

PERSONAL INFORMATIONS:

Name: Ilaria Luccarini
Date/Place of birth: 01.05.1976, Prato (PO), Italy
Nationality: Italian
Home address: Via Senones 6, 59024, Vernio (PO), Italy
Work address: Department of Pharmacology, University of Florence, Italy

Current Position

Research Associate at the Department of NEUROFARBA, Section of Pharmacology, University of Florence, Italy

EDUCATION:

May 2014: Received the title of "Cultore della Materia" in Biological Sciences, Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology, University of Florence, Italy.

January 2008: Ph.D in Pharmacology and Toxicology, Department of Preclinical and Clinical Pharmacology "Mario Aiazzi Mancini", University of Florence.

July 2002: Professional Pharmacist Licensure, c/o University of Florence, Italy.

June 2002: University Degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology (five year Laurea), Grade: 110/110 cum laude. c/o Department of Organic Chemistry, University of Florence, Italy.

June 1995: Scientific Lyceum Diploma, 54/60. Prato (Po), Italy.

FELLOWSHIPS AND PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

April 2012-today: Post-doctoral fellowship Department of Pharmacology, University of Florence, Italy.

2011-2012: Career break for maternity and parental leave

2008-2010: Post-doctoral fellowship Department of Pharmacology, University of Florence, Italy.

2005-2008: PhD fellowship. Department of Pharmacology, University of Florence, Italy. Research title: "*Study of new therapeutical approaches in animal models of neurodegenerative diseases*". Supervisor Prof. F. Casamenti.

- 2006: The study "*Dkk-1 expression in mice transgenic for mutant human P301S tau protein*", was carried out in "The Cambridge Centre for Brain Repair", University of Cambridge, Cambridge, U.K.
- 2003-2004: Fellowship Department of Pharmacology, University of Florence, Italy.

Track record

Dr. Ilaria Luccarini is a member of the Italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF) and her main field of interest is Neuroscience, in particular she studies neurodegenerative (AD, FTD) and inflammatory (MS) diseases.

She has been involved for five years in the EC Integrated Project (IP) in the frame of the 6FP "Design of small molecule therapeutics for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease based on the discovery of innovative drug targets", approved and funded by the EC (ADIT, project LSHB-CT-2005-511977). This IP, coordinated by Georg C. Terstappen, Sienabiotech, Italy, was ranked the top project out of 9 proposals. She has been involved in different funded PRIN projects in which Prof F. Casamenti has been the Scientific Coordinator and National Manager, in projects funded by Regione Toscana, Progetto Salute 2009 and POR CREO FESR 2007-20013 for research on "Innovative drugs for neurodegenerative diseases". During the second year of PhD, she held a grant to study the role of neuroinflammation in a transgenic mice model of FTD (P301S) at "The Brain Repair Center", University of Cambridge, UK, in collaboration with Prof. MG. Spillantini. In this transgenic mouse line she has investigated the expression of DKK-1, an antagonist of the canonical Wnt signaling pathway, in order to establish its role in the neurodegenerative disorders. During her career, she collaborated with Dr C. Ballerini testing the efficacy of compounds (atorvastatin plus minocycline) on the physiopathological signs of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (EAE) mice, a mouse model of MS, and more recently with Dr C. Ballerini and Dr B.Passani, in the context of the European project COST Action (code number 70/3/10441 and title. "Recent advances in histamine receptor H₄R research, BM0806"), testing the effect of chronic administration of an H₄R antagonist on the clinical and histopathological signs of EAE in C57BL/6 female mice. She won a COST Action grant to take part of a working group on "*Pharmacological Models of Inflammatory and Immunological Disorders*", Trinity College Dublin, Dublin, Ireland, February 2013. In collaboration with Prof.Stefani (Department of Experimental and Clinical Biomedical Sciences, University of Florence) she studies the beneficial effects of Oleuropein aglycone, the main polyphenol in extra virgin olive oil, in mice models of Alzheimer's Disease. During her career, she coordinated research activities, supervised, implemented projects and established fruitful scientific collaborations. She has trained technicians, undergraduate and graduate students on laboratory research protocols through various techniques. She has been the supervisor of theses for graduating students of Pharmacy, Life sciences, Biotechnology and CTF

on the pathogenesis and therapeutic approaches of neurodegenerative diseases. During her career, she learned how to work in an interdisciplinary environment and had the possibility to collaborate with biologists, medical doctors, chemists, nutritionists and physiologists.

COMPUTER LITERACY: Windows and its application, Excell, Word, Power Point (Microsoft Office), Sigma Plot, Adobe Acrobat, Publisher, Graph Pad Prism, Reference Manager, Cell Designer, the main instruments for navigation and imaging acquisition and analysis program.

