

Eating Disorders and Obesity



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Pharmacology Unit

Rapporto strutturati/non strutturati 3/9

School of Pharmacy



Characterizing Studies

- 1) Development, characterization, and validation of animal models of binge eating and obesity which can mimic the main aspects of these pathologies observed in humans.
- 2) Study and *in vivo* evaluation of innovative and effective pharmacological and nutraceutical approaches to counteract maladaptive feeding behavior, obesity and related comorbidities, such as metabolic dysfunctions and mental health pathologies.
- 3) Investigation of the neurobiological mechanisms underlying food reward and motivation, binge eating behavior, obesity, and the related comorbidities.

National Impact:

Our research has a significant impact at national level considering that eating disorders and obesity are widespread in the Italian territory. We have established collaborations with numerous Italian research institutes and universities, which have allowed the dissemination of our research results and increased attention to the relevance of these pathologies in the Italian population. Finally, many of our research studies are concerned with the beneficial effects of products from the Italian territory and help the economic development and exploitation of small and medium-sized companies.

International Impact:

The presence of aberrant eating habits is now observed in all countries of the world. This promotes the widespread prevalence of obesity and eating disorders. The development of potential drug therapies for these diseases is an international goal, which has allowed us to collaborate with universities and research institutions located in various countries.

Sources of funding:

- 1) Ministry of University and Research (MUR)
- 2) Intesa Sanpaolo Foundation
- 3) Pharmaceutical companies
- 4) International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)
- 5) European Funding (Horizon 2020)

International Collaborations:

- 1) Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Allschwil, Switzerland
- 2) Instituto de Investigación Biomédica de Málaga y Plataforma en Nanomedicina (IBIMA Plataforma BIONAND), Málaga, Spain
- 3) Helmholtz Institute for Metabolic, Obesity and Vascular Research (HI-MAG), University of Leipzig and University Hospital Leipzig, Leipzig, Germany
- 4) Department of Endocrinology, Nephrology, Rheumatology, University of Leipzig Medical Center, Leipzig, Germany
- 5) Department of Neuroscience at the Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, New York, USA
- 6) Behavioral Neuroscience Branch, IRP/NIDA/NIH, Baltimore, MD, USA
- 7) Institute of Veterinary Physiology, Vetsuisse Faculty, University of Zurich, Zurich, Switzerland
- 8) Bioprojet-Biotech, Saint-Grégoire, France
- 9) Department of Food Chemistry, Technology and Biotechnology, Faculty of Chemistry, Gdansk, Poland

Relationship with companies:

We have established collaborations with many national and international pharmaceutical companies interested in the field of obesity and eating disorders pharmacotherapy. These companies include:

- 1) Idorsia Pharmaceuticals Ltd
- 2) Bioprojet
- 3) Dompè
- 4) Novo Nordisk
- 5) Evotec
- 6) Helsinn Healthcare SA
- 7) GlaxoSmithKline

Role in scientific societies/networks/research centers

Coordination and secretariat of the Working Group of the Italian Society of Pharmacology (SIF): Obesity, Metabolic Syndrome and Eating Disorders
Collaborator with the National Scientific Area of Psychiatry of the Italian Society of Hospital Pharmacy (SIFO)
Member of the community for women in science
Selected member of the project 100 women against stereotypes from the STEM area
Partner and member of the research group of the Spin off "Synbiotec"
Member of Italian Society of Pharmacology
Member of Society for the Study of the Ingestive Behavior
Member of Society for Neuroscience
Member of European Behavioural Pharmacology Society
Member of SIFO