

Meet Our Associate Editor

Prof. Dr. Aniello Russo

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Dr. Aniello Russo is an Associate Professor of Molecular Biology at Second University of Naples, Caserta, Italy. He received his Ph.D. in Biochemistry in 1993, working in the laboratory of prof. Giuseppe D'Alessio at Federico II University of Naples. He then moved to the U.S. and had Post-Doctoral training in Molecular Enzymology at Harvard University, working with Prof. Bert. L. Vallee. He was then appointed Instructor in the same university and collaborated with Dr. Robert Shapiro and Dr. Valentina Nobile (his wife) to the development of inhibitors of tumor angiogenesis. In 1996, while enjoying working in the exciting city of Boston, his son Roberto was born. One year later, Dr. Russo moved back to Italy where he was appointed Assistant Professor of Biochemistry at Second University of Naples and contributed to the institution of the Faculty of Sciences in Caserta, with the establishment of biomolecular research laboratories. In 2000, he was promoted Associate Professor of Molecular Biology and, few years later, his group was joined by Dr. Nicoletta Potenza. Together they became interested in RNA Biology and started working on 1) RNases H, 2) Dicer and Argonaute proteins, enzymes playing key roles in RNA interference, and 3) chemically modified siRNA. Dr. Russo's lab is currently dedicated to the study of microRNAs, focusing on their role in human pathologies, such as viral hepatitis, cancer and heart failure. In this field, Dr. Russo is among the first scientists to have identified human microRNAs with antiviral activity. In addition to research and teaching, he has been serving his Faculty as President of the Bachelor and Master of Science programs in Biology since 2009. In his free time, Dr. Russo enjoys cycling and kayaking in the bay of Naples.



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KEY PUBLICATIONS

- [1] Russo A, Shapiro R, Acharya KR, Riordan JF, Vallee BL. Role of glutamine-117 in the ribonucleolytic activity of human angiogenin. *Proc Natl Acad Sci USA* 1994; 91: 2920-4.
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- [4] Nobile V, Russo A, Hu G, Riordan JF. Inhibition of human angiogenin by DNA aptamers: Nuclear colocalization of an angiogenin-inhibitor complex. *Biochemistry* 1998; 37: 6857-63.
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- [7] Potenza N, Papa U, Scaruffi P, Mosca N, Tonini GP, Russo A. A novel splice variant of the human dicer gene is expressed in neuroblastoma cells. *FEBS Letters* 2010; 584: 3452-7.
- [8] Potenza N, Papa U, Mosca N, Zerbini F, Nobile V, Russo A. Human microRNA hsa-miR-125a-5p interferes with expression of hepatitis B virus surface antigen. *Nucleic Acids Res* 2011; 39: 5157-63.
- [9] Russo A, Potenza N. Antiviral effects of human microRNAs and conservation of their target sites. *FEBS Letters* 2011; 585: 2551-5.
- [10] Potenza N, Russo A. Biogenesis, evolution and functional targets of microRNA-125a. *Mol Genet Genomics* 2013; 288: 381-9.