

# L'innovazione tecnologica nella discovery di nuovi farmaci

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Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia  
Genoa, Italy**

Bergamo - 2019

# IIT – Mission and Network

## Italian Institute of Technology

Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia  
promotes excellence in fundamental and applied research,  
develops higher education in the area of science and technology and fosters the evolution  
of industry towards the forefront areas of technological innovation.



Geno



*Genova Central Research Lab  
32.000 sqm, fully equipped, one of the largest single-  
site labs in Europe*

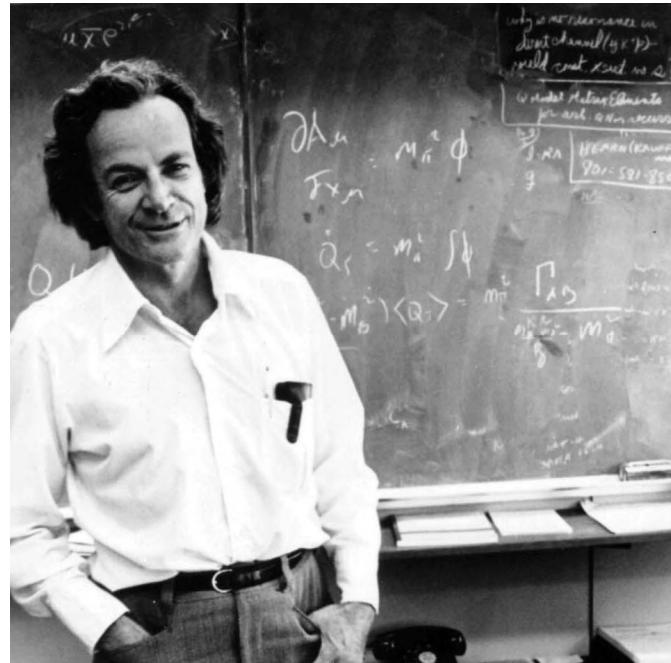
**iit** lecce

# Atomi e molecole... per la vita

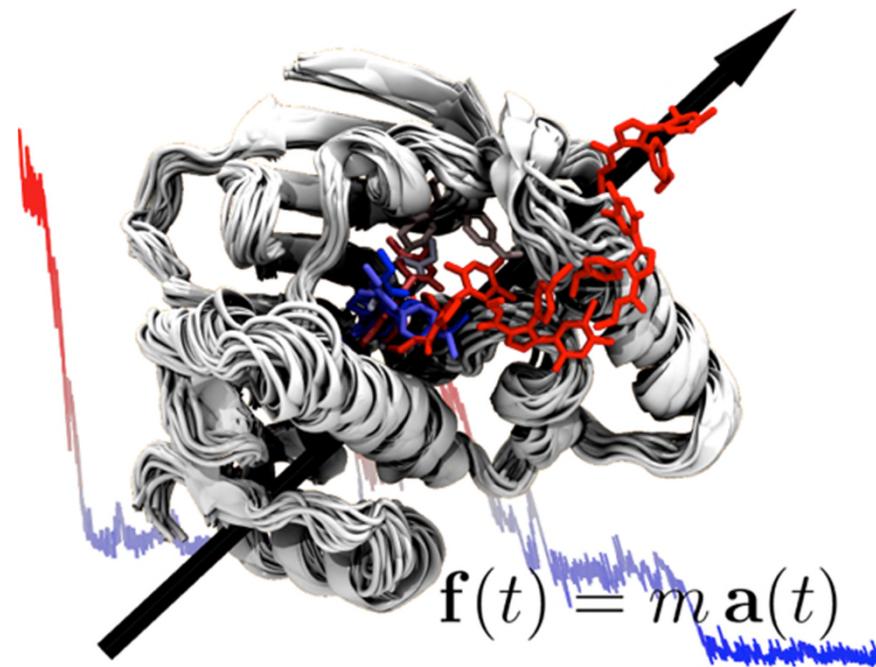
***"Everything that living things do can be understood in terms of the jiggling and wiggling of atoms"***

