

## PERSONAL INFORMATION



## Francesco Leonetti

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Sex Male | Date of birth XXXXXXXXXXXXX | Nationality Italian

## WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2001- 2017 **Assistant Professor of Medicinal Chemistry** in the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
- 2017-present **Associate Professor of Medicinal Chemistry** in the Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
- 2016-2017 **Member of the Board of Directors**, "University of Bari Aldo Moro"
- 2018-present **Head of the Department of Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences**, "University of Bari Aldo Moro"
- 2019-present **Member of Academic Senate**, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"

## RESEARCH FOCUS

The design and synthesis of small molecule through parallel organic synthesis, both on solid phase and in solution, with potential pharmacological activity toward pathologies such as cancer (Aromatase, Protein Kinases (JNK), MDR and HDAC inhibitors) and neurodegenerative disease (AChE and MAOB inhibitors)

## TEACHING ACTIVITIES

- 2005-2010 **Teacher of "Drug Analysis II"** Department: Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
- 2011-2015 **Teacher of "Medicinal and Toxicological Analysis of Drugs II"** Department: Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
- 2015-present **Teacher of "Medicinal and Toxicological Chemistry II"** Department: Pharmacy-Pharmaceutical Sciences, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
- 2017-2018 **Teacher of "Drug analysis II"** Faculty of Pharmacy, University Cattolica "Nostra Signora del Buon Consiglio" Kompleksi Spitalor Universitar "Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë" Rruga "Dritan Hoxha", Tirana, Albania
- 2018-present **Teacher of "Medicinal and Toxicological Chemistry II"** Faculty of Pharmacy, University Cattolica "Nostra Signora del Buon Consiglio" Kompleksi Spitalor Universitar "Zoja e Këshillit të Mirë" Rruga "Dritan Hoxha", Tirana, Albania
- 2003-2013 **Committee Member for the PhD Course "Medicinal Chemistry"**, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
- 2013-present **Committee Member for the PhD Course "Biomolecular, Pharmaceutical and Medical Sciences"**, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"
- 2020-present **Committee Member for the PhD Course "Pharmaceutical Sciences"**, Faculty of Pharmacy, University of Bari

## EDUCATION AND TRAINING

- 1995 **Degree in Chemistry and Pharmaceutical Technology**, Grade: Cum Laude, University of Bari, Italy
- 1996 **Qualification as Pharmacist**, University of Bari, Italy.
- 1999 **PhD in "Medicinal Chemistry"**, awarded to Italian Ministry of University and Research
- 1999-2000 **Post-doc fellowship**

## PERSONAL SKILLS

DEPARTMENT of CHEMISTRY - UNIVERSITY of BERKELEY, California (USA).  
 (<http://ellman.chem.yale.edu/people/past>)

Mother tongue(s) ITALIAN

Other language(s)	UNDERSTANDING		SPEAKING		WRITING
	Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
English	B1/2	B1/2	B1/2	B1/2	B1/2

Levels: A1/2: Basic user - B1/2: Independent user - C1/2 Proficient user  
 Common European Framework of Reference for Languages

**Communication skills** Good communication skills gained through my experience as University teacher

**Organisational/ managerial skills** Leadership: Head of Department of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical science, University of Bari "Aldo Moro"

