

## **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

From 2015. Prorector for Research Univ. of Cagliari

### **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)

2015-2017 Scientific Committee Movement Disorders Society

2018-2020 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); 8<sup>th</sup> IBRO (Florence, Italy, 2011), Basal

Ganglia Society Meeting (Eilat, Israel, 2013), Dopamine 2013 (Alghero, Italy, 2013), FENS Forum

2014 (Milano, Italy); SINS 2015 (Cagliari, Italy 2015); Movement Disorder Society 2016 (Berlin, Germany).

### **Research Grants latest 5 years**

2019-2022 Research grant PRIN of the MIUR

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)

### **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<sub>2A</sub> 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: 211. Total citations: 7900. H-index: 47