

SIMONA SAPONARA

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FULL NAME: Simona Saponara

POSITION: Associate Professor of Pharmacology

AFFILIATION: Dep of Life Sciences, University of Siena, Italy

EDUCATION

1997 Master Degree in Pharmacy, University of Siena, Italy, 110/110 cum laude

1997 State exam for professional certification as a pharmacist

2001 Ph.D. Molecular Pharmacology and Toxicology, University of Siena

PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

1998 Research Fellow, University of Siena

1999 Technical assistant, University of Siena

2002-2008 Research Associate of Pharmacology, University of Siena

Dec 2008-Dec 2021 Assistant Professor of Pharmacology, University of Siena

Apr 2017 qualified as Associate Professor of Pharmacology by the Italian National Examination Board

Jan 2022 Associate Professor of Pharmacology

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

1996-2008 Inst of Pharmacological Sciences, Dep of Biomedical Sciences, Dep of Neurosciences, University of Siena, Italy. Prof. G. Sgaragli's laboratory.

1999 March: Bulgarian Academy of Sciences, Sofia, Bulgaria. Dr Petko Alov's Lab. Study on free-radical-scavenging activity of novel antioxidants

2001 Feb: Dep of Neuroscience, Physiology Section, University of Turin, Italy. Prof. E. Carbone's Lab. Recording single channel Ca^{2+} currents in smooth muscle and neuroendocrine cells.

RESEARCH TOPICS

-Cardiovascular effects of polyphenols

-Novel natural and synthetic modulators of vascular and cardiac Ca^{2+} and K^{+} currents

-Cardiovascular liabilities of novel multidrug resistance reverting agents and antineoplastic drugs

-Analyses of adverse drug reactions/adverse event following immunization to drugs/vaccines used for COVID-19, collected by the Italian National Network of Pharmacovigilance

TEACHING ACTIVITY

1999 Lecturer at the "Recent advances in Neurobiology", University of Siena, Italy (SOCRATES Programme, EU).

1999/2008 Tutor-teaching: Toxicology, Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy (Degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies, Degree in Pharmacy)

2004 Lecturer at the Training course "Conventional therapy and novel drugs for the treatment of hypertension", Matera, Italy

As assistant professor

2009-2010: Pharmacokinetic and drug metabolism, Pharmacogenetic and Pharmacogenomic (Specialty School in Hospital Pharmacy); Pharmacology and Pharmacotherapy II (Degree in Pharmacy)

2011-2012: Toxicology (Degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies)

2013-2014: OTC drugs and Pharmacovigilance (Degree in Pharmacy)

2014-2017: OTC and Pharmacovigilance (Degree in Pharmacy); Pharmacology (Degree in Cardio-Circulatory Physiopathology and Cardiovascular Perfusion Methods)

2017-2021: Pharmacology (Degree in Cardio-Circulatory Physiopathology and Cardiovascular Perfusion Methods); Pharmacology (Speciality School in Anaesthesia, Reanimation, Intensive Care and Pain Management); Pharmacotherapy (Degree in Pharmacy)

As associate professor

2021-2022: Pharmacology (Degree in Cardio-Circulatory Physiopathology and Cardiovascular Perfusion Methods); Pharmacology (Speciality School in Anaesthesia, Reanimation, Intensive Care and Pain Management); Pharmacotherapy (Degree in Pharmacy)

2009-present: Supervisor of

-63 Theses (Master Degree in Pharmacy and Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technologies)

-1 post- Master Degree project

-5 post-doc project

INSTITUTIONAL RESPONSABILITIES

2009-2010: Member of "Doctoral School of Molecular Physiology-Pharmacology-Toxicology " (DOT0330214)

2014: Member of the examining boards for the qualification to practice as a pharmacist

2018-present: Member of the Board of the Speciality School in Anaesthesia, Reanimation, Intensive Care and Pain Management (University of Siena)

2018-present: Library delegate for Dep of Life Science and Member of the Board of the Library of Medical-Biological-Pharmaceutical area (University of Siena)

