

**Curriculum vitae**

**SABRINA BANELLA**

**Pharm. D., Ph.D.**

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## **SABRINA BANELLA**

Date and place of birth	November 11 <sup>th</sup> 1995, Roma (Italy)
Nationality	Italian
E-mail	<a href="mailto:sabrina.banella@univr.it">sabrina.banella@univr.it</a>
Current working address	Piazzale Ludovico Scuro 10, 37134 Verona (Italy)
ORCID ID	0000-0003-2676-1951
Scopus Author ID	57219731539

## **CURRENT POSITION**

**Temporary Assistant Professor** (Researcher on Tenure Track) in **Pharmaceutical Technology** (Academic sector: CHEM-08/A - Technology, Socioeconomics and Regulation of Medicinal and Health and Wellbeing Products) at the Department of Diagnostics and Public Health of the University of Verona.

## **EDUCATION AND TRAINING**

**2023** **Ph.D. Degree in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Food Chemistry** (May 10<sup>th</sup>, University of Ferrara, I)  
Thesis defense: “Loco-regional therapy of cancer. Discovery, stability and cytotoxicity of cisplatin/hyaluronan complex in Hyalcis film toward new formulations”.  
Supervisor: prof. Gaia Colombo

**2019-2024** **Research fellow** (Pharmaceutical Technology) at the Department of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, University of Ferrara (Italy), working on the project: “Locoregional Cancer Therapy” (Supervisor: Prof. Gaia Colombo).  
The research focuses on the formulation, preparation, and quality control/characterization of innovative dosage forms for the locoregional delivery of anticancer drugs, *i.e.*, administration directly at the tumor site. This approach aims to reduce side effects by avoiding systemic exposure to drug toxicity. The study was conducted in collaboration with the School of Pharmacy at St. John’s University (Queens, NY, USA).  
As part of the research fellowship activities, a study was initiated on the production of lipid-based nanosystems for the delivery of nucleic acids. This research was carried out in collaboration with the Molecular Biology Laboratory (Prof. Mirko Pinotti and Dario Balestra, University of Ferrara), and the Laboratory of Biomaterials and Encapsulation (Prof. Claudio Nastruzzi, University of Ferrara).

**2022** **From January to November**, visiting scholar at St. John’s University (Queens, NY, USA) under the supervision of Prof. Abu T.M. Serajuddin (School of Pharmacy).  
The research activity has brought new skills on the use of Hot Melt Extrusion (HME) coupled with 3D printing FDM (Fused Deposition Modeling) for the manufacture of

customized solid dosage forms (e.g. tablets, breakfast cereals for oral administration of pediatric drugs, vaginal rings with controlled release). Formulation strategies have also been studied for the production of amorphous solid dispersions (ASD), for the formulation of active ingredients poorly soluble in water. Finally, many studies were conducted on cells cultivated in vitro in bi- and three-dimensional form (3D-spheroids) to assess the effectiveness and safety of drugs and related dosage forms produced.

**2019-22** **Ph.D. Student in Pharmaceutical Sciences and Food Chemistry** (*curricula: Pharmaceutical Technology*) at the University of Ferrara (Italy) (XXXV Cycle)

**2019** Italian **pharmacist licensure** (University of Ferrara, I)

**2019** **Bachelor of Science, Pharmaceutical Master degree in Pharmacy** (July 12<sup>th</sup>, 2019, University of Ferrara, I)  
Dissertation: “*Acetylsalicylic acid in nasal powder for nose-to-brain administration: studies of stability and permeation ex vivo through rabbit nasal mucosa*”  
Supervisor: Prof. G. Colombo  
Grade: 110/110 cum laude

**2014-19** Undergraduate Student in **PHARMACY** at the University of Ferrara (I).

**2014** **High School Degree** (Liceo Scientifico Isacco Newton, Rome)

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

**2020** Personnel qualified in the use of animals for scientific and educational purpose – Level 1 (Alma Mater Studiorum – University of Bologna, Department of Veterinary Medicine).  
Theoretical-practical course of 29 hours

**Sept 2022** **XXI Doctoral School of Pharmaceutical Technology** (5-7<sup>th</sup> September)  
“Therapeutic strategies for cardiovascular diseases: the role of pharmaceutical technology”.  
University of Rome Sapienza, Roma (I).

