

RESEARCH TOPIC PRIME6
Combined Biomechanical and Immunological Profiling for Prediction of Post-TAVI Outcomes

Thematic field of the project

Biomedical Sciences

Research Supervisor

Prof. Giulia Luraghi giulia.luraghi@polimi.it

Research Co-supervisor

Prof. Gianluigi Condorelli gianluigi.condorelli@hunimed.eu

Other co-supervisor

Prof. Giulio Stefanini giulio.stefanini@hunimed.eu

Main facility

Chemistry, Materials and Chemical Engineering Department, Politecnico di Milano

Other facility

Department of Biomedical Sciences, Humanitas University, Pieve Emanuele

Main field of interest

Computational modeling, computational learning, and artificial intelligence in healthcare

Abstract

The aim of the research project is to develop a predictive model for the treatment of aortic valve pathologies in the presence of transcatheter aortic valves. In particular, patients suffering from severe aortic valve stenosis and treated with transcatheter aortic valve implantation (TAVI) will be virtually reconstructed from pre-operative CT scans.

Virtual TAVI procedures will be modeled in order to assess implant-related biomechanical features as well as hemodynamic characteristics. Blood samples will be analyzed to reconstruct the immunological profile of the patients.

A data-driven machine learning model will be used to correlate both biomechanical and immunological profiles with post-TAVI complication events, such as paravalvular leakage, conduction disturbances, and coronary obstruction.

Main technical approaches

The PhD student will develop skills in clinical image analysis, segmentation and meshing, finite element modeling for both structural and fluid dynamics applications, and machine learning modeling. The student should also be proficient in data analysis and problem-solving.

Scientific references

1. Grossi B, Perri LM, Raona V, Cozzi O, Migliavacca F, Condorelli G, Stefanini G, Luraghi G. Predicting procedural outcomes in transcatheter aortic valve implantation: a scoping review of numerical patient-specific simulations. *Prog Biomed Eng (Bristol)*. 2025 Nov 6;8(1). doi: 10.1088/2516-1091/ae1772. PMID: 41135549
2. Grossi B, Cozzi O, Luraghi G, Regazzoli D, Migliavacca F, Stefanini G. The first in-silico simulation of Evolut-in-Evolut TAVR: reproduction of a real clinical scenario. *Cardiovasc Interv Ther*. 2026 Jan;41(1):191-193. doi: 10.1007/s12928-025-01183-w. Epub 2025 Aug 11. PMID: 40788440
3. Grossi B, Luraghi G, Barati S, Forte C, Gerosa L, Cozzi O, D'Ascenzo F, Condorelli G, Migliavacca F, Stefanini G. The impact of bicuspid valve morphology on the selection of transcatheter aortic valve implantation devices: an in silico study. *Eur Heart J Imaging Methods Pract*. 2025 Feb 5;3(1):qyaf018. doi: 10.1093/ehjimp/qyaf018. PMID: 40041035; PMCID: PMC11879518
4. Grossi B, Barati S, Ramella A, Migliavacca F, Rodriguez Matas JF, Dubini G, Chakfé N, Heim F, Cozzi O, Condorelli G, Stefanini GG, Luraghi G. Validation evidence with experimental and clinical data to establish credibility of TAVI patient-specific simulations. *Comput Biol Med*. 2024 Nov;182:109159. doi: 10.1016/j.compbimed.2024.109159. Epub 2024 Sep 19. PMID: 39303394
5. Ramella A, Lissoni V, Bridio S, Rodriguez Matas JF, Trimarchi S, Grossi B, Stefanini GG, Migliavacca F, Luraghi G. On the necessity to include arterial pre-stress in patient-specific simulations of minimally invasive procedures. *Biomech Model Mechanobiol*. 2024 Apr;23(2):525-537. doi: 10.1007/s10237-023-01789-0. Epub 2023 Dec 8. PMID: 38063955; PMCID: PMC10963513

Type of contract

PhD scholarship of € 21.000 gross per year awarded by Humanitas University, with Funding from Politecnico di Milano. This sum is exempt from IRPEF income tax according to the provisions of art. 4 of Law no. 476 of 13th August 1984 and is subject to social security contributions according to the provisions of art. 2, section 26 and subsequent sections, of Law no. 335 of 8th August 1995 and subsequent modifications.

Borsa di dottorato pari a € 21.000 annui lordi erogata da Humanitas University, finanziata dal Politecnico di Milano. Importo non soggetto a tassazione IRPEF a norma dell'art. 4 della L. 13 agosto 1984 n. 476 e soggetto, in materia previdenziale, alle norme di cui all'art. 2, commi 26 e segg., della L. 8 agosto 1995, n. 335 e successive modificazioni.