

CURRICULUM VITAE August 1st 2025

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EDUCATION AND TRAINING

1991 Licentiate of Medicine, (MD) University of Turku, Finland
1996 PhD, University of Turku, Finland
2001 Specialist in neurology. University of Turku, Finland
Education abroad: 1992 Glaxo Institute of Molecular Biology (PhD student) Geneva, Switzerland

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Native language: Finnish
Other languages: English (self-assessment of proficiency C2), Swedish (self-assessment of proficiency B2), German (self-assessment of proficiency B2), French (self-assessment of proficiency B1)

CURRENT POSITIONS

2017 Professor of Neuroimmunology, University of Turku
2017 Consultant in Neurology, Turku University Hospital

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

1997-2001 House officer, Department of Neurology, Turku University Hospital, Finland
2002 Lecturer, Department of Neurology, University of Turku, Finland
2007-2008 Chief neurologist, Vakka-Suomi District Hospital, Finland
2007-2017 Associate Professor, University of Turku, Finland
2008-2010 Lecturer, Department of Neurology, University of Turku
2010-2011 Chief administrative doctor, Department of neurology, Turku University Hospital
2011-2015 Consultant in Neurology, Turku University Hospital
2016-2017 Visiting professor at Yale School of Medicine, Neurology department, New Haven, USA
2016-2020 Research Council of Finland Clinical Researcher
2019-2024 Adjunct Professor of Neurology, Yale University, School of Medicine, New Haven, USA
2020-2024 Research Council of Finland Clinical Researcher

RESEARCH AWARDS, HONOURS AND MAJOR GRANTS

1996 Recognition of thesis work of high scientific quality, University of Turku
2015 Grant for Multiple Sclerosis Innovation Award
2021 Progressive Multiple Sclerosis Alliance Award
2022 US National Multiple Sclerosis Society Grant
2022 Jane and Aatos Erkko Foundation Grant
2023 US National Multiple Sclerosis Society Grant
2024 Progressive MS alliance grant
2024 US Department of Defence

SUPERVISION OF GRADUATE STUDENTS AND POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWS

1997- 9 PhD students supervised for completion. 14 in progress. 4 postdoctoral fellows supervised

MEMBERSHIPS IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

- 2004-2006 Finnish Neurological Association, Secretary General
2010- Finnish Neuroimmunological society, Secretary
2010-2011 Finnish Neurological Society, Deputy board member
2016-2018 ECTRIMS (European Committee for Treatment and Research in Multiple Sclerosis) Council Member
2017- 2019 Scientific Advisory Panel for the European Council of Neuropsychopharmacology (ECNP), Member

ORGANIZATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS

- 2016 Scandinavian meeting for Immunology, 300 participants, Turku Finland
2018- Scientific Steering Committee, TRIMS Online meeting

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES

- 2017-2024 Member of the Doctoral Committee, Medical Faculty, University of Turku, Finland
2017- Executive board member of the Drug Development Doctoral Program at the Turku University medical faculty
2020-2024 Executive committee member of the Health, diagnostics and drug development-thematic collaboration at Turku University

RESEARCH FUNDING

Jane and Aatos Erkko foundation, US National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Research Council of Finland, The National Neurocenter of Finland (Neurokeskus), Turku University Hospital, industry (global calls), InFLAMES Flagship Programme of the Research Council of Finland, International Progressive MS Alliance, US Department of Defence

CLINICAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

- 2000- Principal investigator in industry-sponsored interventional MS-studies: 8 phase III and 2 phase II, and 3 register studies. Investigator in 3 stroke studies.
2003-2005 Coordinator and principal investigator: Multiple sclerosis and pregnancy in Finland. An academic study.
2006 - Coordinator and principal investigator of clinical PET imaging studies in multiple sclerosis.
2018- Scientific steering committee member of Oratorio-Hand (a Phase IIIb multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in PPMS; Roche)
2021- Scientific steering committee member of REMODEL (a Phase III multi-center, randomized, double-blind, placebo-controlled study in RRMS; Novartis)

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- 2011 Qualification in Medical leadership, University of Turku
2018 Qualification in Academic leadership, University of Turku

RESEARCH OUTPUT

Development of methodology of PET imaging of neuroinflammation applicable to the study of multiple sclerosis (microglia and astrocyte activation), to the point that these imaging methods can now be used to evaluate patients in a clinical setting and in (Phase II) therapeutic studies targeting glial activation as outcome measures.

PUBLICATIONS

H-index: 36

Link to the list of publications: <https://www.utu.fi/en/people/laura-airas>