

**Dottorato di ricerca in
Medicina Molecolare e Biotecnologie Mediche**

**Linee di ricerca disponibili per le borse di Dottorato del ciclo 42°
(tutte prevedono un periodo di ricerca da svolgersi all'estero):**

Rosario Avolio

Uncovering new vulnerabilities of ovarian cancer pharmaco-resistance via unbiased identification of RNA-binding proteins.

- De Lella S, Pedalino L, Abaker MAA, Mignogna C, Cautiero R, Esposito F, Matassa DS, Avolio R. The molecular chaperone TRAP1 promotes translation of Luc7I3 mRNA to enhance ovarian cancer cell proliferation. *RNA*. 2025 Oct 16;31(11):1667-1683.
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- Avolio R, Inglés-Ferrandiz M, Ciocia A, Coll O, Bonnin S, Guitart T, Ribò A, Gebauer F. Coordinated post-transcriptional control of oncogene-induced senescence by UNR/CSDE1. *Cell Rep*. 2022 Jan 11;38(2):110211.

Francesca Carlomagno

Role of NCOA4 in controlling iron metabolism and ferroptosis.

- Federico G, Carrillo F, Dapporto F, Chiariello M, Santoro M, Bellelli R, Carlomagno F. NCOA4 links iron bioavailability to DNA metabolism. *Cell Rep*. 2022 Aug 16;40(7):111207.
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Immacolata Castellano

Marine-derived sulfur-containing amino acids as novel and eco-safe protective molecules against oxidative stress and inflammation-induced damage.

- Brancaccio M, Milito A, Viegas CA, Palumbo A, Simes DC, Castellano I. First evidence of dermo-protective activity of marine sulfur-containing histidine compounds. *Free Radic Biol Med*. 2022 Nov;192:224-234.
- Russo MT, Santin A, Zuccarotto A, Leone S, Palumbo A, Ferrante MI, Castellano I. The first genetic engineered system for ovothiol biosynthesis in diatoms reveals a mitochondrial localization for the sulfoxide synthase OvoA. *Open Biol*. 2023 Feb;13(2):220309.
- Zuccarotto A, Sollitto M, Leclère L, Panzella L, Gerdol M, Leone S, Castellano I. Molecular evolution of ovothiol biosynthesis in animal life reveals diversity of the natural antioxidant ovothiols in Cnidaria. *Free Radic Biol Med*. 2025 Feb 1;227:117-128.

Maria Rosaria Catania

Alternative antimicrobial strategies and antibiotic-resistance breakers: searching for new antimicrobial compounds and strategies to restore the susceptibility of clinically relevant microorganisms to conventional antimicrobials.

- Napolitano F, Roscetto E, Fabozzi M, Aversa M, Formisano P, Catania MR, Montuori N. The antimicrobial potential of the secretome from Wharton's jelly mesenchymal stem cells in the context of regenerative medicine: an in vitro study. *Front Immunol.* 2026 May 5;17:1818127.
- Santaniello A, Roscetto E, Galdiero U, Pepe P, Bosco A, Boccino I, Dipineto L, Catania MR, Grieco P. Antimicrobial Activity of Bioactive Peptides on Resistant Enterobacteriaceae and the Viability of *Giardia duodenalis* Cysts Isolated from Healthy Dogs. *Vet Sci.* 2026 Jan 3;13(1):44.
- Balato M, Roscetto E, Petrarca C, Vitelli M, Aversa M, Galdiero U, Catania MR, Costanzo L, Soto SM, Mariconda M, Balato G. Electric fields unlock a transient vulnerability window for vancomycin-based treatment of staphylococcal biofilms. *Sci Rep.* 2025 Nov 25;15(1):41991.

Fabio Cattaneo

Unravelling the role of Formyl Peptide Receptors in cancer therapies resistance and cell metabolism reprogramming.

- Cassese M, Brignola C, Marrone S, Esposito G, Ammendola R, Cattaneo F. LAT1/SLC7A5-mediated amino acid uptake is regulated by redox signals triggered by formyl-peptide receptor 2. *FEBS J.* Published online December 21, 2025.
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Armando Cevenini

Multi-omic biomarkers and molecular signatures for precision monitoring of childhood hypoglycemia associated with inherited metabolic disorders.