PUBLICATIONS (H index = 7 from Web of Knowledge; total number of citation 247)

- ✓ Luccarini I, Grossi C, Rigacci S, Coppi E, Pugliese AM, Pantano D, La Marca G, Ed Dami T, Berti A, Stefani M, Casamenti F. *Oleuropein aglycone protects against pyroglutamylation-3 A β toxicity: biochemical, epigenetic and functional correlates*. Neurobiol Aging (2014) In Press. Impact Factor 2012: 6.1
- ✓ Luccarini I, Ed Dami T, Grossi C, Rigacci S, Stefani M, Casamenti F. *Oleuropein aglycone counteracts A β 42 toxicity in the rat brain*. Neurosci Letters (2014) 558 67-72.
- ✓ Grossi C, Rigacci S, Ambrosini S, Ed Dami T, Luccarini I, Traini C, Failli P, Berti A, Casamenti F, Stefani M. *The Polyphenol Oleuropein Aglycone Protects TgCRND8 Mice against A β Plaque Pathology*. PloS One (2013); 8, 8 e71702
- ✓ Ballerini C, Aldinucci A, Luccarini I, Manuelli C, Blandina P, Katebe M, Chazot PL, Bani D, Masini E and Passani MB. *Antagonism of histamine H₄ receptor exacerbates clinical and pathological signs of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis*. BJP (2013) 170 67–77
- ✓ Grossi C, Ed Dami T, Rigacci S, Stefani M, Luccarini I, Casamenti F. *Employing Alzheimer Disease Animal Models for Translational Research: Focus on Dietary Components*. Neurodegener Dis, (2013) DOI: 10.1159/000355461.
- ✓ Luccarini I, Grossi C, Traini C, Fiorentini A, Ed Dami T, Casamenti F. *A β plaque-associated glial reaction as a determinant of apoptotic neuronal death and cortical gliogenesis: A study in APP mutant mice*, Neurosci Lett. (2012); 506(1):94-9. Epub 2011 Oct 26.
- ✓ Fiorentini A, Rosi MC, Grossi C, Luccarini I, Casamenti F. Lithium 3mprobe hippocampal neurogenesis, neuropathology and cognitive functions in APP mutant mice. PloS One. 2010 Dec 20;5(12):e14382.
- ✓ Rosi MC*, Luccarini I*, Grossi C, Fiorentini A, Spillantini MG, Prisco A, Scali C, Gianfriddo M, Caricasole A, Terstappen GC and Casamenti F. *Increased DKK-1 expression in transgenic mouse models of neurodegenerative disease*. J Neurochem. 2010 Mar;112(6):1539-51. Epub 2009 Dec 29. (*) M.C.R. and I.L. were equally involved in the study.
- ✓ Grossi C, Francese S, Casini A, Rosi MC, Luccarini I, Fiorentini A, Gabbiani C, Messori L, Moneti G and Casamenti F. *Clioquinol reduces A β burden and recovers working memory impairments in a transgenic mouse model of Alzheimer's disease*. J Alzheimers Dis. 2009;17(2):423-40.
- ✓ Luccarini I, Ballerini C, Biagioli T, Biamonte F, Bellucci A, Rosi MC, Grossi C, Massacesi L, Casamenti F. *Combined treatment with atorvastatin and minocycline suppresses severity of EAE*. Exp Neurol. 2008 May;211(1):214-26.

- ✓ Esposito M., Luccarini I., Cicatiello V., De Falco D., Fiorentini A., Barba P., Casamenti F., Prisco A. *Immunogenicity and therapeutic efficacy of phage-displayed beta-amyloid epitopes*. Mol Immunol. 2008 Feb;45(4):1056-62.
- ✓ Bellucci A., Rosi MC., Grossi C., Fiorentini A., Luccarini I., Casamenti F. *Abnormal processing of tau in the brain of aged TgCRND8 mice*. Neurobiol Dis. 2007 Jun; 27:328-338.
- ✓ Bellucci A., Luccarini I., Scali C., Prospero C., Giovannini M.G., Pepeu G. and Casamenti F. *Cholinergic dysfunction, neuronal damage and axonal loss in TgCRND8 mice*. Neurobiol Dis. 2006 Aug; 23(2):260-72.

Abstracts in international congresses (30)

Oral communications:

Immunomodulatory effect of combination therapy with minocycline and atorvastatin alleviates severity of experimental autoimmune encephalomyelitis (Siena, September 2007).

DKK-1 expression in a Frontotemporal Dementia mouse model".
UE ADIT project (Amsterdam, May 2007)