

#### Universita' degli Studi di PADOVA

Progetti di Ricerca di Ateneo

Anno: 2013 - prot. CPDA131853

# 1.0 Macroarea di Afferenza del Responsabile Scientifico del Programma di Ricerca

2 - Scienze della vita

# 1.1 Area Scientifica del Responsabile Scientifico del Programma di Ricerca

17 - Scienze Psicologiche

# 1.2 Responsabile Scientifico del Programma di Ricerca

FERRARI	Lea	F
(Cognome)	(Nome)	(sesso)
RU	M-PSI/04	24/10/1971
(Qualifica)	(Settore Scientifico Disciplinare)	(Data di Nascita)
FRRLEA71R64L174W		DIP. PSICOLOGIA DELLO SVILUPPO E DELLA SOCIALIZZAZIONE
(Codice fiscale)	(Facoltà)	(Dipartimento/Istituto)
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# Lingua di compilazione del progetto (inglese o lingua veicolare)

English

# 1.3 Area Scientifica del Programma di Ricerca

Area Scientifica Prevalente	Scienze Psicologiche	(% di afferenza)	40
Area Scientifica	Scienze Mediche	(% di afferenza)	30
Area Scientifica	Ingegneria dell'Informazione	(% di afferenza)	30
Progetto Interarea	SI		

# 1.4 Titolo del Programma di Ricerca

VOCA.TIO 3.0: a study about assistive technology, serious games, resilience, hope, vocational rehabilitation counseling in a Pediatric ICU

# 1.5 Abstract del Programma di Ricerca

The project about resilience, hope, optimism, vocational rehabilitation counseling and guidance in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit (PICU) borns in the University center of services and research for disabilities, rehabilitation and inclusion, University of Padova (http://dpss.psy.unipd.it/cda)

The project aims at testing Assistive/Augmentative Serious Game (ASG) in a PICU and at evaluate if, in these patients, ASG can sustain resilience, hope and optimism toward the future of caretakers (parents, brothers, medical and nursing staff) and of young patients and thus their self-efficacy beliefs; both Augmentative & Alternative Communication technology (AAC) and Serious Game software are well known assistive technologies (AT): we define an Augmentative Serious Game (ASG) as their integration, where the augmentative communication facilities are "hidden" in a game-like environment to be appealing to children and parents. Such a solution, the Mind Reader Square (MRS), a "tablet based tool", has been developed in 2011 by a team of researchers from the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Pure Applied Mathematics at the University of Padua. Even if it's only a working prototype it is used in PICU and in Neuro intensive Care Unit (NICU) at Hospital of Padua

Figure 1. Film frame of the working prototype of ASG with a patient in phase 0 For the full video: http://itunes.apple.com/it/itunes-u/id515235825 --> Mindreader + Mindbuster



#### Objectives

• To define a phase 0 as emerging from coma/sedation: arousal (eye-open) with minimal and fluctuating awarness. Phase 0 is an extention of the 3 phases identified in the literature (see ref.1 of section 2.1.1)

• To document the possibility that children in Phase 0 (emerging from coma or deep sedation) or Phase 1 (with stable wakefulness and able to getting attention and responding to yes/no questions) that are incapable of completing any motor function, including speaking, can use ASG designed to allow a very early and simple augmentative and augmented communication.

• To evaluate if, in these patients, ASG can:

- sustain resilience, hope and optimism towards the future in caretakers and of young patients and thus their self-efficacy beliefs also at home;
- accelerate the arising phase and thus favour the work of medical and nursing staff, and thus the quality of care and ultimately a very early rehabilitation;
- improve and stimulate the communication capacity of the child towards parents and the medical staff and thus ameliorate his/her quality of life.

• To upgrade the existing MRS software and integrate it with alternative input devices to suit the needs of patients/parents/hospital staff;

• To analyze the feedback related to MRS software

#### International collaboration

The project will be taken on in collaboration with Dr. J. Costello, director of the Augmentative Communication Program (ACP) at Boston Children's Hospital (www.childrenshospital.org/acp). The ACP program provides comprehensive, state-of-the-art evaluation and treatment for children and adults with congenital or acquired disorders affecting expressive communication, comprehension and computer access. This includes children with autism.

The children program is staffed by a team of specialists with expertise in various areas of augmentative communication. The interdisciplinary team includes speech language pathologists, occupational therapists, and computer specialists and collaborate with linguists, software programmers, engineers and ergonomic specialists to create new products and innovative communication tools.

## 1.6 Caratteri di innovatività del progetto e del gruppo

The most innovative features of this proposal can be summarized as follow:

• the use of ASG in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit to stimulate/allow communication in the early stage of the arousal phase (child emerging from coma or exiting deep sedation) and evaluation of its impact on patients and caretakers (parents, brothers, medical and nursing staff);

• the use of advanced technological solutions (tablets and dedicated software) to integrate alternative input systems into a flexible framework that can be adapted to children and parents needs. Low technology aids (paper material) have already been investigated as alternative and augmentative communication (AAC) tools, but the use of high technology ASG will allow to extend the application of AAC to children emerging from coma or deep sedation.

• a strong interdisciplinary environment integrating the experience of pediatricians, Child and adolescent psychiatrists, Speech, Language and body Therapists, neurophysiologists, clinical and developmental psychologists, computer scientists and electronic engineer experts on network security at the physical layer;

• the availability of the Pediatric Intensive Care Unit at Padova Hospital and other Intensive Care Units in Veneto to test this new framework

+ the collaboration with The Augmentative Communication Program at Boston Children's Hospital (www.childrenshospital.org/acp).

