

Andrea Blesio

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Gender: Male Date of birth: 18/12/2000 Nationality: Italian

ABOUT ME

PhD student in Translational Medical and Surgical Sciences focused on oncogenic signalling and therapeutic vulnerabilities in KRAS-mutant non-small cell lung cancer.

Scientific metrics:

Peer-reviewed publications: 3

First-author publications: 2

Research field: Experimental pre-clinical oncology/pharmacology

Congress presentations: 1 poster

PUBLICATIONS

[2026] [The rare bile acid isoallothiocholic acid \(IALCA\) is an EphA2 antagonist sparing FXR and TGR5 receptors](#)

Reference: Blesio et. al *Biochem Pharmacol* . 2026 May;247:117807. doi: 10.1016/j.bcp.2026.117807. Epub 2026 Feb 13.

First author of a peer-reviewed publication in *Biochemical Pharmacology* (IF 5.6).

This work establishes IALCA as a highly selective molecular probe and identifies microbiome-derived bile acids as a novel source of privileged scaffolds for Eph-targeted drug discovery.

Authors: Blesio A, Giorgio C, Ferrari FR, Sala S, Flammini L, Zanotti I, Passeri D, Gioiello A, Sarcone L, Castelli R, Karnchanapandh K, Vacondio F, Tagliazucchi L, Scalvini L, Mor M, Lodola A, Tognolini M. | **Journal Name:** *Biochemical Pharmacology* | **Volume, Issue and Pages:** Volume 247, May 2026, 117807

[2026] [Target validation of natural compounds: Perillaldehyde case study](#)

Reference: Blesio et. al *Int Immunopharmacol* . 2026 Mar 1;172:116178. doi: 10.1016/j.intimp.2026.116178. Epub 2026 Jan 10.

First author of a peer-reviewed publication in *International Immunopharmacology* (IF 4.7).

This work contributes to improving reproducibility and target validation standards in pharmacology, with direct implications for natural compound-based drug discovery.

Authors: Blesio A, Giorgio C, Sala S, Cavazzoni A, Zanotti I, Tognolini M. | **Journal Name:** *International Immunopharmacology* | **Volume, Issue and Pages:** Volume 172, 1 March 2026, 116178

[2025] [Dual targeting of EphAs and KDR axis hampers VEGF-induced angiogenesis and gliomastem cell replication](#)

Reference: Zappia et. al *Biochem Pharmacol* . 2025 Dec;242(Pt 4):117398. doi: 10.1016/j.bcp.2025.117398. Epub 2025 Oct 3.

Co-author of a peer-reviewed publication in *Biochemical Pharmacology* (IF 5.6).

The study support selective EphA targeting with UniPR1449 as a multifunctional strategy to simultaneously disrupt tumor vascularization and stem-like cell maintenance in glioblastoma.

Authors: Zappia A, Ferrari F.R, Giorgio C, Sala S, Zanotti I, Parrinello S, Clements M.P, Rusnati M, Corsini M, Blesio A, Castelli R, Guidetti L, Scalvini L, Lodola A, Tognolini M. |

WORK EXPERIENCE

Università degli Studi di Parma

Address: Via Volturmo, 3943125, Parma (Italy)

[01/11/2025 - Current]

PhD student

PhD project focused on dissecting oncogenic signaling and therapeutic vulnerabilities in KRAS-mutant NSCLC, with particular emphasis on clinically unmet KRAS G12D and G12V variants.

Main activities:

- Generation and functional characterization of KRAS-mutant cell lines
- Development of acquired-resistance models to pan-RAS inhibitor RMC-6236
- 2D and 3D cancer cell culture systems
- Drug response and proliferation assays
- Flow cytometry and cell cycle analysis
- Migration and clonogenic assays
- Molecular profiling techniques
- Identification of actionable signaling dependencies

Università degli Studi di Parma

City: Parma | **Country:** Italy

[05/05/2025 - 31/10/2025]

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow

Research on standard and stem-like glioblastoma multiforme (GBM) cell lines.

The work included:

- Binding studies, both saturation and displacement assays,
- Proliferation and migration assays
- Flow cytometry for stemness markers
- Drug-induced differentiation studies
- First author of two peer-reviewed scientific manuscripts
- Co-author of an additional publication

Università degli Studi di Brescia

City: Brescia | **Country:** Italy

[01/03/2025 - 30/04/2025]

Graduate trainee researcher

- Suspension cell cultures of haematological tumour models
- Flow cytometry drug-response assays
- Observation of digital droplet PCR (ddPCR)
- Protein and nucleic acid extractions
- Participation in experimental design discussions.

Farmacia Internazionale Dott. M. Marchesini e C. Sas

City: Malcesine | **Country:** Italy

[01/08/2024 - 04/10/2024]

Pharmacist

- International customers management

Università degli Studi di Parma

City: Parma | **Country:** Italy

[16/01/2024 - 18/07/2024]

Thesis trainee

- 2D and 3D models of lung adenocarcinoma
- Western blotting
- PCR and RT-PCR analysis
- Pharmacological treatment evaluations
- Cell growth profiling

Farmacia Internazionale Dott. M. Marchesini e C. Sas

City: Malcesine | **Country:** Italy

[15/06/2023 - 15/09/2023]

Trainee

- Full time at the counter
- Refinement of technical skills
- Pharmaceutical management system.
- Update on regional dispensing regulations.

