

CURRICULUM VITAE PROFESSOR MARCO FALASCA

Career summary

Professor Falasca is currently a Full Professor in Metabolism, at Curtin Medical School, Curtin University, Perth, Australia. He is also an Adjunct Professor in Molecular Pharmacology, Blizard Institute, Queen Mary University of London and Visiting Professor at University of Parma, Italy. He was a Professor at Queen Mary University of London and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Medicine, University College London. He did his PhD at Mario Negri Institute Italy and postdoctoral studies at Dept. of Pharmacology, New York University, USA. His major interest is the investigation of cellular and intercellular communication with particular focus on the role of the endocannabinoid system in pancreatic cancer progression and gastrointestinal functions and exosomes pathophysiology.

Education

- 1986 - 1987 Diploma of Specialization, MASTER, Applied Pharmacology, Univ. of Bari, Italy.
1983 - 1984 Laurea, Pharmacy, cum laude, University of Camerino, Italy.
1988 - 1989 Laurea Diploma, cum laude, Pharm. Chemistry, Univ. of Camerino Italy.
1991 - 1994 PhD in Molecular Endocrinology, Consorzio Mario Negri Sud (CMNS), Italy.

Current and past appointments:

Current position: Full Professor in Metabolism, Curtin Medical School, Curtin University, Perth.

Visiting Professor University of Piemonte Orientale and University of Parma, Italy

May 2007- 2014 Professor, Queen Mary University of London.

2001 – April 2007 Senior Lecturer, Department of Medicine, University College London

2000-2004 Adjunct Professor, University of Chieti, School of Oncology

1998 – 2000 Telethon Award and Head Unit of Physiopathology of Cell Signalling, CMNS, Italy.

Nov - Dec 1998 FIRC Research Award, Dept. of Pharmacology, New York University, USA.

1995 - 1997 AIRC Research Award, Dept. of Pharmacology, New York University, USA.

1991 - 1994 FORMEZ Research Award (PhD equivalent), CMNS, Italy.

1988-1989 Research experience, Dept. of Biophysics, University of Debrecen, Hungary.

Grant Funding received. Several competitive grants obtained in Australia, UK and Italy from national, European and American agencies including European Union (European Consortium for Translational Cancer Research), Worldwide Cancer Research, American Institute for Cancer Research, British Heart Foundation, Diabetes UK. In addition, he received four consecutive grants funded by Pancreatic Cancer Research Fund from 2008 to 2014.

Recent research support includes:

Avner Pancreatic Cancer Foundation Accelerator Grant, “A novel therapeutic target in pancreatic cancer: Implications for therapy and diagnosis” \$674,252, 2017-2019.

Diabetes Australia, “Development of novel GLP-1 releasing agents” \$60,000, 2017.

Prostate Cancer UK, “Role of phosphoinositide 3-kinase C2beta in prostate cancer” £213,740, 2014-2018. (co-PI with Dr Tania Maffucci).

Medical and Health Research Infrastructure Fund (MHRIF) 2019 Round 23 “Investigation of the microbiome/bile acid/cannabinoid interplay”.

PanKind Australian Pancreatic Cancer Foundation Innovation Grant, “Can the molecules carried by exosomes help to diagnose pancreatic cancer early?” \$100,000, 2022.

Industry Sponsorship of a PhD studentship plus 45,000\$ consumables for three years funded by AB Analytica (total 120,000\$). "Investigation of novel biomarkers for pancreatic cancer".

Industry Sponsorship from 2017 to 2020 of 400,000 \$ funded by Zelta Therapeutics. "Testing CBD-rich and THC-rich whole plant extracts in human pancreatic cancer".

Industry Sponsorship from 2020 to 2023 of 240,150 \$ funded by Little Green Pharma. "Targeting endocannabinoidome as a novel therapeutic target in modulation of gastrointestinal diseases".

Industry Sponsorship from 2021 to 2023 of 391,000 \$ funded by Little Green Pharma. "Cannabinoids as treatment for obesity and related disorders".

Additional ongoing industry Sponsorship from Backreef Oil LTD and Firstlight Pharmaceuticals.