#### 1.7 Settori scientifico-disciplinari interessati dal Programma di Ricerca

M-PSI/04 ING-INF/03 MED/39

#### **1.8 Parole chiave**

- 1. AREA 17 Psychology Health And Mental Health Treatment And Prevention Psychological Evaluation
- 2. AREA 11 Information Eng. (Telecommunications) Mobile Radio Communication Systems Wireless Local Area Networks Coding JOINT
- SOURCE AND CHANNEL CODING

3. AREA 07 - Medicine - Med/39 - Paedriatic Neuropsychiatry - NERVOUS SYSTEM DISEASES

## 1.9 Curriculum scientifico del Responsabile Scientifico del programma di ricerca

LEA FERRARI Academic Background

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- 2007 Post Phd, University of Padova
- \*2005 Phd in Vocational Psychology, University of Padova
- + 2000 Post-graduate one-year course in "Psychology of Vocational Guidance" at the University of Padova
- 1998 Degree in Psychology, University of Padova

#### Actual position

• 2007 Assistant Professor, University of Padova

#### Teaching activities

- 2008 Professor of Psychology of work inclusion of persons with disability, University of Padova
- \* 2009 Professor of Psychology of Handicap and Rehabilitation at the course of Speech Therapy, University of Padova
- \* 2009 Professor at the post-graduate Master Course in School-Career Counseling, University of Padova

◆ 2007 Professor at the post-graduate Master Course in Assistive Technology, Università di Trieste, title of the teacing module "Vocational training and work of impaired persons in Europe".

#### Research Interests

- Vocational rehabilitation counseling
- Quality of life and positive psychology
- · Social and work inclusion
- · Cognitive and physical disabilities
- Parent training
- · Efficacy of intervention
- Assessment
- Life design and career counseling

#### Memberships

- Italian Society for Vocational Guidance
- International Member of American Psychological Association
- AIP Italian Association of Psychology

#### \* Member of the University center of services and research for disabilities, rehabilitation and inclusion, University of Padova (http://dpss.psy.unipd.it/cda/)

Member of international research projects

- \* 2007-"Erasmus NICE Network for Innovation in Guidance" coordinated by prof. Christiane Schiersmann, University of Heidelberg, Germany
- "Career Adaptabilty" coordinated by prof. M. Savickas, Northeastern Ohio Universities College of Medicine and Pharmacy, USA

#### Editorial activities

• Editorial coordinator of the Giornale Italiano di Psicologia dell'Orientamento (Italian Journal of Vocational Behavior)

\*Ad-hoc reviewer: Giornale Italiano di Psicologia dell'Orientamento, Scandinavian Journal of Psychology, Educational Research Review, Journal of Happiness Studies, International Journal for Educational and Vocational Guidance, Social Behavior and Personality

#### 1.10 Pubblicazioni scientifiche più significative del Responsabile Scientifico del Programma di Ricerca

# nº

#### Pubblicazione

- 1. Nota Laura, Ginevra Maria Cristina, FERRARI L., Soresi Salvatore (2012). 'Il futuro dei figli': uno strumento per misurare il supporto fornito dai genitori ai processi di riflessione e scelta circa il futuro dei figli. GIPO GIORNALE ITALIANO DI PSICOLOGIA DELL'ORIENTAMENTO, vol. 13 (1); p. 3-17, ISSN: 1720-7681 Articolo in rivista
- SGARAMELLA TM, SORESI S, FERRARI L., NOTA L. (2010). The role of executive functioning on quality of life perception in chronic unpredictable disabilities. JOURNAL OF INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY RESEARCH, vol. 23; p. 420-420, ISSN: 0964-2633 - Abstract in rivista
- FERRARI L., Pagliai M., Benincà A.C., Soresi S., Concato F. (in stampa). SOSTENERE I GENITORI DI BAMBINI CON DISABILITÀ CON IL PARENT TRAINING (Supporting parents of children with disability with a parent training). LIFE SPAN AND DISABILITY, ISSN: 2035-5963 - Articolo in rivista (*in stampa*)
- 4. S. Soresi, FERRARI L., T. M. Sgaramella (in stampa). Life Design and disability. In: L. Nota & J. Rossier (Eds.). Life Design and career counseling. Göttingen: Hogrefe Publishing Contributo in volume (Capitolo o Saggio) (*in stampa*)
- Nota L., Soresi S., FERRARI L. (in stampa). School inclusion in Italy: emerging trends and future directions. In: In McLeskey, J., Waldron, N.L., Spooner, F., & Algozzine, B. (Eds.). Handbook of Research and Practice for Effective Inclusive Schools. London: Routledge Publishers -Contributo in volume (Capitolo o Saggio) (*in stampa*)

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#### 1.11 Componenti il Gruppo di Ricerca

#### 1.11.0 Professori e ricercatori anche a tempo determinato dell'Università di Padova

n	Cognome	Nome	Dipartimento/Istituto	Area scientifica di ateneo	Qualifica	Settore	Mesi/Persona(*) Primo anno	Mesi/Persona(*) Secondo anno	Stato della risposta
1.	BATTISTELLA	Pier Antonio	DIP. SALUTE DELLA DONNA E DEL BAMBINO	07 - Medicine	Professore Straordinario	MED/39	1	1	
2.	LAURENTI	Nicola	DIP. INGEGNERIA DELL'INFORMAZIONE	11 - Information Engineering	Ricercatore confermato	ING-INF/03	3	3	
3.	FERRARI	Lea	DIP. PSICOLOGIA DELLO SVILUPPO E DELLA SOCIALIZZAZIONE	17 - Psychology	Ricercatore confermato	M-PSI/04	4	4	

# 1.11.1 Professori a contratto di cui all'art. 23 della legge 240/2010, altro Personale dell'Università di Padova anche a tempo determinato (personale tecnico-amministrativo, Dirigenti e CEL)

	nº	Nome	Dipartimento/Istituto	Qualifica	Mesi/Persona(*) Primo anno	Mesi/Persona(*) Secondo anno
	1.	MANCIN ROBERTO	DIPARTIMENTO DI SALUTE DELLA DONNA E DEL BAMBINO - SDB	CATEGORIA D POSIZIONE ECONOMICA D1 AREA TECNICA, TECNICO-SCIENTIFICA ED ELABORAZIONE DATI	3	3
ſ	2.	MORO	DIPARTIMENTO DI SCIENZE	CATEGORIA D POSIZIONE ECONOMICA	2	2

