



Drugs, Biomolecules and Health Products - V.P. POSITION

DESCRIPTION OF THE PHD PROGRAM

The PhD programme supports research projects and didactical activities regarding the design, discovery, development, production and control of drugs and health products, or the drugs and biomolecules action mechanisms. With its Teacher Board comprising more than 50 members, it covers four main areas of interest: i) design and synthesis of bioactive compounds; ii) biopharmaceutics and pharmacokinetics; iii) experimental pharmacology and toxicology; iv) biochemistry, biophysics and molecular biology. It participates at international networks and is a member of the ULLA Consortium for post-graduate training in the field of Pharmaceutical Sciences, which includes major European Universities and offers the PhD students grants for secondments, workshops and a biannual Summer School.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SCIENTIFIC FIELD & VISITING PROFESSOR PROFILE

Fatty acid ethanolamides (FAEs) and related compounds are an important class of lipid-derived signalling molecules that control different cellular functions. Modulation of their metabolism and tissue levels has promising applications in different fields, including pain control, inflammation, antitumor therapy, depression, food intake and drug abuse.

An expert in the metabolism, functions and pathological/physiological roles of FAEs and related lipid-derived signalling compounds would fill a specific need for the research groups in Parma that work in the fields of drug discovery, development and formulation, as well as of biomolecules and nutraceuticals.

DESCRIPTION OF THE DIDACTIC ACTIVITIES OF THE VISITING PROFESSOR

Three short courses about the principal classes of lipid-derived signalling substances (e.g. "Development of the first class of systemically active FAAH inhibitors"; "Physiology and pharmacology of the endocannabinoid system", "Roles of fatty acid ethanolamides in inflammation and energy balance").

Seminars on case studies, describing the discovery of new modulators of the metabolism of lipid-derived signalling lipids. Design and review of research plans for PhD students of the Drugs, Biomolecules and Health products Course.

Presence at the University of Parma: 4 weeks per year.
