

## Curriculum Vitae-William Blalock

### Personal

**Last Name:** Blalock

**First Name:** William Laurin, III

**Profile:** Researcher Level III, National Research Council (CNR)

**Matriculation Num.:** 14597

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**PEC:** [william.blalock@pec.it](mailto:william.blalock@pec.it)

### Details:

**Work address:** IGM-CNR, UOS Bologna  
Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute  
Via Barbiano 1/10  
40136 Bologna, Italy

**Home address:** via Fiesso, 7  
40055 Castenaso, (BO), Italy

### International Identifiers:

**Orcid ID:** 0000-0002-8045-4840 (<http://orcid.org/0000-0002-8045-4840>)

**Google Scholar:** rnUBENkAAAAJ&view\_op=list\_works  
([http://scholar.google.it/citations?user=rnUBENkAAAAJ&view\\_op=list\\_works](http://scholar.google.it/citations?user=rnUBENkAAAAJ&view_op=list_works))

**Research Gate:** William\_Blalock ([http://www.researchgate.net/profile/William\\_Blalock](http://www.researchgate.net/profile/William_Blalock))

### Bibliometric Parameters:

**H-index:**

-**Google Scholar:** 29 (dal 2015: 16)

-**Scopus:** 28

-**ISI-WoS:** 27 (dal 2015: 4)

**i10-index:**

-**Google Scholar:** 47 (dal 2015: 25)

### Education and Degrees:

The *Dichiarazione di Valore in Loco* for the following titles was conferred by the Italian Consulate General in Philadelphia January 26, 2010 (signed by the Consulate General, Adjunct Administrative Commissioner-Renzo Oliva).

Recognition of titles for the participation in competitive selection of research positions in the university and public research institutions in Italy was given for the titles, **Master of Science (MS) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)** March 31, 2010 by the Italian Ministry of Instruction, University and Research (MIUR), Rome, Italy. Signed by the Director General, Dr. Teresa Cuomo. Protocol Num: 268.

August 19, 1995 – June 28, 2000: PhD Student in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA 27858. I was conferred the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Microbiology and Immunology, July 29, 2000. Dissertation title: *"Autocrine Transformation of Hematopoietic Cells by the RAS/RAF/MAPK Pathway Member MEK1 and the Ability of BCL2 Overexpression to Enhance MEK1-Mediated Transformation"*.

August 21, 1992 – July 30, 1997: Masters Student in Biology in the Department of Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA 27858. I was conferred the Master of Science (MS) in Biology, August 2, 1997. Thesis title: *"Effects of overexpression of the Newcastle Disease Virus Phosphoprotein on viral protein synthesis"*.

August 26, 1987 – May 20, 1991: Undergraduate Student in the School of Arts and Sciences, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, North Carolina, USA. I was conferred the degree Bachelor of Science (BS) in Biology, May 20, 1991.

## **Experience:**

November 2, 2011 - present: Researcher (Level III), IGM-CNR, UOS-Bologna, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute, via di Barbiano 1/10, 40136 Bologna, Italy.

### Description of Research Activity:

My group's research is focused on stress/inflammatory signaling and how this signaling influences disease progression in leukemia, osteosarcoma and neuro-muscular degenerative diseases. In particular my group is characterizing the role of the stress-activated kinase PKR. The constitutive activation of PKR has been observed in myeloid dysplastic diseases (MDS), myeloid leukemias, breast cancer, melanoma, Alzheimer's disease (AD), Huntington's corea and Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease; and in many of these pathologies active PKR is localized to the nucleus. In osteosarcoma, PKR is overexpressed and active PKR is for the most part found at the tumor-vascular border. Osteosarcoma also represents one of the first tumors found to express multiple alternatively spliced forms of PKR. PKR can influence multiple signal transduction pathways, including: eIF2 $\alpha$  (translation), NF- $\kappa$ B (transcription/inflammation/angiogenesis), p53 (DNA repair/transcription/cell cycle). Using proteomic (mass spectrometry, HPLC, and 2D electrophoresis) and molecular (PCR, RNAseq and mutagenesis) we are attempting to identify interacting proteins and substrates of nuclear PKR and the various PKR splicing variants.

Moreover, as the kinases AKT and PKR are involved in the same pathways induced by the cytokines TNF $\alpha$ , IGF and PDGF and influence each other, we are studying the proteins that interact with both kinases; in particular the "RNA editing" enzymes ADAR1 and ADAR2, adenosine deaminases. Our investigation has uncovered a regulatory network between AKT, ADAR1/2 and PKR. The phosphorylation of ADAR1 and ADAR2 at a conserved threonine by AKT results in the inhibition of ADAR1 and ADAR2 enzymatic activity, having diverse effects on RNA metabolism.

