

Prof. Micaela Morelli

Academic Career

1976 Degree Biological Sciences with full credit

1978-81 Fellowship, Institute of Pharmacology, Univ. of Cagliari

1981-82 and 1986 Research Associate Department of Pharmacology, Univ. of Arizona, Tucson

1982-90 Researcher, Institute of Pharmacology, Univ. of Cagliari

From 1990 Full Professor of Pharmacology Univ. of Cagliari

From 1995 CNR Institute of Neuroscience

1997-2000 Chairman of the Dpt. of Toxicology, Univ. of Cagliari

From 2001 Center of Excellence for Neurobiology of Dependence

Professional Experience

2001-2006 Elected member of the Italian Neuroscience Society Council

2004 to 2010 Councilor of the International Basal Ganglia Society (IBAGS)

2004-2014 Representative of the University of Cagliari in the Governing Council of the Bank of Sardinia Foundation

2005-2010 Italian representative on the International Brain Research Organisation (IBRO)

2010-2016 Councillor of IBRO- PERC committee

2013- 2016 Member of CEPR (Committee of Expert for Research Politics of MIUR)

2018- President of the Italian Neuroscience Society

Organizing committee of congress

Basal Ganglia Society Meeting (Capo Boi, Italy, 1989); European Behavioral Pharmacological Society (Italy, 1996); Joint Italian-Swedish Neuroscience Meeting (Ischia, Italy, 2005), Targeting adenosine A2A receptors in Parkinson's disease and other CNS disorders (Boston, USA, 2006); Basal Ganglia Society Meeting (The Netherland, 2007); 8th IBRO (Florence, Italy, 2011), Basal Ganglia Society Meeting (Eilat, Israel, 2013), Dopamine 2013 (Alghero, Italy, 2013), SINS 2015 (Cagliari, Italy 2015).

Research Grants latest 5 years

2017-2020 Research grant PRIN of the MIUR

2012-2014 Research Grant from Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

2012-2015 Research Grant from LR7 of Region of Sardinia

2011-2014 Polish Academy of Sciences, Krakow, funded by Italian-Polish Dpt. of Foreign Affairs (J.Wardas)

2011 Univ.Stellenbosch and Zulu-Natal (South Africa), funded by South African-Italian Dpt. of Foreign Affairs (W.Daniels)

Evaluator panel for Academic positions

2008, 2013: NRF, Univ. of KwaZulu Natal and Stellenbosch, South Africa

2009 Department of Health & Human Services (NIH), USA

2009 Karolinska Institute, Stockholm, Sweden

Opponent for international PhD thesis

2008 Univ. of Stellenbosch, South Africa; dr. Ilse-Sanet Pienaar

2008 Karolinska Institutet, Stockholm; dr. dr. X. Zhang

2008 CNRS, Univ. of Marseille; dr S. Lopez

2011 Univ. of Lund, Sweden, dr D. Rylander

2012 Univ. of Murcia, Spain, dr J. Enrique

2014 Univ. of Lund, Sweden, dr H. Iderberg

Research interests

The main subjects of investigation have been on the mechanism of action of drugs affecting dopaminergic and adenosinergic transmission and their interaction in rodent models of Parkinson's disease. The research group has expertise in behavioral evaluation of motor dysfunctions and biochemical markers of basal ganglia function. The experimental techniques utilized in the laboratory, range from immunohistochemical evaluation of enzyme, proteins etc. (tyrosine hydroxylase, DAT, GFAP, CD11b, Fos) and *in situ* hybridization for evaluation of mRNA for early-genes, peptides, enzymes (*zif-268*, dynorphin, enkephalin, GAD67). The main scientific accomplishments have been the identification of adenosine A_{2A} receptor antagonists ability to counteract motor and biochemical deficits in basal ganglia of parkinsonian rodents and to evidence their neuroprotective effects.

Most recent findings have shown that amphetamine-related drugs produce dopamine neuron degeneration and stimulate glial activation

Number of publications: 204. Total citations: 7310. H-index: 45