



Marie Curie Postdoc Fellowship

2026



1. Supervisor

Supervisor: Maura Pellei – School of Science and Technology – Chemistry Division

Short CV in internal link of Unicam webpage:

<https://docenti.unicam.it/pdett.aspx?ids=N&tv=d&Uteld=322&ru=PA>

ORCID link: <https://orcid.org/0000-0001-5020-1730>

h-index = 40 (SCOPUS)

Five of the most significant/recent publications

1. C. Santini, M. Pellei, V. Gandin, M. Porchia, F. Tisato and C. Marzano, “Advances in Copper Complexes as Anticancer Agents”, *Chemical Reviews*, **114** (2014) 815-862. DOI: 10.1021/cr400135x
2. M. Pellei, F. Del Bello, M. Porchia, C. Santini, “Zinc Coordination Complexes as Anticancer Agents”, *Coordination Chemistry Reviews* **445** (2021) 214088. doi.org/10.1016/j.ccr.2021.214088
3. M. Pellei, J. Del Gobbo, M. Caviglia, D. V. Karade, V. Gandin, C. Marzano, A. N. Poyil, H. V. R. Dias and C. Santini, “Synthesis and cytotoxicity studies of Cu(I) and Ag(I) complexes based on sterically hindered β -diketonates with different degrees of fluorination”, *Dalton Transactions*, **52** (2023) 12098. DOI: 10.1039/d3dt02179c
4. M. B. Morelli, M. Caviglia, C. Santini, J. Del Gobbo, L. Zeppa, F. Del Bello, G. Giorgioni, A. Piergentili, W. Quaglia, C. Battocchio, F. Bertelà, S. Amatori, C. Meneghini, G. Iucci, I. Venditti, A. Dolmella, M. Di Palma, and M. Pellei, “Copper-based complexes with adamantane ring-conjugated bis(3,5-dimethyl-pyrazol-1-yl)acetate ligand as promising agents for the treatment of glioblastoma”, *J. Med Chem.* **67** (2024) 9662. doi.org/10.1021/acs.jmedchem.4c00821
5. V. Q. H. Phan, J. Del Gobbo, M. Vanga, D. V. Karade, C. Marzano, V. Gandin, L. Rigon, C. Santini, M. Pellei,* H. V. R. Dias, “Structural and Biological Insights Into Copper(I) Phosphane Complexes With Boron-Phenylated Poly(3-(CF₃)Pyrazolyl)- and Poly(6-(CF₃)-2-pyridyl)-Borates”, *Chemistry - A European Journal* (2026) 0:e70848 <https://doi.org/10.1002/chem.70848>

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2. Research Group and Facilities

Laboratory & Facilities: Laboratory equipped for organic and inorganic synthesis, including work under an inert atmosphere. Access to NMR spectrometer, ESI-MS Q-TOF LC/MS mass spectrometer, FT-IR and Elemental analyses Instrument, UV-Visible spectrophotometer.

Research Network: I'm active in national and international networks in metal-based drugs. Collaborations span coordination and organometallic chemistry, copper-based anticancer agents, metal-based antibacterial agents, inorganic catalysts.

3. Research Thematic Area/Project Idea

Title of the project: Design and Development of Next-Generation Transition Metal Complexes with Enhanced Tumor Selectivity

Macroarea: CHE – Chemistry, coordination chemistry; LIF – Life Sciences, metal-based drugs

Project Overview: The research explores the design and synthesis of new biofunctionalized ligands characterized by C-, N-, O-, P- and S-donor groups, as well as the assessment of their coordination capabilities with main-group and late transition-metal ions. It also focuses on their biological evaluation as potential anticancer and antibacterial agents.

4. Candidate and Career Plan

Expected background of the candidate: The expected background of the candidate is in organic and inorganic synthesis and coordination chemistry.

Competences and knowledge to be developed by the candidate: Passionate about translational research in metal-based drugs and interdisciplinary applications. By sharing their ideas with us at the University of Camerino, we will work together to turn them into reality. In doing so, we will make our laboratories, our instrumentation, and our cutting-edge expertise available, creating a new space where coordination chemistry meets biology, medicine, and materials science.