- January 1, 2019 - present: **Coordinator, Project-DSB-AD006.220.001-*The Role of AKT-mediated phosphorylation of the adenosine deaminase acting on double-stranded RNA proteins, ADAR1p110 and ADAR2, in cell proliferation, differentiation and cell death.***
- January 1, 2016 – 31 Marzo 2020: **Coordinator, Project-DSB-AD006.145.001-*Role of the double stranded RNA kinase PKR in osteosarcoma growth and survival: an in-depth analysis***—financed by the Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC). Investigator Grant (IG-2015); Ref. 17137 to Dr. William Blalock).
- October 1, 2014 – December 31, 2018: **Coordinator, Project-DSB-AD001.035.001-*In-Depth Analysis of Nuclear Signaling Involving the Innate Immune/Stress Response Kinase, PKR***—financed by the Leukemia Research Foundation (Wilmette, IL, USA) Investigator Grant-2014 to Dr. William Blalock.
- November 2, 2013 – present: **Coordinator, Project-DSB.AD001.047.001-*Enhancement of capabilities for the discovery of molecular targets to control tumor progression.*** (ex. Commission-ME.P03:012 and Module-ME.P03:012.001: Molecular targets for the control of tumor progression: ex (ME.P03.009) Histocompatibility and transplant, pre-neoplastic genetic regulation - (ME.P02.017) Molecular basis and diagnostics for neurodegeneration, ITOI..

Research Products (articles):

- Piazzini, M., et al. (2020). *Biochim Biophys Acta Mol Cell Res. In press.***  
**Piazzini, M., et al. (2020). *DNA Cell Biol. 39: 343-348.***  
**Piazzini, M., et al. (2020). *J. Cell. Physiol. 235: 1103-1119.***  
**Piazzini, M., et al. (2019). *Int. J. Mol. Sci. 20: 2718.***  
**Bavelloni, A., et al. (2019). *FASEB J. 33: 9044-9061.***  
**Bavelloni, A., et al. (2019). *J. Cell. Physiol. 234: 10907-10917.***  
**Bavelloni, A., et al. (2017). *Anticancer Res. 37: 6511-6521.***  
**Bavelloni, A., et al. (2017). *Anticancer Res. 37: 4103-4109.***  
**Blalock, W.L. et al. (2017). *RNA & Disease. 4: e1531.***  
 Giannaccare, G., et al. (2016). *Graefes Arch. Clin. Exp. Ophthalmol. 254:1825-1831.*  
 Ramazzotti, G., et al. (2016). *J. Cell. Physiol. 231:623-629.*  
**Bavelloni, A., et al. (2015). *IUBMB Life. 67: 239-254.***  
 Piazzini, M., et al. (2015). *FASEB J. 29:1383-1394.*  
 Bavelloni, A., et al. (2015). *J. Cell. Physiol. 230: 587-594.*  
**Bavelloni, A., et al. (2014). *FASEB J. 28: 2009-2019.***  
**Blalock, W.L., et al. (2014). *J. Cell. Physiol. 229: 1047-1060.***  
 Bavelloni, A., et al. (2014). *Oncotarget 5: 4222-4231.*  
 Folio, M.Y., et al. (2014). *Adv. Biol. Regul. 54: 2-11.*

Piazzini, M., et al. (2013). *Mol. Cell. Proteomics* **12**: 2220-2235.

**Blalock, W.L. and Cocco, L. (2012). *Atlas Genet. Cytogenet. Oncol. Haematol.* **16**: 601-613.**

Versura, P., et al. (2012). *Mol. Vis.* **18**: 2526-2537.

Faenza, I., et al. (2012). *FASEB J.* **26**: 3042-3048.

Research Products (abstracts):

Blalock, W., et al. (2019). Italian Association of Cell Biology and Differentiation, Bologna, Italy.

Piazzini, M., et al. (2019). Italian Association of Cell Biology and Differentiation, Bologna, Italy.

Blalock, W., et al. (2018). 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society, Milan, Italy.

Focaccia, E., et al. (2018). 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society, Milan, Italy.

Blalock, W.L., et al. (2014). *International Journal of Molecular Medicine* **34 (S1)**: S34.

Blalock, W., et al. (2014). 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society, Ferrara, Italy.

Piazzini, M., et al. (2014). *Italian Journal of Anatomy and Embryology* **119**: 150.

Piazzini, M., et al. (2012). *Italian Journal of Anatomy and Embryology* **117**: 145.

Bavelloni, A., et al. (2011). *Italian Journal of Anatomy and Embryology* **116**: 19.

April 1, 2009 – October 31, 2011: Contracted Senior Scientist (**Co.co.co; Repertorio n. 18; Protocol num. 207, 25-03-09** financed by the **MIUR-FIRB project entitled "National network for the study of the Human Proteome (Italian ProteomeNet); code RBRN07BMCT\_002-national coordinator: Prof. Cecilia Gelfi; coordinator Bologna: Prof. Lucio Cocco**)- in the Department of Human Anatomical Sciences, University of Bologna, in the Laboratory of Musculoskeletal Cell Biology, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute, via di Barbiano 1/10, 40136 Bologna-Director: Prof. Lucio Cocco. The research project involved the proteomic and biochemical analysis of nuclear cellular signaling involved in hematopoietic neoplasias. Emphasis was placed on the identification and characterization of novel markers of disease progression and response to therapy in inflammatory pathologies. I also trained a doctoral student (Dr. Francesca Tagliavini).

Research Products (articles):

**Blalock, W.L., et al. (2011). *Leukemia* **25**: 236-245.**

**Blalock, W.L., et al. (2010). *J. Cell. Physiol.* **223**: 572-591.**

Piazzini, M., et al. (2010). *Mol. Cell Proteomics* **9**: 2719-2728.

Versura, P., et al. (2010). *Eye* **24**: 1396-1402.