	GIANLUCA	STATISTICHE	D1 AREA TECNICA, TECNICO-SCIENTIFICA ED ELABORAZIONE DATI		
3.	SEQUI GIUSEPPINA	DIPARTIMENTO DI SALUTE DELLA DONNA E DEL BAMBINO - SDB	CATEGORIA D POSIZIONE ECONOMICA D1 AREA TECNICA, TECNICO-SCIENTIFICA ED ELABORAZIONE DATI	1	1
4.	PAULON CRISTINA	CENTRO MULTIMEDIALE E E-LEARNING DI ATENEO (CMELA)	CATEGORIA D POSIZIONE ECONOMICA D1 AREA TECNICA, TECNICO-SCIENTIFICA ED ELABORAZIONE DATI	1	1
5.	MORETTO MAURIZIO TIZIANO	CENTRO DI SERVIZI INTERDIPARTIMENTALI 'ANTONIO VALLISNERI'	CATEGORIA EP POSIZIONE ECONOMICA EP3 AREA TECNICA, TECNICO-SCIENTIFICA ED ELABORAZIONE DATI	1	1
6.	GIANNINI ISABELLA	CENTRO DI SERVIZI E DI RICERCA PER LA DISABILITA', LA RIABILITAZIONE E L'INTEGRAZIONE	CATEGORIA B POSIZIONE ECONOMICA B4 AREA SERVIZI GENERALI E TECNICI	1	1
7.	CORTESE GIUSEPPE	DIPARTIMENTO DI BIOLOGIA	CATEGORIA D POSIZIONE ECONOMICA D1 AREA TECNICA, TECNICO-SCIENTIFICA ED ELABORAZIONE DATI	1	1

## 1.11.2 Titolari di assegni di ricerca dell'Università di Padova

nº	Cognome	Nome	Dipartimento/Istituto	Area scientifica di ateneo	Mesi/Persona(*) Primo anno	Mesi/Persona(*) Secondo anno
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# 1.11.3 Studenti di Dottorato di Ricerca dell'Università di Padova

nº	Cognome	Nome	Dipartimento/Istituto	Area scientifica di ateneo	Qualifica	Mesi/Persona(*) Primo anno	Mesi/Persona(*) Secondo anno
1.	SANTILLI	Sara	DIP. FILOSOFIA, SOCIOLOGIA, PEDAGOGIA E PSICOLOGIA APPLICATA	17 - Scienze Psicologiche	Dottorando	3	3

## 1.11.4 Professori, ricercatori (anche a tempo determinato), dottorandi e assegnisti di altre Università

nº	Cognome	Nome	Università	Area scientifica di	Dipartimento/Istituto	Qualifica	Settore	Mesi/Persona(*) Primo anno	Mesi/Persona(*) Secondo anno
				ateneo					

# 1.11.5 Dipendenti di altre amministrazioni pubbliche, di enti pubblici o privati, di imprese, di istituzioni straniere, soggetti esterni in possesso di specifiche competenze nel campo della ricerca

nº	Cognome	Nome	Ente	Qualifica	Mesi/Persona(*) Primo anno	Mesi/Persona(*) Secondo anno
1.	AMIGONI	ANGELA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC Clinica Pediatrica	Medical Doctors, Staff Member of the PICU	1	1
2.	BARON	FEDERICO	Libero Professionista	BS, researcher in Computer Science	1	1
3.	CAODURO	FEDERICA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC Clinica Pediatrica	PICU's nurse	1	1
4.	COSTELLO	JOHN	Boston Children's Hospital - ACP (Augmentative Communication Program)	MA, CCCSLP, Director of ACP	1	1
5.	DALLA BARBA	BEATRICE	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC Clinica Pediatrica	Chair of Neonatal Assistance	1	1
6.	DE FEO	VITO	Zentrum für Molekulare Neurobiologie - Developmental Neurophysiology - Hamburg, Germany	PhD in Electrical Engineering at Stanford (2004)	1	1
7.	GINEVRA	CRISTINA	Libero Professionista	researcher, Ph.D. in Psychology	1	1
8.	LEONARDI	CARLA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC di Neuropsichiatria dell' Infanzia e dell' Adolescenza	Speech and Language Therapist	1	1
9.	MAGAROTTO	MARIELLA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova, UOC of Neonatal ICU	Medical Doctors, Staff Member of the NICU	1	1
10.	MALACRIDA	ANNA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC di Neuropsichiatria dell' Infanzia e dell' Adolescenza	Phisioterapist	1	1
11.	MUNARI	MARINA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC di Neurochirurgia	Chair of the Neuro ICU	1	1

12.	PERILLO	DAVIDE	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC di Ingegneria Clinica	Staff Member	1	1
13.	PETTENAZZO	ANDREA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC Clinica Pediatrica	Chair of the PICU	1	1
14.	SCHIFANO	ROBERTA	Libero Professionista	BS, researcher in NeuroPsychology	1	1
15.	SUPPIEJ	AGNESE	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC Clinica Pediatrica	Chair of Child Neurology Service	1	1
16.	ZAGGIA	CRISTINA	Azienda ULSS 16 Padova,UOC Clinica Pediatrica	PICU's Head Nurse	1	1
17.	ZUGNO	PAOLO	Libero Professionista	HiFi & Multimedia expert	1	1

# 2.1.0 Pubblicazioni scientifiche più significative dei componenti il gruppo di ricerca (docenti dell'ateneo di Padova)

nº	Pubblicazioni
1.	Paolo Baracca, Nicola Laurenti, Stefano Tomasin (2012). Physical Layer Authentication over MIMO Fading Wiretap Channels. IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON WIRELESS COMMUNICATIONS, vol. 11, p. 2564-2573, ISSN: 1536-1276, doi: 10.1109/TWC.2012.051512.111481
2.	Toldo I., De Carlo D., Mardari R., De Palma L., Gatta M., Bolzonella B., Nosadini M., Bartolini L., Sartori S., Battistella P.A. (2013). Short lasting activity-related headaches with sudden onset in children: a case-based reasoning on classification and diagnosis. THE JOURNAL OF HEADACHE AND PAIN, vol. 3, ISSN: 1129-2369, doi: 10.1186/1129-2377-14-3
3.	Verrotti A, Agostinelli S, D'Egidio C, Di Fonzo A, Carotenuto M, Parisi P, Esposito M, Tozzi E, Belcastro V, Mohn A, Battistella PA (2013). Impact of a weight loss program on migraine in obese adolescents EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF NEUROLOGY, ISSN: 1351-5101, doi: 10.1111/j.1468-1331.2012.03771.x
4.	Francesco Renna, Matthieu R. Bloch, Nicola Laurenti (2013). Semi-Blind Key-Agreement over MIMO Fading Channels. IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON COMMUNICATIONS, vol. 61, p. 620-627, ISSN: 0090-6778, doi: 10.1109/TCOMM.2012.102512.120084
5.	Francesco Renna, Nicola Laurenti, H. Vincent Poor (2012). Physical-Layer Secrecy for OFDM Transmissions Over Fading Channels. IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON INFORMATION FORENSICS AND SECURITY, vol. 7, p. 1354-1367, ISSN: 1556-6013, doi: 10.1109/TIFS.2012.2195491
6.	D. De Carlo, I. Toldo, L. Dal Zotto, E. Perissinotto, S. Sartori, M. Gatta, U. Balottin, G. Mazzotta, D. Moscato, V. Raieli, L.N. Rossi, R. Sangermani, S. Soriani, C. Termine, E. Tozzi, A. Vecchio, G. Zanchin, P.A. Battistella (2012). Osmophobia as an early marker of migraine: a follow up study in juvenile patients CEPHALALGIA, vol. 32, p. 401-406, ISSN: 0333-1024

