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Searching for Candidates for PhD in neuroscience

- Interdisciplinary frontier projects in challenging environment
- Top level scientific interactions
- Interdepartmental research
- Strong support and facilities access

Main lab topics are related to *cell biology of sensory neurons* and biochemistry of *ATP-gated P2X3 receptors*. P2X3 receptors are expressed on sensory neurons and are involved in pain transduction.

Active fields of investigation are the following :

- Characterization of cellular elements involved in P2X3 receptor modulation in trigeminal neurons
- Changes in Synaptic and Scaffolding proteins in pain conditions
- Tactile hypersensitivity syndromes related to environmental pollutants and chemicals
- Study of trigeminal neuron components in migraine pain (in collaboration with SISSA Trieste Italy)
- Inflammatory components in trigeminal ganglia.
- Importance of splicing variants in pain diseases (in collaboration with ICGEB Trieste Italy).

Recent publications :

1. D'Arco M., Giniatullin R., Leone V., Carloni P., Nistri A. and Fabbretti E. (2009) *Csk-mediated tyrosine phosphorylation is a novel molecular mechanism to limit P2X3 receptor function in mouse trigeminal sensory neurons*. J. Biol. Chem. In press.
2. Simonetti M., Giniatullin R. and Fabbretti E. (2008) *Mechanism mediating the enhanced transcription of P2X3 receptor gene by calcitonin gene related peptide in trigeminal sensory neurons*. J. Biol. Chem. 283(4): 18743-18752.
3. Giniatullin R., Nistri A. and Fabbretti E. (2008) *Molecular modulation of ATP-gated P2X3 receptors involved in pain*. Molec Neurobiol. 37:83-90. Review.
4. D'Arco M., Giniatullin R., Simonetti M., Fabbro A., Nair A., Nistri A. and Fabbretti E. (2007) *Neutralization of NGF induces plasticity of ATP-sensitive P2X3 receptors of nociceptive trigeminal ganglion neurons*. J. Neurosci. 27(31): 8190-8201

highly motivated students should contact *preferentially* before 15 September 2009 **Elsa Fabbretti**

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The PhD program is run in English and is open to suitably qualified candidates from any country of the world.