***"Tutto cio' che gli esseri viventi fanno puo essere compreso dal dondolare e agitarsi degli atomi"***

***Richard Feynman (Premio Nobel, '65), dalle sue famose lezioni di fisica nel 1963***



# Molecular Simulations

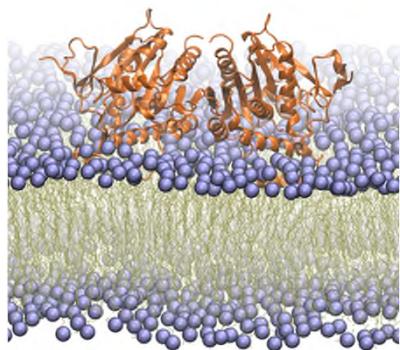


From protein function  
to drug discovery

# Catalysis & Drug Discovery

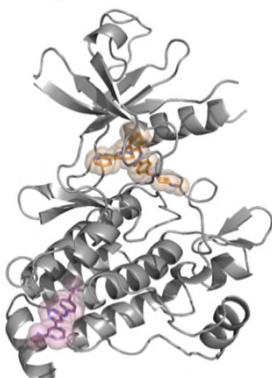
Computations

Membrane-bound proteins



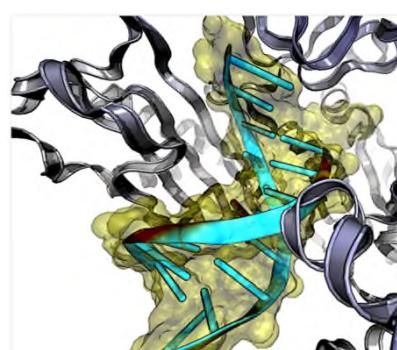
BBA Mol Cell Biol 2017

Signaling in proteins



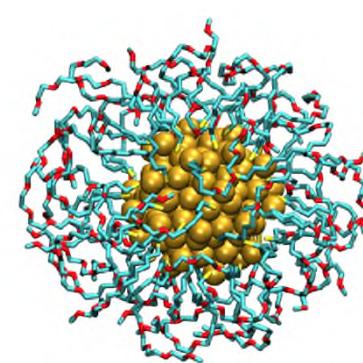
ACS Cent Sci 2017

DNA/RNA and metalloenzymes



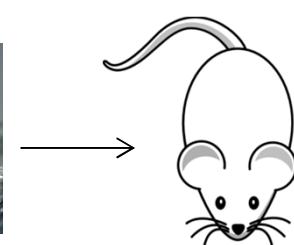
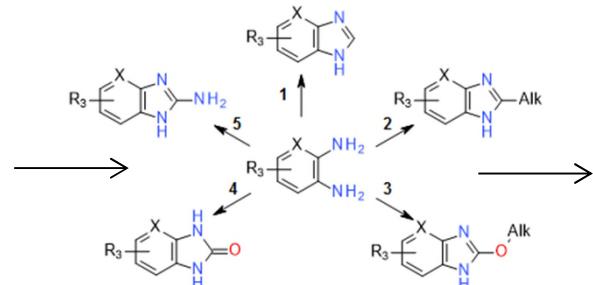
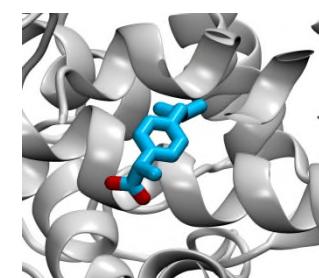
JACS 2016, 2018

Functionalized nanoparticles



Chem (Cell Press) 2018

Experiments



*“Role of Molecular Dynamics and Related Methods in Drug Discovery”*

De Vivo M., et al. J.Med Chem. 2016

*“Recent Advances in Dynamic Docking for Drug Discovery”*

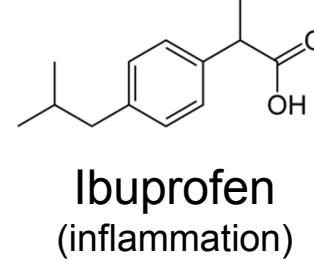
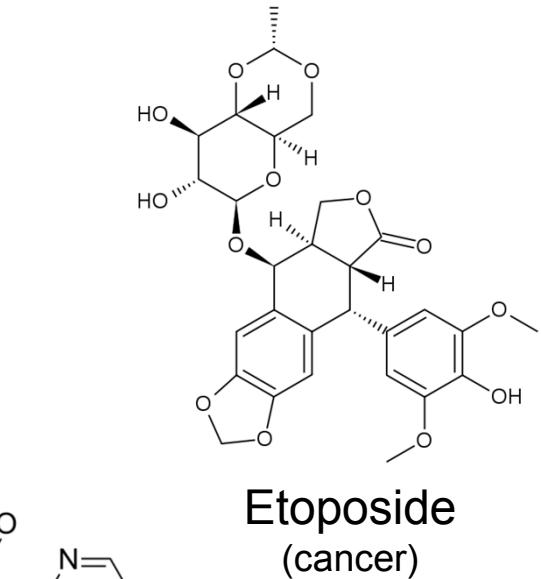
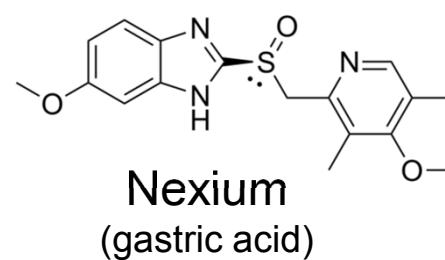
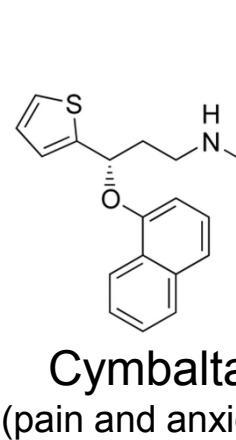
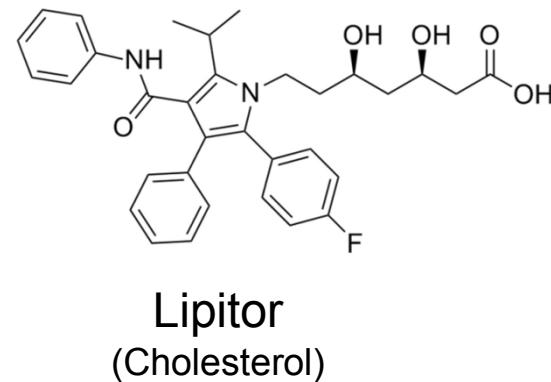
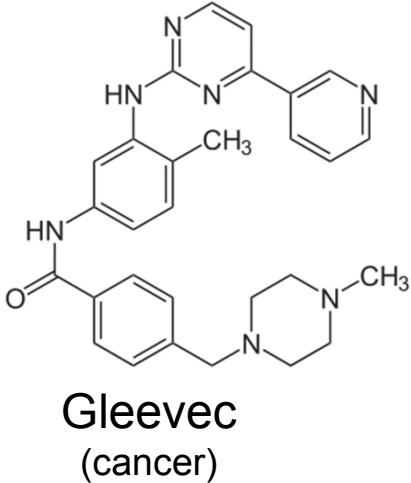
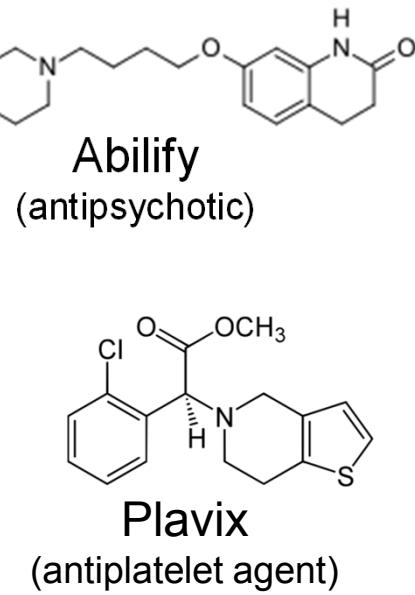
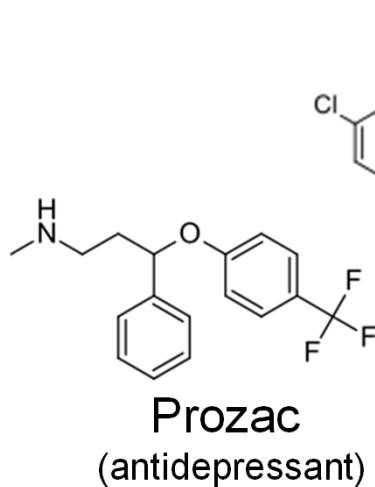
De Vivo M. & Cavalli A.  
WIREs Comput Mol Sci 2017, (Cover)