#### 2.1.1 Pubblicazioni scientifiche più significative dei componenti il gruppo di ricerca (altri partecipanti al progetto)

#### COSTELLO JM.

• Costello JM, Patak L, Pritchard J. "Communication vulnerable patients in the pediatric ICU: Enhancing care through augmentative and alternative communication." J Pediatr Rehabil Med. 2010;3(4):289-301.

• Costello JM, Augmentative Communication in the Intensive Care Unit: The Children's Hospital Boston Model, Augmentative and Alternative Communication 16(3) (2000), 137-153.

• K. Garrett, M.B. Happ, J. Costello and M. Fried-Oken, AAC in the ICU, in Augmentative Communication Strategies for Adults with Acute or Chronic Medical Conditions, D.Beukelman, K. Garrett and K. Yorkson, eds., Paul H. Brookes Publishing Company, Maryland, 2007.

#### AMIGONI A.

• Amigoni A, Mozzo E, Brugnaro L, Gentilomo C, Stritoni V, Michelin E, Pettenazzo A. "Assessing sedation in a pediatric intensive care unit using Comfort Behavioural Scale and Bispectral Index: these tools are different." Minerva Anestesiol. 2012 Mar;78(3):322-9.

• Amigoni A, Pettenazzo A, Biban P, Suppiej A, Freato F, Zaramella P, Zacchello F. "Neurologic outcome in children after extracorporeal membrane oxygenation: prognostic value of diagnostic tests." Pediatr Neurol. 2005 Mar;32(3):173-9.

#### SUPPIEJ A.

• Suppiej A, Mento G, Zanardo V, Franzoi M, Battistella PA, Ermani M, Bisiacchi PS. "Auditory processing during sleep in preterm infants: An event related potential study." Early Hum Dev. 2010 Dec;86(12):807-12. Epub 2010 Oct 14.

#### MANCIN R.

• Mancin R. "VOCA: ausilio portatile per la comunicazione con uscita in voce sintetica" Atti del 4° Convegno Nazionale "Informatica, Didattica e Disabilita' (IDD'95)", Firenze 1995, pp. 545-548

• Mancin, R. (1998) Un'applicazione per la predizione testuale, progettata per persone con disabilità neuromotoria [Dissertation]. http://tesi.cab.unipd.it/9403/

 Mancin R, Leonardi C, Bertocco E. "Disabilità neuromotoria in età pediatrica: Ausili informatici per giocare e crescere. Proceedings of Meeting "ausili per persone disabili" - Abano 5-7/11/2008

Mancin R. Corso di informatica per ragazzi con trauma cranico. Atti del 4° Convegno Nazionale "Informatica, Didattica e Disabilita' (IDD'95)", Firenze 1995, pp. 545-548

Mancin R, Cracco A, Damian G, BATTISTELLA P.A., Moro G., Pettenazzo A, Perilongo G (2012). "Communication Aids for Temporarily Impaired Owners

(VOCA.TIO): Digital Aids for a very early Rehabilitation Targeting Cognition, Behaviour, Communication and Motor Function in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit: a feasibility study." Edimburgh, Scotland, March 21-25,2012 (Proceedings)

#### 2.2 Curriculum scientifico dei Componenti il Gruppo di Ricerca

Pier Antonio Battistella

Graduate education

School of Medicine - University of Padua, Italy, 1967/1973. Graduated with 107/110

Italian National Medical Licenses - 1974

Pregraduate elective

• Institute of Clinical Neurology and Psychiatry (1972/1973) University of Padova, Italy.

#### Post-graduated Education in Italian Institutions

- Residency in Neuropsychiatry Department of Neurology University of Padova (1974/1977), Italy. Final score: full grades and honours
- Residency in Child Neuropsychiatry Department of Child Neuropsychiatry University of Firenze, Italy (1978/1981). Final score: full grades and honours.

Academic appointments

• University grant (1977/1980) Division of Child Neuropsychiatry - Department of Neurology - University of Padua Italy

• University researcher (1980/1991) and Associate Professor (from 1992 up to now) Division of Child Neuropsychiatry - Department of Pediatrics - University of Padova Italy.

Special Institutional appointments in Padova

- + Chief of the Headache Service (Dept. of Pediatrics University of Padova) from 1983 up to now.
- Chief of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatic Service ULSS16 Padova
- National capability for head physician in Child Neuropsychiatry (1986)
- Director of the Specialization School in Neuropsychiatry of child and Adolescent, University of Padua (2003-2008).
- \* Member of the University center of services and research for disabilities, rehabilitation and inclusion, University of Padova (http://dpss.psy.unipd.it/cda/)

#### **Publications**

he is the author of 624 references (including original articles, book chapters and abstracts) on general pediatric neurology, headache, neuroimaging, epilepsy and cerebrovascular disorders. Notable:

MANCIN R, Cracco A, Damian G, BATTISTELLA P.A., MORO G., PETTENAZZO A, Perilongo G (2012). "Vocal Output Communication Aids for Temporarily Impaired Owners (VOCA.TIO): Digital Aids for a very early Rehabilitation Targeting Cognition, Behaviour, Communication and Motor Function in a Pediatric Intensive Care Unit: a feasibility study." Edimburgh, Scotland, March 21-25,2012 (Proceedings)

Teaching activities

- \* Annual course for medical students, School of Medicine, University of Padua.
- Annual Course for students of Psychology, School of Psychology University of Padua (1992/2008).
- · Annual Course for Child Neuropsychiatry residents.
- Annual Course School of Medicine, (University of Padova) for: Three year degree in 1) Neuro and Psychomotor education therapist, 2) audioprothesis technicians
- Residence Courses:

- · Pediatrics,
- Medical Genetics,
- Audiology,
- Clinical Psychology.