### **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

**English** (currently being certified)

## **ACADEMIC CAREER and TEACHING ACTIVITY**

**Oct 2024-today** **Assistant Professor** (Researcher on Tenure Track) in **Pharmaceutical Technology** (Academic sector: CHEM-08/A - Technology, Socioeconomics and Regulation of Medicinal and Health and Wellbeing Products) at the Department of Diagnostics and Public Health of the University of Verona.

**Apr-Oct 2024** **Research fellow** (Post-Doctoral Fellowship 2024 awarded by Umberto Veronesi Foundation) at the Department of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, University of Ferrara (I).

**2019-2023** **Research fellow** (Pharmaceutical Technology) at the Department of Life Sciences and Biotechnology, University of Ferrara (I).

**Apr 2020-today** Nomination as **Teaching Assistant in Pharmaceutical Technology II** in Pharmacy master degree.

## **TEACHING ACTIVITY**

**2024-2025** Instructor of class subject “Pharmaceutical Technology and Health Product Legislation” (Bachelors' degree in Nutraceutical sciences and food health, University of Verona): theory.

**2020-today** Teaching Assistant of class subject “Pharmaceutical Technologies II” (course of Pharmacy, University of Ferrara, I).

**2020-today** Teaching Assistant of class subject “Organization and Management of Pharmacies” (course of Pharmacy, University of Ferrara, I).

**2023-today** Teaching Assistant of class subject “Pharmaceutical technology notebooks” (theory and laboratory practices) (course of Pharmacy, University of Ferrara, I).

## **STUDENT MENTORING (2019 – today)**

**11** undergraduate/Master students from the course of Pharmacy (research thesis).

## SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY AND PRODUCTION

### **A) PUBLICATIONS ON PEER-REVIEWED JOURNALS**

A1. *Preparation and biophysical characterization of Quercetin inclusion complexes with  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin derivatives for the preparation of possible nose-to-brain Quercetin delivery systems.* Manta K., Papakyriakopoulou, P., Chountoulesi M., Diamantis D., Spaneas D., Vakali V., Naziris N., Chatziathanasiadou M., Andreadelis I., Moschovou K., Athanasiadou I., Dallas P., Rekkas D., Demetzos C., Colombo G., **Banella S.**, Javornik U., Plavec J., Mavromoustakos T., Tzakos A., Valsami G. *Mol Pharm.* **2020**; 17(11):4241-4255.

A2. *Orphan Designation and Cisplatin/Hyaluronan Complex in an Intracavitary Film for Malignant Mesothelioma.* **Banella S.**, Quarta E., Colombo P., Sonvico F., Pagnoni A., Bortolotti F., Colombo G. *Pharmaceutics.* **2021**; 13(3):362.

A3. *Flurbiprofen Sodium Microparticles and Soft Pellets for Nose-to-Brain Delivery: Serum and Brain Levels in Rats after Nasal Insufflation.* Tiozzo Fasiolo L., Manniello M.D., **Banella S.**, Napoli L., Bortolotti F., Colombo P., Balafase E., Kostomitsopoulos N., Rekkas D.M., Valsami G., Colombo G., Russo P. *Int J Pharm.* **2021**; 605:120827.

A4. *Structure and fate of nanoparticles designed for the nasal delivery of poorly soluble drugs.* Clementino A., Pellegrini G., **Banella S.**, Colombo G., Cantù L., Sonvico F., Del Favero E. *Mol Pharm.* **2021**; 18(8):3132-3146.

A5. *Nasal powders of quercetin- $\beta$ -cyclodextrin derivatives complexes with mannitol/lecithin microparticles for Nose-to-Brain delivery: In vitro and ex vivo evaluation.* Papakyriakopoulou P., Manta K., Konstantini C., Kikionis S., **Banella S.**, Ioannou E, Rekkas D. M., Dallas P., Vertzoni M., Valsami G., Colombo G. *Int J Pharm.* **2021**; 607:121016.