2022-present: Placement delegate for Dep of Life Science

ATTENDANCE AT SCHOOLS AND COURSES

1999 School of omotoxicology, homeopathy, Bach flower remedies (Italian Association of Omotoxicology), Florence, Italy

1999 Recent Advances in Neurobiology, University of Siena (SOCRATES Programme, EU)

2001 School of Pure and Applied Biophysics: Biophysics of Ion Channels and Channelopathies, (organized by Italian Society of Pure and Applied Biophysics), Venice, Italy

2008 "Farmacovigilanza per la salute di tutti", (6 credits), Local Health Trust 7, Siena

2008 International Workshop On Methods In Cardiovascular Pharmacology, The University of Manchester, Core Technology facility, Manchester, United Kingdom

2018 Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE) training course "ERC funding schemes under Horizon 2020: how to structure your proposal", University of Siena

2018 Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE) training course "Second evaluation criteria for Horizon 2020 proposals: IMPACT", University of Siena

2019 Agency for the Promotion of European Research (APRE) training course "How to design a Marie Curie Innovative Training Network proposal", University di Siena

AFFILIATION

Member of the Italian Pharmacological Society

EDITORIAL ACTIVITY

-*Reviewer* for:

ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters

Biochemical Pharmacology

Biomedicine & Pharmacotherapy

Bioorganic Chemistry

British Journal of Pharmacology

Canadian Journal Physiology and Pharmacology

Cancers
Cardiovascular Therapeutics
Cellular Oncology
Current Drug Safety
Current Medicinal Chemistry
Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine
Frontiers in Cardiovascular Medicine
Frontiers Pharmacology
International Journal of Molecular Sciences
Journal of Hazardous Materials
Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology
Life Sciences
Medicinal Chemistry Research
Mitochondrion
Molecules
Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Archives of Pharmacology
Pharmaceuticals
Pharmacological Reports
Recent Patents On Cardiovascular Drug Discovery
The Journal of Cardiovascular Pharmacology

-Editorial Board Member of
Cardiovascular Therapeutics (HINDAWI)
Future Pharmacology (MDPI)
Journal of Pharmacy (SCIREA)

-Evaluator of:
SIR Programme 2014 (Scientific Independence of Young Researchers) (Italian Ministry of University and Research);
Joint Projects 2016 University of Verona. Bando di Ateneo per la realizzazione di progetti congiunti con Imprese ed Enti

-External examiner for MSc and PhD thesis University of KwaZulu-Natal, Durban, South Africa and University of Florence, Italy

RESEARCH PROJECT FOUNDED

2001: Young researcher PROJECT

PI: SIMONA SAPONARA

Agency: University of Siena, Italy. Funding: 5164,57 euro. Duration: 6/3/2002-6/3/2003.

Title: Synthetic phenol derivatives as new Ca²⁺ channel antagonists in smooth muscle cells. Potential drugs for the treatment of ischemia/reperfusion injury.

2004-2006: Projects of major importance in the Scientific and Technological Collaboration Executive Programmes (Italy –Hungary)

PI: Giampietro Sgaragli (University of Siena), Joseph Molnar (University of Szeged)

Agency: Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Duration: 02/01/2004-31/12/2006

Title: Novel compounds reverting multidrug resistance

2005-2007: Projects of major importance in the Scientific and Technological Collaboration Executive Programmes (Italy –South Africa)

PI: Fabio Fusi (University of Siena), Dulcie Mulholland (University of KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa).

Agency: Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Duration: 01/01/2005-31/12/2007

Title: Investigations of isolates from the Hyacinthaceae family for cardiovascular activity

2008-2009

PI: Giampietro Sgaragli (University of Siena).

Agency: Monte dei Paschi Foundation. Duration: 01/01/2008-01/01/2009

Title: Targeted release of MDR1/P-gp inhibitors to multidrug resistant human cancer cell using nanocarriers—NANODART

2009-2011: Projects of major importance in the Scientific and Technological Collaboration Executive Programmes (Italy –Vietnam)

PI: Fabio Fusi (Università di Siena), Nguyen Manh Cuong (University of Hanoi, Vietnam)

Agency: Italian Minister of Foreign Affairs. Duration: 01/01/2009-31/12/2011

Title: Discovery of novel cardiovascular active agents from selected Vietnamese medicinal plants

