

## **Manjola Balliu, PhD**

### Personal data

Date and place of birth: 30/12/1983, Kavaje (Albania)

Citizenship: Albanian

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### Education

2007. University of Florence, Medical Biotechnology degree (3 years), with a thesis entitled "*Induction of differentiation in hepatocellular carcinoma cell line Hep-G2.*"

2007. Fellowship within the project PRIN 2006-2008 -Title: "*Characterization and development of a new class of histone deacetylase inhibitors capable of inducing of differentiation and/or apoptosis in acute myeloid leukemia: in vitro, ex vivo and in vivo.*"

2008. Collaboration (Co.Co.Co.) to the project entitled: "*Design, synthesis, characterization and development of novel inhibitors of histone deacetylase with potential application for the treatment of cancer*", in the laboratory of Prof. F. Paoletti at the Department of Experimental Pathology and Oncology, University of Florence.

2009. University of Florence, Medical Biotechnology degree (2 years) 110/110 magna cum laude, with a thesis entitled "*The effects of a novel inhibitor of histone deacetylase on growth and apoptosis in hepatocellular carcinoma cell line Hep-G2.*"

2012. Fellowship Lucarelli awarded by Rotary Club (Cecina-Rosignano).

2013. Obtained the official qualification to work as a Biologist.

2013. Post-doctoral School in Clinical and Experimental Oncology, University of Florence (3 years).

2013. Appointed as Research fellow at the Department of Experimental and Clinical Medicine, University of Florence.

### Publications:

1. C. Cellai, A. Laurenzana, E. Bianchi, S. Sdelci, R. Manfredini, AM. Vannucchi, R. Caporale, M. Balliu, F. Mannelli, S. Ferrari, A. Bosi, D. Miniati, P L. Cocco, S. Veronneau, J. Stankova, and F. Paoletti. (2009) Mechanistic insight into WEB-2170-induced apoptosis in human acute myelogenous leukemia cells: The crucial role of PTEN. *Experimental Hematology*, Volume 37, Issue 10, Pages 1176-1185.

2. C. Cellai, M. Balliu, A. Laurenzana, L. Guandalini, R. Matucci, D. Miniati, E. Torre, A. Nebbioso, V. Carafa, L. Altucci, M. N. Romanelli, F. Paoletti, (2011) The new low-toxic histone deacetylase inhibitor S-(2) induces apoptosis in various acute myeloid leukaemia cells. *J. Cell. Mol. Med.* Vol XX, No X, pp. 1-8.

3. A. Laurenzana, M. Balliu, C. Cellai, M. N. Romanelli and F. Paoletti (2012) Effectiveness of the histone deacetylase inhibitor (S)-2 against LNCaP and PC3 human prostate cancer. *PLoS One*. 2013;8(3):e58267. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0058267. Epub 2013 Mar 4.

4. L. Guandalini, M. Balliu, C. Cellai, M.V. Martino, A. Nebbioso, C. Mercurio, V. Carafa, G. Bartolucci, S. Dei, D. Manetti, E. Teodori, S. Scapecchi, L. Altucci, F. Paoletti, M.N. Romanelli (2013) Design, synthesis and preliminary evaluation of a series of histone deacetylase inhibitors carrying a benzodiazepine ring. *European Journal of Medicinal Chemistry* doi.org/10.1016/j.ejmech.2013.05.017.

### Technical skills and competences:

My scientific interests concern the development and characterization of new histone deacetylase hydroxamate-inhibitors (HDAC inhibitors, HDACi) which, due to their ability to induce growth arrest and/or apoptosis and/or differentiation in hematological and solid tumor cells, might offer translational opportunities in the clinic. I have been especially trained in performing morphological, immunological, biochemical and molecular analyses to monitor mechanisms of drug-mediated induction of cell growth arrest/ differentiation/apoptosis and identify key steps of these processes.