PhD students supervision in the last five years

Supervisor: Mr Chaise Fyffe (registered February 2011; title conferred 2015); Mr Riccardo Ferro (registered Apr 2012; title conferred 2015); Mr Syamsul Ahmad Arifin (registered October 2012; title conferred 2016). *Co-supervisor:* Ms Emily Ruban, Ms Simona Mazza. Current PhD students: Minkyong Kim (enrolled June 2015); Aleksandra Adamska (title conferred 2019); Omar Elaskalani (title conferred 2019); Aikaterini Emmanoulidi (title conferred 2020); Silvano Paternoster (title conferred 2020); Romana-Rea Begicevic (enrolled January 2017) Pratibha Malhotra (enrolled January 2020), Dinesh Thapa, Arunima Panda, Mohan Patil and Jerome Lian to be enrolled in 2021.

Professional involvement-Meetings Organizer

2007 "Phosphoinositides on the slope" Fara San Martino, Italy - Chair

2009 "Pancreatic Diseases" Fara San Martino, Italy - Chair

2011 "Inositides Pharmacology and diseases" Keystone Symposia, Keystone, Colorado, USA - Chair

2013 "Pancreatic Diseases" Gordon Research Conferences, MA, USA – Chair

2014 "Membrane, Morphology and Function", Biochemical Society, Fara San Martino, Italy – Chair

2019 2nd Cancer Pharmacology and Precision Cancer Therapy Conference. Weifang, Shandong, China

2019 "ASBMB 2019" Fremantle, Australia – Programme organizer.

2020 "Cancer Therapy" Melbourne 23-25 March 2020 – Chair.

2021 "Cancer Science and Targeted Therapy Conference" Melbourne 6-8 September 2020 – Chair.

Membership

Member of learned society such as Biochemical Society, Diabetes UK, British Association for Cancer Research, Australian Pancreatic Cancer Genomic Initiative, Australasian Pancreatic Club, Gastroenterological Society of Australia.

Role at Curtin University

2015-2018 Chair of the School of Biomedical Sciences R&D committee and responsible for seminars organization within the School of Biomedical Sciences. From 2017 Member of the Health Sciences Grant Success Panel.

Panel Roles

Panel Member, Australian Research Council College of experts, 2016-2018

Panel Member, National Health Medical Research Council, 2019-2021.

Panel Member BHP Blue Sky Research, 2019.

Panel Member Faculty of Health Sciences Grant Success Panel, Curtin University, 2017-current.

Panel member Medical Research Future Fund “Improving Diagnosis in Cancers with Low Survival Rates” Grant Assessment Committee.

Peer review involvement

Editorial board:

Editor in Chief Oncogenic Signaling. Associate Editor Board of Cancer Endocrinology (specialty section of *Frontiers in Endocrinology* and *Frontiers in Oncology*). Editor BBA General subjects, Cancers, *Frontiers in Pharmacology*, *Frontiers in Physiology*, *Frontiers in Endocrinology*, *PlosOne*, *Journal of Molecular Biomarkers & Diagnosis* (former *Editor in Chief*), CBD Lipid signaling, *Biochemical Journal*, (*Editorial Adviser*), *World Journal of Gastrointestinal Oncology*, *Annals of Translational Medicine* .

Peer review: Top journals such as *Nature Medicine* - *Cancer Research* - *Oncogene*, - *etc*

Grant peer review:

ARC, NHMRC, BBSRC, WELLCOME TRUST, Cancer Research UK, MRC, Diabetes UK, Association for International Cancer Research, INSERM, AFM Association Francaise contre les Myopathies Research Grant, Health Research Council of New Zealand, Croucher Foundation, Hong Kong, Austrian Research Fund FWF, Rosetrees Trust UK.

Patents

Prof Falasca is author of the following patents:

Novel inositol phosphate derivatives. Marco Falasca, Andrew Michael Riley, Himali Yasmin Godage, Barry Victor Lloyd Potter. WO 2011064559 A3 2011

PCT Int. Appl. (2018), WO 2018170553 A1 20180927; M. Massi, P. V. Simpson, M. Falasca: “*Complexes and uses thereof*”, describing the use of organometallic rhenium complexes as anticancer agents.

