SEBASTIANO CICCO, MD, PhD

Associate Professor of Internal Medicine | University of Bari Aldo Moro (UniBA), Italy
Head, Cardiovascular Diseases Clinical Unit (UOS) | Bari University Hospital
sebastiano.cicco@uniba.it | ORCID 0000-0002-1980-5728 | Scopus Author ID 23488047800

SCIENTIFIC PROFILE

Physician-scientist specialising in hypertension and cardiovascular medicine. Research interests include hypertension-mediated organ damage (HMOD), cardiac remodelling, arterial stiffness, cardiometabolic risk, endothelial dysfunction and heart failure. The research programme integrates echocardiography, vascular phenotyping, longitudinal clinical assessment, translational biomarkers and evaluation of digital-health and automated imaging technologies.

CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

2026–present Head, Cardiovascular Diseases in Internal Medicine Clinical Unit (UOS), Bari University Hospital.

2024–present Associate Professor of Internal Medicine, University of Bari Aldo Moro; Director, Emergency Medicine Residency Programme.

2021–present Consultant Physician, “Guido Baccelli” Internal Medicine Unit and Hypertension Service, Bari University Hospital.

CLINICAL AND RESEARCH CAPABILITIES

Specialist hypertension clinic, including resistant, difficult-to-control and secondary hypertension; risk stratification, HMOD assessment and longitudinal care. Cardiovascular measurements include transthoracic echocardiography (structure, systolic/diastolic function), ECG, ambulatory blood pressure monitoring (ABPM), pulse wave velocity (PWV), ankle-brachial index (ABI) and cardiometabolic/renal laboratory assessment.

The established outpatient service supports clinical phenotyping, repeated cardiovascular assessment and recruitment for observational or prospective studies. Data completeness and research access are evaluated for each specific project.

RESEARCH STUDIES AND LEADERSHIP

Principal Investigator PROSIT (2023–2026): prospective remote monitoring, adherence and organ-damage assessment in hypertension; Longitudinal Hypertension Phenotyping Programme (since 2023).

Principal Investigator IMMENSE (since 2026): inflammatory and mitochondrial biomarkers, endothelial dysfunction and heart-failure severity.

Site Principal Investigator ESH MASTER (since 2025): masked uncontrolled hypertension and out-of-office blood pressure; SIIA APPROPRIA-PRESS (since 2026): prescribing appropriateness; SIIA INTO-DIP (since 2023): nocturnal blood-pressure patterns.

PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIC SERVICE

Regional Coordinator for Puglia and Basilicata, Italian Society of Hypertension (SIIA); European Society of Hypertension (ESH) Hypertension Specialist; SIECVI-certified echocardiographer and member of its Puglia Regional Board and Standing Committee. Co-Lead, Live Courses, Education Committee, European Society for Emergency Medicine (EUSEM). Member, PhD Faculty Board in Digital Innovation and eHealth (UniBA).

Editorial Board: Scientific Reports and Open Medicine. SIIA “Alberto U. Ferrari” Research Fellowship (2023).

EDUCATION

PhD, Biomolecular, Pharmaceutical and Medical Sciences (2019); Specialist Qualification in Internal Medicine (2015); MD, Medicine and Surgery (2009) — all University of Bari Aldo Moro.

SEBASTIANO CICCO | SELECTED SCIENTIFIC CONTRIBUTIONS

Selected publications emphasising scientific leadership and relevance to cardiovascular phenotyping, clinical outcomes, translational research and digital-health validation.

HYPERTENSION, CARDIOVASCULAR PHENOTYPING AND OUTCOMES

1. Cicco S et al. Right atrium enlargement is related to increased heart damage and mortality in well-controlled hypertension. *Nutr Metab Cardiovasc Dis. 2022;32:420–428.* doi:10.1016/j.numecd.2021.10.004. **[First author]**
2. Cicco S et al. Antihypertensive treatment changes and related clinical outcomes in older hospitalized patients. *Eur J Clin Invest. 2023;53:e13931.* doi:10.1111/eci.13931. **[First author]**
3. Cicco S et al. Cardiovascular Risk in Patients With Takayasu Arteritis Directly Correlates With Diastolic Dysfunction and Inflammatory Cell Infiltration in the Vessel Wall: A Clinical, ex vivo and in vitro Analysis. *Front Med. 2022;9:863150.* doi:10.3389/fmed.2022.863150. **[First author]**

DIGITAL HEALTH, IMAGING AND CLINICAL VALIDATION

4. Marozzi MS et al. Impact of remote monitoring on well-being, therapeutic adherence, and organ damage evaluation in hypertensive patients: the PROSIT study. *Eur Heart J Digit Health. 2026;7(2).* doi:10.1093/ehjdh/ztag001. **[Co-senior and corresponding author; study PI]**
5. Marozzi MS et al. A Novel Automatic Algorithm to Support Lung Ultrasound Non-Expert Physicians in Interstitial Pneumonia Evaluation: A Single-Center Study. *Diagnostics. 2024;14:155.* doi:10.3390/diagnostics14020155. **[Co-first and corresponding author]**
6. Balsano C et al. Artificial intelligence in medicine: a position paper by the Italian Society of Internal Medicine. *Intern Emerg Med. 2026;21:1–14.* **[Corresponding author]**

CARDIOMETABOLIC AND CARDIOPULMONARY TRANSLATIONAL RESEARCH

7. Boccatonda A et al. From liver to cardiovascular system: the MASLD–ASCVD continuum. *Intern Emerg Med. 2026.* doi:10.1007/s11739-026-04497-6. **[Co-senior author]**
8. Carlucci P et al. Eosinophil-linked pulmonary circulation in EGPA improves under anti-IL-5/R therapy: a longitudinal study. *Eur J Intern Med. 2026;107033.* doi:10.1016/j.ejim.2026.107033. **[Corresponding author]**

SCIENTIFIC OUTPUT

More than 70 peer-reviewed international publications; Scopus h-index 19 and over 1,300 citations (figures reported in October 2026). Complete publication list available through ORCID and Scopus.