

Prof. Micaela Morelli

Born in Brindisi in 19.04.1953

1976 Degree Biological Sciences with full credits

1978-81 Fellowship, Institute of Pharmacology, University of Cagliari

1981-82 and 1985-86 Research Associate Dpt. of Pharmacology, University of Arizona, Tucson

1982-90 Researcher, Institute of Pharmacology, University of Cagliari

From 1990 Full Professor of Pharmacology University of Cagliari

From 1995 CNR Institute of Neuroscience

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

From 2001 Center of Excellence for Neurobiology of Dependence

From 2013 Belongs to CEPR (Committee of experts for research politics) of MIUR

Administrative and organizational experience

Organizing committee of: Basal Ganglia Society Meeting (Capo Boi Cagliari, 1989); European Behavioral Pharmacological Society (Pula Cagliari, 1996); Italian Society for Neuroscience Meeting (Ischia, 2005); Targeting adenosine A_{2A} receptors in Parkinson's disease and other CNS disorders (Boston USA, 2006); Basal Ganglia Society Meeting (Egmond The Netherland, 2007); 8th IBRO (Florence, 2011); Basal Ganglia Society Meeting (Eilat Israel, 2013); Dopamine 2013 (Alghero, 2013); FENS Forum (Milano, 2014).

2001-2006 Italian Neuroscience Society Governing Council

2004- 2010 International Basal Ganglia Society Governing Council

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

2006-2012 Italian representative in the International Brain Research Organization (IBRO)

From 2010 Member of IBRO WERC/PERC Governing Council

Evaluator panel for Academic position

NRF, Universities of KwaZulu Natal and Stellenbosch, South Africa; Department of Health & Human Services (NIH), USA; Karolinska Institute, Stockholm.

Opponent for PhD thesis

University of Stellenbosch, South Africa; Karolinska Institute, Stockholm; CNRS and University of Marseille; University of Lund, Sweden; University of Murcia, Spain.

Evaluator panel for Research Funding

MIUR, EC FP-7 "ERA-Net"; Agencie Natonale de la Recherche (ANR); Parkinson's Disease Society UK; Ministry of Education of Portugal; National Research Foundation South Africa and Medical Research Council (MRC) South Africa.

Research interests

My main subjects of investigation are on the mechanism of action of drugs affecting dopaminergic and adenosinergic transmission and their interaction in models of Parkinson's disease. My research group has expertise in behavioral evaluation of motor and cognitive dysfunctions and biochemical markers of basal ganglia function. The biochemical techniques utilized in the laboratory, range from immunohistochemistry to *in situ* hybridization and brain microdialysis. The main scientific accomplishments have been the identification of adenosine A_{2A} receptor antagonists ability to counteract motor and biochemical deficits in 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. Author of over 180 publications on international journals with impact factor. H-index 40, total citations 3961 (from Scopus).