<u>Membership of National and International Societies:</u> member of the:

- Italian Society of Child Neuropsychiatry
- Italian Society of Paediatrics
- Italian Society of Child Neurology
- · Italian Society of Headache Study
- International Child Neurology Society

Member of the board of:

- Italian Society of Child Neurology
- Italian Society of Headache Study
- The Journal of Headache and Pain
- Italian Journal of Child Neuropsychiatry

#### Nicola Laurenti

#### Education

- \* 1995-1999 PhD in Electrical and Telecommunication Engineering, University of Padua, Italy
- 1989-1995 Degree in Electrical Engineering, University of Padua, Italy
- + 1992-1993 Exchange student in Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of California at Berkeley, United States

#### Academic Positions

- \* 2001-(current) Assistant Professor at Department of Information Engineering, University of Padua, Italy
- + 2008-2009 Visiting scholar at Coordinated Science Laboratory, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, United States
- 1999-2001 Research fellow at Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science, University of Padua, Italy

#### Research Interests

- · Communication and network security at the lower layers
- Information-theoretic and unconditional security
- · Wireless network security
- · Quantum cryptography
- Multi-carrier transmission
- Wireless communications
- Multidimensional signal processing

#### Teaching

- 2010-(current) "Information theoretic methods in security"
- 2010-(current) "Network security
- 2004-2008 "Analog and digital transmission"
- 2005-2007 "Advanced digital transmission"
- 2002-2003 "Signal theory"

#### Previous research projects

- "ESCAPADE: Enhancing Security through Cross-Layer Physical and Data Link Engineering" (FIRB MIUR, 2013-2015)
- \* "Applications of quantum optical links to GNSS" (ESA Tender, 2012-2013)
- "Quantum Future: Free space ommunication at the quantum limit" (Strategic project U. Padua, 2009-2013)
- "NEWCOM++: Network of excellence in wireless communications" (EU network of excellence, 2008-2010)
- "Enabling blocks for CMOSA integration of a UWB Multi-band OFDM transceiver" (PRIN MIUR, 2006-2007);
- "PRIMO: Reconfigurable Platforms for interoperability in mobility" (FIRB MIUR, 2002-2005);
- \* "OFDM systems with applications to wiereless LANs" (MIUR, 2000-02);
- "Variable bit-rate mobile communication systems for multimedia applications" (CNR, 1999-2000).

#### **Publications**

- 14 journal papers (refereed)
- 29 conference papers (refereed)
- 4 patents
- 5 book chapters
- 1 book

Editorial and conference organization activity

- · Reviewer for more than 20 international journals and conferences
- \* TPC member for IEEE workshop on local and metropolitan area networks (IEEE LANMAN) 2013
- Publications manager for WPMC 2004

#### 2.3 Stato dell'Arte: base di partenza scientifica nazionale ed internazionale

The inability to communicate in PICU is recognized as a terrifying and isolating experience that is related to feelings of panic, insecurity, anger, worry, fear, sleep disturbances, and stress among critically ill patients of any age. Most of these feelings are also experienced by all the people taking care of these patients, such as parents, relatives and medical personnel who want but can't establish effective contacts with the affected patient [Garrett 2007]. The lack of communication has also a deep influence on the quality of care because of the difficulties of interpreting patients' initiate needs and can challenge caretakers' levels of resilience and hope [Kearney, Weininger, Vachon, 2009]. These factors and the impossibility of giving and receiving messages have a clear impact on the recovery or, better, on the rehabilitation phase of the affected patients and thus, possibly, on the speed and quality of the recovery [Moss, 2012]. For all these reasons it becomes imperative to find alternative ways for allowing the affected patients to establish effective communication with the surrounding word [Costello 2010].

Alternative methods of Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC) systems in Intensive Care Units (ICU) with temporarily nonspeaking patients have received little attention from the researchers[Mancin 1998]. Most nurse-patient communicative interactions in the ICU are brief, consisting of task or procedure-oriented information, commands, or reassurances. Voice Output Communication Aids (VOCAs) are a subset of AAC devices that produce prerecorded, digitized voice messages (recorded speech) or synthesized speech (computer-generated voice) when the communicator accesses specific locations on a dynamic display screen or membrane keyboard. Most electronic VOCAs can be pre-programmed with situationally-relevant whole messages, such as "I'm having pain," that are accessed via one location on the device display. Pre-programmed messages on additional "levels" can be added for elaboration. The new communication technologies are permeating the attitude of children who, since the beginning of their psycho-social and motor development, are exposed to the application of these modern technologies. The computerized games are by definition the tools with which children learn, and at very early stages of their life, how to deal with the 'language' of these new communication technologies. Thus AAC systems can be 'hidden' within electronic game like tools which can easily attract children's interests other than find, in them, already expert users. These type of tools are generally defined serious games: a game designed for a primary purpose other than pure entertainment and, in this case, it is constructed to allow people 'who can't but have to' to communicate. This tool may also stimulate the child's willingness to communicate and thus may allow him/her to become the main actor of his/her own rehabilitation process.

to communicate and thus may allow him/her to become the main actor of his/her own rehabilitation process. It is proposed to call these tools Assistive/Augmentative Serious Games, (ASG) - other than simply Serious Games - because indeed these are dynamic and flexible tools capable of potentiating and stimulating the emerging abilities of the sick child during the recovering phase of a severe Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). After years of experience, the staff at the Children's Hospital Boston (CHB), has identified three phases for providing communication access in the PICU.

