

Professor Lentini (*h*-index 20, Scopus) is the Author of 89 scientific papers on ISI journals (see below the most relevant ones) and a patent [A. Scilimati, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, F. Corbo, V. Tortorella, D. Conte Camerino, A. De Luca. Derivati ammidici della beta-prolina, procedimento per la loro preparazione e loro impiego nelle sindromi miotoniche genetiche o acquisite. Patent: MI2001A 000085 (2001)] in the domain of medicinal chemistry. He is the inventor of a potent and selective voltage gated sodium channel inhibitor, delivered by Sigma RBI (section ion channels, code number: M 0814). Since 1987, is a member of the Italian Chemical Society and from 2004 to 2006 was an expert of the Panel for the Evaluation of the National Research (VTR) of the Italian Education, University, and Research Ministry (MIUR). Since his appointment at the Faculty of Pharmacy, he is a teacher of the research doctorate on Medicinal Chemistry. From 2010 to 2014 has been a teacher of the Master in Radiodiagnosics at the University of Bari. He contributed to the translation of four books in the domain of medicinal chemistry and, from 2003 to 2013, has been an expert of the Italian Health Ministry for the Continuing Medical Education (CME) programme.

Giovanni Lentini is a reviewer for the following Journals:

ACS Medicinal Chemistry Letters

Antiviral Research

Arabian Journal of Chemistry

Biomedicines

Bioorganic Chemistry

Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry

Bioorganic and Medicinal Chemistry Letters

Chemistry and Biodiversity

Chemistry of Heterocyclic Compounds

ChemMedChem

Current Analytical Chemistry

Current Cancer Drug Targets

Current Organic Chemistry

Current Organic Synthesis

Drug Design, Development and Therapy

European Journal of Pharmaceutical Science

Expert Opinion On Therapeutic Patents

International Journal of Molecular Sciences

ISRN Pharmaceutics

Journal of Chemistry

Journal of Emerging Diseases and Virology

Journal of Medicinal Chemistry

Journal of Medicinal Plant and Herbal Therapy Research

Journal of Pharmaceutics

Journal of Pharmacy and Pharmacology

Letters in Organic Chemistry

MedChemComm

Mini-Reviews in Medicinal Chemistry

Molecules

Nutrition and Dietary Supplements

Oxidative Medicine and Cellular Longevity

Tetrahedron

Tetrahedron: Asymmetry

Tetrahedron Letters

Professor Lentini's main research themes focus on both chiral and achiral biologically active compounds with the aim to exploit chirality in order to gain pharmacological dissociation in promiscuous drugs. His main results were obtained in the study of:

- Peripheral benzodiazepine receptor ligands;
  - 1) G. Lentini, J.-J. Bourguignon, C.-G. Wermuth. Ligands of peripheral-type benzodiazepine binding sites: structure-activity relationship studies and computer-aided conformational analysis, in "QSAR: *Rational Approaches to the Design of Bioactive Compounds*"; C. Silipo and A. Vittoria, Eds.; Elsevier Science, Amsterdam, **1991**; 257.
- Structure-Activity Relationships (SAR) in voltage-dependent sodium channel blocking agents endowed with analgesic action;
  - 1) A. Bartolini, F. Corbo, C. Franchini, C. Ghelardini, A. Giotti, G. Lentini, R. Matucci, V. Tortorella. Pharmacological differences between R(-) and S(+) tocainide. *Pharmacol. Res.* **1992**, *26*, 91.
  - 2) C. Franchini, F. Chiaia Noja, F. Corbo, G. Lentini, V. Tortorella, A. Bartolini, C. Ghelardini, R. Matucci, A. Giotti. Stereoselectivity in central analgesic action of tocainide and its analogs. *Chirality* **1993**, *5*, 135.
  - 3) F. Corbo, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, M. Muraglia, C. Ghelardini, R. Matucci, N. Galeotti, E. Vivoli, V. Tortorella. Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of Chiral  $\alpha$ -Aminoanilides with Central Antinociceptive Activity. *J. Med. Chem.* **2007**, *50*, 1907.
  - 4) R. Carbonara, A. Carocci, J. Roussel, G. Crescenzo, C. Buonavoglia, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, D. Conte Camerino, J.-F. Desaphy, Inhibition of voltage-gated sodium channels by sumatriptan bioisosteres. *Front. Pharmacol.* **2015**. DOI: 10.3389/fphar.2015.00155
- Modulators of voltage-dependent sodium channels as drugs useful in the treatment of inherited myopathies and arrhythmias
  - 1) D. Tricarico, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, D. Conte, V. Tortorella, R. Rüdell. The effects of tocainide and its chiral analogs on sodium channels of human muscle. *Pharmacol. Res.* **1990**, *22*, Suppl.1, 95.
  - 2) C. Franchini, C. Cellucci, F. Corbo, G. Lentini, A. Scilimati, V. Tortorella, F. Stasi. Stereospecific synthesis and absolute configuration of mexiletine. *Chirality* **1994**, *6*, 590.
  - 3) A. De Luca, F. Natuzzi, G. Lentini, C. Franchini, V. Tortorella, D. Conte Camerino. Stereoselective effects of mexiletine enantiomers on sodium currents and excitability characteristics of adult skeletal muscle fibers. *Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Arch. of Pharmacol.* **1995**, *352*, 653.
  - 4) A. De Luca, F. Natuzzi, S. Pierno, D. Conte Camerino, H. Jockusch, A. Duranti, G. Lentini, C. Franchini, V. Tortorella. Antimyotonic effects of enantiomers of mexiletine-like drugs. *Neuromuscular Disord.* **1996**, *6(2)*:S19.
  - 5) A. De Luca, F. Natuzzi, G. Falcone, S. Pierno, G. Lentini, A. Duranti, C. Franchini, V. Tortorella, D. Conte Camerino. Therapeutic effects of tocainide and mexiletine analogs on myotonic MTO and ADR mice. *Neuromuscular Disord.* **1997**, *7*, 447.
  - 6) A. De Luca, F. Natuzzi, G. Falcone, A. Duranti, G. Lentini, C. Franchini, V. Tortorella, D. Conte Camerino. Inhibition of frog skeletal muscle sodium channels by newly synthesized chiral derivatives of mexiletine and tocainide. *Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Arch. of Pharmacol.* **1997**, *356*, 777.
  - 7) A. De Luca, S. Pierno, F. Natuzzi, C. Franchini, A. Duranti, G. Lentini, V. Tortorella, H. Jockusch, D. Conte Camerino. Evaluation of the antimyotonic activity of mexiletine and some new analogs on sodium currents of single muscle fibers and on the abnormal excitability of the myotonic ADR mouse. *J. Pharmacol. Exp. Therap.* **1997**, *282*, 93.
  - 8) A. Duranti, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, M. S. Sinicropi. Contribution to the study of 2-aryloxy-1-phenyl- and 2-aryloxy-2-phenylethanol. Differentiation by mass spectrometry. *J. Mass Spectrom.* **1998**, *33*, 486
  - 9) J. -F. Desaphy, D. Conte Camerino, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, V. Tortorella, A. De Luca. Increased hindrance on the chiral carbon atom of mexiletine enhances the block of rat skeletal muscle Na<sup>+</sup> channels in a model of myotonia induced by ATX. *Br. J. Pharmacol.* **1999**, *128*, 1165.
  - 10) A. Duranti, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, F. Loiodice, V. Tortorella, A. De Luca, S. Pierno, D. Conte Camerino. Homologation of mexiletine alkyl chain and stereoselective blockade of skeletal muscle sodium channels. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **2000**, *35*, 147.
  - 11) A. De Luca, F. Natuzzi, J. -F. Desaphy, G. Loni, G. Lentini, C. Franchini, V. Tortorella, D. Conte Camerino. Molecular determinants of mexiletine structure for potent and use-dependent block of skeletal muscle sodium channels. *Mol. Pharmacol.* **2000**, *57*, 268..
  - 12) A. Carocci, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, F. Loiodice, V. Tortorella. Facile entry to (-)-(R)- and (+)-(S)-mexiletine. *Chirality* **2000**, *12*, 103.
  - 13) S. Talon, A. De Luca, M. De Bellis, J. -F. Desaphy, G. Lentini, A. Scilimati, F. Corbo, C. Franchini, P. Tortorella, H. Jockusch, D. Conte Camerino. Increased rigidity of the chiral centre of tocainide favours stereoselectivity and use-dependent block of skeletal muscle Na<sup>+</sup> channels enhancing the antimyotonic activity *in vivo*. *Br. J. Pharmacol.* **2001**, *134*, 1523.
  - 14) A. De Luca, S. Talon, M. De Bellis, J. -F. Desaphy, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, A. Catalano, F. Corbo, V. Tortorella, D. Conte-Camerino. Inhibition of skeletal muscle sodium currents by mexiletine analogues: specific hydrophobic interactions rather than lipophilia per se account for drug therapeutic profile. *Naunyn-Schmiedeberg's Arch. Pharmacol.* **2003**, *367*, 318
  - 15) A. De Luca, S. Talon, M. De Bellis, J. -F. Desaphy, G. Lentini, F. Corbo, A. Scilimati, C. Franchini, V. Tortorella, D. Conte Camerino. Optimal requirements for high affinity and use-dependent block of skeletal muscle sodium channel by N-benzyl analogs of tocainide-like compounds. *Mol. Pharmacol.* **2003**, *64(4)*, 932.

