **J. Physiol -Paris**, 103: 88–97.
22. **Pitzalis S**, Sereno MI, Committeri G, Fattori P, Galati G, Patria F and Galletti C. (2010). Human V6: the medial motion area. **Cerebral Cortex**, 20(2):411-24.
23. Di Russo F, Stella A, Spitoni G, Strappini F, Sdoia S, Galati G, Hillyard SA, Spinelli D and **Pitzalis S**. (2011). Spatiotemporal Brain Mapping of Spatial Attention Effects on Pattern-Reversal ERPs. **Human Brain Mapping**, 33(6):1334-1351.
24. Galati, G., Committeri, G., **Pitzalis, S.**, Pelle, G., Patria, F., Fattori, P. and Galletti, C., 2011. Intentional signals during saccadic and reaching delays in the human posterior parietal cortex. **Eur J Neurosci** 34(11), 1871-85.
25. Bozzacchi C, Giusti MA, **Pitzalis S**, Spinelli D, Di Russo F. (2012). Awareness affects motor planning for goal-oriented actions. **Biological Psychology**, 89(2): 503-514.
26. Berchicci M, Stella A, **Pitzalis S**, Spinelli D, Di Russo F. (2012). Spatio-Temporal Mapping of Motor Preparation for Self-Paced Saccades. **Biological Psychology**. 90:10-17.
27. **Pitzalis S**, Strappini F, De Gasperis M, Bultrini A and Di Russo F. (2012). Spatio-Temporal Brain Mapping of Motion-Onset VEPs combined with fMRI and Retinotopic Maps. **Plos One**. 7(4): e3577.
28. Bozzacchi C, Giusti MA, **Pitzalis S**, Spinelli D & Di Russo F. (2012). Similar cerebral motor plans for real and virtual actions. **Plos One** 7(10): e47783. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0047783.
29. **Pitzalis S**, Bozzacchi C, Bultrini A, Fattori P, Galletti C & Di Russo F. (2013). Parallel motion signals to the medial and lateral motion areas V6 and MT+. **Neuroimage**. 67: 89-100.
30. **Pitzalis S**, Fattori P, Galletti C. (2013). The functional role of the medial motion area V6. **Front Behav Neurosci**. 6: 91.
31. **Pitzalis S**, Sdoia S, Bultrini A, Committeri G, Di Russo F, Fattori P, Galletti C & Galati G. (2013). Selectivity to Translational Egomotion in human brain motion areas. **Plos One**, 8(4): e60241. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0060241.
32. **Pitzalis S**, Sereno MI, Committeri G, Fattori P, Galati G, Tosoni A & Galletti C. (2013). The Human

Homologue of Macaque Area V6A. *Neuroimage*, 82: 517-30.

33. **Pitzalis S**, Spinelli D, Vallar G, and Di Russo F. (2013). Transcutaneous Electrical Nerve Stimulation Effects on Neglect: A Visual-Evoked Potential Study. **Frontiers in Human Neuroscience**, 7; 111.
34. Strappini F, **Pitzalis S**, Snyder AZ, McAvoy MP, Sereno MI, Corbetta M, Shulman GL. (2015). Eye position modulates retinotopic responses in early visual areas: a bias for the straight-ahead direction. **Brain Structure and Function**, 220(5):2587-601.
35. Bozzacchi C, Spinelli D, **Pitzalis S**, Giusti MA, Di Russo F. (2015) I know what I will see: action-specific motor preparation activity in a passive observation task. **Soc Cogn Affect Neurosci**, 10(6):783-9.
36. **Pitzalis S**, Fattori P, Galletti C. (2015). The human cortical areas V6 and V6A. **Visual Neuroscience**, 32, e007, 1-15.
37. Tosoni A, **Pitzalis S**, Committeri G, Fattori P, Galletti C, Galati G. (2015). Resting-state Connectivity and Functional Specialization in Human Medial Parietooccipital Cortex. **Brain Structure and Function**, 220(6):3307-21.
38. Di Russo F, Lucci G, Sulpizio V, Berchicci M, Spinelli D, **Pitzalis S**, Galati G. (2016). Spatiotemporal brain mapping during preparation, perception, and action. **NeuroImage** 126, 1–14.
39. Di Russo F, Berchicci M, Bozzacchi C, Perri RL, **Pitzalis S**, Spinelli D. (2017). Beyond the “Bereitschaftspotential”: Action Preparation Behind Cognitive Functions. **Neuroscience & Biobehavioral Reviews**. 78: 57-81.
40. Sulpizio V, Lucci G, Berchicci M, Galati G. **Pitzalis S**, & Di Russo F. (2017). Hemispheric Asymmetries in the Transition from Action Preparation to Execution. **NeuroImage**, 148: 390-402.
41. Strappini, F., Gilboa, E., **Pitzalis, S.**, Kay, K., McAvoy, M., Nehorai, A., & Snyder, A. Z. (2017). Adaptive smoothing based on Gaussian processes regression increases the sensitivity and specificity of fMRI data. **Human Brain Mapping**, 38(3), 1438-1459.
42. Strappini F, Galati G, Martelli ML, Di Pace E, **Pitzalis S**. (2017). Perceptual integration and attention in human extrastriate cortex. **Scientific Reports**, 7: 14848.
43. Quinzi, F., Perri, R. L., Berchicci, M., Bianco, V., **Pitzalis, S.**, Zeri, F., & Di Russo, F. (2018). Weak proactive cognitive/motor brain control accounts for poor children’s behavioral performance in speeded discrimination tasks. **Biological Psychology**, 138, 211–222.
44. **Pitzalis S**, Strappini F, Bultrini A, & Di Russo F. (2018). Detailed spatiotemporal brain mapping of chromatic vision combining high-resolution VEP with fMRI and retinotopy. **Human Brain Mapping**, 39(7):2868-2886.
45. Zeri F, Berchicci M, Naroo SA, **Pitzalis P** & Di Russo F. (2018). Immediate cortical adaptation in visual and non-visual areas functions induced by monovision. **Journal of Physiology** 596 (2): 253-266
46. Zeri F, **Pitzalis S**, Di Vizio A, Ruffinatto T, Egizi F, Di Russo F, Armstrong R, Naroo SA. (2018). Refractive error and vision correction in a general sport playing population. **Clinical and Experimental Optometry**. 101 (2):225-236
47. Di Russo F, Berchicci M, Bianco V, Perri RL, **Pitzalis S**, Quinzi F, Spinelli D. (2019). Normative Event-Related Potentials from sensory and cognitive tasks reveal occipital and frontal activities