Research Products (abstracts):

Faenza, I., et al. (2010). *Italian Journal of Anatomy and Embryology* **115**: 63.

Blalock, W.L., et al. (2009). 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Italian Proteomics Association, Milan, Italy.

March 1, 2007 – February 28, 2008: Fellow (**Fellowship financed by the Fondazione del Monte (Call 2201: expires 08-02-2008)-relative to the Research Program "The phosphoinositol 3-kinase/Akt/mTOR pathway as a pharmacological target for targeted treatment of acute**

**myeloid and lymphoid leukemia"-director-Prof. Lucio Cocco)** in the Department of Human Anatomy, University of Bologna, Laboratory of Cell Signalling, via Irnerio 48, 40126 Bologna. I was responsible for the projects "*Interactions between PKR and PI3K/AKT in human leukemias*". During this period I supervised a student (Dr. Cecilia Grimaldi) in the preparation of her undergraduate thesis.

Research Products (articles):

**Blalock,WL., et al. (2009). *J. Cell. Physiol.* 221: 232-241.**

Follo,MY., et al. (2008). *Leukemia* 22: 2267-2269.

Follo,MY., et al. (2008). *Leukemia* 22: 198-200.

March 1, 2007 – February 29, 2008: Fellow (**Fellowship financed by the Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC; Regional Projects; Call 1982: expiration 01-09-2007)-relative to the Research Program "Role of PI3K/AKT in human leukemia cell pharmacoresistance"-director-Prof. Alberto Maria Martelli**, in the Department of Human Anatomical Sciences, University of Bologna, Laboratory of Cell Signalling, via Irnerio 48, 40126 Bologna. I was responsible for the project "*Evaluation of the efficacy of A-443654, a novel pharmacological inhibitor of Akt, in human leukemic cells*". During this period, I supervised a student (Dr. Cecilia Grimaldi) in her research and preparation of her undergraduate thesis.

Research Products (articles):

**Falà,F., et al. (2008). *Mol. Pharmacol.* 74: 884-895.**

Martelli,AM., et al. (2007). *Cancer Ther.* 5: 309-330.

Martelli,AM., et al. (2007). *Curr. Med. Chem.* 14: 2009-2023.

Research Products (abstracts):

McCubrey,JA., et al. (2007). *Blood* 110(11): 982A.

March 1, 2006 – January 15, 2007: Contracted Senior Scientist (**Co.co.co; Protocol num. 173, 24-02-2006 financed by the European Union FP6 LIFESCIHEALTH entitled "Selective targeting of angiogenesis and tumor stroma"- Project ID: 503233-coordinator: Raffaella Giavazzi; coordinator di Genoa-Prof. Luciano Zardi**) in the Department of Innovative Therapy, Giannina Gaslini Institute, Advanced Biotechnology Center, Largo Rosanna Benzi, 10, 16132 Genoa. I was the group supervisor for the construction of plasmid vectors for the production of recombinant proteins involved in inflammation. I was also responsible for the construction, screening and isolation of recombinant antibodies against pro-inflammatory proteins. In this period I supervised 3 laboratory technicians.

Research Products (articles):

Ventura,E., et al. (2009). *J. Biol. Chem.* 284: 26646-26654.

May 24, 2005 – February 28, 2006: Contracted Senior Scientist (**Project Contract num. 74, 24-05-2005 financed by the Liguria, entitled "Development of integrated scientific research activity within the areas of diagnostics, prevention, biopharmaceuticals, immunotherapy, stem cells and marine biotechnology in Liguria Region through the formation of a consorzium"-director: Prof. Luciano Zardi.**) in the Department of Innovative Therapy, Advanced Biotechnology Center, Largo Rosanna Benzi, 10, 16132 Genoa. I was the group supervisor for the construction of plasmid vectors for the production of recombinant proteins involved in inflammation. I was also responsible for the construction, screening and isolation of recombinant antibodies against pro-inflammatory proteins. In this period I supervised 3 laboratory technicians.

Research Products (articles):

Balza,E., et al. (2009). *Intl. J. Cancer* **125**: 751-758.

July 1, 2000 – April 30, 2005: Post-Doctoral Research Associate [**NIH Fellow (T32 CA009126) and Leukemia and Lymphoma Society Fellow (Grant Number 5510-02)**] in the University of Florida Shands Cancer Center, Gainesville, Florida, USA 32610-3633, Laboratory of W. Stratford May, MD, PhD. I was responsible for the characterization of the role of the protein PACT/RAX, a regulator of PKR, in development and signal transduction through the generation of knock-out mice and the use of siRNA techniques. During this period, I supervised the research project of two undergraduate students (Dr. Christina Mitchell and Dr. Dean Abtahi).

Research Products (articles):

Bennett,RL., et al. (2008). *Mech. Dev.* **125**: 777-785.

**Bennett,RL., et al. (2006). *Blood* **108**: 821-829.**

Bennett,RL., et al. (2004). *J. Biol. Chem.* **279**: 42687-42693.

Ruvolo,PP., et al. (2001). *J. Biol. Chem.* **276**: 11754-11758.

Research Products (abstracts):

Bennett,RL., et al. (2006). *Cancer Research* **66 (8S)**: 1044-1045.

Abtahi,FM., et al. (2005). *Cancer Research* **65(9S)**: 194.

Blalock,WL., et al. (2004). *Experimental Hematology* **32(7)**: 46.