# Il Farmaco: Chiave e lucchetto

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# Small molecule drugs

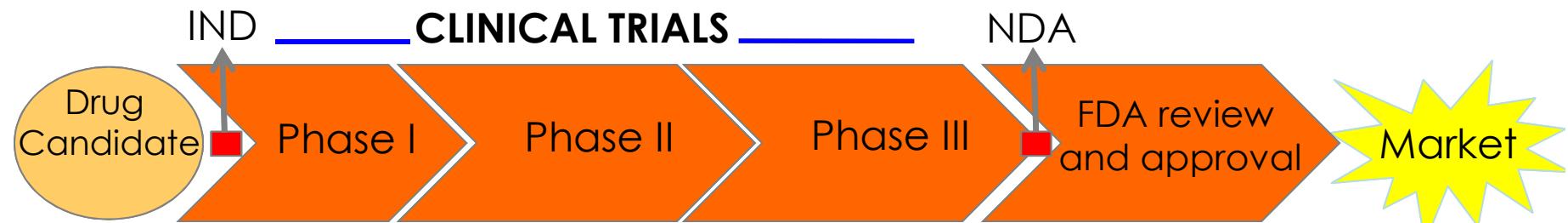


# Drug Discovery & Development

Average time requested for it



Time zero → 1.5 → 1.5 → 2 → 1  
(~6 years for discovery)

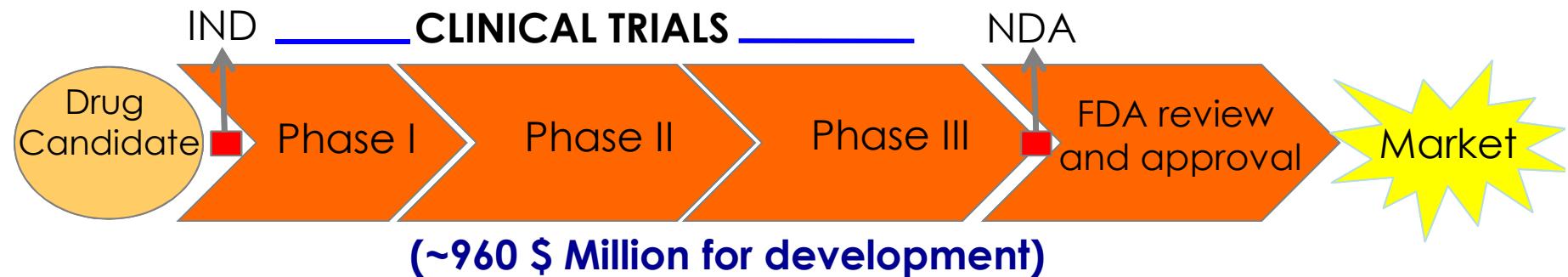


→ 1.5 → 2.5 → 2.5 → 1  
(~7.5 years for development)

