

Europass Curriculum Vitae



First name(s) / Surname(s) **Annabella Vitalone**

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Nationality Italian

Occupational field Research and teaching in Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy

Work experience

Occupation or position held **Date** January 31, 2022:
Achievement of the national scientific qualification as full professor

Occupation or position held **Dates** September 2019 - Present
Associate professor

Occupation or position held **Dates** November 2007 – September 2019
Assistant professor

Main activities and responsibilities Research has focused on the suspected adverse reactions associated with the use of natural products (particular attention is devoted to weight loss products).
Study of *in vitro/in vivo* hepatotoxicity potentially induced by medicinal plants.
Summarized research results and wrote manuscripts.
Administrative duties in the control and the organization of various budgets.
She is involved in teaching pharmacognosy and phytotherapy in the Schools of Pharmacy (Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences and Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and Pharmacy Courses), as well as in various training programs sponsored by Pharmacist Association.
Supervisor of Post-doctoral fellows, PhD student and students.

Name and address of employer Dept. of Physiology and Pharmacology "V. Erspamer"; Sapienza University of Rome, Rome – Italy.
Sector University - Basic research

Occupation or position held **Dates** June 2006-October 2007
Research Scientist
Main activities and responsibilities Set-up a new research laboratory for the study of mechanisms of neurotoxicity of food contaminants.
She has been involved in teaching phytotherapy, pharmacology and toxicology in the Schools of Medicine.
Supervisor of PhD student.

Name and address of employer Dept. of Human Anatomy, Pharmacology and Forensic Sciences; University of Parma, Parma – Italy.

Sector	University - Basic research
Dates	April 2004 - March 2006
Occupation or position held	Research Scientist
Main activities and responsibilities	Study of " <i>In vitro</i> models of neurotoxicity and neuroprotection". Supervisor of a study on "Developmental neurotoxicity of Allethrin", funded by Sumitomo Chemicals, Japan. Task manager in the EU-funded project "Toxic threats to the developing nervous system: in vivo and <i>in vitro</i> studies on the effects of mixture of neurotoxic substances potentially contaminating food (DEVNERTOX)". Summarized research results and wrote reports for EU. She has been involved in teaching phytotherapy, pharmacology and toxicology in the Schools of Medicine. Supervisor of PhD student.
Name and address of employer	Dept. of Pharmacology; University of Bari, Bari - Italy
Sector	University - Basic research
Dates	March 2005 – June 2005
Occupation or position held	Scientific consultant
Main activities and responsibilities	Development dietary supplements and assessment their safety.
Name and address of employer	Italian Pharmacotherapeutic Institute (IFI); Rome – Italy.
Sector	Research and development.
Dates	November 2002 - October 2003
Occupation or position held	Research Scientist
Main activities and responsibilities	Manager of EU-funded project: "Developmental neurotoxicity of Polybrominated Dyphenyl Ethers: Mechanisms and effect" (PBDE-ntox). Carried out in vitro experiments on mechanisms of cytotoxicity of PBDEs and PCBs. Summarized research results and wrote reports for EU.
Name and address of employer	Dept. of Natural substances and general Physiology; Sapienza University of Rome, Rome - Italy
Sector	University - Basic research
Dates	January 2002 - June 2002
Occupation or position held	Visiting scientist
Main activities and responsibilities	Involved in a research project on human benign prostatic hyperplasia. Assessed the pharmacological and toxicological effects of different plant extracts on the proliferation of human prostate cell lines. Part of the work was carried out in collaboration with a Fytokem (Canadian company).
Name and address of employer	Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences; University of Washington; Seattle WA – USA.
Sector	University - Basic research
Dates	September 2000 – May 2001
Occupation or position held	Visiting scholar
Main activities and responsibilities	Involved in a research project on human benign prostatic hyperplasia. Assessed the pharmacological and toxicological effects of different plant extracts on the proliferation of human prostate cell lines.
Name and address of employer	Dept. of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences; University of Washington; Seattle WA – USA.
Sector	University - Basic research
Dates	July 1996 – March 2000
Occupation or position held	Pharmacist
Main activities and responsibilities	Worked as a Pharmacist in a private pharmacy in downtown, Rome. The job consisted in dispensing drugs and dietary supplements, as well as performing laboratory tasks (blood and urine analysis).
Name and address of employer	Farmacia "Langeli" – Rome. Italy
Sector	Pharmacy