Ruvolo,PP., et al. (2002). *Blood* **96(11)**: 80A.

August 19, 1995 – June 28, 2000: PhD Student and Teaching Assistant in the Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA 27858; laboratory of James A. McCubrey. The PhD project examined the role of the RAF/MEK/MAPK signal transduction pathway in factor-independent leukemic cell growth. During this period, I supervised one Master of Science student and served as a laboratory assistant for the first and second year medical school courses (Medical Microbiology I and II).

Research Products (articles):

**Shelton, J.G., et al. (2004). *Cell Cycle* 4: 503-512.**  
**Blalock, W.L., et al. (2003). *Leukemia* 17: 1058-1067.**  
 Shelton, J.G., et al. (2003). *Leukemia* 17: 1765-1782.  
 Chang, F., et al. (2003). *Leukemia* 17: 1263-1293.  
 Shelton, J.G., et al. (2003). *Oncogene* 22: 2478-2492.  
 Chang, F., et al. (2003). *Leukemia* 17: 590-603.  
 Steelman, L.S., et al. (2003). *Methods Mol. Biol.* 218: 221-252.  
 Steelman, L.S., et al. (2003). *Methods Mol. Biol.* 218: 203-220.  
 Steelman, L.S., et al. (2003). *Methods Mol. Biol.* 218: 185-201.  
 Chang, F., et al. (2003). *Int. J. Oncol.* 22: 469-480.  
 Saleh, O.A., et al. (2002). *Int. J. Mol. Med.* 10: 385-394.  
**Blalock, W.L., et al. (2001). *Leukemia* 15: 794-807.**  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2001). *Cancer Detect. Prev.* 25: 375-393.  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2001). *Leukemia* 15: 1203-1216.  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2001). *Adv. Enzyme Regul.* 41: 289-323.  
**Blalock, W.L., et al. (2000). *Leukemia* 14: 1080-1096.**  
**Blalock, W.L., et al. (2000). *Oncogene* 19: 526-536.**  
 Weinstein-Oppenheimer, C.R., et al. (2000). *Pharmacol. Therapeut.* 88: 229-279.  
 Weinstein-Oppenheimer, C.R., et al. (2000). *Leukemia* 14: 1921-1938.  
 Moyer, P.W., et al. (2000). *Leukemia* 14: 1060-1079.  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2000). *Adv. Enzyme Regul.* 40: 305-337.  
 Hoyle, P.E., et al. (2000). *Leukemia* 14: 642-656.  
**Blalock, W.L., et al. (1999). *Leukemia* 13: 1109-1166.**  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (1998). *Leukemia* 12: 1903-1929.  
 Steelman, L.S., et al. (1996). *Leukemia* 10: 528-542.

Research Products (abstracts):

Steelman, L., et al. (2003). *Experimental Hematology* 31(7): 127.  
 Shelton, J., et al. (2003). *Experimental Hematology* 31 (7): 129.  
 McCubrey, J., et al. (2002). *Blood* 100(11): 724A.  
 Blalock, W.L., et al. (2000). *Blood* 96(11): 77A.  
 Navolanic, P.M., et al. (2000). *Blood* 96(11): 83A.  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2000). *Blood* 96(11): 97A.  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2000). *Blood* 96(11): 498A.  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2000). *Blood* 96(11): 139B.  
 Pohnert, S., et al. (2000). *Experimental Hematology* 28(7): 38.  
 McCubrey, J.A., et al. (2000). *Experimental Hematology* 28(7): 39.  
 Blalock, W.L., et al. (2000). *Proc. AACR* 41: 637.  
 McKearn, J.P., et al. (2000). *Proc. AACR* 41: 406.  
 Moyer, P.W., et al. (2000). *Proc. AACR* 41: 635.  
 Steelman, L.S., et al. (2000). *Proc. AACR* 41: 635.  
 Blalock, W.L., et al. (1999). *Blood* 94 (10): 474A-475A.  
 McCubrey, J., et al. (1999). *Blood* 94(10): 149B.  
 Blalock, W.L., et al. (1999). *Proc. AACR*. 40: 371-372.  
 Steelman, L.S., et al. (1999). *Proc. AACR*. 40: 372.  
 Chang, F., et al. (1999). *Proc. AACR*. 40: 372.

Chang,F., et al. (1998). *Blood* **92(10)**: 200A.  
McCubrey,J., et al. (1998). *Blood* **92(10)**: 200A.  
Blalock,W., et al. (1998). 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research Program and Abstracts, p. 119.  
McCubrey,J., et al. (1998). *Acta Haematologica* **100 S1**: 47.  
Blalock,W., et al. (1998). *Proc. AACR*. **39**: 38.  
Steelman,LS., et al. (1998). *Proc. AACR* **39**: 37-38.  
Hoyle,PE., et al. (1998). *Proc. AACR* **39**: 38.  
McCubrey,JA., et al. (1997). *Anticancer Research* **17**: 3961.  
McCubrey,J., et al. (1997). *International Journal of Oncology* **11**: 914.  
Steelman,L., et al. (1996). *Blood* **88(10)**: 779A.  
Hoyle,P., et al. (1996). *Blood* **88(10)**: 782A.  
Pederson,NE., et al. (1995). *21<sup>st</sup> Herpesvirus Workshop Program and Abstracts*. Number 238.