PCT/AU2018/050941; P. Simpson, M. Massi, M. Falasca: “*Synthetic derivatives of oleoyllysophosphatidylinositol (oleoyl-LPI) and uses thereof*”, describing the use of synthetic analogues of oleoyl-LPI as agonist for the GPR119 receptor.

Patents on Sulindac derivatives and novel combinations of plant extract recently filed (PCT).

Advisory Board Role

Firstlight Pharmaceuticals LLC, R3Gen.

Contribution to field of research

The focus of Prof Falasca’s research in the past 30 year involved the investigation of signalling pathways regulating intracellular physiological and pathological processes. Prof Falasca work is mostly focused on intracellular signals regulated by specific lipids that act as “second messengers” inside a cell to control a plethora of cellular functions, including cell growth, proliferation and metabolism. Attention is specifically focused on lipids known as “phosphoinositides” that can regulate several cellular functions. His early work identified for the first time the biological activity and signalling properties of phosphoinositides such as the lysophospholipid lysophosphatidylinositol. He is regularly invited to national and international conferences such as Keystone, FASEB, Gordon and Biochemical Society. He has more than 150 total publications in internationally respected journals, with more than 60 publications in the last 5 years. Cited by 9612 and a H-index of 50 (Google Scholar).

PUBLICATION LIST Prof Marco FALASCA

Falasca V and **Falasca M**. Targeting the endocannabinoidome in pancreatic cancer. *Biomolecules* 2022

Casari I, Emmanouilidi A, Domenichini A, **Falasca M**. Extracellular vesicles derived from pancreatic cancer cells are enriched in the growth factor Midkine. *Adv Biol Regul.* 2022 Jan;83:100857.

Lian J, Casari I, **Falasca M**. Modulatory role of the endocannabinoidome in the pathophysiology of the gastrointestinal tract. *Pharmacol Res.* 2022 Jan;175:106025.
Manfredi M, Williams E, Cho WC, **Falasca M**. Recent Advances in In Vitro and In Vivo Multi-Omics Analyses of Extracellular Vesicles: Therapeutic Targets and Biomarkers. *Front Mol Biosci.* 2021 Oct 27;8:784436. doi: 10.3389/fmolb.2021.784436. eCollection

Perera CJ, **Falasca M**, Chari ST, Greenfield JR, Xu Z, Pirola RC, Wilson JS, Apte MV. Role of Pancreatic Stellate Cell-Derived Exosomes in Pancreatic Cancer-Related Diabetes: A Novel Hypothesis. *Cancers (Basel).* 2021 Oct 18;13(20):5224.

Malhotra P, Palanisamy R, **Falasca M**. Targeting Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma: new therapeutic options for the ongoing battle. *Hepatobiliary Pancreat Dis Int.* 2022 Feb;21(1):4-6.

Falasca M, Maccarrone M. Cannabinoids and Cancer. *Cancers (Basel).* 2021 Sep 4;13(17):4458. doi: 10.3390/cancers13174458.

Paternoster S, Simpson PV, Kokh E, Kizilkaya HS, Rosenkilde MM, Mancera RL, Keating DJ, Massi M, **Falasca M**. Pharmacological and structure-activity relationship studies of oleoyl-lysophosphatidylinositol synthetic mimetics. *Pharmacol Res.* 2021 Aug 16;172:105822.

Cameron K, Rozano L, **Falasca M**, Mancera RL. Does the SARS-CoV-2 Spike Protein Receptor Binding Domain Interact Effectively with the DPP4 (CD26) Receptor? A Molecular Docking Study. *Int J Mol Sci.* 2021 Jun 29;22(13):7001.

Lee XC, Werner E, **Falasca M**. Molecular Mechanism of Autophagy and Its Regulation by Cannabinoids in Cancer. *Cancers (Basel).* 2021 Mar 10;13(6):1211.

Casari I, Howard JA, Robless EE, **Falasca M**. Exosomal integrins and their influence on pancreatic cancer progression and metastasis. *Cancer Lett.* 2021 Jun 1;507:124-134.

