

***Giovanni Luca Romano, PharmD, PhD,***

***Date of birth***: May 26th 1986

***Phone***: +39 340 0643979

***Email***: gian.romano@hotmail.it

***Scopus Author ID:*** *56029348000*

***h-index:*** *7*

Titles. **MS in Pharmacy**. 03/27/2012 - **PhD in neuroscience** 02/20/2017

**Research & Work experience**

October 2013-February 2017: PhD student at the laboratory of ocular pharmacology headed by Proff. Filippo Drago and Claudio Bucolo. Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences University of Catania, Italy. Project Title: Diabetic Retinopathy and miRNA.

March 2016- October 2017: Visiting Research fellow - Mc Knight Vision Center headed by Dr. Vittorio Porciatti. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute - University of Miami (FL, USA).

November 2017 to July 2019: Staff Associate Research - Mc Knight Vision Center headed by Dr. Vittorio Porciatti. Bascom Palmer Eye Institute - University of Miami (FL, USA).

August 2019 to date: Researcher (RTD-A) – Department of Biomedical and Biotechnological Sciences (BIOMETEC) -University of Catania (Italy)

**Education**

March 2012: Master of sciences in Pharmacy. University of Catania, Italy. Thesis: Conveyance of ferulic acid by lipid nanoparticles

October 2013 to February 2017: International PhD program in Neuroscience, University of Catania, Italy. PhD thesis: miRNA expression profile in neurodegenerative disease

**Relevant Awards or Scholarships**

* Travel Grant Recipients ARVO 2015 provided by IT-ARVO. • Grant for attendance in foreign laboratory provided by SIF (Italian Society of Pharmacology) • ARVO 2015 Annual Meeting Emerging Trends and Hot Topics: abstract “#2275 B0180. Common miRNAs in Alzheimer’s disease and retinal degenerative diseases. Giovanni Luca Romano. May 4, 3:45pm.” identified by members of the Annual Meeting Program Committee as a “*newest and innovative research*”.
* Grant to improve biomedical research in pharmacology abroad – Società Italiana Farmacologia (SIF)

**Peer Reviewed publications** (Pubmed=12)

* Bucolo C, Drago F, Maisto R, **Romano GL**, D'Agata V, Maugeri G, Giunta S.

*Curcumin prevents high glucose damage in retinal pigment epithelial cells through ERK1/2-mediated activation of the Nrf2/HO-1 pathway. J Cell Physiol. 2019 Aug;234(10):17295-17304. doi: 10.1002/jcp.28347. Epub 2019 Feb 15.*

* Falzone L, **Romano GL**, Salemi R, Bucolo C, Tomasello B, Lupo G, Anfuso CD, Spandidos DA, Libra M, Candido S.

Prognostic significance of deregulated microRNAs in uveal melanomas. *Mol Med Rep. 2019 Apr;19(4):2599-2610. doi: 10.3892/mmr.2019.9949. Epub 2019 Feb 11.*

