

Barbara Balestra

is an employee of the University of Pavia at the Department of Biology and Biotechnology "Lazzaro Spallanzani". Received the Master degree in Experimental and Applied Biology, with honours, and the Ph.D in Pharmacological Sciences at the University of Pavia. Furthermore got the degrees in Biotechnology and Medical and Biological Laboratory Technician at the same University. Additionally she's qualified as a professional biologist.

During her formation she has conducted studies concerning the influence of neuronal pathways, in particular serotonergic, dopaminergic, and opioid receptors, involved in the intestinal peristalsis and their pharmacological regulation in functional intestinal disorders as irritable bowel syndrome and on dysmotilities in neurodegenerative disorders as Parkinson's disease, attending national (PRIN 2007 and 2009) and international (National Institute of Health, USA e NATO Collaborative Exchange Grant) projects.

She also conducted experiments of neurotoxicology and on the pathophysiology of the urinary and respiratory tracts. The current field of scientific interest is related to pharmacogenetics by analysis of genetic polymorphisms that lead to adverse drug reactions.