Barberis E, Vanella VV, **Falasca M**, Caneapero V, Cappellano G, Raineri D, Ghirimoldi M, De Giorgis V, Puricelli C, Vaschetto R, Sainaghi PP, Bruno S, Sica A, Dianzani U, Rolla R, Chiocchetti A, Cantaluppi V, Baldanzi G, Marengo E, Manfredi M. Circulating Exosomes Are Strongly Involved in SARS-CoV-2 Infection. *Front Mol Biosci.* 2021 Feb 22;8:632290.

Casari I, Manfredi M, Metharom P, **Falasca M**. Dissecting lipid metabolism alterations in SARS-CoV-2. *Prog Lipid Res*. 2021 Feb 8;101092.

Malhotra P, Casari I, **Falasca M**. Therapeutic potential of cannabinoids in combination cancer therapy. *Adv Biol Regul*. 2021 Jan;79:100774.

Robless EE, Howard JA, Casari I, **Falasca M**. Exosomal long non-coding RNAs in the diagnosis and oncogenesis of pancreatic cancer. *Cancer Lett*. 2021 Mar 31;501:55-65.

Domenichini A, Casari I, Simpson PV, Desai NM, Chen L, Dustin C, Edmands JS, van der Vliet A, Mohammadi M, Massi M, **Falasca M**. Rhenium N-heterocyclic carbene complexes block growth of aggressive cancers by inhibiting FGFR- and SRC-mediated signalling. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res*. 2020 Dec 7;39(1):276.

Barberis E, Timo S, Amede E, Vanella VV, Puricelli C, Cappellano G, Raineri D, Cittone MG, Rizzi E, Pedrinelli AR, Vassia V, Casciaro FG, Priora S, Nerici I, Galbiati A, Hayden E, **Falasca M**, Vaschetto R, Sainaghi PP, Dianzani U, Rolla R, Chiocchetti A, Baldanzi G, Marengo E, Manfredi M. Large-Scale Plasma Analysis Revealed New Mechanisms and Molecules Associated with the Host Response to SARS-CoV-2. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2020 Nov 16;21(22):8623.

Maffucci T, **Falasca M**. Signalling Properties of Inositol Polyphosphates. *Molecules*. 2020 Nov 12;25(22):5281.

Lee YT, Tan YJ, **Falasca M**, Oon CE. Cancer-Associated Fibroblasts: Epigenetic Regulation and Therapeutic Intervention in Breast Cancer. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2020 Oct 13;12(10):2949.

Maffucci T, **Falasca M**. Inositol Polyphosphate-Based Compounds as Inhibitors of Phosphoinositide 3-Kinase-Dependent Signaling. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2020 Sep 29;21(19):7198.

Emmanouilidi, A.; Casari, I.; Gokcen Akkaya, B.; Maffucci, T.; Furic, L.; Guffanti, F.; Broggin, M.; Chen, X.; Maxuitenko, Y.Y.; Keeton, A.B.; Piazza, G.A.; Linton, K.J.; **Falasca, M**. Inhibition of the Lysophosphatidylinositol Transporter ABCC1 Reduces Prostate Cancer Cell Growth and Sensitizes to Chemotherapy. *Cancers* **2020**, *12*, 2022.

Elaskalani O, Domenichini A, Abdol Razak NB, E Dye D, **Falasca M**, Metharom P. Antiplatelet Drug Ticagrelor Enhances Chemotherapeutic Efficacy by Targeting the Novel P2Y12-AKT Pathway in Pancreatic Cancer Cells. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2020 Jan 20;12(1):250.

Cisse O, Quraishi M, Gulluni F, Guffanti F, Mavrommati I, Suthanthirakumaran M, Oh LCR, Schlatter JN, Sarvananthan A, Broggin M, Hirsch E, **Falasca M**, Maffucci T. Downregulation of class II phosphoinositide 3-kinase PI3K-C2 β delays cell division and potentiates the effect of docetaxel on cancer cell growth. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res*. 2019 Nov 21;38(1):472.

Paternoster S, **Falasca M**. The intricate relationship between diabetes, obesity and pancreatic cancer. *Biochim Biophys Acta Rev Cancer*. 2020 Jan;1873(1):188326.