* Puglia C, Blasi P, Ostacolo C, Sommella E, Bucolo C, Platania CBM, **Romano GL**, Geraci F, Drago F, Santonocito D, Albertini B, Campiglia P, Puglisi G, Pignatello R. *Innovative Nanoparticles Enhance N-Palmitoylethanolamide Intraocular Delivery. Front Pharmacol. 2018 Mar 28;9:285. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2018.00285. eCollection 2018. PMID: 29643808*
* Chou TH, Musada GR, **Romano GL**, Bolton E, Porciatti V.*Anesthetic Preconditioning as Endogenous Neuroprotection in Glaucoma. Int J Mol Sci. 2018 Jan 13;19(1). pii: E237. doi: 10.3390/ijms19010237. PMID: 29342845*
* **Romano GL**, Platania CB, Drago F, Salomone S, Ragusa M, Barbagallo C, Di Pietro C, Purrello M, Reibaldi M, Avitabile T, Longo A and Bucolo C. *Retinal and Circulating miRNAs in Age-Related Macular Degeneration: An In vivo Animal and Human Study. Front Pharmacol. 2017 March 30;8:168. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2017.00168. PMID: 28424619*
* Fisichella V, Giurdanella G, Platania CB, **Romano GL**, Leggio GM, Salomone S, Drago F, Caraci F, Bucolo C. *TGF-β1 prevents rat retinal insult induced by amyloid-β (1-42) oligomers. Eur J Pharmacol. 2016 Sep 15;787:72-7. doi: 10.1016/j.ejphar.2016.02.002. PMID:26845696*
* Pittalà V, Salerno L, Romeo G, Siracusa MA, Modica MN, **Romano GL**, Salomone S, Drago F, Bucolo C. *Effects of novel hybrids of caffeic acid phenethyl ester and NSAIDs on experimental ocular inflammation. Eur J Pharmacol. 2015 Apr 5;752:78-83. doi: 10.1016/j.ejphar.2015.02.012.PMID:25704612*
* **Romano GL**, Platania CB, Forte S, Salomone S, Drago F, Bucolo C. *MicroRNA target prediction in glaucoma. Prog Brain Res. 2015;220:217-40. doi: 10.1016/bs.pbr.2015.04.013. PMID: 26497793*
* Platania CB, Di Paola L, Leggio GM, **Romano GL**, Drago F, Salomone S, Bucolo C. *Molecular features of interaction between VEGFA and anti-angiogenic drugs used in retinal diseases: a computational approach. Front Pharmacol. 2015 Oct 29;6:248. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2015.00248. Erratum in: Front Pharmacol. 2016;7:165. PMID: 26578958*
* Bucolo C, Musumeci M, Salomone S, **Romano GL**, Leggio GM, Gagliano C, Reibaldi M, Avitabile T, Uva MG, Musumeci S, Drago F. *Effects of Topical Fucosyl-Lactose, a Milk Oligosaccharide, on Dry Eye Model: An Example of Nutraceutical Candidate. Front Pharmacol. 2015 Nov 18;6:280. doi: 10.3389/fphar.2015.00280. PMID:26635620*
* Leonardi A, Bucolo C, **Romano GL**, Platania CB, Drago F, Puglisi G, Pignatello R. Influence of different surfactants on the technological properties and in vivo ocular tolerability of lipid nanoparticles. Int J Pharm. 2014 Aug 15;470(1-2):133-40. doi: 10.1016/j.ijpharm.2014.04.061. PMID: 24792979
* Bucolo C, Marrazzo G, Platania CB, **Romano GL**, Drago F, Salomone S. Effects of topical indomethacin, bromfenac and nepafenac on lipopolysaccharide-induced ocular inflammation. J Pharm Pharmacol. 2014 Jul;66(7):954-60. doi: 10.1111/jphp.12224. PMID: 24697218

**Conference proceedings**

• **Romano GL**, Bucolo C, Platania CB, Leggio GM, Salomone S, Drago F. Age-related degenerative disease: what we can learn from glaucoma. Seminario annuale per assegnisti e dottorandi della Società Italiana di Farmacologia (SIF) - Rimini (ITA)

• **Romano GL**, Giurdanella G, Fisichella V, Leggio GM, Platania CB, Laudicina M, Salomone S, Caraci F, Bucolo C and Drago F. Neuroprotective effects of TGF-β1 in rat retinal β-amyloid-induced damage. 37° Congresso nazionale della Società Italiana di Farmacologia (SIF) –Napoli (ITA)

• **Romano GL**, Bucolo C, Platania CB, Leggio GM, Salomone S, Drago F. Age-related degenerative disease: what we can learn from glaucoma. 27th European College of Neuro Psycopharmacology Congress (ECNP) – Berlin (DE)

• **Romano GL**, Platania CB, Forte S, Salomone S, Drago F, Bucolo C. Common miRNAs in Alzheimer’s disease and retinal degenerative diseases. The Association for Research in Vision and Ophtalmology meeting (ARVO) - Denver (CL-USA)

• **Romano GL**, Platania CB, Forte S, Salomone S, Drago F, Bucolo C. Common miRNAs in Alzheimer’s disease and retinal degenerative diseases. 28th European College of Neuropsycopharmacology Congress (ECNP) – Amsterdam (NL)

• **Romano GL**, Bucolo C, Platania CB, Leggio GM, Salomone S, Drago F. Age-related degenerative disease: what we can learn from glaucoma. 12th Summer school of Neurosciences – Catania (ITA)

• **Romano GL**, Platania CB, Forte S, Salomone S, Drago F, Bucolo C. Common miRNAs in Alzheimer’s disease and retinal degenerative diseases. Seminario annuale per assegnisti e dottorandi della Società Italiana di Farmacologia (SIF) -Rimini (ITA)

• **Romano GL**, Platania CB, Forte S, Salomone S, Drago F, Bucolo C. Common miRNAs in Alzheimer’s disease and retinal degenerative diseases. 13th Summer school of Neurosciences – Catania (ITA)