**Computer skills** Good command of Microsoft "Office" tools, Chem Draw, Prism Graph Pad, PyMOL

**Driving licence** B

PUBLICATIONS  
Co-authored 67  
publications

- Iacobazzi, R.M., Cutrignelli, A., Stefanachi, A., Porcelli, L., Lopodota, A.A., Di Fonte, R., Lopalco, A., Serrati, S., Laquintana, V., Silvestris, N., Franco, M., Cellamare, S., Leonetti, F., Azzariti, A., Denora, N.  
Hydroxy-propil- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin inclusion complexes of two biphenylnicotinamide derivatives: Formulation and anti-proliferative activity evaluation in pancreatic cancer cell models  
(2020) International Journal of Molecular Sciences, 21 (18), art. no. 6545, pp. 1-14.  
DOI: 10.3390/ijms21186545
- Carofiglio, F., Trisciuzzi, D., Gambacorta, N., Leonetti, F., Stefanachi, A., Nicolotti, O.  
Bcr-Abl Allosteric Inhibitors: Where We Are and Where We Are Going to  
(2020) Molecules, 25 (18), art. no. 4210, .  
DOI: 10.3390/molecules25184210
- Blasi, D., Sarcina, L., Tricase, A., Stefanachi, A., Leonetti, F., Alberga, D., Mangiatordi, G.F., Manoli, K., Scamarcio, G., Picca, R.A., Torsi, L.  
Enhancing the Sensitivity of Biotinylated Surfaces by Tailoring the Design of the Mixed Self-Assembled Monolayer Synthesis  
(2020) ACS Omega, 5 (27), pp. 16762-16771.  
DOI: 10.1021/acsomega.0c01717
- Spinelli, F., Giampietro, R., Stefanachi, A., Riganti, C., Kopecka, J., Abatematteo, F.S., Leonetti, F., Colabufo, N.A., Mangiatordi, G.F., Nicolotti, O., Perrone, M.G., Brea, J., Loza, M.I., Infantino, V., Abate, C., Contino, M.  
Design and synthesis of fluorescent ligands for the detection of cannabinoid type 2 receptor (CB2R)  
(2020) European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, 188, art. no. 112037, .  
DOI: 10.1016/j.ejmech.2020.112037
- Carofiglio, F., Lopalco, A., Lopodota, A., Cutrignelli, A., Nicolotti, O., Denora, N., Stefanachi, A., Leonetti, F.  
Bcr-abl tyrosine kinase inhibitors in the treatment of pediatric cml  
(2020) International Journal of Molecular Sciences, 21 (12), art. no. 4469, pp. 1-21.  
DOI: 10.3390/ijms21124469
- Denora, N., Lee, C., Iacobazzi, R.M., Choi, J.Y., Song, I.H., Yoo, J.S., Piao, Y., Lopalco, A., Leonetti, F., Lee, B.C., Kim, S.E.  
TSPO-targeted NIR-fluorescent ultra-small iron oxide nanoparticles for glioblastoma imaging  
(2019) European Journal of Pharmaceutical Sciences, 139, art. no. 105047, .  
DOI: 10.1016/j.ejps.2019.105047
- Leopoldo, M., Nardulli, P., Contino, M., Leonetti, F., Luurtsema, G., Colabufo, N.A.  
An updated patent review on P-glycoprotein inhibitors (2011-2018)  
(2019) Expert Opinion on Therapeutic Patents, 29 (6), pp. 455-461.  
DOI: 10.1080/13543776.2019.1618273
- Brunetti, O., Badalamenti, G., De Summa, S., Calabrese, A., Argentiero, A., Fucci, L., Longo, V., Galetta, D., Soccorsa Perrotti, P.M., Pinto, R., Petriella, D., Danza, K., Tommasi, S., Leonetti, F., Silvestris, N.  
Molecular characterization of a long-term survivor double metastatic non-small cell lung cancer and pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma treated with gefitinib in combination with gemcitabine plus nab-paclitaxel and mFOLFOX6 as first and second line therapy  
(2019) Cancers, 11 (6), art. no. 749, .  
DOI: 10.3390/cancers11060749
- Longo, V., Brunetti, O., Azzariti, A., Galetta, D., Nardulli, P., Leonetti, F., Silvestris, N.  
Strategies to improve cancer immune checkpoint inhibitors efficacy, other than abscopal effect: A systematic review  
(2019) Cancers, 11 (4), art. no. 539, .  
DOI: 10.3390/cancers11040539
- Porcelli, L., Iacobazzi, R.M., Di Fonte, R., Serrati, S., Intini, A., Solimando, A.G., Brunetti, O., Calabrese, A., Leonetti, F., Azzariti, A., Silvestris, N.  
CAFs and TGF- $\beta$  signaling activation by mast cells contribute to resistance to Gemcitabine/Nabpaclitaxel in Pancreatic Cancer  
(2019) Cancers, 11 (3), art. no. 330, .  
DOI: 10.3390/cancers11030330
- Alberga, D., Trisciuzzi, D., Montaruli, M., Leonetti, F., Mangiatordi, G.F., Nicolotti, O.  
A New Approach for Drug Target and Bioactivity Prediction: The Multifingerprint Similarity Search Algorithm (MuSSeL)  
(2019) Journal of Chemical Information and Modeling, 59 (1), pp. 586-596.  
DOI: 10.1021/acs.jcim.8b00698
- Riganti, C., Contino, M., Guglielmo, S., Perrone, M.G., Salaroglio, I.C., Milosevic, V., Giampietro, R., Leonetti, F., Rolando, B., Lazzarato, L., Colabufo, N.A., Fruttero, R.  
Design, Biological Evaluation, and Molecular Modeling of Tetrahydroisoquinoline Derivatives: Discovery of A Potent P-Glycoprotein Ligand Overcoming Multidrug Resistance in Cancer Stem Cells  
(2019) Journal of Medicinal Chemistry, 62 (2), pp. 974-986.  
DOI: 10.1021/acs.jmedchem.8b01655