Akula SM, Candido S, Abrams SL, Steelman LS, Lertpiriyapong K, Cocco L, Ramazzotti G, Ratti S, Follo MY, Martelli AM, Murata RM, Rosalen PL, Bueno-Silva B, Matias de Alencar S, **Falasca M**, Montalto G, Cervello M, Notarbartolo M, Gizak A, Rakus D, Libra M, McCubrey JA. Abilities of β -Estradiol to interact with chemotherapeutic drugs, signal transduction inhibitors and nutraceuticals and alter the proliferation of pancreatic cancer cells. *Adv Biol Regul.* 2020 Jan;75:100672.

Casari I, Domenichini A, Sestito S, Capone E, Sala G, Rapposelli S, **Falasca M**. Dual PDK1/Aurora Kinase A Inhibitors Reduce Pancreatic Cancer Cell Proliferation and Colony Formation. *Cancers (Basel).* 2019 Oct 31;11(11):1695.

Begicevic RR, Arfuso F, **Falasca M**. Role of bioactive lipids in cancer stem cells. *WJSC* 2019.

Paternoster S, Keating D, **Falasca M**. Editorial: Gastrointestinal Hormones. *Front Endocrinol (Lausanne).* 2019 Jul 25;10:498. eCollection 2019.

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Adamska A, Domenichini A, Capone E, Damiani V, Akkaya BG, Linton KJ, Di Sebastiano P, Chen X, Keeton AB, Ramirez-Alcantara V, Maxuitenko Y, Piazza GA, De Laurenzi V, Sala G, **Falasca M**. Pharmacological inhibition of ABCC3 slows tumour progression in animal models of pancreatic cancer. *J Exp Clin Cancer Res.* 2019 Aug 5;38(1):312.

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Adamska A, Ferro R, Lattanzio R, Capone E, Domenichini A, Damiani V, Chiorino G, Akkaya BG, Linton KJ, De Laurenzi V, Sala G, **Falasca M**. ABCC3 is a novel target for the treatment of pancreatic cancer. *Adv Biol Regul.* 2019 Aug;73. pii: S2212-4926(19)30036-3.

Emmanouilidi A, Paladin D, Greening DW, **Falasca M**. Oncogenic and Non-Malignant Pancreatic Exosome Cargo Reveal Distinct Expression of Oncogenic and Prognostic Factors Involved in Tumor Invasion and Metastasis. *Proteomics.* 2019 Apr;19(8):e1800158.

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Adamska A, **Falasca M**. Epithelial plasticity is crucial for pancreatic cancer metastatic organotropism. Ann Transl Med. 2018 Nov;6(Suppl 1):S53.

Paternoster S, **Falasca M**. Dissecting the Physiology and Pathophysiology of Glucagon-Like Peptide-1. Front Endocrinol (Lausanne). 2018 Oct 11;9:584.

Simpson PV, **Falasca M**, Massi M. Properties and prospects for rhenium(i) tricarbonyl N-heterocyclic carbene complexes. Chem Commun (Camb). 2018 Nov 1;54(88):12429-12438.

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Adamska A, **Falasca M**. ATP-binding cassette transporters in progression and clinical outcome of pancreatic cancer: What is the way forward? World J Gastroenterol. 2018 Aug 7;24(29):3222-3238.

Ferro R, Adamska A, Lattanzio R, Mavrommati I, Edling CE, Arifin SA, Fyffe CA, Sala G, Sacchetto L, Chiorino G, De Laurenzi V, Piantelli M, Sansom OJ, Maffucci T, **Falasca M**. GPR55 signalling promotes proliferation of pancreatic cancer cells and tumour growth in mice, and its inhibition increases effects of gemcitabine. Oncogene. 2018 Dec;37(49):6368-6382.

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Adamska A, Elaskalani O, Emmanouilidi A, Kim M, Abdol Razak NB, Metharom P, **Falasca M**. Molecular and cellular mechanisms of chemoresistance in pancreatic cancer. Adv Biol Regul. 2018 May;68:77-87.

Begicevic RR, **Falasca M**. ABC Transporters in Cancer Stem Cells: Beyond Chemoresistance. Int J Mol Sci. 2017 Nov 8;18(11).

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