A6. *Tunable Drug Release from Fused Deposition Modelling (FDM) 3D-Printed Tablets Fabricated Using a Novel Extrudable Polymer.* Raje V., Palekar S., **Banella S.**, Patel K. *Pharmaceutics.* **2022**; 14(10):2192.

A7. *Moisture Sorption by Polymeric Excipients Commonly Used in Amorphous Solid Dispersions and its Effect on Glass Transition Temperature: II. Cellulosic Polymers.* Patel N.G., **Banella S.**, Serajuddin A.T.M. *J Pharm Sci.* **2022**; 111(11):3114-3129.

A8. *Moisture sorption by polymeric excipients commonly used in amorphous solid dispersions and its effect on glass transition temperature: III. Methacrylic acid-methyl methacrylate and related copolymers (Eudragit®).* Patel N.G., **Banella S.**, Serajuddin A.T.M. *Int J Pharm.* **2023**; 636:122745.

A9. *Comparative serum and brain pharmacokinetics of quercetin after oral and nasal administration to rats as lyophilized complexes with  $\beta$ -cyclodextrin derivatives and their*

*blends with mannitol/lecithin microparticles.* Manta K., Papakyriakopoulou P., Nikolidaki A., Balafas E., Kosto-mitsopoulos N., **Banella S.**, Colombo G., Valsami G. *Pharmaceutics.* **2023**; 15, 2036.

A10. *Nasal delivery as a strategy for the prevention and treatment of COVID-19.* Sonvico F., Quarta E., Guareschi F., **Banella S.**, Buttini F., Scherließ R., Colombo G. *Expert Opin Drug Deliv.* **2023**; 1-16.

A11. *In Vitro Assessment of Cisplatin/Hyaluronan Complex for Loco-Regional Chemotherapy.* **Banella S.**, Saraswat A., Patel A., Serajuddin A.T.M., Patel K., Colombo G. *Int. J. Mol. Sci.* **2023**; 24(21), 15725.

A12. *Rheological, thermal and spectroscopical properties of the macromolecular complex between sodium hyaluronate and cisplatin for anticancer chemotherapy.* **Banella S.**, Serajuddin A.T.M., Colombo G., Scoponi M. *Carbohydr. Polym. Technol. Appl.* **2023**; 7, 100436.

A13. *Ex vivo propofol permeation across nasal mucosa: A proof-of-concept study for outpatient light sedation via nasal route.* Spampinato M.D., Costanzini A., De Giorgio R., Passaro A., Realdon N., Bortolotti F., **Banella S. (corresponding)**, Colombo G. *ADMET DMPK.* **2024**;12(5):759-768.

A14. *Nasal inhalation of antiviral microparticulate powders to target early infection of upper airways.* **Banella S.**, Quarta E., Brandolini M., Grumiro L., Sambri V., Trevisi G., Bettini R., Coombo P., Buttini F., Sonvico F., Caraua G., Rossi A., Colombo G. *Drud Deliv Transl Res.* **2025**. Epub ahead of print.

## **B) PATENT**

B1) “NOVEL ANTIVIRAL COMPOSITIONS AND THEIR USE IN THERAPY AND IN THE TREATMENT OF VIRAL INFECTIONS”, Colombo P., Quarta E., Colombo G., **Banella S.** Application n. PCT/IB2022/050823, filing 31.01.2022.

## **C) BOOK CHAPTER**

C1) **Banella S.**, Colombo G., Russo P., Trazzi M. “Capitolo 23 - Medicinali veterinari”. In: *Principi di Tecnologia Farmaceutica* III ed. A cura di ADRITELF, Casa Editrice Ambrosiana, Rozzano (MI), Italy, 2024

**D) ABSTRACT/PRESENTATIONS AT NATIONAL/INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCES  
(POSTER, P: LECTURE, L)**

