Massimo Ubaldi Ph.D.

- 1992: B.S. Degree in Biology with full marks (110/110).
- 1992- 1994: Postgraduate training at the department of Molecular, Cellular and Animal Biology Department, University of Camerino, Italy.
- 1994-1997: Ph.D. student at the Department of Molecular, Cellular and Animal Biology, University of Camerino, Italy.
- 1997: Visiting scientist at California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo, California.
- 1998: Ph.D. degree in Biology.
- 1997-2002: Postdoctoral research fellowship at Molecular, Cellular and Animal Biology Department, University of Camerino, Italy.
- 2002-2004: Postdoctoral research fellowship at the Department of Pharmacology and Experimental Medicine, University of Camerino, Italy.
- 2004-2005: Visiting scientist at the Karolinska Institute (Stockholm, Sweden). Neurotec Department, Bioinformatics and Expression Analysis Core Facility and Center for Genomics and Bioinformatic.
- 2005-2017: Assistant Professor, University of Camerino, Italy.
- From 2017: Associate Professor in Pharmacology, University of Camerino, Italy.
- Author or co-author of 71 peer reviewed journal articles (H-index: 28)

Research Activities

The primary focus of my research has been elucidating the neurobiological mechanisms underlying the genetic vulnerability to substance abuse as well as the discovery of potential pharmaco-therapeutic candidates for the treatment of addiction at a preclinical level. Over the last ten years, I have studied different substances of abuse, including alcohol and cocaine, analyzing the role of positive and negative reinforcement mechanisms. These studies have been carried out using several different behavioral models such as conditional place preference, self-administration, withdrawal, cue- and stress-induced reinstatement with which I have extensive experience. Moreover combining pharmacological manipulation such as intracranial injection of pharmacological agents with molecular biology and immunohistochemistry approaches, I have studied the link between addiction and different neurotransmitter systems including N/OFQ-NOP, NPS-NPSR and PPARγ. My research activity has uncovered new potential drug targets for the treatments of addiction-related behaviors. This work has been carried out in collaboration with different research groups across the EU and USA and has generated a considerable amount of data. I have an interdisciplinary background in behavioral pharmacology, genetics, molecular biology and bioinformatics.