August 1992 – July 1995: Teaching Assistant in the Department of Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina, USA 27858. I served as a laboratory assistant; I was responsible for teaching General Biology and Comparative Anatomy, the organization of the laboratories and the periodic examination of the students.

June 1988 – August 1990: Veterinary Assistant, Scotts Hill Animal Hospital, Wilmington, North Carolina, USA.

## **Skills:**

**Informatic and technical skills:** I am well versed in Microsoft Office programs, AdobePhotoshop and AdobeAcrobat. I also have good working knowledge of the National Center for Biotechnology Information (NCBI) databases and analysis programs. Other specific skills I possess apply to RNA and recombinant DNA manipulation and other molecular biology techniques, production/purification and analysis of proteins (FPLC and ion-exchange chromatography), flow cytometry, fluorescence microscopy, techniques for the generation of transgenic mice, and the generation and selection of recombinant antibody.

## **Languages:**

English: mother-tongue

Italian: excellent

Spanish: intermediate

## **Funding and awards (national and international):**



January 1, 2016 – December 31, 2019: PI: Investigator Grant (2015); **Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC)**. Project Title: *Role of the double-stranded RNA kinase, PKR, in osteosarcoma growth and survival: an in-depth analysis*. (Cod. 17137)-funding amount €195.000.

October 1, 2014 – September 30, 2015: PI: Investigator Grant (2014); **Leukemia Research Foundation (Wilmette, IL, USA)**. Project Title: *In-Depth Analysis of Nuclear Signaling Involving the Innate Immune/Stress Response Kinase, PKR*.-funding amount \$50.000 (€39.000).

March 1, 2008 – February 28, 2009: Fellowship awarded by the **Fondazione del Monte** to the Department of Human Anatomical Sciences, University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

March 1, 2007 – February 29, 2008: Fellowship awarded by the **Associazione Italiana della Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC Progetti Regionali)**-relative to the Research Program "Role of PI3K/AKT in human leukemic cell pharmacoresistance" University of Bologna, Bologna, Italy.

July 2004: Travel award: Annual Meeting of the **International Society of Experimental Hematology**, New Orleans, LA, USA.

July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2004: Fellowship awarded by the **Leukemia and Lymphoma Society** (2001; Grant Number 5510-02); University of Florida, Shands Cancer Center, Gainesville, Florida USA-funding amount \$118.782.

November 1, 2000 – June 30, 2001: **National Institutes of Health (NIH)**, National Cancer Institute (NCI) Ruth L. Kirschstein T32 Training Grant (T32 CA009126), University of Florida, Shands Cancer Center, Gainesville, Florida USA.

May 1999: **William R. Valentine, Jr Memorial Graduate Student Research Award**, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, USA.

June 1993 – present: **Tri-Beta Biology Honor Society**, Dipartimento di Biologia, East Carolina University, Greenville, NC, USA.

August 1989 – May 1991: **Fulton Scholarship**, Wake Forest University, Winston-Salem, NC, USA.

### **Abilitation 2012: Italian Ministry of Instruction, University and Research (MIUR):**

#### **Abilitation (2014-2023):**

**05/E1:** General Biochemistry and Clinical Biochemistry: Level II (Associate Professor)

**05/E2:** Molecular Biology: Level II (Associate Professor)

**05/H1:** Human Anatomy: Level II (Associate Professor)

**Participation in funded research projects (national and international):**

**Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC-Investigator Grant-IG 2015):** Project Title: "*Role of the double-stranded RNA kinase, PKR, in osteosarcoma growth and survival: an in-depth analysis*". (Cod. 17137). PI: Dr. William L. Blalock, IGM-CNR, UOS Bologna.

**Leukemia Research Foundation:** 2014-2015: Project Title: "*In-Depth Analysis of Nuclear Signaling Involving the Innate Immune/Stress Response Kinase, PKR*". PI: Dr. William L. Blalock, IGM-CNR, UOS Bologna.

**Futures in Research<sup>™</sup>-(MIUR-FIRB):** Project Title: "*Tumor Stem Cells from signal transduction to potential therapeutic targets*". (RBAP10447J (2010); Budget: (2010-2013). Coordinator: Prof. Lucio Cocco, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Bologna.

**Futures in Research<sup>™</sup>-(MIUR-FIRB):** Project Title: "*National Network for the study of the Human Proteome-ProteomNet*" (RBRN07BMCT (2008); Budget: (2009-2012). Prof. Cecilia Gelfi (Coordinator), Department of Science and Biomedical Technology, University of Milan; Bologna Group coordinator: Prof. Lucio Cocco, Department of Biomedical Sciences, University of Bologna.

**Fondazione del Monte: Research Program:** Project Title: "*The phosphoinositol 3-kinase/Akt/mTOR pathway as a pharmacological target for targeted treatment of acute myeloid and lymphoid leukemia*"-PI: Prof. Lucio Cocco, Cell Signalling Laboratory, Department of Human Anatomical Sciences, University of Bologna.

**Associazione Italiana della Ricerca sul Cancro (AIRC Regional Projects): Research Program:** Project Title: "*Role of PI3K/AKT in human leukemia cell pharmacoresistance*"-PI: Prof. Alberto Maria Martelli, Cell Signalling Laboratory, Department of Human Anatomical Sciences, University of Bologna.