• phase 1 - Stable wakefulness: Getting attention and responding to yes/no questions

\* phase 2 - Increased wakefulness: Communicating basic information with staff and family

• phase 3 - Need for broad and diverse communication access: Communicating about and beyond the hospital environment [Costello 2000]

Even if it's very hard to detect and to valutate in real time the awareness status of an unresponsive patient, a phase 0 [early emerging from coma/sedation] should be defined as an extention of the 3 CHB phases

#### 2.4 Descrizione del Programma di Ricerca

**Type of study** - This project is a feasibility study combining quantitative and qualitative approaches in a complementary design. Participant observation, semi-structured interviews, questionnaires, and clinical record review will be used to obtain data on the use of an Augmentative Serious Game (ASG). This work is focused on a less explored domain, that of the access to ASG by children in a "locked-in-status" (condition in which a patient sometime is minimally aware but cannot move or communicate verbally due to complete paralysis of nearly all voluntary muscles in the body except for the eyes - phase 0). This condition is generally caused by traumatic brain injury (TBI) or produced by medical care through mechanical ventilation (e.g. after poli-trauma, post- neurosurgical conditions, extensive body burns or other conditions - phase 1). These two types of patients, characterized by severely compromised level of consciousness and secondary to severe but reversible neurological damages, can

These two types of patients, characterized by severely compromised level of consciousness and secondary to severe but reversible neurological damages, can temporarily experience a locked-in STATUS during the awakening phase even if the awareness level is floating. In these cases the inability to communicate is recognized as a terrifying and isolating experience that is related to feelings of panic, insecurity, anger, worry, fear, and stress among critically ill patients of any age and having a traumatic effect of the subsequent patient's psychological status. It is assumed that the younger is the patient the more severe and potentially irreversible are these traumatic effects. This condition is not an exception, it is often experienced by people emerging from coma/sedation. As regard the locked-in STATUS it has to be noted that it is different from the locked-in SYNDROME, a clinical condition characterized by quadriplegia in combination with cranial muscle paralysis where the awareness and so consciousness is always full, the only retained voluntary motor activity may be limited eye movements.

Most of the feelings percieved by children are also experienced by all the people caring for these patients, such as parents, relatives and medical staff who cannot establish effective contacts with them. The lack of communication has also an influence on the quality of care because of the difficulties of interpreting patients' intimate needs and can negatively impact caretakers' sense of self-efficacy beliefs as regard their professional and care abilities and their levels of resilience, hope and optimism toward the future. It can also lead to an increase in sentinel events, medical errors and extended lengths of stay. There is an increasing awareness of this issue within the medical community and thus the need of developing tools to index the level of consciousness strongly needed in order to overcome this status of no communication, to improve the quality of care for the patient also fostering caretakers' resilience factors and to reduce all the negative effects the child suffers because of this dramatic neurological status. We expect higher use of the tool, more positive are the attitudes and perceptions of parents and staff.

**Clinical setting** - The study will be conducted in The Pediatric Intensive care unit (PICU) of the Department of Pediatrics at the University Hospital of Padua, Italy. The PICU is a 10-bed facility serving all the North-East part of the Veneto Region (about 500.000 children less than 18 years of age). The study has been submitted for approval by the Research Ethical Committee of the University Hospital of Padua. The particular children physical condition will guide the research team into an expansion of the Mind Reader Square to have a very flexible framework in which integrate alternative input systems as needed. Depending on such physical condition, the input devices can be standard mouse, external dedicated buttons, accelerometer to record even the smaller child movement (a finger for example) or BCI (Brain Computer Inferface) systems, depending of the medical staff indications.

**Patient population** - All children aged between 3 and 18 years consecutive admitted to the PICU of the Department of Pediatrics at the University Hospital of Padua, Italy in the two-year period of the study or i) suffering of a "locked-in STATUS" or ii) being intubated and partially sedated incapable of completing any motor function (including speaking). Based on the PICU data we estimate to involve in the reserch about 60-80 children. No patient selection by gender, race, social status, level of education, culture or native language will be used. Patients will be identified by the medical and nursing staff of the PICU and the child enrolled into the study upon signing of the consensus form by the child's parents or legal guardian. The timing to start the use of the ASG will be decided by the medical staff, by the researchers and whenever possible after receiving the patient's approval to "play" with the ASG. All the medical and nursing staff and the child relatives will be trained on the use of ASG in the study patients and no how "to train" the patients. An instructional manual will be made available outside of the patient's room for review. The study patients will be followed until extubation or hospital discharge, whichever occurred first. Investigators during the study period will carry pagers, rotating "on call" to solve problems or answer questions about the ASG.

**Cartakers' population** - medical and nursing staff and parents of children will be involved in the research. Based on the PICU data we estimated to involve in the research at least one parents and two professionals for every children. A control group of parents and staff will be selected from other medical units.

**Platform** - "Mind Reader Square": an ASG developed by a team of researcher from the Department of Pediatrics and of Pure Applied Mathematics at Padua University (after having obtained preliminary data testing other Augmentative and alternative Communication (AAC) systems). This tool is a tabled based digital application designed with all the characteristic of any other pure vocal computerized game in order to facilitating the children's approach. The patient can play with the ASG interacting with the colored and multimedial screen using whatever motor movement he/she is capable of performing at that specific stage of the recovering. A series of images, sounds and video clips are stored in different levels (files) which are variably accessible according to the child's quality of performance. At every image a vocal message (in the chosen language) can be generated simulating a real dialogue. In this prospective all the language barriers are overcome (!). The different sets of images are selected according to the content of the message the patient wants to give; they may be related to the sense of hungry, thirsty, upset, of being in pain, of being cheerful. The set of images can be also personalized according to the specific patient's age, history, culture or family and whatever else can be selected. The ASG contains also real games if the sick child wants only to play. The games can be also constructed to stimulate the personal rehabilitation effort; for example the game can be constructed in a way that it give a prize if the child accomplishes a task which is important for his/her rehabilitation program (for example using one arm other than the other or rising legs or whatever). The ASG can be also used for distant communication with relatives at home, friends, schoolmates in class, having access to e-mail, SMS, FaceBook, Twitter.

The ASG under investigation has already been developed by a team of researchers from the Department of Pediatrics and the Department of Pure and Applied Mathematics at the University of Padua (http://code.google.com/p/tiped-communication/). It won The Stage-it 2012 prize as best stage for innovation ("Miglior stage per l'innovazione") sponsored by "Camera di commercio" and "Confindustria".