Total time (on average) = ~13.5 years

# Drug Discovery & Development

Average cost requested for it

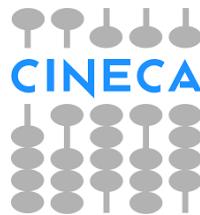


**Total cost on average = ~1.78 \$ Billion for one NME**

Source: How to improve R&D productivity: the pharmaceutical industry's grand challenge  
Steven M. Paul, Nat. Review Drug Discovery March Vol. 9 2010

# Sistemi realistici e dinamici

Simulazioni con il Supercomputer  
Alcuni dei centri di supercalcolo in europa:



Italia



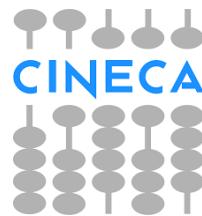
Germania



*Petascale computing ( $10^{15}$ ), .... verso Exascale computing ( $10^{18}$ )*

# Simulazioni con il Supercomputer

Alcuni dei centri di supercalcolo in europa:



Italia



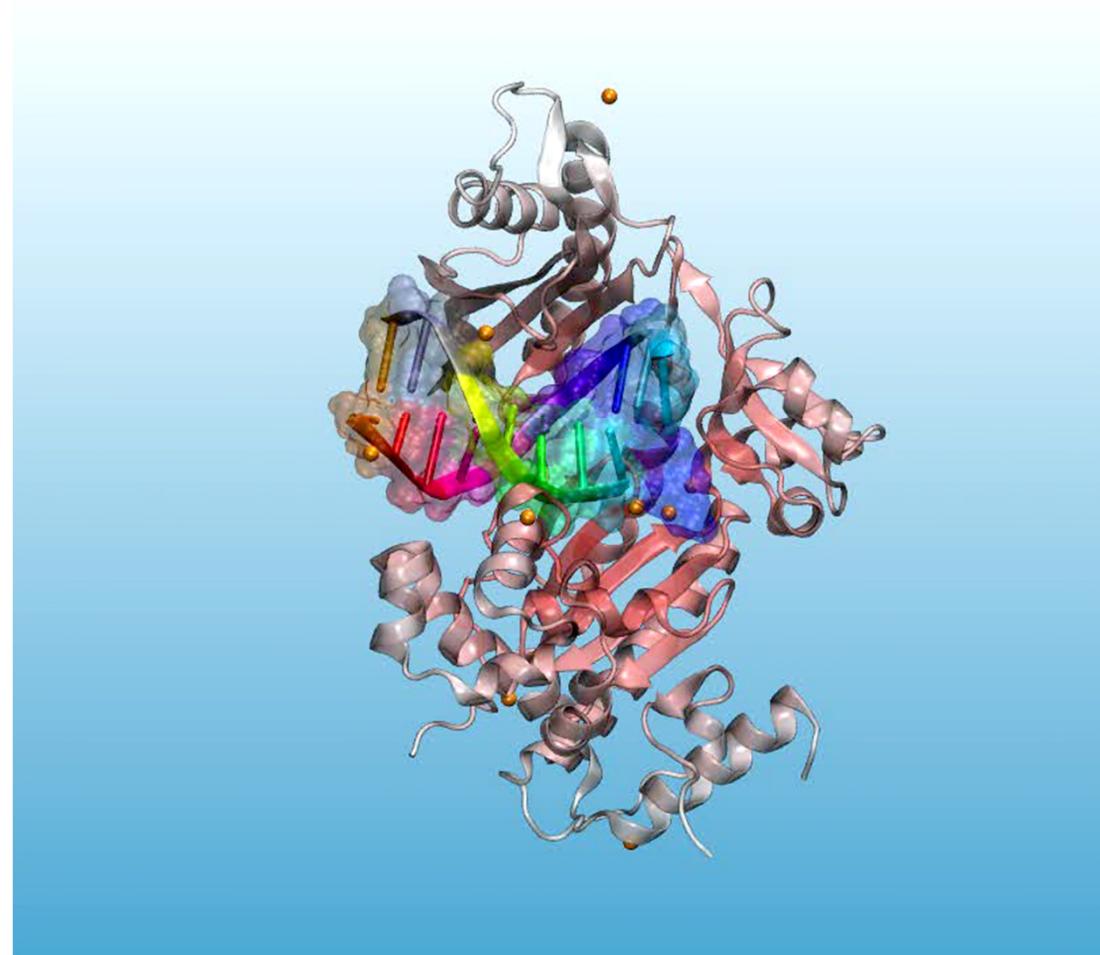
Germania



La chimica al computer è  
una lente di ingrandimento  
per vedere gli atomi in  
processi chimici !