- Mangiatoridi, G.F., Trisciuzzi, D., Iacobazzi, R., Denora, N., Pisani, L., Catto, M., Leonetti, F., Alberga, D., Nicolotti, O. Automated identification of structurally heterogeneous and patentable antiproliferative hits as potential tubulin inhibitors (2018) *Chemical Biology and Drug Design*, 92 (1), pp. 1161-1170. DOI: 10.1111/cbdd.13200
- Altamura, C., Mangiatoridi, G.F., Nicolotti, O., Sahbani, D., Farinato, A., Leonetti, F., Carratù, M.R., Conte, D., Desaphy, J.-F., Imbrici, P. Mapping ligand binding pockets in chloride ClC-1 channels through an integrated in silico and experimental approach using anthracene-9-carboxylic acid and niflumic acid (2018) *British Journal of Pharmacology*, 175 (10), pp. 1770-1780. DOI: 10.1111/bph.14192
- Imbrici, P., Nicolotti, O., Leonetti, F., Conte, D., Liantonio, A. Ion channels in drug discovery and safety pharmacology (2018) *Methods in Molecular Biology*, 1800, pp. 313-326. DOI: 10.1007/978-1-4939-7899-1\_15
- Stefanachi, A., Leonetti, F., Pisani, L., Catto, M., Carotti, A. Coumarin: A natural, privileged and versatile scaffold for bioactive compounds (2018) *Molecules*, 23 (2), art. no. 250, . DOI: 10.3390/molecules23020250
- Trisciuzzi, D., Alberga, D., Leonetti, F., Novellino, E., Nicolotti, O., Mangiatoridi, G.F. Molecular docking for predictive toxicology (2018) *Methods in Molecular Biology*, 1800, pp. 181-197. DOI: 10.1007/978-1-4939-7899-1\_8
- Majellaro, M., Stefanachi, A., Tardia, P., Vicenti, C., Boccarelli, A., Pannunzio, A., Campanella, F., Coluccia, M., Denora, N., Leonetti, F., de Candia, M., Altomare, C.D., Cellamare, S. Investigating Structural Requirements for the Antiproliferative Activity of Biphenyl Nicotinamides (2017) *ChemMedChem*, 12 (16), pp. 1380-1389. DOI: 10.1002/cmdc.201700365
- Stefanachi, A., Mangiatoridi, G.F., Tardia, P., Alberga, D., Leonetti, F., Niso, M., Colabufo, N.A., Adamo, C., Nicolotti, O., Cellamare, S. Design, synthesis, biological evaluation, NMR and DFT studies of structurally simplified trimethoxy benzamides as selective P-glycoprotein inhibitors: the role of molecular flatness (2016) *Chemical Biology and Drug Design*, 88 (6), pp. 820-831. DOI: 10.1111/cbdd.12811
- Mangiatoridi, G.F., Alberga, D., Altomare, C.D., Carotti, A., Catto, M., Cellamare, S., Gadaleta, D., Lattanzi, G., Leonetti, F., Pisani, L., Stefanachi, A., Trisciuzzi, D., Nicolotti, O. Mind the Gap! A Journey towards Computational Toxicology (2016) *Molecular Informatics*, pp. 294-308. DOI: 10.1002/minf.201501017
- Leo, V., Stefanachi, A., Nacci, C., Leonetti, F., De Candia, M., Carotti, A., Altomare, C.D., Montagnani, M., Cellamare, S. Galloyl benzamide-based compounds modulating tumour necrosis factor  $\alpha$ -stimulated c-Jun N-terminal kinase and p38 mitogen-activated protein kinase signalling pathways (2015) *Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology*, 67 (10), pp. 1380-1392. DOI: 10.1111/jphp.12438
- Pau, A., Catto, M., Pinna, G., Frau, S., Murineddu, G., Asproni, B., Curzu, M.M., Pisani, L., Leonetti, F., Loza, M.I., Brea, J., Pinna, G.A., Carotti, A. Multitarget-directed tricyclic pyridazinones as G protein-coupled receptor ligands and cholinesterase inhibitors (2015) *ChemMedChem*, 10 (6), pp. 1054-1070. <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-84930628127&doi=10.1002%2fcmdc.201500124&partnerID=40&md5=b8685d01910ee5f8948bcd0290449904> DOI: 10.1002/cmdc.201500124
- Stefanachi, A., Hanke, N., Pisani, L., Leonetti, F., Nicolotti, O., Catto, M., Cellamare, S., Hartmann, R.W., Carotti, A. Discovery of new 7-substituted-4-imidazolylmethyl coumarins and 4'-substituted-2-imidazolyl acetophenones open analogues as potent and selective inhibitors of steroid-11 $\beta$ -hydroxylase (2015) *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 89, pp. 106-114. DOI: 10.1016/j.ejmech.2014.10.021
- Tardia, P., Stefanachi, A., Niso, M., Stofla, D.A., Mangiatoridi, G.F., Alberga, D., Nicolotti, O., Lattanzi, G., Carotti, A., Leonetti, F., Perrone, R., Berardi, F., Azzariti, A., Colabufo, N.A., Cellamare, S. Trimethoxybenzanilide-based P-glycoprotein modulators: An interesting case of lipophilicity tuning by intramolecular hydrogen bonding (2014) *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 57 (15), pp. 6403-6418.