P1. *Investigating the stability and permeation of Aspirin® (acetylsalicylic acid) in vitro and ex vivo in view of its nose-to-brain delivery in CNS disorders and cancer.* **Banella S.**, Karadima K.E., Tiozzo Fasiolo L., Bortolotti F., Giovagnoli S., Rekkas D., Valsami G. and Colombo G. 13<sup>th</sup> A.It.U.N. Annual Meeting “New Challenges in Self-assembling drug delivery Systems”, Camerino (I), Jun. 13-14<sup>th</sup>, 2019. [P]

P2. *In Vitro and Ex Vivo Stability and Permeation of Acetylsalicylic Acid (Aspirin®) in View of Its Nose-to-Brain Delivery in CNS Disorders and Cancer.* **Banella S.**, Karadima K.E., Bortolotti F., Giovagnoli S., Rekkas D., Valsami G. and Colombo G. 2019 AAPS PharmSci 360, San Antonio, TX (USA), November 3-6, 2019. [P]

P3. *Combination of human insulin and flurbiprofen sodium into a nasal powder for a multitarget therapy in Alzheimer’s disease.* **Banella S.**, Tiozzo Fasiolo L., Quarta E., Buttini F., Balducci A.G., Napoli L., Bortolotti F., Manniello M.D., Russo P. and Colombo G. 2020 AAPS PharmSci 360, New Orleans, LA (USA), October 26-November 5, 2020. [P]

P4. *Assessment of Cisplatin/Hyaluronan Complex in an intracavitary film for loco-regional therapy of malignant mesothelioma.* **Banella S.**, Quarta E., Colombo P., Sonvico F., Ampollini L., Pagnoni A., Bortolotti F. and Colombo G. EUFEPS Annual Meeting 2021, June 7-9<sup>th</sup>, 2021. [P]

P5. *Investigation of Cisplatin/Hyaluronan complex in an intracavitary film for local treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma.* **Banella S.**, Quarta E., Colombo P., Sonvico F., Ampollini L., Bortolotti F., Colombo G. 2021 AAPS PharmSci360, Philadelphia, PA (USA), October 17-20, 2021. [P]

P6. *Investigation of cisplatin/hyaluronan complex in an intracavitary film for local treatment of malignant pleural mesothelioma.* **Banella S.** XX Giornata della Chimica dell’Emilia Romagna (XX GdC-ER 2021) c/o Università di Ferrara (Italia), December 17th, 2021. [P]

P7. *Cisplatin/hyaluronan complex: a novel loco-regional treatment in tumors over-expressing CD44 receptor.* **Banella S.**, Saraswat A., Patel A., Vartak R., Patel K. 2022 AAPS PharmSci 360, Boston, MA (USA), October 16-19, 2022. [BEST ABSTRACT AWARD] [P]

P8. *Stability and optimization study of cisplatin/hyaluronan film for loco-regional drug delivery in cancer.* **Banella S.**, Colombo G., Patel K., Serajuddin A.T.M. 2022 AAPS PharmSci 360, Boston, MA (USA), October 16-19, 2022. [P]

P9. *A strategy to deliver high molecular weight hyaluronic acid in deep lung: Investigating the role of non-immunogenic surfactant.* **Banella S.**, Wang X., Serajuddin A.T.M., Colombo G., Patel K. 2022 AAPS PharmSci 360, Boston, MA (USA), October 16-19, 2022. [P]

P10. *Anti-SARS-CoV-2 nasal powders: manufacturing, ex vivo drug accumulation/transport in rabbit nasal mucosa and in vitro virus inhibition.* **Banella S.**, Quarta E., Colombo P., Bortolotti F., Grumiro L., Taddei F., Sambri V., Colombo G. 2022 AAPS PharmSci 360, Boston, MA (USA), October 16-19, 2022. [BEST ABSTRACT AWARD] [L]

P11. *A thin film of cisplatin/hyaluronan complex for the loco-regional treatment of tumors over-expressing CD44 receptor.* **Banella S.**, Sonvico F., Ampollini L., Patel K., Serajuddin A.T.M., Bortolotti F., Colombo G. 4<sup>th</sup> European Conference on Pharmaceutics, Marseille, France, March 20-21, 2023. [P]