*Petascale computing ( $10^{15}$ ), .... verso Exascale computing ( $10^{18}$ )*

# Simulazioni con il Supercomputer



~200 nanosecondi di dinamica della polimerasi e DNA

# Comprendere la funzione del target

## Computational Enzymology

### Function and inhibition



Perspective

Cite This: *ACS Catal.* 2018, 8, 11103–11118

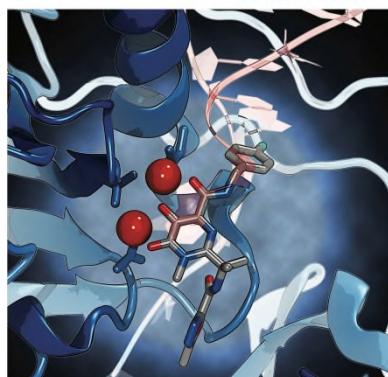
[pubs.acs.org/acscatalysis](https://pubs.acs.org/acscatalysis)

2018

**nature**  
REVIEWS

July 2018 volume 2 no. 7  
[www.nature.com/nature-reviews/](http://www.nature.com/nature-reviews/)

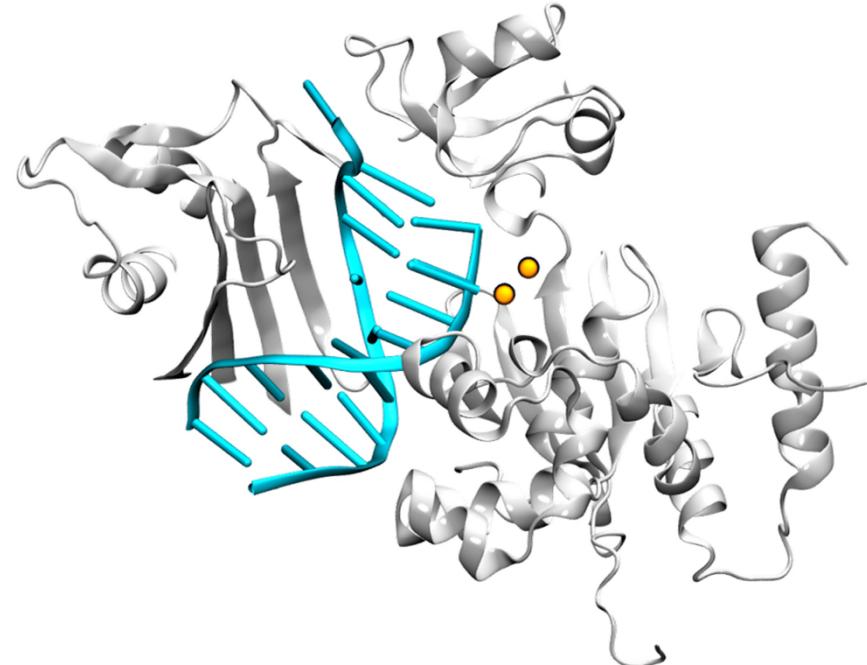
CHEMISTRY



### The Catalytic Mechanism of DNA and RNA Polymerases

Vito Genna,<sup>ID</sup> Elisa Donati, and Marco De Vivo<sup>\*ID</sup>

Laboratory of Molecular Modeling and Drug Discovery, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Via Morego 30, 16163, Genoa, Italy



NATURE REVIEWS | CHEMISTRY

## Metal–ligand interactions in drug design

Laura Riccardi, Vito Genna and Marco De Vivo<sup>ID</sup>

*Nat Rev Chem* 2018

# Comprendere la funzione del target



Article  
pubs.acs.org/JACS

## A Self-Activated Mechanism for Nucleic Acid Polymerization Catalyzed by DNA/RNA Polymerases

Vito Genna,<sup>†,‡</sup> Pietro Vidossich,<sup>‡</sup> Emiliano Ippoliti,<sup>‡</sup> Paolo Carloni,<sup>\*§,‡</sup> and Marco De Vivo<sup>§,†,‡</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Laboratory of Molecular Modeling & Drug Discovery, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Via Morego 30, 16163, Genoa, Italy

<sup>‡</sup>IAS-5/INM-9 Computational Biomedicine and JARA-HPC, Forschungszentrum Jülich, Wilhelm-Johnen-Strasse, 52428 Jülich, Germany



Article  
pubs.acs.org/JACS

## A Strategically Located Arg/Lys Residue Promotes Correct Base Paring During Nucleic Acid Biosynthesis in Polymerases

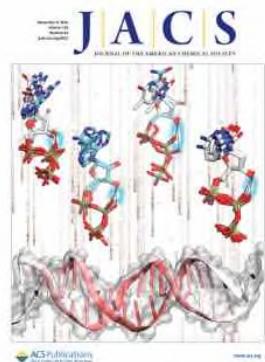
Vito Genna,<sup>†,‡</sup> Paolo Carloni,<sup>‡</sup> and Marco De Vivo<sup>§,†,‡,¶</sup>

<sup>†</sup>Laboratory of Molecular Modeling and Drug Discovery, Istituto Italiano di Tecnologia, Via Morego 30, 16163 Genoa, Italy