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(2013) *Expert Opinion on Drug Discovery*, 8 (4), pp. 395-409.  
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Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of coumarin alkylamines as potent and selective dual binding site inhibitors of acetylcholinesterase  
(2013) *Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry*, 21 (1), pp. 146-152.  
DOI: 10.1016/j.bmc.2012.10.045

Nicolotti, O., Catto, M., Giangreco, I., Barletta, M., Leonetti, F., Stefanachi, A., Pisani, L., Cellamare, S., Tortorella, P., Loidice, F., Carotti, A.  
Design, synthesis and biological evaluation of 5-hydroxy, 5-substituted-pyrimidine-2,4,6-triones as potent inhibitors of gelatinases MMP-2 and MMP-9  
(2012) *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 58, pp. 368-376.  
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Nicolotti, O., Convertino, M., Leonetti, F., Catto, M., Cellamare, S., Carotti, A.  
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New strategies in the chemotherapy of leukemia: Eradicating cancer stem cells in chronic myeloid leukemia  
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Giangreco, I., Lattanzi, G., Nicolotti, O., Catto, M., Laghezza, A., Leonetti, F., Stefanachi, A., Carotti, A.  
Insights into the complex formed by matrix metalloproteinase-2 and alloxan inhibitors: Molecular dynamics simulations and free energy calculations  
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Nicolotti, O., Giangreco, I., Introcaso, A., Leonetti, F., Stefanachi, A., Carotti, A.  
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(2011) *Expert Opinion on Drug Discovery*, 6 (9), pp. 871-884.  
DOI: 10.1517/17460441.2011.588696

Leonetti, F., Stefanachi, A., Nicolotti, O., Catto, M., Pisani, L., Cellamare, S., Carotti, A.  
BCR-ABL inhibitors in chronic myeloid leukemia: Process chemistry and biochemical profile  
(2011) *Current Medicinal Chemistry*, 18 (19), pp. 2943-2959.  
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Conejo-García, A., Pisani, L., Del Carmen Núñez, M., Catto, M., Nicolotti, O., Leonetti, F., Campos, J.M., Gallo, M.A., Espinosa, A., Carotti, A.  
Homodimeric bis-quaternary heterocyclic ammonium salts as potent acetyl- and butyrylcholinesterase inhibitors: A systematic investigation of the influence of linker and cationic heads over affinity and selectivity  
(2011) *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 54 (8), pp. 2627-2645.  
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Stefanachi, A., Favia, A.D., Nicolotti, O., Leonetti, F., Pisani, L., Catto, M., Zimmer, C., Hartmann, R.W., Carotti, A.  
Design, synthesis, and biological evaluation of imidazolyl derivatives of 4,7-disubstituted coumarins as aromatase inhibitors selective over 17- $\alpha$ -hydroxylase/C17-20 lyase  
(2011) *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 54 (6), pp. 1613-1625.  
DOI: 10.1021/jm101120u

Nicolotti, O., Pisani, L., Catto, M., Leonetti, F., Giangreco, I., Stefanachi, A., Carotti, A.  
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Pisani, L., Catto, M., Leonetti, F., Nicolotti, O., Stefanachi, A., Campagna, F., Carotti, A.  
Targeting monoamine oxidases with multipotent ligands: An emerging strategy in the search of new drugs against neurodegenerative diseases  
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Pisani, L., Catto, M., Giangreco, I., Leonetti, F., Nicolotti, O., Stefanachi, A., Cellamare, S., Carotti, A.  
Design, synthesis, and biological evaluation of coumarin derivatives tethered to an edrophonium-like fragment as highly potent and selective dual binding site acetylcholinesterase inhibitors  
(2010) *ChemMedChem*, 5 (9), pp. 1616-1630.  
DOI: 10.1002/cmdc.201000210

Pellegrino, G., Leonetti, F., Carotti, A., Nicolotti, O., Pisani, L., Stefanachi, A., Catto, M.  
Solid phase synthesis of a molecular library of pyrimidines, pyrazoles, and isoxazoles with biological potential  
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Nicolotti, O., Giangreco, I., Miscioscia, T.F., Convertino, M., Leonetti, F., Pisani, L., Carotti, A.  
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(2009) *Journal of Medicinal Chemistry*, 52 (21), pp. 6685-6706.  
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1,3-Dialkyl-8-(hetero)aryl-9-OH-9-deazaxanthines as potent A2B adenosine receptor antagonists: Design, synthesis, structure-affinity and structure-selectivity relationships  
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Homo- and hetero-bivalent edrophonium-like ammonium salts as highly potent, dual binding site AChE inhibitors  
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