Figure 2. A news about the sperimental use of a working prototype at Paduas's PICU with a machine translation of the italian text

Data: lunedì 14.05.2012



# Il "cattura pensieri" per i **bimbi** malati

In Pediatria un elettroencefalografo portatile È capace di "leggere" le onde emesse dal cervello

#### Federica Cappellato

Le meravigliose potenzialità della comunicazione non verbale. Quando le parole non dicono, a scandagliare il silenzio e a captare "voci", che poi sono desideri nascosti e ritmi al di là della semantica, ci pensa l'alta tecnologia "cattura-pensieri". Come far esprimere i bambini ricoverati in terapia intensiva, temporaneamente incapaci di relazionarsi verbalmente col mondo esterno, immobilizzati o intubati? Il Dipartimento per la salute della mamma e del bambino, insieme con il Dipartimento di matematica, unendo le competenze di neurofisiologi, intensivisti, informatici, in forte sinergia con psicologi e ingegneri dell'Ateneo e l'associazione per il trauma cranico Daccapo, ha avviato un progetto di "comunicazione aumentativa": la sfida è intervenire già nella fase di risveglio in ospedale in cui nemmeno lo sguardo rivela con certezza il ritorno della consapevolezza di sè.

Il prodigio è una cuffietta sul





CUFFIETTA Sopra e in alto a destra l'apparecchio per i bimbi malati

capo dei piccoli pazienti: un elettroencefalografo portatile dotato di sensori, da indossare come un caschetto capace di misurare le onde elettriche emesse dal cervello. "Emotiv", così si chiama l'apparecchio già in sperimentazione nella nostra Pediatria, è in grado di percepire anche il minimo movimento della testa: a ogni spostamento è collegato un disegno "a faccina", visibile su una tavoletta digitale. Con un colpetto a destra il bambino può comunicare "ho caldo", a sinistra "ho fred-do", in alto "ho fame", e ancora: gioia o dolore, sonno o sete, voglia di mamma e papà. Il progetto, battezzato "Vocatio", si sostanzia di un'applicazione per tablet che ha permesso a



Federico Baron, studente magistrale di informatica, di vincere il premio per il "Miglior stage per l'innovazione" all'interno della settima edizione del Premio Stage.IT della Camera di commercio e di Confindustria, delle Università di Padova e Venezia. Questo avveniristico sistema di «Brain computer interfaces» verrà presentato mercoledì nel Dipartimento pediatrico (ore 15, aula Magna) durante un seminario cui interverrà, oltre a Giorgio Perilongo, Andrea Pettenazzo e Roberto Mancin, il prof. John Costello, direttore del programma per la comunicazione aumentativa del Children's Hospital di Boston che da oltre dieci anni, con la sua équipe, utilizza l'hi-tech per amplificare la volontà di chi non può parlare con la bocca ma solo con gli occhi. Perchè pare che, nel gioco della vita, «non sia importante avere delle belle carte, quanto il saper giocare bene quelle che si hanno».

# Thoughts-buster for sick kids - In Padua a laptop for electroencephalography is able to "read" the waves emitted by the brain of childs by Federica Cappellato

The great potential of non-verbal communication. When words do not say, to fathom the silence and capture "voices", which are then hidden desires and rhythms beyond the semantics, we think high-tech "catchthoughts."

How to make children admitted to intensive care, temporarily unable to verbally interact with the outside world, immobilized or intubated? The Department for the health of women and children, together with the Department of Mathematics, combining the skills of neurophysiologists, intensivists, information technology, in synergy with psychologists and engineers of the University and the Association for Daccapo head injury, has started a project of "augmentative communication": the challenge is to intervene at an early stage of awakening in the hospital where even look reveals with certainty the return of self-awareness.

The prodigy is a cap on the head of the young patients: a portable electroencephalograph with sensors, can be worn as a helmet capable of measuring the electrical waves emitted by the brain. "Emotiv", the name of the device already being tested in our Pediatrics, is able to detect even the slightest head movement: each movement is linked to a plan "to face", visible on a digital tablet. With a flick to the right the child can communicate "I'm hot," left "I'm cold." Top "I'm hungry," and again: joy or pain, or sleep, thirst, desire to Mom and Dad. The project, dubbed "VOCA.TIO", takes the form of an application for the tablet that allowed Federico Baron, a masterful student of computer science, to win the award for "Best Stage for Innovation" in the seventh edition Prize Stage.IT Chamber of Commerce and the Confederation, of the University of Padua and Venice. This futuristic system of "Brain computer interfaces" will be presented on Wednesday in the Pediatric Department (15 hours, Main Hall) during a seminar which will intervene, as well as George Perilongo, Andrea Pettenazzo Roberto Mancin, prof. John Costello, program director for the augmentative communication at Children's Hospital in Boston who has over ten years, with his team, using the hi-tech to boost the will of those who can not speak with his mouth, but only with the eyes. **Because it seems that the game of life, "is not important to have some good cards, able to play well as the ones you have.**"

**Outcome measures** - The actual use of the ASG by the child will be recorded daily by the parents (appropriately trained) and by the nurses. For this purpose an Observation of Communication Event Record will be developed. It will be designed also to document time, frequency of the actual use of the device, the characteristics of observed communication interactions between patient and communication partner (ie, nurses or family visitors) such as initiation of communication, position of device, methods of communication, message content, difficulties encountered and assistance required by the communication partner. Furthermore, automatically and daily the ASG will generate a report indicating the frequency, the duration and the magnitude of its use which will be stored in a central server. The data produced "manually" by the parents and the nursing staff will be collected separately for a later comparison with the automatically generate information produce by the ASG. All this will serve to produce evidence on the actual use of the device by the child. The daily reports will be also used to compare the actual use

Estratto da Pagina:

in term of time spent with the game and quality of the games played according to the patients' clinical status. Ideally a direct relationship will be found between the level of games "played" and the improved clinical status. Patients, clinicians, and family members will be asked about their experience with the device, including validation of message content heard by observers. Clinical records will be also reviewed for documentation of nonvocal communication method, content, and ASG use. Finally formal interviews will be conducted with the patients, the family members and the medical personnel that focus on the assessment of their levels of self-efficacy beliefs, resilience, hope and optimism toward the future.