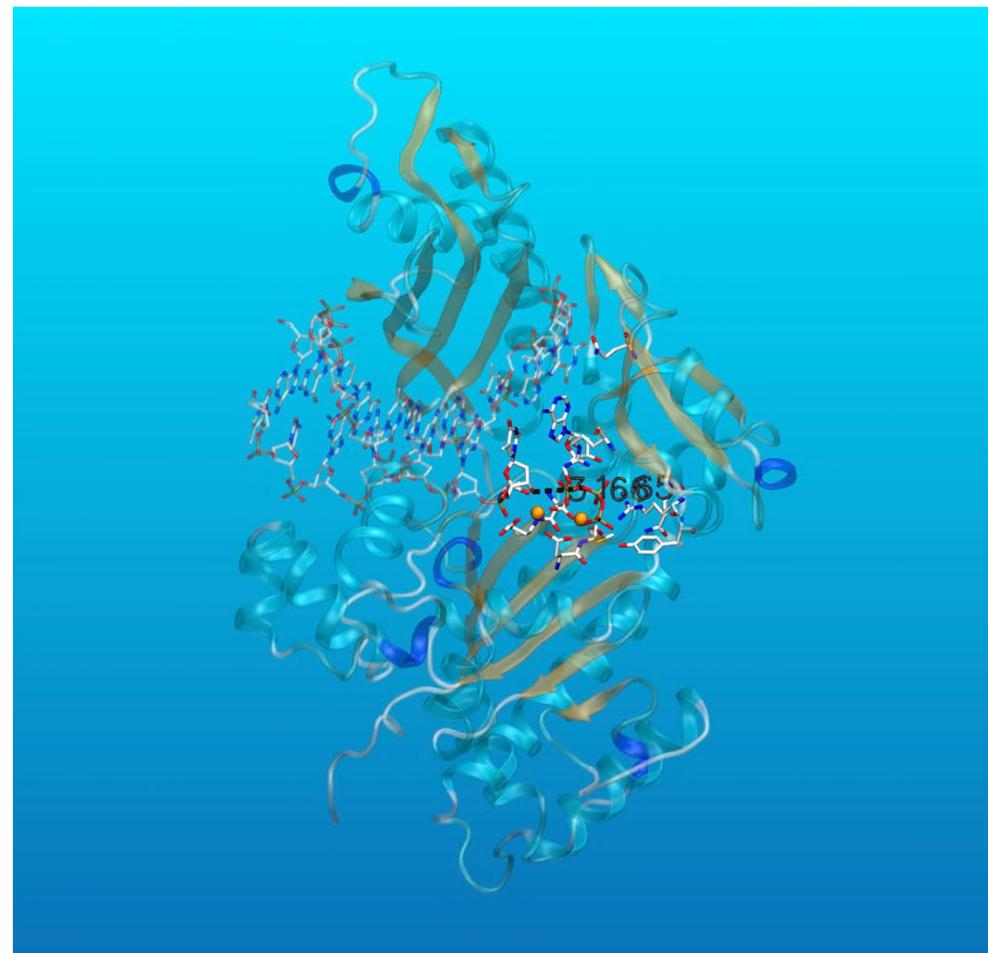
<sup>‡</sup>Computational Biophysics, German Research School for Simulation Sciences, and Computational Biomedicine, Institute for Advanced Simulation IAS-5 and Institute of Neuroscience and Medicine INM-9, Forschungszentrum Jülich, 52425 Jülich, Germany



2016



2018



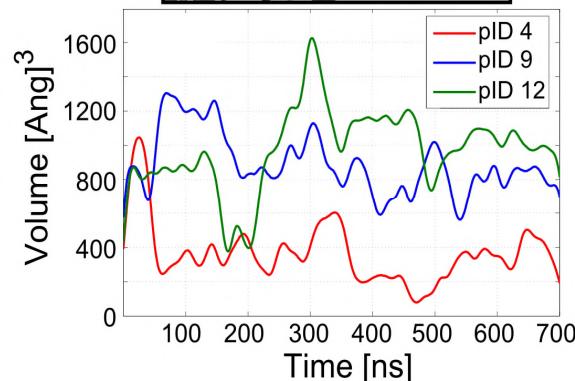
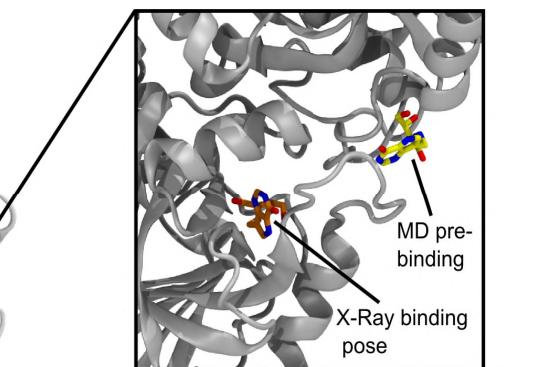
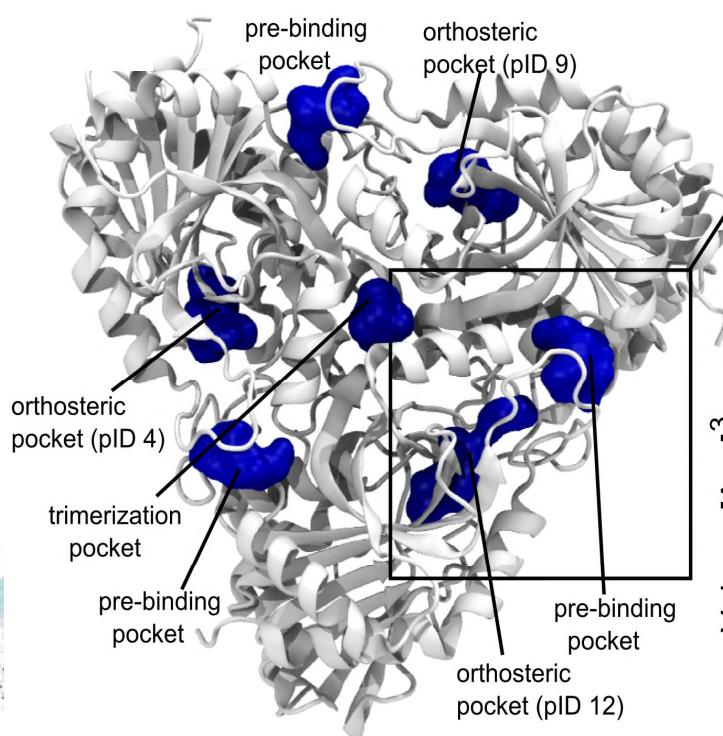
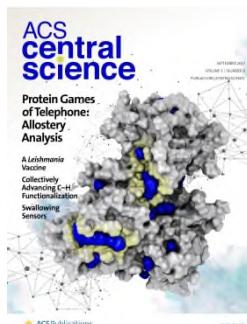
Come il filamento di DNA si duplica....