P12. *Cisplatin-loaded hyaluronan film for loco-regional chemotherapy: from technological development to preclinical evidence of activity.* **Banella S.**, Colombo P., Bortolotti F., Colombo G. 1<sup>st</sup> Unife Young Researchers Meeting, Ferrara (Italy, EU), 5 June 2023. [L]

P13. *Hyaluronate and Cisplatin Films for Locoregional Chemotherapy of Malignant Pleural Mesothelioma: From Technological Development to Preclinical Evidence of Activity.* **Banella S.**, Colombo P., Sonvico F., Ampollini L., Carbognani P., Bortolotti F., Colombo G. 62° Simposio AFI, Rimini (Italia), 7-9 June 2023. [P]

P14. *Prodrugs, micro or nanoparticulate systems and nasal administration as non invasive approaches against brain diseases and airborne infections loco-regional therapy of cancer.* Dalpiaz A., Ferraro L., Botti G., Bianchi A., Pavan B., **Banella S.**, Bortolotti F., Colombo G. 1973-2023 – 50<sup>th</sup> ADRITELF Anniversary, Trieste (Italia), 11-13 September 2023. [P]

P15. *Cisplatin/hyaluronan complex: a novel loco-regional treatment in tumors over-expressing cd44 receptor.* **Banella S.**, Sonvico F., Ampollini L., Colombo P., Patel K., Colombo G. 1973-2023 – 50<sup>th</sup> ADRITELF Anniversary, Trieste (Italia), 11-13 September 2023. [P]

P16. *Unveiling the cisplatin/hyaluronan complex: a macromolecular delivery system for safer loco-regional chemotherapy.* **Banella S.**, Colombo P., Sonvico P., Ampollini L., Carbognani P., Bortolotti F., Colombo G. CRS Italy Local Chapter, Workshop 2023, Palermo (Italia), 5-7 October 2023. [P]

P17. *Cisplatin/Hyaluronan film for loco-regional chemotherapy: technology and preclinical evidence of activity.* **Banella S.** 2023 AAPS PharmSci360, Orlando, FL (USA), October 22-25, 2023. [L]

P18. *Nasal deposition studies using in vitro model of a nasal breath intake of dry powder as antiviral treatment in upper airways.* Caraua G., Le Pennec D., **Banella S.**, Quarta E., Colombo G.,

Heuzé-Vourc'h N., Colombo P., Sonvico F. EUFEPS Annual Meeting 2024. May 23 - May 25, 2024. Debrecen, Hungary. **[P]**

P19. *Nasal delivery of glucose for nose-to-brain transport in GLUT1 deficiency syndrome.* **Banella S.**, Bortolotti F., Colombo P., Voci A., Colombo G. Exploring the Future of Inhalation Drug Delivery, Parma, Italy, September 11-13, 2024. **[P]**

P20. *In vitro nasal deposition studies using a nasal cast as model.* Caraua G., Le Pennec D., **Banella S.**, Quarta E., Colombo G., Heuzé-Vourc'h N., Colombo P., Sonvico F. Exploring the Future of Inhalation Drug Delivery, Parma, Italy, September 11-13, 2024. **[P]**

P21. *Formulation of a poorly soluble antiviral drug as microparticle powder for nasal breath intake against respiratory infections.* **Banella S.**, Serajuddin A.T.M., Bortolotti F., Colombo P., Arghittu S., Colombo G. 2024 AAPS PharmSci360, Salt Lake City, UT (USA), October 20-23, 2024. **[L]**

#### **E) INVITED LECTURES**

**2022** *Cisplatin/hyaluronan complex: an intracavitary film for loco-regional therapy of malignant mesothelioma,* **Banella S.** **Oral presentation** at a national conference, selected by the organizing committee, XXI Doctoral School in Pharmaceutical Technology (September 5–7, 2022), “Therapeutic Strategies for Cardiovascular Diseases: The Role of Pharmaceutical Technology.” University of Rome “La Sapienza” (Italy).

**2023** *Cisplatin-loaded hyaluronan film for loco-regional chemotherapy: from technological development to preclinical evidence of activity,* **Banella S.** **Invited speaker** at the University of Ferrara (Italy). Conference title: “1st UniFE Young Researchers Meeting”. June 5, 2023.