**European Union FP6 LIFESCIHEALTH:** Project Title: "*Selective targeting of angiogenesis and tumor stroma*" Project ID: 503233-coordinator: Raffaella Giavazzi; Genoa Group coordinator-Prof. Luciano Zardi, Department of Innovative Therapy, Giannina Gaslini Institute, Genoa.

**Liguria Region:** Project Title: "Development of integrated scientific research activity within the areas of diagnostics, prevention, biopharmaceuticals, immunotherapy, stem cells and marine biotechnology in Liguria Region through the formation of a consorzium"-PI: Prof. Luciano Zardi, Department of Innovative Therapy, Advanced Biotechnology Center, Genoa.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Heart, Lung and Blood Institute (NHLBI):** "*Role of PKR in a Novel IL-3 Signal Transduction Pathway*" Project ID: RO1 HL054083-PI: Prof. William S. May, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology, Shands Cancer Center, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI):** “*IL-3 Growth Factor Signaling*” Project ID: RO1 CA044649-PI: Prof. William S. May, Department of Medicine, Division of Hematology and Oncology, Shands Cancer Center, University of Florida, Gainesville, FL.

**National Institutes of Health (NIH), National Cancer Institute (NCI):** “*Mechanisms of Transformation of Hematopoietic Cells*” Project ID: RO1 CA051025-PI: Prof. James A. McCubrey, Department of Microbiology and Immunology, Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University, Greenville, NC.

### **Additional training:**

2019: Training course: "**Training Course for Personnel that Operate with or Use Technical, Pure and Cryogenic Gases (Art. 36 e 37 del D.Lgs 81/08)**". October 18, 2019, CNR-Research Institute, Bologna. Event coordinator, CNR Office for Formation.

2018: Training Course: "**Training course for CNR Institute personnel on specific risks from exposition to carcinogens, mutagens and biologic agents (update)**". June 5, 2018, CNR-Research Institute, Bologna. Event coordinator, CNR Office for Formation.

2017: Training Course: "**Attune NxT Basic Training**". September 20, 2017, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR), Bologna, Italy. Event coordinator Dr. Andrea Predonzani, Field Application Scientist, ThermoFisher Scientific.

2016: Regional Program for continued education credits (5 Credits) directed toward Healthcare personnel: Emilia-Romagna Region, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR; identification code: **PG20120131675**: Training event code. **2016064**, "**Maintenance and Improvement of the Quality Control System according to the Regional Accreditation Mode and UNI EN ISO 9001:2015 Regulation**") (Guidelines-protocols-procedures)-Event coordinator Dr. Maria Cristina Maltarello.

2016: Regional Program for continued education credits (10 Credits) directed toward Healthcare personnel: Emilia-Romagna Region, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR; identification code: **PG20120131675**: Training event code. **2016063**, "**Sharing of knowledge and scientific advancement in Laboratory and Institutional Research**") (Technician-professional content (knowledge and capabilities) specific to each profession, specialization and ultraspecialization. Rare diseases)-Event coordinator Dr Maria Cristina Maltarello.

2015: Regional Program for continued education credits (5 Credits) directed toward Healthcare personnel: Emilia-Romagna Region, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR; identification code: **PG20120131675**: Training event code. **2015030**, "**Maintenance and Improvement of the Institutional Quality Control System**") (Guidelines-protocols-procedures)-Event coordinator Dr. Maria Cristina Maltarello.

2015: Regional Program for continued education credits (10 Credits) directed toward Healthcare personnel: Emilia-Romagna Region, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR; identification code:

**PG20120131675: Training event code. 2015029, “Scientific advancement of the lines of research in the lab: sharing of knowledge and scientific advancement” (Technician-professional content (knowledge and capabilities) specific to each profession, specialization and ultraspecialization. Rare diseases)-Event coordinator Dr Maria Cristina Maltarello.**

2014: Regional Program for continued education credits (5 Credits) directed toward Healthcare personnel: Emilia-Romagna Region, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR; identification code: **PG20120131675: Training event code. 2014031, “Maintenance and Improvement of the Institutional Quality Control System” (Guidelines-protocols-procedures)-Event coordinator Dr. Andrea Ognibene.**

2014: Regional Program for continued education credits (10 Credits) directed toward Healthcare personnel: Emilia-Romagna Region, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR; identification code: **PG20120131675: Training event code. 2014030, “Sharing of knowledge and scientific advancement in Laboratory Research” (Technician-professional content (knowledge and capabilities) specific to each profession, specialization and ultraspecialization. Rare diseases)-Event coordinator Dr Maria Cristina Maltarello.**

2013: Regional Program for continued education credits (8 Credits) directed toward Healthcare personnel: Emilia-Romagna Region, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute (IOR; identification code: **PG20120131675: Training event code. 2013143, “Maintenance and Improvement of the Quality Control System according to the Regional Accreditation Mode and UNI EN ISO 9001:2015 Regulation” (Guidelines-procedures-clinical documentation)-Event coordinator Dr. Andrea Ognibene.**

## **Extracurricular:**

### **Additional and Extracurricular Roles:**

2019-present-Editorial Board (Medicinal Chemistry Section)-*Molecules* (MDPI AG).

2019-European Commission, Research Executive Agency (REA)-Horizon 2020-MSCA-IF; Review Commission.