Una reazione così avviene in pochi picosecondi (un millesimo di miliardesimo di secondo)

# Identificare nuove poche per farmaci

**Pocket crosstalk analysis: allosteric communication networks in proteins**

In collaboration with Rocchia's Lab @IIT



**Pocketron  
available in:**



**Award: Emerging Technology in Computational Chemistry (ACS Fall mtg in Boston 2018)**

**Project in collaboration with:**

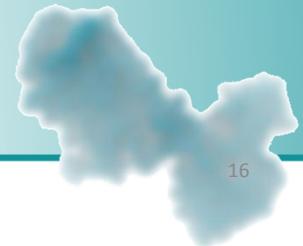
La Sala G et al ACS Central Science. 2017 (cover)

La Sala G et al J. Chem. Theory Comput. 2016 (cover)



# Donepezil entra nel suo target

Grazie a Dr. Walter Rocchia



<https://www.youtube.com/user/bikitech>

**Chem**

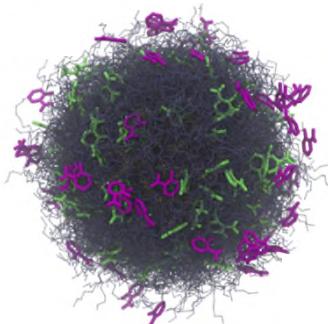
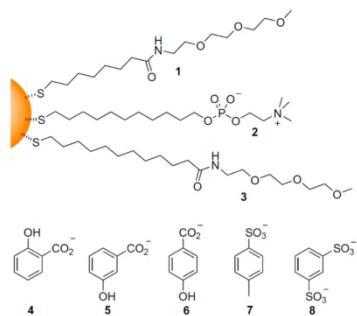
**CellPress**

2017

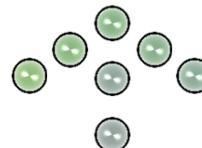
Article

## Nanoparticle-Based Receptors Mimic Protein-Ligand Recognition

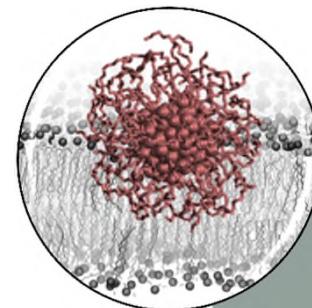
Laura Riccardi,<sup>1</sup> Luca Gabrielli,<sup>2</sup> Xiaohuan Sun,<sup>2</sup> Federico De Biasi,<sup>2</sup> Federico Rastrelli,<sup>2</sup> Fabrizio Mancin,<sup>2,\*</sup> and Marco De Vivo<sup>1,3,4,\*</sup>



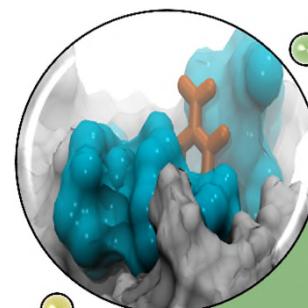
## Rational Design



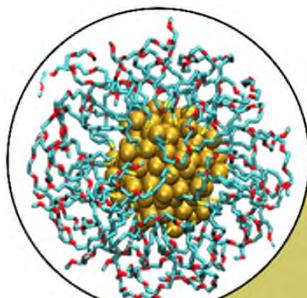
**Molecular simulations  
in explicit solvent**