**Data analysis** - Quantitative data will be analyzed using descriptive statistics (mean, SD, frequency) and pattern identification via data matrices. Characteristics of communication interactions (ie, communication method(s), number of communication partners, role of communication partner, position of partner, patient, and device, initiator of message, message validation, sedation/analgesia, physical restraint use) were coded from the Observation of Communication Event Record and tabulated.

# 2.5 Obiettivo del Programma di Ricerca ed indicazione dei risultati previsti alla fine del primo anno e a conclusione della ricerca

#### Primary objectives:

• To define a phase 0 as emerging from coma/sedation: arousal (eye-open) with minimal and fluctuating awarness. Phase 0 is an extention of the 3 phases identified at the Children's Hospital Boston

• To document the possibility that children emerging from coma or from deep sedation (Phase 0) or with stable wakefulness and able to getting attention and responding to yes/no questions (Phase 1) because of a severe traumatic brain injury (TBI) or because intubated and partially sedated (thus, incapable of completing any motor function, including speaking) can use augmentative serious games (ASG) designed to to allow a very early and simple augmentative and augmented communication.

Figure 3. Different clinical entities encountered on the gradual recovery from coma, illustrated as a function



Laureys et al., Current Opinion in Neurology, 2005

• To evaluate if, in these patients, ASG can:

• sustain resilience, hope and optimism towards the future of caretakers (parents, medical and nursing staff) and thus their self-efficacy beliefs as parents and professionals;

• accelerate the arising phase and thus favour the work of medical and nursing staff, and thus the quality of care and ultimately a very early rehabilitation;

• improve and stimulate the communication capacity of the child towards parents and the medical staff and thus ameliorate his/her quality of life.

• To modify the existing software and integrate it with alternative input devices (for examples buttons, accelerometers, BCI solutions) to suit the needs of patients/parents/hospital staff;

• To analyze the patients/parents/staff feedback related to Mind Reader Square software and verify both which software enhancement can be implemented and which hardware input modules can be used for a better usability, from standard alternative inputs to BCI interfaces.

#### Study-end points and expected results at the end of the first year:

- Preliminary documentation that ASG can actually be used by the study population;
- First positive judgments made by the doctors in evaluating the speed/quality of the arising phase in these children;
- First positive reports on the quality of life and care perceived by the patients, by their parents and by the medical personnel.

These study end-points will be monitored regularly. At the end of the first year a study report will be produced in order to monitor the preliminary outcome of the project. At the end of the study period qualitative and quantitative data regarding the study-end-points listed above will be produced to document the achievement of the objectives set for the research.

In brief the project here outlined is designed to produce feasibility data on the use of ASG in children admitted to a pediatric ICU and suffering from a clinical condition temporarily preventing them for being able to communicate.

It also aims at documenting their beneficial effects on the quality of life of the patients, of their relatives, and of the medical staff caring for them and, thus, on the quality of care.

The ultimate desired outcome will be the patenting of the entire process and its diffuse use in pediatric as well as in neonatal and in adult ICUs (Neurosurgical and Medical ICU). Furthermore, it is predicted that these experiences will generate new ideas regarding the use of modern communication technologies in Pediatric Intensive Care Units as well as in other pediatric settings.

To our knowledged this would represent the first clinical research regarding the use of an ASG in phase 0 **<br/>br clear = all>** 

#### 3.0 Costo del Programma

Il finanziamento complessivo biennale, richiesto e assegnato, ha un limite minimo di Euro 20.000 (che può essere ridotto a Euro 15.000 nel caso in cui non si richiedano finanziamenti per attrezzature) e un limite massimo di Euro 100.000 Il costo per Assegni di Ricerca non può essere inferiore a Euro 23.076 per annualità di un assegno di ricerca. **3.1 Assegni di ricerca da attivare in questo Programma di Ricerca** 

nº	Attività specifica nel progetto e competenze	Durata complessiva	Costo assegno annuo (euro)	Costo totale (euro)
1.	Real Time Data Acquisition and Signal Processing of Brain Signals	ANNUALE	24.000	24.000
2.	Quality of life in young Italian patients with severe communication vulnerabilities in PICU	ANNUALE	24.000	24.000
3.	Psychological assessment and data analysis	ANNUALE	24.000	24.000
	TOTALE			72.000

#### **3.2 Personale a contratto**

## nº Attività specifica nel progetto e competenze Durata Costo totale

	complessiva	(euro)
1. programmer	2	4000
2. interface designer	2	4000

#### 3.3 Richiesta di attrezzature di importo superiore a 5.000 Euro

nº	Descrizione attrezzatura da acquistare	Costo previsto (euro)
	TOTALE	0

#### 3.4 Costo complessivo del Programma di Ricerca

	Descrizione	Costo totale (euro)
Materiale inventariabile	4 tablet (700x4), 2 developing PC station (1500x2), 2 Emotiv Epoc Research license + 2 NeuroSky Academic Licenses + 2 Matlab Research License	11.000
Materiale di consumo e funzionamento		1.000
Congressi e missioni		6.000
Servizi esterni		0
Assegni di ricerca	(vedi punto 3.1)	72.000
Personale a contratto	(vedi punto 3.2)	8.000

Attrezzature scientifiche di importo superiore a 5.000 Euro	(vedi punto 3.3)	
TOTALE		98.000

Il presente progetto NON prevede sperimentazione animale

## SI DICHIARA INOLTRE QUANTO SEGUE:

1) È stata presentata richiesta di finanziamento, per lo stesso o analogo progetto, anche ad altro Ente, da parte del Responsabile o dei componenti il gruppo di ricerca: Se sì indicare:

- a quale Ente:

NO

2) La realizzazione del presente progetto sarà sovrapposta alla realizzazione di altri rilevanti progettidi ricerca:

Se sì, indicare quali:

Il Responsabile della Ricerca:

Il Direttore della Struttura: .....

Per la copia da depositare presso l'Ateneo e per l'assenso alla elaborazione e diffusione delle informazioni riguardanti i programmi di ricerca presentati; decreto legislativo 196/03 sulla "Tutela dei dati personali".

Il Responsabile della Ricerca:

Padova lì, 19/07/2013 09:52