Farmacia Gibertini

City: Parma | **Country:** Italy

[01/03/2023 - 30/05/2023]

Trainee

- Inventory management
- Updating deadlines and optimising work spaces.
- First approaches to the public and dispensing under supervisor control.

Università di Parma

City: Parma | **Country:** Italy

[01/10/2023 - 20/12/2023]

Laboratory assistant

- Lab assistant of drug analysis

Università di Parma

City: Parma | **Country:** Italy

[01/10/2022 - 20/12/2022]

Laboratory assistant

- Lab assistant of drug analysis

Nany's Aqva Center

City: Malcesine | **Country:** Italy

[01/07/2018 - 31/08/2018]

Watersports assistant

- In-water assistance
- Equipment management
- Windsurfing lessons

Nany's Aqva Center

City: Malcesine | **Country:** Italy

[01/07/2017 - 31/08/2017]

Watersports assistant

- Equipment management
- In-water assistance

EDUCATION & TRAINING

[01/10/2019 - 18/07/2024]

Master's degree in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Tecnology

Università degli Studi di Parma <https://www.unipr.it/>

City: Parma | **Country:** Italy | **Field(s) of study:** Pharmacy and Industrial Pharmacy, Chemistry | **Final grade:** 110/110, cum Laude | **Level in EQF:** 7 | **National classification:** 7 | **Type of credits:** ECTS/CFU | **Number of credits:** 300 | **Thesis:** Characterization and therapeutic perspectives of NSCLC cell lines expressing KRAS G12D and G12V mutations

Attended more than 90% of the course classes and successfully passed with 3.87 GPA.

Achieved excellent grades in classes related to pharmacology, organic chemistry, analytical chemistry, applied biochemistry and pharmaceutical chemistry.

Performed extremely well in curricular laboratory activities.

[09/2014 - 03/07/2019]

High school Diploma in Chemistry

I.I.S Benedetto Castelli <https://www.iiscastelli.edu.it/Pager.aspx?Page=mainpage>

City: Brescia | **Country:** Italy | **Field(s) of study:** Chemistry | **Final grade:** 89/100 | **Level in EQF:** 4

Obtained a basic knowledge of chemistry with particular focus on laboratory activities. Participated in the national chemistry competition as the institute's sole representative in 2018 in Genoa.

SKILLS

Cancer biology techniques

Stem-like cancer models | 2D and 3D cancer cell cultures | Drug resistant model generation | Suspension cell cultures | Lentiviral engineering exposure

Functional assays

Migration assays | Proliferation assays | Clonogenic assays | Binding assays

Molecular techniques

PCR/RT-PCR | Protein and nucleic acid extraction | Western blotting

Cell analysis

Flow cytometry

Digital and Data analysis

GraphPad Prism | PubMed literature search | MatLab | ImageJ Fiji | AI tools | BioRender | Microsoft office package | ImageStudio

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Mother tongue(s): Italian

Other language(s):

English

LISTENING: C1 **READING:** C1 **WRITING:** C1

SPOKEN PRODUCTION: B2 **SPOKEN INTERACTION:** B2

CONFERENCES & SEMINARS

[03/03/2025 - 05/12/2025] **65th annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society: Targeting cancer hallmarks**
Turin

Participated in the *65th Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society – “Targeting Cancer Hallmarks”* (Turin, Italy, December 3–5, 2025). Presented a poster on the role of KRAS G12D and G12V mutations in lung cancer, focusing on their impact on oncogenic signaling and potential therapeutic implications.

Link: <https://sic2025.cancerologia.it/>

CERTIFICATIONS

[02/07/2025] **LEGISLAZIONE NAZIONALE ED ETICA LIVELLO 1, MODULI 1 E 2, DM 5 AGOSTO 2021 - Edizione Unica**

Laboratory Animal Science – Legislation and Ethics

Completed theoretical training modules 1 and 2 covering national legislation and ethical principles for the use of animals in scientific research.

[01/07/2025] **BIOLOGIA E GESTIONE DEGLI ANIMALI DA LABORATORIO, MODULI 3.1, 4, 5, 6.1, 7. DM 5 AGOSTO 2021 RODITORI E LAGOMORFI - Edizione Unica**

Laboratory Animal Science – Biology and Husbandry

Completed theoretical training modules 3.1, 4, 5, 6.1, and 7 focused on the biology, care, and management of laboratory animals (rodents).

[11/12/2025] **CORSO PRATICO DI FORMAZIONE E AGGIORNAMENTO PER RODITORI IMPIEGATI NELLA RICERCA SCIENTIFICA , MODULI 3.2, 6.2, 8, DM 5 AGOSTO 2021, DD 18 MARZO 2022**

Laboratory Animal Science Training Certification

Completed certified training modules 3.2, 6.2, and 8 on the use of laboratory animals (rodents: mice and rats), in compliance with EU regulations. The certification qualifies for Function A (carrying out procedures on animals) and Function D (design of animal experiments), enabling the planning and drafting of research projects involving animal models.

HONOURS AND AWARDS

[01/07/2026] **Guido Berlucci Foundation Young Researchers Mobility Programme 2026**
Awarding institution: Guido Berlucci Foundation

Recipient of a competitive international mobility grant supporting a research project at Amsterdam UMC (location VUmc), Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, focused on therapeutic vulnerabilities in KRAS-mutant lung and pancreatic cancer.