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- 24) C. Bruno, A. Catalano, G. Lentini, A. Carocci, C. Franchini, V. Tortorella. Facile Entry to Ethyl Tetrahydro-1H-pyrrolizin-7a(5H)-ylacetate: a Versatile Pharmaceutical Intermediate. *Heterocycles* **2008**, *75*, 2193.
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- 26) J. -F. Desaphy, A. Dipalma, T. Costanza, C. Bruno, G. Lentini, C. Franchini, A. L. George Jr, D. Conte Camerino, Molecular determinants of state-dependent block of voltage-gated sodium channels by pilsicainide. *Br. J. Pharmacol.* **2010**, *160*, 1521–1533.
- 27) M. M. Cavalluzzi, G. Lentini, A. Lovece, C. Bruno, A. Catalano, A. Carocci, C. Franchini. First synthesis and full characterization of mexiletine N-carboxyloxy β-D-glucuronide. *Tetrahedron Lett.* **2010**, *51*, 5265–5268.
- 28) A. Catalano, A. Carocci, M. M. Cavalluzzi, A. Di Mola, G. Lentini, A. Lovece, A. Dipalma, T. Costanza, J. -F. Desaphy, D. Conte Camerino, C. Franchini. Hydroxylated analogs of mexiletine as tools for structural requirements investigation of the sodium channel blocking activity. *Arch. Pharm.* **2010**, *343*, 325–332.
- 29) A. Carocci, A. Catalano, C. Bruno, G. Lentini, C. Franchini, M. De Bellis, A. De Luca, D. Conte Camerino. Synthesis and in vitro sodium channel blocking activity evaluation of novel homochiral mexiletine analogs. *Chirality* **2010**, *22*, 299–307.
- 30) A. Catalano, A. Carocci, G. Lentini, A. Di Mola, C. Bruno, C. Franchini. Facile routes for the preparation of 3,4-disubstituted 1,3-oxazolidines and 1,2,5-trisubstituted imidazolidin-4-ones. *J. Heterocyclic Chem.* **2011**, *48*, 261–266.
- 31) A. Catalano, A. Carocci, G. Lentini, I. Defrenza, C. Bruno, C. Franchini. Stereospecific synthesis of m-hydroxymexiletine enantiomers. *Drug Metab. Lett.* **2012**, *6*, 182–186.
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- 33) A. Catalano, J. -F. Desaphy, G. Lentini, A. Carocci, A. Di Mola, C. Bruno, R. Carbonara, A. De Palma, R. Budriesi, C. Ghelardini, M. G. Perrone, N. A. Colabufo, D. Conte Camerino, C. Franchini. Synthesis and toxicopharmacological evaluation of m-hydroxymexiletine, the first metabolite of mexiletine more potent than the parent compound on voltage-gated sodium channels. *J. Med. Chem.* **2012**, *55*, 1418–1422.
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- 35) C. Bruno, M. M. Cavalluzzi, A. Carocci, A. Catalano, C. Franchini, G. Lentini. Capillary zone electrophoresis for separation and quantitative determination of mexiletine and its main phase I metabolites. *Drug Metab. Lett.* **2013**, *7*, 52–57.
- 36) A. Catalano, R. Budriesi, C. Bruno, A. Di Mola, I. Defrenza, M. M. Cavalluzzi, M. Micucci, A. Carocci, C. Franchini, G. Lentini. Searching for new antiarrhythmic agents: evaluation of meta-hydroxymexiletine enantiomers. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **2013**, *65*, 511–516.
- 37) M. De Bellis, A. De Luca, J.-F. Desaphy, R. Carbonara, J. Heiny, A. Kennedy, A. Carocci, M. M. Cavalluzzi, G. Lentini, C. Franchini, D. Conte Camerino. Combined modifications of mexiletine pharmacophores for new lead blockers of Na<sub>v</sub>1.4 channels. *Biophys. J.* **2013**, *104*, 344–354.
- 38) M. Roselli, A. Carocci, R. Budriesi, M. Micucci, M. Toma, L. Di Cesare Mannelli, A. Lovece, A. Catalano, M. M. Cavalluzzi, C. Bruno, A. De Palma, M. Contino, M. G. Perrone, N. A. Colabufo, A. Chiarini, C. Franchini, C. Ghelardini, S. Habtemariam, G. Lentini. Synthesis, antiarrhythmic activity, and toxicological evaluation of mexiletine analogues. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **2016**, *121*, 300–307.
- 39) R. Gualdani, M. M. Cavalluzzi, G. Lentini. Recent trends in the discovery of small molecule blockers of sodium channels. *Curr. Med. Chem.* **2016**, *23*, 2289–2332.
- 40) J.-F. Desaphy, R. Carbonara, T. Costanza, G. Lentini, M. M. Cavalluzzi, C. Bruno, C. Franchini, D. Conte Camerino, Molecular dissection of lubeluzole use-dependent block of voltage-gated sodium channels discloses new therapeutic potentials. *Mol. Pharmacol.* **2013**, *83*, 406–415.
- 41) R. Gualdani, M. M. Cavalluzzi, F. Tadini-Buoninsegni, G. Lentini. Discovery of a new mexiletine-derived agonist of the hERG K<sup>+</sup> channel. *Biophys. Chem.* **2017**, *229*, 62–67.
- 42) M. De Bellis, F. Sanarica, A. Carocci, G. Lentini, S. Pierno, J. -F. Rolland, D. Conte Camerino, A. De Luca. Dual action of mexiletine and its pyrrolidine derivatives as skeletal muscle sodium channel blockers and anti-oxidant compounds: toward novel therapeutic potential. **2017**, *Front. Pharmacol.* 8:907