**Cellular Uptake –  
Reactions**



**Rationale on  
Sensing Mechanism**

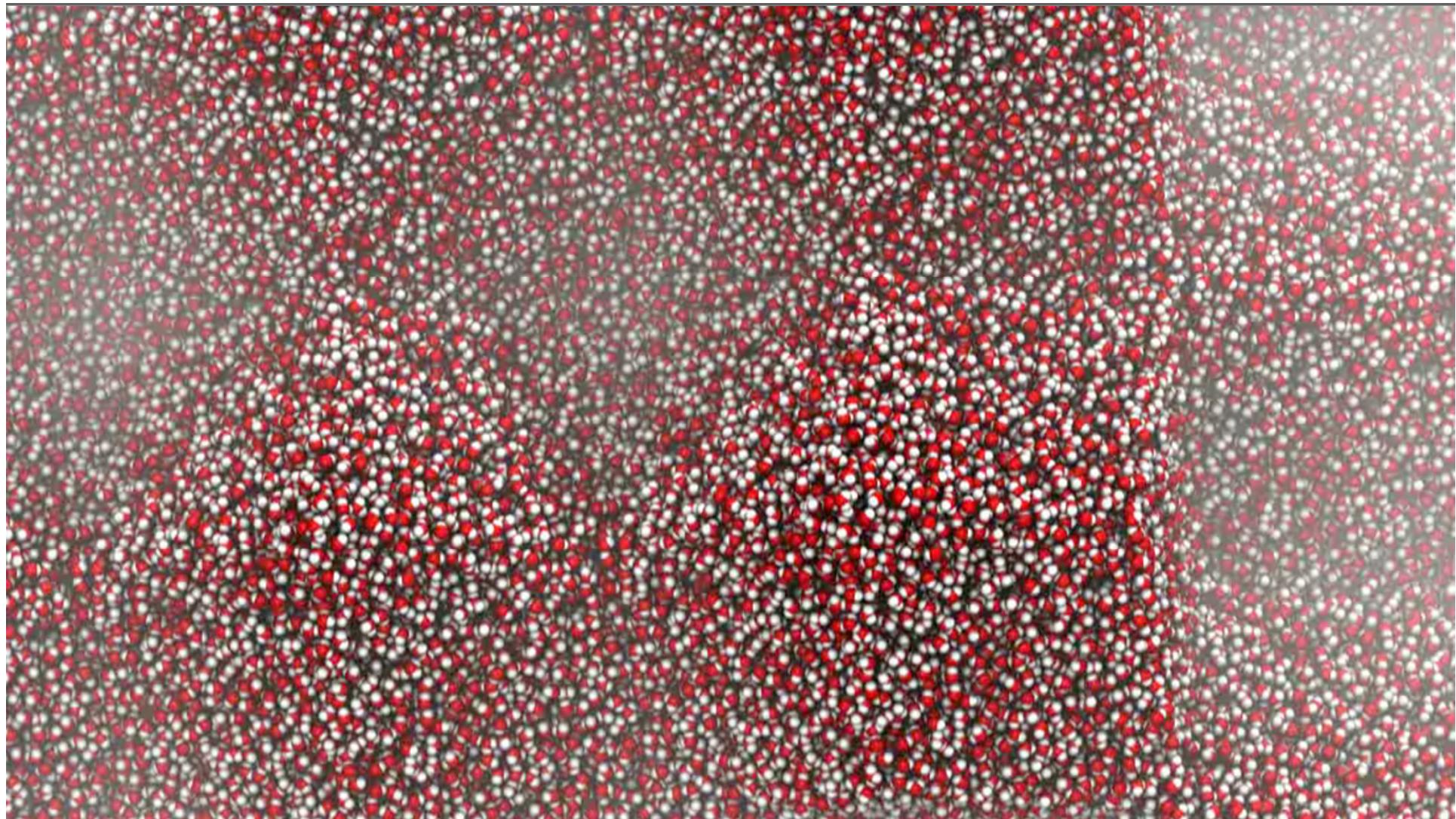


**Computational  
Model**

**NanoModeler  
Web Server**  
<https://NanoModeler.it>

In collaboration with F. Mancin  
University of Padova

# *Dinamica e progettazione razionale di nanoparticelle per ‘chemosensing’*



*Binding of AuNP/salicylate*

MD simulations

# Toward innovative medicines

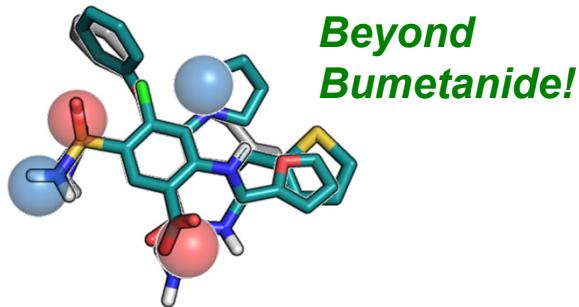
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**Computer-aided drug discovery pipeline in IIT**

# Toward innovative medicines

## Computer-aided drug discovery pipeline in IIT

*Targeting NKCC1*



In collaboration with  
Dr. L. Cancedda, IIT

Neurodevelopment

# My Research Group



## Our international Group **Molecular Modeling & Drug Discovery**

### External Funds:

Fondazione AIRC  
Ricerca Cancro



High Performing  
Computing



### Active external collaborators:

- Dr. Paolo Carloni @ FZJ, Julich, **DE**
- Dr. Gian Pietro Miscione @ UDLA Bogotà, **COL**
- Dr. Anand Ganesan, MD @ Cancer Research Institute UCI, **USA**
- Dr. Neil Osheroff @ Vanderbilt University, **USA**
- Dr. Fabrizio Mancin @ Uni Padova, **IT**
- Dr. Feferico Rastrelli @ Uni Padova, **IT**
- Dr. Marco Marcia @ EMBL Grenoble, **FR**
- Dr. Ming Zhou @ Baylor College of Medicine, **USA**

### Collaborators @ IIT

- Dr. Laura Cancedda, Lab Director
- Dr. Walter Rocchia, Lab Director
- Dr. Pier Paolo Pompa, Lab Director