

Department of Life Sciences
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Academic Roles

2012 – present: Associate Professor, Department of Life Sciences (DSV), University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (UniMoRE)

National Scientific Qualifications

- Full Professor qualification, SSD CHEM-08/A (formerly CHIM/09), obtained 01/2023
- Full Professor qualification, SSD 06/MEDS-26 (formerly MED/50), obtained 12/2023

Previous positions

2007 – 2012: Associate Professor, Faculty of Pharmacy, UniMoRE

2002 – 2007: Associate Professor, Faculty of Biosciences and Biotechnology, UniMoRE

1996 – 2002: University Researcher, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Modena

1995 – 1996: Post-doctoral Fellow, Université Paris-XI, “Centre d'études Pharmaceutiques, Physico-Chimie – Pharmacotechnie – Biopharmacie” (now Institut Galien, Université Paris-Saclay)

Education

1991 – 1994: PhD in Pharmaceutical Chemistry (VII cycle), University of Milan

1991: License to practice as Pharmacist

1991: MSc in Pharmaceutical Chemistry and Technology (Summa cum Laude), University of Modena

1985: High School Diploma, Liceo-Ginnasio “G. Palmieri”, Lecce

Main Teaching Activities

2024/25 – present – Pharmaceutical Technology and Innovative Dosage Forms (13 ECTS), MSc in Pharmacy

2022/23 – present – Regulatory Processes of Drugs and Health Products (4 ECTS), MSc in Pharmacy

2007/08 – 2023/24 – Pharmaceutical Technology, Socioeconomics and Legislation II (10 ECTS), MSc in Pharmacy

2017/18 – 2023/24 – Module Technology I within Pharmaceutical Technology, Socioeconomics and Legislation I (3 ECTS), MSc in Pharmacy

2023/24 – Galenical Preparations Laboratory, MSc in Pharmacy

2017/18 – 2019/20 – Co-responsible for the elective course Non-viral Vectors for Gene Therapy, MSc in Medical Biotechnology

2015/16 – Herbal Technologies and Formulations with Elements of Legislation (6 ECTS), BSc in Herbal Sciences

2008/09 – 2013/14 – Formulation and Delivery of Biotechnological Drugs (9 ECTS), MSc in Medical and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology

2010/11 – Herbal Sector Legislation and Regulations (3 ECTS), BSc in Herbal Techniques

2005/06 – 2009/10 – Pharmaceutical Technology, Socioeconomics and Legislation III, Specialization School in Hospital Pharmacy

Research Activity

My scientific activity is primarily devoted to both traditional and innovative **Pharmaceutical Technology**, with a particular focus on the study of **Drug Delivery Systems**, including polymeric and lipid based micro- and nanoparticles. My main publications address the development, in vitro characterization, and in vivo preclinical evaluation of micro and nanoparticulate systems formulated from natural or synthetic polymers for the controlled release of anticancer agents, proteins, and peptides. Part of my research has concentrated on the design and characterization of solid lipid nanoparticles as non-viral vectors for gene therapy, as well as on lipid nanoparticles intended for the inhalation delivery of anti- tuberculosis drugs. Within the broader field of nanomedicine, my work has also explored inorganic nanosystems for theranostic applications, pH-sensitive liposomes for anticancer peptide delivery, and nanoparticulate platforms for the nasal administration of natural neuroactive compounds. More recently, my research has focused on the development and characterization of **carrier free nanodrugs** and on strategies for the **site specific targeting** of nanoparticles to skeletal muscle tissue.

Since 2015, I have been the Principal Investigator of the *Drug Delivery and Targeting* laboratory within the Department of Life Sciences.

Scientific Output

- 76 full-length articles in international peer-reviewed journals (3 reviews; 70% as last/corresponding author)
 - 3 book chapters with international publishers
 - 5 granted patents
 - H-index: 30 (Scopus)
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Academic Service

2026 – present: Member, University Quality Assurance Board (PQA)

2025 – present: Member, University Technology Transfer Committee (CTT)

2021 – 2024: Chair, Joint Teaching-Student Committee (CP-DS), Department of Life Sciences

2017 – 2021: Member, Joint Teaching-Student Committee (CP-DS), Department of Life Sciences

2007 – 2017: Member, Quality Committee, MSc in Pharmacy

2005 – 2009: Faculty Representative, Specialization School in Hospital Pharmacy

2003 – 2006: Faculty Representative, MSc in Pharmaceutical Biotechnology, Faculty of Biosciences and Biotechnology

Other Roles

2020 – present: Co-founder and COO, Innovative Start-up PerFormS (www.performslab.it)

2020 – present: Disciplinary Expert (ED) for Quality Assurance, UniMoRE

Academic Mentorship

Supervision of:

- 4 PhD students

- 3 postdoctoral fellows
 - ~110 MSc thesis students
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Research Grants as Principal Investigator

- PRIN-PNRR 2022 (P2022LSW98): Staying young in old age: an integrative nanomedicine-based approach to reduce skeletal muscle impairment in the elderly
 - POC-ESTE: Proof of Concept program for patent valorization (PNRR, Mission 1 – EU NextGeneration)
 - POR FSE 2014/2020 Emilia-Romagna (2019): Micro-ReSkin – Nanotechnologies for skin repair
 - FAR-DSV 2019: Nose-to-brain delivery strategies for geraniol in Parkinson’s disease
 - FAR-DSV 2015: Development of lipid-based nanocarriers for inhaled anti-tuberculosis therapy
 - Fondazione di Vignola 2015: Solid lipid micro- and nanocarriers for targeted delivery of bioactive molecules
 - Spinner 2013 (2008–2009): Regional funding for technology transfer projects
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Editorial Boards and Scientific Societies

Editorial Boards

- 2020 – present: Editorial Board Member, *Pharmaceutics* (MDPI, IF 6.525)
- 2022 – present: Associate Editor, *Frontiers in Drug Delivery*

Scientific Societies

- SITELF (Italian Society of Pharmaceutical Technology and Legislation)
 - AFI (Italian Association of Industrial Pharmacists)
 - CRS – Controlled Release Society, Italy Chapter
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F.to

Modena, 18/05/2025

Eliana Grazia Leo