Education and training

Dates	2005
Title of qualification awarded	Post-graduate school in Pharmacology
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Rome "La Sapienza" – Rome, Italy
Dates	2002
Title of qualification awarded	PhD in Pharmacology, Pharmacognosy and Toxicology
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome - Italy
Dates	1997
Title of qualification awarded	Diploma in Phytotherapy
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Nobile Collegio Chimico Farmaceutico "Universitas Aromatariorum Urbis" – Roma.
Dates	1998
Title of qualification awarded	Diploma in Drugs for self-medication
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Nobile Collegio Chimico Farmaceutico "Universitas Aromatariorum Urbis" – Roma.
Dates	1998
Title of qualification awarded	Diploma in Homeopathy
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Confederation Internationale des Societés d'Homéopathie e Biotherapie
Dates	1999
Title of qualification awarded	Diploma in Pharmacoeconomy
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Rome "La Sapienza", Rome - Italy
Dates	1999
Title of qualification awarded	Diploma in Dental Pharmacology and in Pharmaceutical Legislation
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Both from Hospital Medical School of Rome and of Lazio Region.
Dates	1996
Title of qualification awarded	Degree in Pharmacy, cum laude
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	University of Rome "La Sapienza" – Rome, Italy
Dates	1990
Title of qualification awarded	High school leaving qualification
Name and type of organisation providing education and training	Collegio "Nazareno", Rome

Mother tongue(s) **Italian**

Other language(s)

Self-assessment

European level (*)

English

Understanding		Speaking		Writing
Listening	Reading	Spoken interaction	Spoken production	
B2	C1	C1	B2	B2

(*) [Common European Framework of Reference for Languages](#)

Additional information

Collaboration with the National Centre of Epidemiology, Surveillance and Health Promotion of the Italian Institute of Health. Dr. Vitalone was a member of the Cultural task force, Pharmacist Association – Rome (2000-2013), Auditor of the Italian Society of Pharmacognosy (2010-2014), Secretary in the Board of Studies of Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences (CLASS L29 AND CLASS 24) of the Faculty of Pharmacy and Medicine (2012 November-2019), Councillor of the Italian Society of Pharmacognosy (2018-present), Councillor of the Pharmaceutical Society of the Latin Mediterranean (2019-present), Member of the Commission for the carrying out the compensatory measures for the recognition in Italy of the qualification of Pharmacist, obtained in a Third Country by EU citizens and non-EU citizens - Sapienza University of Rome (2013-2016), Secretary of the Pharmacognosy and Phytotherapy Working Group of the Italian Society of Pharmacology (2014-2018), Member of the Faculty Board of the PhD in Pharmacology and Toxicology (2016-2018; 2021-present), Director of the Master in Integrated Medicine in Pharmacy (2021-present).

Awards and honours received include: Fellowship, Italian Society of Pharmacology (2001); Grant award, Project of Young Investigators, Italian Ministry of University and Research (2002); Fellowship, Italian Society of Toxicology (2007); Award, Italian Scientist Société de Pharmacie de la Méditerranée Latine, Marsiglia- France (2008); Grant award, Faculty Project (2008) and other Academic Projects (2009, 2011); Finalist, Research Funding Program for Young Investigators, Italian Ministry of Health (39th out of 1500 applicants), FIRB, Pre-selected project by Sapienza University (2012); FFABR 2017 fund winner (2017); University Fund Award (Article 9 co.1 L 240/10), Sapienza University of Rome (2018); 2019 (February-present) Appointed member of the Uronutraceutical Group for the Italian Archive of Urology and Andrology; 2020 (March-present) Member of the Working Group "Obesity, metabolic syndrome and eating disorders: new possible pharmacological targets" of the Italian Society of Pharmacology; 2022 (June-September). Designation by the Ministry of Health as a member of the interdisciplinary working group for the evaluation of adverse events related to the use of food supplements containing *Curcuma longa* (June 2022). Appointment by the Ministry of Health as a member of the Technical Committee for animal nutrition and health - Section for dietetics and nutrition. 2022-2025 (Ministerial Decree November 28, 2022). Certificate of merit for the years of professional practice spent honoring the pharmaceutical profession with competence, dedication, dignity and decorum - Order of Pharmacists of the Province of Rome (June 14, 2023).

Dr. Vitalone is also a referee for various international Journals (i.e. Natural Product Research, Neurotoxicology, Phytotherapy Research, *Planta Medica*, African Journal of Biotechnology, Journal of Ethnopharmacology, BMC Complementary and Alternative Medicine), and grant reviewer for Research Project of National Interest (PRIN) from Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR), and Estonian Science Foundation. She is in the Editorial Board of the Journal of Case Reports and Studies (from January 2015).

Since 2003, she has been involved in teaching activities in Pharmacognosy, Phytotherapy, Pharmacology and Toxicology in the Schools of Medicine, Pharmacy, Pharmaceutical Biotechnology and Applied Pharmaceutical Sciences (of various University), as well as in various post-graduated training programs sponsored by the Pharmacist Association and the European Union.

Dr. Vitalone has authored more than 60 papers and book chapters in the area of phytotherapy, pharmacology and toxicology, and has presented her research at about thirty of national and international scientific conferences.

Dr. Vitalone was on maternity leave (from September 9, 2015 to March 29, 2016)

PREVIOUS GRANT as coordinator

2002 "Study on molecular mechanisms involved in cell proliferation of prostate cells" - Research grant for Young Investigators, Italian Ministry of Education, University and Research.

2008 "In vitro study of hepatotoxic effect of medicinal plants" Research Grant from the School of Pharmacy, Sapienza University of Rome [C26F08HSJS].

2011 "Jatropha curcas: not only biodiesel", FARI 2011, Research Grant from Sapienza University of Rome [C26I11XEKJ].

