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Professor Monaco (DOB: December 13, 1963) is an Associate Professor (since 2012) and Director of the Division of Orofacial Pain and TMD in the Department of Life, Health and Environmental Sciences of University of L'Aquila, Italy. She got her DDS from the same university of L'Aquila (1988). As to her academic career, she obtained her Fellowship in Orthodontics at the University of Naples Federico II (1992) and Researcher in Oral Disease (scientific sector MED/28) at the University of L'Aquila (1998 to 2015).

Her research focuses mainly on Autonomic Nervous System (ANS) dysregulation in TMD and its clinical implications. She was a member of the PhD Committee for the program entitled "Surface electromyography (sEMG) and kinesiography (KNG) of stomatognathic system in dental clinical practice" (2009-2013). She has been the coordinator of the Post Graduate University Master Program in "Clinical Orofacial Pain and TMD" since 2005.

She authored more than 100 publications in Orofacial Pain, TMD and sEMG/KNG, supervised theses for more than 50 dental students. She is a member of the Italian Society of Pediatric Dentistry (SIOI), Italian Society of Orthodontics (SIDO), International Academy of Posture and Neuromuscolar Occlusion Research (IAPNOR).

Research topics: (1) Interdisciplinary aspects of malocclusion and TMD; (2) Neurophysiologic Study of swallowing and its clinical variants; (3) Cranio-mandibular dynamics in the sleep apnoea syndrome; (4) Physiological and clinical correlations between stomatognathic and visual system; (5) Pathogenetic correlations between visual defects and malocclusions; (6) Salivary markers and their changes in systemic or oral pathology; (7) Salivary markers in orthodontics.