January 2014-December 2017: Coordinator for the monthly meeting for the Laboratory of Muscular-Skeletal Cell Biology and the IGM-CNR, UOS Bologna.

2016-Reviewer Cineca/MIUR: ANVUR Evaluation.

2014-present-Registered in the list of reviewers for the MIUR.

2013-Reviewer MIUR: PRIN Giovani (Early Career) Projects.

2011-present-Reviewer/editor (unofficial) for publications and grants in English; IGM-CNA/IOR and the University of Bologna.

*ad-hoc* reviewer for the following journals:

*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Advances in Enzyme Regulation (Advances in Biological Regulation)*

*ad-hoc* reviewer for *American Journal of PharmoGenomics*

*ad-hoc* reviewer for *BBA-Proteins and Proteomics*

*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Biochemistry and Biophysics Reports*

*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Biochemistry and Cell Biology*

*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Biology of Sex Differences*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *BioMed Research International*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Biomolecules*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Blood*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Bulletin du Cancer*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Cancer Letters*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Cell Death and Disease*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Cellular & Molecular Immunology*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Cellular Physiology and Biochemistry*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Journal of Cancer Metastasis and Treatment*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Journal of Cellular Physiology*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Immunology Letters*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *International Journal of Biological Sciences*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Leukemia*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Mediators of Inflammation*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Molecular Carcinogenesis*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Oncogene*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Oncotarget*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *PLoS One*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Scientific Reports*  
*ad-hoc* reviewer for *Technology in Cancer Research and Treatment*

2018-Co-director and coordinator for the research project of Dr. Arianna Orsini for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Medical Biotechnology, University of Bologna, Bologna.

2018- Co-director and coordinator for the research project of Dr. Sara Greco for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Medical Biotechnology, University of Bologna, Bologna.

2016- Co-director and coordinator for the research project of Dr. Andrea Ruggieri for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Medical Biotechnology, University of Bologna, Bologna.

October 2012-April 2015: Coordinator of Dr. Mirco Raffini's line of research; Tecnopolo/Laboratory RAMSES, Rizzoli Orthopedic Institute, Bologna.

2012- Co-director and coordinator for the research project of Dr. Mirco Raffini for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Medical Biotechnology, University of Bologna, Bologna.

2008-Co-director and coordinator for the research project of Dr. Cecilia Grimaldi for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Molecular and Cellular Biology, University of Bologna, Bologna.

### **Teaching Activities:**

Fall 1992: Laboratory for General Biology, Department of Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Spring 1993: Laboratory for Comparative Anatomy, Department of Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Fall 1993 – Spring 1995: Laboratory for General Biology, Department of Biology, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Spring 1997: Laboratory for Medical Microbiology and Immunology I, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Fall 1997: Laboratory for Medical Microbiology and Immunology II, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Spring 1998: Laboratory for Medical Microbiology and Immunology I, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Fall 1998: Laboratory for Medical Microbiology and Immunology II, Brody School of Medicine, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina.

Fall 2010: Invited Seminar; course for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Medical Biotechnology, University of Bologna, academic year 2010-2011.

Fall 2013: Invited Seminar, "*Knock'em In, Knock'em Down or Knock'em Out*" in association with Module 10082 Human Anatomy for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Medical Biotechnology, University of Bologna. Coordinator: Prof. Irene Faenza. November 4, 2013.

Fall 2018: Invited Seminar, "*My Life as a Scientist*" 3rd year middle school students, Manzoni Middle and High School, Bologna. Coordinator: Prof. Marilena Ignesti. December 20, 2018.

Fall 2019: Invited Seminar, "*Regulation of RNA Editing*" in association with the School of Medicine and Surgery; Course for the degree Laurea Magistrale in Medical Biotechnology, University of Bologna. Coordinator: Prof. Irene Faenza. October 16, 2019.

## **Congresses and role:**

### **First author (presenter):**

**September 2019:** Bi-annual Meeting of the Italian Association of Cell Biology and Differentiation, Bologna, Italy. **(Poster discussion/presentation)**

**September 2018:** 60<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society, Milan, Italy. **(Poster presentation)**

**October 2014:** 19<sup>th</sup> World Congress on Advances in Oncology and 17<sup>th</sup> International Symposium on Molecular Medicine, Athens, Greece. **(Oral presentation; co-Chair, section)**

**September 2014:** 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Italian Cancer Society, Ferrara, Italy. **(Poster/Oral presentation)**

**June 2009:** 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Italian Proteomics Association, Milan, Italy. **(Oral presentation)**

**July 2004:** 33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting, International Society of Experimental Hematology, New Orleans, LA. **(Oral presentation)**

**December 2000:** 42<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting, American Society of Hematology, San Francisco, CA. **(Poster)**

**March 2000:** 91<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, American Association for Cancer Research, San Francisco, CA. **(Poster presentation)**

**December 1999:** 41<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting, American Society of Hematology, New Orleans, LA. **(Poster)**

**April 1999:** 90<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, American Association of Cancer Research, Philadelphia, PA. **(Poster)**

**October 1998:** 51<sup>st</sup> Annual Symposium on Fundamental Cancer Research, Houston, TX. **(Poster)**

**March 1998:** 89<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting, American Association for Cancer Research, New Orleans, LA. **(Poster)**

## **Publications:**

### **Journal Articles:**

#### **First or last "coresponding" author:**

Piazzini, M., Bavelloni, A., Faenza, I. and **Blalock, W.L.** Glycogen synthase kinase (GSK)-3 and the double-strand RNA-dependent kinase, PKR: when two kinases for the common good turn bad. (2020). *Biochem Biophys Acta Mol Cell Res.* (In press).