prior and following visual events. **NeuroImage** 196, 173-187.

48. Serra C, Galletti C, Di Marco S, Fattori P, Galati G, Sulpizio V, **Pitzalis S.** (2019). Egomotion-related visual areas respond to active leg movements. *Hum Brain Mapp* 40(11): 3174-3191.
49. **Pitzalis S,** Serra, C., Sulpizio, V., Di Marco, S., Fattori, P., Galati, G., Galletti, C., 2019. A putative human homologue of the macaque area P_{Ec}. *Neuroimage* 202: 116092.
50. **Pitzalis S,** Serra C, Sulpizio V, Committeri G, de Pasquale F, Fattori P, Galletti C, Sepe R, Galati G (2020). Neural bases of self- and object-motion in a naturalistic vision. *Human Brain Mapping*, 41(4): 1084-1111.
51. Sulpizio, V., Neri, A., Fattori, P., Galletti, C., **Pitzalis S,** & Galati, G. (2020). Real and imagined grasping movements differently activate the human dorsomedial parietal cortex. *Neuroscience*, 434:22-34.
52. Sulpizio, V., Galati, G., Fattori, P., Galletti, C., **Pitzalis S.** (2020). A common neural substrate for processing scenes and egomotion-compatible visual motion. *Brain Structure and Function*, DOI: 10.1007/s00429-020-02112-8
53. Berchicci, M., Sulpizio, V., Mento, G., Lucci, G., Civale N, Galati G, **Pitzalis S,** Spinelli, D., Di Russo, F. (2020). Prompting future events: Effects of temporal cueing and time on task on brain preparation to action. *Brain and Cognition*, Volume 141, 105565.
54. Di Russo F, Berchicci M, Bianco V, Mussini E, Perri RL, **Pitzalis S,** Quinzi F, Tranquilli S, Spinelli D (2021). Sustained visuospatial attention enhances lateralized anticipatory ERP activity in sensory areas. *Brain Structure and Function*, 226(2): 457-470.
55. Di Russo F, Berchicci M, Bianco V, Perri RL, **Pitzalis S,** Mussini E (2021). Modulation of anticipatory visuospatial attention in sustained and transient tasks. *Cortex*, 135: 1-9.
56. Di Marco S, Fattori P, Galati G, Galletti C, Lappe M, Maltempo T, Serra C, Sulpizio V, **Pitzalis S** (2021). Preference for locomotion-compatible curved paths and forward direction of self-motion in somatomotor and visual areas. *Cortex*, 137, 74 - 92.
57. Maltempo T, **Pitzalis S,** Bellagamba M, Di Marco S, Fattori P, Galati G, Galletti C, Sulpizio V (2021). Lower visual field preference for the visuomotor control of limb movements in the human dorsomedial parietal cortex. *Brain Structure and Function*, Mar 18. doi: 10.1007/s00429-021-02254-3.
58. **Pitzalis S,** Hadj-Bouziane F, Dal Bò G, Guedj C, Strappini F, Meunier M, Farnè A, Fattori P, Galletti C (2021). Optic flow selectivity in the macaque parieto-occipital sulcus. *Brain Structure and Function*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s00429-021-02293-w>.
59. Sulpizio V, Berchicci M, Galati G, Grasso M. G, Iosa M, Lucci G, Paolucci S, Ripani M, **Pitzalis S.** Effect of Exoskeleton-Assisted Rehabilitation Over Prefrontal Cortex in Multiple Sclerosis Patients: A Neuroimaging Pilot Study. *Brain Topography*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10548-021-00858-w>.
60. Di Marco S, Sulpizio V, Bellagamba M, Fattori P, Galati G, Galletti C, Lappe M, Maltempo T, Pitzalis S. Multisensory integration in cortical regions responding to locomotion-related visual and somatomotor signals. *Neuroimage*, 244, 118581.