

CV Fabio Tascetta

Prof. Tascetta holds a Bachelor's Degree in Biological Sciences, a Specialization in Pharmacology and a Ph.D. in Pharmacology and Toxicology at the University of Milan. From 1999 to 2010 he was a University researcher in the BIO/14 Pharmacology sector at the Department Pharmaceutical Science of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia. From 1999 to 2010 he has been Associate Professor of Pharmacology SSD BIO/14 at the Department of Life Sciences of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia since 2010, where he coordinates the laboratory of molecular neuropharmacology and pharmacogenomics. He has been a full Professor of Pharmacology SSD BIO/14 at the Department of Life Sciences of the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia since 2010. His fields of professional interest are molecular neuropsychopharmacology and neuroimmunology with particular attention to the genetic and biological mechanisms responsible for the onset and progression of psychiatric pathologies, and towards the identification of new therapeutic targets for the treatment of these pathologies. Studies in his laboratory are conducted in vivo through the use of animal models of human psychopathologies, both transgenic and behavioral, and in vitro using primary or immortalized cultures of neuronal and glial cells. Moreover, recently the laboratory of Prof. Tascetta has put even more emphasis on the use of animal models for the study of drugs and psychopathologies and, as an alternative to rodent models, is developing and characterizing various invertebrate models. A significant part of Prof. Tascetta's research activity has been dedicated to investigating the molecular genetic structure of NMDA-type and AMPA-type glutamate ionotropic receptors and their involvement in the etiopathogenesis of schizophrenia and in the mechanism of action of antipsychotic drugs. His research has brought significant benefits to the understanding of the role of glutamate in this pathology. In recent years, his studies have focused on the cAMP dependent transcriptional pathway and in particular on the regulation of the transcription factor CREB as a fundamental pathway for the maintenance of correct neuronal plasticity and as a molecular target common to different pharmacological treatments. Some of these studies were conducted using a mouse model, characterized by a reduction of hypothalamic levels of the type two glucocorticoid receptor. Moreover, in recent years, studies of interactions between the immune system and the central nervous system have become increasingly important, because of the role they play in the correct functioning of the brain, in the onset of psychiatric disorders and their involvement in the mechanism of action of psychotropic drugs. In particular, these studies have led to the identification of key roles and functions of proinflammatory cytokines and their complex receptor systems in the control of the cellular and structural plasticity of the central nervous system. In 2010 (June-September) Prof. Tascetta was a Visiting Professor at the SCRIPPS Research Institute, La Jolla (USA), in the Department of Molecular and Integrative Neuroscience, with which he continues to maintain a constant and productive collaboration. Prof. Tascetta is currently collaborating with prestigious Italian and foreign research centers. Prof. Tascetta is a member of the Graduate (PhD) Program in Neuroscience of the Universities of Modena.