Piazzini, M., Bavelloni, A., Gallo, A., **Blalock, W.L.** AKT-Dependent Phosphorylation of ADAR1p110 and ADAR2 Represents a New and Important Link Between Cell Signaling and RNA Editing. (2020). *DNA Cell Biol.* **39**: 343-348.

Piazzini, M., Bavelloni, A., Greco, S., Focaccia, E., Orsini, A., Benini, S., Gambarotti, M., Faenza, I. and **Blalock, W.L.** Expression of the double-stranded RNA-dependent kinase PKR influences osteosarcoma attachment independent growth, migration, and invasion. (2020). *J Cell Physiol.* **235**: 1103-1119.

Piazzini, M., Bavelloni, A., Gallo, A., Faenza, I. and **Blalock, W.L.** Signal Transduction in Ribosome Biogenesis: A Recipe to Avoid Disaster. (2019). *Int J Mol Sci.* **20**: 2718.

Bavelloni, A., Focaccia, E., Piazzini, M., Raffini, M., Cesarini, V., Tomaselli, S., Orsini, A., Ratti, S., Faenza, I., Cocco, L., Gallo, A. (co-corresponding) and **Blalock, W.L.** (co-corresponding). AKT-

- dependent phosphorylation of the adenosine deaminases, ADAR-1 and -2 inhibits deaminase activity. (2019). *FASEB J.* **33**: 9044-9061.
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- Bavelloni,A., Ramazzotti,G., Poli,A., Piazzzi,M., Focaccia,E., **Blalock,W.** (co-corresponding) and Faenza I (co-corresponding). MiRNA-210: A Current Overview. (2017). *Anticancer Res.* **37**: 6511-6521.
- Bavelloni,A., Focaccia,E., Piazzzi,M., Errani,C., **Blalock,W.** (co-corresponding) and Faenza I. (co-corresponding). Cell Cycle Arrest and Apoptosis Induced by Kinamycin F in Human Osteosarcoma Cells. (2017). *Anticancer Res.* **37**: 4103-4109.
- Blalock,WL.** (co-corresponding), Piazzzi,M., Gallo,A., Bavelloni,A., Focaccia,E. and Faenza,I (co-corresponding). RNA processing and ribosome biogenesis in bone marrow failure disorders. (2017). *RNA & Disease.* **4**: e1531.
- Bavelloni,A., Piazzzi,M., Raffini,M., Faenza,I. and **Blalock,WL.** Prohibitin 2: At a communications crossroads. (2015). *IUBMB Life.* **67**: 239-254.
- Bavelloni,A., Piazzzi,M., Faenza,I., Raffini,M., D'Angelo,A., Cattini,L., Cocco,L. and **Blalock,WL.** Prohibitin 2 represents a novel nuclear AKT substrate during all-trans retinoic acid-induced differentiation of acute promyelocytic leukemia cells. (2014). *FASEB J.* **28**: 2009-2019.
- Blalock,WL.** (corresponding), Piazzzi,M. (co-first author), Bavelloni,A., Raffini,M., Faenza,I., D'Angelo,A. and Cocco,L. Identification of the PKR nuclear interactome reveals roles in ribosome biogenesis, mRNA processing and cell division. (2014). *J. Cell. Physiol.* **229**: 1047-1060.
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- Blalock,WL.**, Bavelloni,A., Piazzzi,M., Tagliavini,F., Faenza,I., Martelli,AM., Follo,MY. and Cocco,L. Multiple forms of PKR present in the nuclei of acute leukemia cells represent an active kinase that is responsive to stress. (2011). *Leukemia* **25**: 236-245.
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- Falà,F. (co-1<sup>st</sup> author), **Blalock,WL.** (co-1<sup>st</sup> author), Tazzari,PL., Cappellini,A., Chiarini,F., Martinelli,G., Tafuri,A., McCubrey,JA., Cocco,L. and Martelli,AM. Proapoptotic activity and chemosensitizing effect of the novel Akt inhibitor (2S)-1-(1H-Indol-3-yl)-3-[5-(3-methyl-2H-indazol-5-yl)pyridin-3-yl]oxypropan-2-amine (A443654) in T-cell acute lymphoblastic leukemia. (2008). *Mol. Pharmacol.* **74**: 884-895.
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- Shelton,JG. (co-1<sup>st</sup> author), **Blalock,WL.** (co-1<sup>st</sup> author), White,ER., Steelman,LS. and McCubrey, JA. Ability of the activated PI3K/Akt oncoproteins to synergize with MEK1 and induce cell



- cycle progression and abrogate the cytokine-dependence of hematopoietic cells. (2004). *Cell Cycle* **4**: 503-512.
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#### Co-author:

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- Follo,MY., Finelli,C., Mongiorgi,S., Clissa,C., Bosi,C., Martinelli,G., **Blalock,WL.**, Cocco,L. and Martelli,AM. PKR is activated in MDS patients and its subcellular localization depends on disease severity. (2008). *Leukemia* **22**: 2267-2269.
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