



DIPARTIMENTO DI FARMACIA E BIOTECNOLOGIE

AVVISO DI SEMINARIO

il giorno **martedì 9 luglio 2019**
alle ore **11:00**
presso Aula A (Ex Farmacologia) via Irnerio 48, Bologna

Luca Posa, PharmD, PhD candidate

Neurobiological Psychiatry Unit and The Alan Edwards Centre for Research
on Pain, Dept. Psychiatry, McGill University
Montreal, Canada
(ospite Prof.ssa Romualdi)

terrà un seminario dal titolo:

MELATONIN MT2 RECEPTOR AS NOVEL TARGET FOR THE TREATMENT OF PAIN

Collegli e studenti sono cordialmente invitati

Commissione Ricerca e Attività Correlate - FaBiT

ABSTRACT

Chronic pain is a debilitating disorder in which overwhelming pain signals affect everyday function and quality of life. It affects around 10% of the world population, resulting in personal suffering, reduced productivity, and substantial health care costs. International guidelines recommend, among others, the use of opioids as one of the treatments. However, opioids are partially effective and have a wide range of severe side effects, including physical dependence, tolerance, and respiratory depression. Moreover, increased prescription of opioid medications has led to an Opioid Crisis Emergency declared by the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services. Preclinical and clinical studies showed that melatonin (MLT) and its related selective agonists of MT2 receptor have analgesic properties, likely through the involvement of the opioid system. Our research group determined the effects of the selective MT2 receptor partial agonists in acute and chronic neuropathic pain models and examined their supraspinal mechanism of action and their cross-talk with the opioid system.

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH



Luca Posa is a PhD candidate at the department of Psychiatry at McGill University (Canada).

He received his degree in biology and his PharmD from the University of Bologna (supervisor Pr. Patrizia Romualdi), where he investigated the effect of methadone in analgesic tolerance to opioids. To date, mentored by Dr. Gabriella Gobbi, his research mostly focuses on novel therapeutic strategies to treat chronic pain, particularly agonists of the melatonin MT2 receptor. He also investigated the pharmacological effect of cannabidiol in the comorbidity of pain and anxiety-like behavior.

Luca Posa received the Alan Edwards PhD Studentship (2016) and later the Doctoral Training Scholarship from the Fonds de Recherche du Québec-Santé (2018). He also has been awarded the Trainee Research Award from the Canadian Pain Society (2018) and the Young investigator Training Award from the Perinatal Origins of Neuropsychiatric Disorder Program (2019). He is member of the

International Association for the Study of Pain (IASP), Quebec Network of Junior Pain Investigators and European Behavioural Pharmacology Society (EBPS).