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- <sup>1</sup>H-NMR Enantiomeric purity determination of optically active amines by means of new chiral solvating agents;
- 1) G. Carbonara, A. Carocci, G. Fracchiolla, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, F. Loidice, P. Tortorella. <sup>1</sup>H-NMR determination of the enantiomeric excess of the antiarrhythmic drug mexiletine by using mandelic acid analogues as chiral solvating agents. *ARKIVOC* [Online] **2004**, vol. 2004, part V, 5–25.
  - 2) M. M. Cavalluzzi, C. Bruno, G. Lentini, A. Lovece, A. Catalano, A. Carocci, C. Franchini. One-step synthesis of homochiral O-aryl and O-heteroaryl mandelic acids and their use as efficient <sup>1</sup>H NMR chiral solvating agents. *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* **2009**, *20*, 1984–1991.
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  - 5) M. M. Cavalluzzi, A. Lovece, C. Bruno, C. Franchini, G. Lentini. Preparation of (–)-(R)-2-(2,3,4,5,6-pentafluorophenoxy)-2-(phenyl-*d*<sub>5</sub>)acetic acid: an efficient <sup>1</sup>H NMR chiral solvating agent for direct enantiomeric purity evaluation of quinoline-containing antimalarial drugs. *Tetrahedron Asymmetry* **2014**, *25*, 1605–1611.
- α-Glucosidase inhibitors as agents to treat hyperglycemia;
- 1) R. Pascale, A. Carocci, A. Catalano, G. Lentini, A. Spagnoletta, M. M. Cavalluzzi, F. De Santis, A. De Palma, V. Scalera, C. Franchini. New *N*-(phenoxydecyl)phthalimide derivatives displaying potent inhibition activity towards α-glucosidase. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2010**, *18*, 5903–5914.
  - 2) M. Roselli, G. Lentini, S. Habtemariam. Phytochemical, antioxidant and anti-α-glucosidase activity evaluations of *Bergenia cordifolia*. *Phytother. Res.* **2012**, *26*, 908–914.
  - 3) S. Habtemariam, G. Lentini. The therapeutic potential of rutin for diabetes: an update. *Mini-Rev. Med. Chem.* **2015**, *15*, 524–528.
  - 4) R. Gualdani, M. M. Cavalluzzi, G. Lentini, S. Habtemariam. The chemistry and pharmacology of citrus limonoids. *Molecules* **2016**, *21*, 1530.
  - 5) C. Tavani, L. Bianchi, A. De Palma, G. I. Passeri, G. Punzi, C. L. Pierrri, A. Lovece, M. M. Cavalluzzi, C. Franchini, G. Lentini, G. Petrillo. Nitro-substituted tetrahydroindolizines and homologs: Design, kinetics, and mechanism of α-glucosidase inhibition. *Bioorg. Med. Chem. Lett.* **2017**, *27*, 3980–3986.
- Agents acting on the central nervous system;
- 1) A. Carocci, A. Catalano, A. Lovece, G. Lentini, A. Duranti, V. Lucini, M. Pannacci, F. Scaglione, C. Franchini. Design, synthesis, and pharmacological effects of structurally simple ligands for MT<sub>1</sub> and MT<sub>2</sub> melatonin receptors. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2010**, *18*, 6496–6511.
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  - 3) A. Carocci, A. Catalano, C. Bruno, A. Lovece, M. Roselli, M. M. Cavalluzzi, F. De Santis, A. De Palma, M. R. Rusciano, M. Illario, C. Franchini, G. Lentini. *N*-(Phenoxyalkyl)amides as MT<sub>1</sub> and MT<sub>2</sub> ligands: antioxidant properties and inhibition of Ca<sup>2+</sup>/CaM-Dependent Kinase II. *Bioorg. Med. Chem.* **2013**, *21*, 847–851.