- Costanzo M, Cevenini A, Kollipara L, Caterino M, Bianco S, Pirozzi F, Scerra G, D'Agostino M, Pavone LM, Sickmann A, Ruoppolo M. Methylmalonic acidemia triggers lysosomal-autophagy dysfunctions. *Cell Biosci.* 2024 May 17;14(1):63.
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Gerolama Condorelli

Development and characterization of selected aptamers targeting pancreatic cancer cells and cancer-derived extracellular vesicles to identify novel biomarkers for liquid biopsy and innovative therapeutic strategies against PDAC progression and drug resistance.

- Esposito CL, Quintavalle C, Ingenito F, Rotoli D, Roscigno G, Nuzzo S, Thomas R, Catuogno S, de Francis V, Condorelli G. Identification of a novel RNA aptamer that selectively targets breast cancer exosomes. *Mol Ther Nucleic Acids.* 2021 Jan 20;23:982-994.
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Massimo D'Agostino

Translocation inhibitors to counteract ATZ toxic accumulation.

- Cannata Serio M, Vitale F, Scerra G, Bonavita R, Poulet P, Caporaso MG, Marrone L, Romano S, Renna M, Perez F, D'Agostino M. A delayed translocation into the endoplasmic reticulum controls the post-translational modifications of PD-L1. *Nat Commun.* 2026 Apr 11. doi: 10.1038/s41467-026-71760-x.

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Pasqualino de Antonellis

Targeting Therapy-Resistant Spatial Niches to Overcome Leptomeningeal Recurrence in Medulloblastoma.

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Paola De Candia

REGulatory T cell-derived extracellular VEsicles: elucidate the biology to tailor their therapeutic potential (REVEAL).

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- Fusco C, De Rosa G, Spatocco I, Vitiello E, Procaccini C, Frigè C, Pellegrini V, La Grotta R, Furlan R, Matarese G, Praticchizzo F, de Candia P. Extracellular vesicles as human therapeutics: A scoping review of the literature. *J Extracell Vesicles.* 2024 May;13(5):e12433.
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Maria Donata Di Taranto

Unravelling genetic mechanisms and biochemical alterations characterizing patients with inherited dyslipidemias and high cardiovascular risk.

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Gabriella Esposito

Retinal disorders as primary targets of innovative therapies for treatment of rare genetic diseases characterized by nonsense mutations.

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Raffaella Faraonio

The Nrf2 and p53 redox-related pathways: unraveling the bidirectional cross-talk with non-coding RNAs. From molecular mechanisms to cancer and age-related pathologies.

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Antonio Feliciello

Targeting cAMP and ubiquitin signaling offers novel therapeutic strategies for GBM treatment.

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Veronica Ferrucci

Decoding immunometabolic and innate immune circuits in pediatric central and peripheral nervous system tumors.

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Giulia Frisso

Precision medicine in hypertrophic cardiomyopathy: combining clinical, genetic, and advanced multi-omics profiling of peripheral blood biomarkers to stratify risk and assess outcomes.

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Mario Galgani

Investigating T Cell Immunobiology and Immune Tolerance in Autoimmune Disease Pathogenesis.

- Abbadessa G, Lepore MT, Bruzzaniti S, Piemonte E, Miele G, Signoriello E, Perna F, De Falco C, Lus G, Matarese G, Bonavita S, Galgani M. Ocrelizumab Alters Cytotoxic Lymphocyte Function While Reducing EBV-Specific CD8+ T-Cell Proliferation in Patients With Multiple Sclerosis. *Neurol Neuroimmunol Neuroinflamm*. 2024 Jul;11(4):e200250.
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Antonella Izzo

Understanding Neurodevelopmental Alterations in Down Syndrome Through Gene Dosage Modulation in Trisomic iPSCs.

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Paolo Maiuri

Mechanobiology of Cancer Cell Locomotion: Investigating How Mechanical Stress Induces Amoeboid Migration to Promote Efficient Cancer Dissemination and Metastatic Colonization.

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Massimo Mallardo

The role of STING in neuroinflammation and role neural differentiation.

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Giuseppe Merla

TRIM8 nuclear condensates via liquid-liquid phase separation (LLPS) underlie the pathogenic mechanism in human cancers and the neuro-renal FSGSNEDS syndrome.

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Marcello Moccia

Biomarkers' discovery and translation to clinical practice for the diagnosis, prognosis and treatment of neurodegenerative and neuroinflammatory diseases of the central nervous system.

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