**2023** *Discovery, characterization and activity of a cisplatin/hyaluronan thin film for loco-regional therapy of cancer,* **Banella S.** **Invited speaker** at the University of Belgrade (Belgrade, Serbia). Conference title: “6th European Summer School on Drug Development”. September 2–3, 2023.

**2023** *Cisplatin/hyaluronan film for loco-regional chemotherapy: technology and preclinical evidence of activity,* **Banella S.** **Oral presentation** at an international conference, selected by the organizing committee, 2023 AAPS PharmSci 360, Orlando (FL, USA), October 22–25, 2023.

## **FUNDING**

### **APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED**

**2023** Application as **Partner Investigator** within to the 2023 University of Ferrara Call “Bando Giovani 2023 finanziati con contributo 5x1000 2021” (application ID: 1110424).  
Title of the proposal: "Proof of concept study of the intranasal administration of Propofol for an anxiolytic and sedative therapy of the patient in the emergency room". Budget requested: € 10.000,00 (not granted).

### **OTHER FUNDINGS**

**2021** **Co-Principal Investigator** in the Crowdfunding campaign organized by the University of Ferrara. Title of the project: "An antivirus therapy: attack on SARS-CoV-2 with an antiviral spray". Total funds raised: € 34,888.00  
(<https://crowdfunding.unifeel.it/progetto/una-terapia-antivirus-attacco-a-sars-cov-2-con-uno-spray-antivirale/>).

## **OTHER ACTIVITIES**

**2019-2020** Treasurer of the “AAPS Italian University Network Student Chapter” (A.It.U.N.).

**2020-2021** Vice-chair of the “AAPS Italian University Network Student Chapter” (A.It.U.N.).

**2021-2022** Chair of the “AAPS Italian University Network Student Chapter” (A.It.U.N.).

**2022-today** Emeritus chair of the “AAPS Italian University Network Student Chapter” (A.It.U.N.).

**2022-today** **Referee** for manuscripts for the following scientific journals: *Drug Development and Industrial Pharmacy* (Taylor & Francis), *Journal of Drug Delivery Science and Technology* (Elsevier), *European Journal of Pharmaceutics and Biopharmaceutics* (Elsevier).

## **ORGANIZATION OF INTERNATIONAL CONGRESSES**

**Sept 2022** Chair of the organizing committee of the XIV Annual Meeting A.It.U.N. (AAPS Italian University Network) (international congress) entitled "5 Minute Projects and Poster Contest". A.it.U.N. is the first European Student Chapter founded within AAPS (American Association of Pharmaceutical Scientists). The conference was held at the University of Ferrara - Palazzo Giordani (Ferrara, Italy) on 1-2 September. The conference was attended by students and young researchers from Italian and international universities.

**July 2022** Member of the organizing committee of the XV Annual Meeting A.It.U.N. (international congress) entitled "Crossing the bridge between academia and industry in medicine development & 5 minute projects ". The conference was held at the University of Salerno on 20-21 July 2023.

**2024** Member of the Scientific Organizing Committee of the 23<sup>rd</sup> International Symposium on Microencapsulation, to be held in Ferrara in September 2025.

## AWARDS

**2019** Recipient of a research fellowship granted by University of Ferrara (Italy).

**2022** Recipient of a scholarship for a PhD program (XXXV cycle) granted by IUSS (University of Ferrara, Italy).

**2022** Recipient of “Best Abstract Award” awarded by AAPS Awards Committee (2022 AAPS PharmSci 360).

**2022** Recipient of AAPS Travel Grant awarded by AAPS Awards Committee (2022 AAPS PharmSci 360).

**2023** Recipient of “Patrick DeLuca Emerging Reseracher Award” awarded by IPEC Americas Foundation (International Pharmaceutical Excipients Council).

**2023** Recipient of a research grant “Post-Doctoral Fellowships – 2024 year” awarded by Umberto Veronesi Foundation (Milano, Italy).

I, Sabrina Banella, declare that the data and information provided above are true and correspond to the personal training, scientific research, and teaching activities actually carried out.

Verona, May 9<sup>th</sup>, 2025