  - 4) A. Carrieri, V. I. Pérez-Nuño, G. Lentini, D. W. Ritchie. W. Recent trends and future prospects in computational GPCR drug discovery: from virtual screening to polypharmacology. *Curr. Top. Med. Chem.* **2013**, *13*, 1069–1097.
  - 5) L. Degennaro, M. Zenzola, A. Laurino, M. M. Cavalluzzi, C. Franchini, S. Habtemariam, R. Matucci, R. Luisi, G. Lentini. 2-Arylazetidines as ligands for nicotinic acetylcholine receptors. *Chem. Heterocycl. Compds.* **2017**, *53*, 329–334.
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- Anticancer agents;
- 1) C. Bruno, G. Lentini, A. Catalano, A. Carocci, A. Lovece, A. Di Mola, M. M. Cavalluzzi, P. Tortorella, F. Loidice, G. Iaccarino, P. Campiglia, E. Novellino, C. Franchini. Microwave-assisted synthesis of KN-93, a potent and selective inhibitor of Ca<sup>2+</sup>/calmodulin-dependent protein kinase II. *Synthesis* **2010**, *24*, 4193–4198.
  - 2) S. Maggi, G. Chita, C. Bruno, A. Lovece, G. Lentini. Crystal structure of *N*-(2-[(*E*)-3-(4-chlorophenyl)-2-propenyl]-(methyl)ammonio)methylphenyl)-*N*-(2-hydroxyethyl)-4-methoxybenzenesulfonamide dihydrogen phosphate-methanol (1:1), [C<sub>26</sub>H<sub>30</sub>ClN<sub>2</sub>SO<sub>4</sub>][[H<sub>2</sub>PO<sub>4</sub>]<sup>-</sup>·CH<sub>4</sub>O. *Z. Krist. - New Cryst. Struct.* **2012**, *227*, 220–222.
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  - 4) C. Bruno, M. M. Cavalluzzi, M. R. Rusciano, A. Lovece, A. Carrieri, R. Pracella, G. Giannuzzi, L. Polimeno, M. Viale, M. Illario, C. Franchini, G. Lentini. The chemosensitizing agent lubeluzole binds calmodulin and inhibits Ca<sup>2+</sup>/calmodulin-dependent kinase II. *Eur. J. Med. Chem.* **2016**, *116*, 36–45.
  - 5) D. Iacopetta, A. Carocci, M. S. Sinicropi, A. Catalano, G. Lentini, J. Ceramella, R. Curcio, M. C. Caroleo. Old drug scaffold, new activity: Thalidomide - correlated compounds exert different effects on breast cancer cell growth and progression. *CheMedChem* **2017**, *12*, 381–389.
  - 6) M. Viale, V. Giglio, M. Monticone, I. Maric, G. Lentini, M. Rocco, G. Vecchio. New doxorubicin nanocarriers based on cyclodextrins. *Invest. New Drugs* **2017**, *35*, 539–544.
  - 7) A. Mercurio, G. Adriani, A. Catalano, A. Carocci, L. Rao, G. Lentini, M. M. Cavalluzzi, C. Franchini, A. Vacca, F. Corbo. A mini-review on thalidomide: chemistry, mechanisms of action, therapeutic potential and anti-angiogenic properties in multiple myeloma.

*Curr. Med. Chem.* **2017**, *24*, 2736–2744.

• Ligand efficiency metrics in drug discovery and development

- 1) M. M. Cavalluzzi, G. F. Mangiatordi, O. Nicolotti, G. Lentini. Ligand efficiency metrics in drug discovery: the pros and cons from a practical perspective. *Exp. Opin. Drug Discov.* **2017**, *12*, 1087–1104.

Professor Lentini has addressed several educational issues as attested by the following publications:

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