2010-2013

PI: Giampietro Sgaragli (University of Siena). Duration: 11/01/2010-15/06/2013

Agency: Tuscan Tumour Institute

Title: Targeting multidrug-resistant tumour cells with nanocarriers loaded with MultiDrugResistance (MDR) reverters

2012: FUTURO IN RICERCA 2012 (RBFR12SOQ1)

Agency: Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research

PI: SIMONA SAPONARA

Co-Investigator: University of Florence (Lorenzo Cinci), University of Bari (Maria G Perrone), University of Turin (Chiara Riganti)

Title: Optimization of oncology therapy: novel drugs affecting multi drug resistance

Funding: 989.437,00 euro. Duration: 21/03/2013-21/11/2016

2015: INVESTIGATOR GRANT

Agency: Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC)

Title: Dissecting the endoplasmic reticulum-mitochondria network to reverse chemo-immunoresistance of cancer cells (IG2014.15232)

Duration: 01/01/2015-31/12/2018

PI: Chiara Riganti (University of Turin)

Collaborators: Silvia Arpicco and Massimo Massaia (University of Turin); Angela Maria Rizzo (University of Milan); Simona Saponara (University of Siena)

2018-2022: COST ACTION CA17104

Title: New diagnostic and therapeutic tools against multidrug resistant tumors

SIMONA SAPONARA: Leader of the Working Group 4 “Pharmacokinetic and ADME/toxicology of new therapeutic tools; safety of therapeutic targets” and Management Committee member from Italy

2020-2021: Contract for research project with Landcare Research New Zealand Limited.

Title: “From fruit fly to pest control”. € 12.000.

2020-2024: COST ACTION CA19144

Title “European Venom Network”, EUVEN

SIMONA SAPONARA: Management Committee substitute from Italy and member of Working Group 1 “Novel targets in venom research”

ORGANISATION OF SCIENTIFIC MEETINGS:

- 1st Annual Symposium “Pharmacological strategies to overcome multidrug resistance in cancer chemotherapy”. Certosa di Pontignano, Siena, Italy, November 22, 2004
- 2nd Annual Symposium “Pharmacological strategies to overcome multidrug resistance in cancer chemotherapy”. Certosa di Pontignano, Siena, Italy, November 22, 2005
- 3rd Annual Symposium “Pharmacological strategies to overcome multidrug resistance in cancer chemotherapy”. Certosa di Pontignano, Siena, Italy, November 14, 2006
- 4th Annual Symposium “Pharmacological strategies to overcome multidrug resistance in cancer chemotherapy”. Certosa di Pontignano, Siena, Italy, November 19-20, 2007
- Conclusive meeting of the project Futuro in Ricerca “Optimization of oncology therapy: novel drugs affecting multidrug resistance”. University of Siena, Siena, 3-4 November 2016
- First WG1-WG4 meeting of Cost Action CA17104 “New diagnostic and therapeutic tools against multidrug resistant tumours”. Molecular Biotechnology Center, Turin, Italy, January 29-31, 2019
- COST Action CA17104 STRATAGEM Annual Conference – 3rd MC meeting and 4th WGs meetings, 88 Rooms Hotel, Belgrade, Serbia, 27-28 February, 2020.
- COST Action 17104 (STRATAGEM) WG3 Meeting – International Online Symposium on “New Therapeutic Tools Against Preclinical Models of Multidrug Resistant Tumors”, 4 November, 2020.
- COST Action 17104 (STRATAGEM) WG2 Meeting and International Online Symposium on “Synthesis and nanodelivery strategies for new therapeutic tools against Multidrug Resistant Tumours”, 15 December, 2020.
- COST Action 17104 STRATAGEM Annual Conference –MC meeting and WGs meetings, Prague, Czechia, 6-8 September, 2021

HONORS

- 2001: Young Researcher Award, University of Siena
- 2008 EPHAR (Federation of the European Pharmacological Societies) bursary to attend the EPHAR meeting 2008, 13-17 July Manchester, UK and the International Workshop On Methods In Cardiovascular Pharmacology, The University of Manchester, Core Technology facility, Manchester, United Kingdom. July 18-19, 2008

BIBLIOMETRY

- 73 full papers on indexed international journals subjected to peer-review; 8 book chapters; 15 proceedings of international meetings; 75 national and international meetings (2 invited talks)