

Get to Know NYCPM's Faculty:
Maria Concetta Moschella, PhD
Assistant Professor of Pre-Clinical Sciences



Born and raised in Calabria, the southernmost region of the Italian peninsula, **Dr. Maria Concetta Moschella**, with the continuous support of her parents, began her career by attending the University of Messina in Messina, Italy, a city on the northeast tip of Sicily. After graduating with a BS, she moved to Pittsburgh, PA, where several family members had settled, and attended the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine, earning her PhD in Anatomy and Neurobiology there in 1988.

Dr. Moschella's professional goal was to lead a research lab and teach anatomy and histology in medical school. Unable to speak a word in English, studying the language was all she did soon after she arrived in the U.S. While holding a job as technician at the University of Pittsburgh, she studied for her GRE for graduate school. Mentored by Marcia Ontell, PhD, in her doctoral dissertation Dr. Moschella demonstrated that transient neonatal denervation of dystrophic mice muscles was responsible for changing the muscle's dystrophic phenotype to one comparable to normal phenotype, both in structure and function.

After graduation, Dr. Moschella accepted post-doc positions, first at Weill Cornell Medical College, then Columbia University, working on various projects on muscle development. She briefly pursued a post-doc at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine, where she obtained an appointment as Research Assistant Professor. In that position, in 2004, she applied for a research grant to study "the role of hypoxia-regulated genes during organogenesis."

Dr. Moschella's research work is published in several leading journals, including Journals of: Neuroscience, Physiology, Cell Biology, Developmental Biology and Cell. She has also presented her work in many national scientific meetings including the Gordon Conferences.

While working on her PhD dissertation, Dr. Moschella taught anatomy and histology at the University of Pittsburgh, School of Medicine for five years. When, because of federal budget cuts, the grant didn't work out, she decided to pursue teaching. She consulted with Jeffrey T. Laitman, PhD, who invited her to join his anatomy teaching team at Mt. Sinai (which also included Joy Reidenberg, PhD). She met Eileen Chusid, PhD

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while teaching histology there. Dr. Moschella began teaching at NYCPM in 2008. She is an adjunct professor at Albert Einstein College of Medicine as well, where she teaches histology/cell biology and clinical and developmental anatomy. Dr. Moschella is also director of NYCPM's histology lab.

She teaches throughout the first year at NYCPM – histology/cell biology in the first semester, then general anatomy to the same class from January to April, and anatomy of the lower extremity from June to September: one class from September to September. Dr. Moschella sees her students make the transition from college students to medical school students within that year. She watches them mature and become more and more professional over the year. "It's a challenge – and it's great. I am always a little sad when they move on and I have to depart from them," she says.