2014 Research Grants from Sapienza University "Caralluma fimbriata, a new natural weight loss: pharmaco-toxicological characterization" [C26A14J2HR]

2021 Principal investigator in the project "Hydroponic medicinal plants in the era of global warming: an innovative strategy for the protection and development of biodiversity" in the context of the green theme (resources assigned with DM1062 / 2021)

2021 - Scientific Head of RTD-A, as part of the carrying out of the aforementioned project. PON "Research and Innovation" 2014-2020, Axis IV "Education and research for recovery" - Action IV.4 - "Doctorates and research contracts on innovation topics" and Action IV.6 - "Research contracts on topics Green" aimed at supporting fixed-term research contracts of type A), pursuant to law no. 240, Article 24, paragraph - Sapienza University of Rome

2021 - Scientific coordinator of the project "Do we really know natural products?" as part of the Pathways for Transversal Skills and Orientation [PCTO n. 63706]. Sapienza University of Rome

PREVIOUS GRANT as participant

2002-2003 EU Research on Environment and Health, Project founded by the 5th Framework Programme [QLK4-CT-1999-01562]: "Developmental neurotoxicity of Polybrominated Diphenyl Ethers: Mechanisms and effect" (PBDE-ntox).

2004-2006 Task manager of the Research Unit of the EU Research on Food Quality and Safety, Project founded by 6th Framework Programme [FOOD-CT-2003-506143]: "Toxic threats to the developing nervous system: in vivo and in vitro studies on the effects of mixture of neurotoxic substances potentially contaminating food (DEVNERTOX)".

2004-2006 Research Project of National Interest (PRIN) from Ministry of Education, University and Research (MIUR): "Evaluation of mechanism-based in vitro models for predictive toxicity testing".

2008 Research Grants from Sapienza University of Rome "Toxicological studies on the effect of herbal medicinal products on hepatic function" [code-number C26A083EBS].

2009 "Safety of herbal drugs: pharmaco-toxicological studies and Phytosurveillance" [code-number C26F093JYJ]. Research Grants from Sapienza University of Rome.

2009-2011 PRIN from MIUR [2009ESX7T3_001]"Neurobiological mechanisms modulating hypothalamic oxytocinergic system, involved in the anorectic effect of oleoylethanolamide".

2011 Research Grants from Sapienza University of Rome "Metabolomic application in the safety assessment of natural products" [code-number C26A11SNCN].

2012 Research Grants from Sapienza University: "Natural products used in the weight control: safety assessment by a metabolomic study" [C26A128C78].

2015 Research Grants from Lazio Region – Filas "e-ALIERB: an OPEN LAB to characterize and enhance the food and herbal products of the Lazio region"

2016 "Chemopreventive effects of natural sesquiterpenes against the cigarette smoke-induced airway damage and inflammation", Progetto di Ricerca di Ateneo, Sapienza Univ. of Rome

2021 Genotoxicity of organochlorine pesticides: validation of a novel affordable and versatile detection method for risk assessment and identification of natural genoprotective substances. Research Initiation Projects - Type 1. Participant as a reference tutor for a PhD student. Sapienza Univ. of Rome.

2021 Studying the mechanisms accounting for the chemoresistance reversal properties of caryophyllane sesquiterpenes in biliary tract cancer cells. Projects for Research Initiation - Type 2. Participant as reference Tutor of research fellow. Sapienza Univ. of Rome.

2021 "TO BRAIN OR NOT TO BRAIN: evaluating the possible direct effects of oleoylethanolamide in the central nervous system". Big project of Sapienza University.

2022 Investigating the role of astrocytes in oligodendrocyte maturation and myelin formation in cellular models of Alzheimer's disease: a preclinical study with co-ultramicrosized palmitoylethanolamide/luteolin. Big project of Sapienza University.

2022 Possible protective effects of acylethanolamides in a rat model of abstinence from hedonic overfeeding. Projects for Research Initiation - Type 2. Participant as reference Tutor of PhD student. Sapienza Univ. of Rome.

2022 Partner in the Ministry of Health Project. Health Operational Plan - Trajectory 5 "Nutraceuticals, nutrigenomics and functional foods" Action line 5.1 "Creation of an action program to fight malnutrition in all its forms and for the diffusion of the principles of the Mediterranean Diet" Mediterranean Diet for Human Health Lab (MeDiHealthLab) Project code T5-AN-07.

2022 Critical mass in the European Project within the Innovation Ecosystem ON FOODS - RESEARCH AND INNOVATION NETWORK ON FOOD AND NUTRITION SUSTAINABILITY, SAFETY AND SECURITY - WORKING ON FOODS – Partnerships extended to universities, research centers, companies for the financing of basic research projects referred to in Public Notice no. 341 of 15/03/2022 - as part of the National Recovery and Resilience Plan, Mission 4 "Education and research" - Component 2 "From research to business" - Investment 1.3, financed by the European Union – NextGenerationEU - PE0000003 - CUP: B53C22004030001

September 29, 2023

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