UNIVERSITY OF FERRARA AND COVID-19 (#UNIFEEL.IT)

COVID-19 has completely changed our lives, endorsing the need and value of **high-quality research** to stem the pandemic. **Three research teams at UniFE** take the field on research paths hitherto little explored by the international scientific community, to actively contribute to the fight against SARS-CoV-2 virus. Indeed, we do need **other weapons next to vaccines**, to diagnose, treat and manage COVID-19. **Gaia Colombo's team works on an antiviral therapy**. *Read more below!*

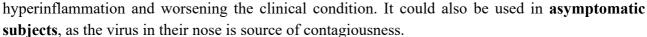
OUR PROJECT FOR A THERAPY

COVID-19 **lacks an early antiviral treatment**, that stops viral replication as soon as SARS-CoV-2 has penetrated the nose and upper airways.

SARS-CoV-2 exposure is mainly airborne via droplets; the nose, throat and trachea are the first sites of infection. Thus, the earliest possible antiviral treatment must **start in the upper airways**.

Our research studies an antiviral medicinal product for **direct** administration of antiviral drug/s into the nose (nasal powder). This locally-acting product can reach very high antiviral concentrations in the nasal cells where the virus is, leaving the rest of the body minimally exposed to the drug effects. The nasal drug dose to reach similar antiviral concentrations in the nose/upper airways is much lower than the oral dose required. This means high efficacy and low toxicity.

Such a product would address **positive individuals with mild symptoms** to stop the virus before invading the lungs, causing pneumonia and







WHO WE ARE

The team works in the **Department of Life Sciences and Biotechnology** at UniFE, in partnership with PlumeStars srl, the University of Bologna and Policlinico Sant'Orsola.

Gaia Colombo is Associate Professor of pharmaceutical technology, passionate with research and students and expert in nasal drug product development.

Fabrizio Bortolotti, UniFE former technician, is the "analytical wizard" in the team and lab's angel. PhD candidate **Sabrina Banella** left hometown Rome for Ferrara, where she fell in love with pharmaceutical technology. She dreams of becoming a researcher and she will, given her very promising first steps in Gaia's lab for the Master thesis (nasal powder for Alzheimer's disease!).

IF YOU WISH, DONATE TO SUPPORT OUR RESEARCH!



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Grazie! Gaia, Sabrina, Fabrizio

HOW TO DONATE?



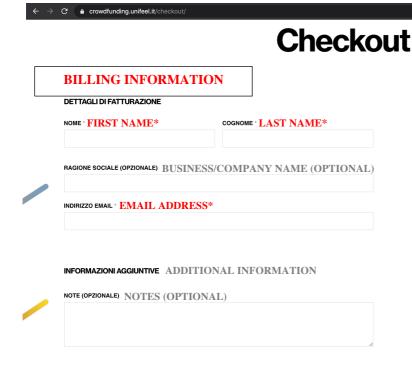
AN ANTIVIRUS THERAPY: ATTACK TO SARS-COV-2 WITH AN ANTIVIRAL SPRAY

Una terapia antivirus: attacco a SARS-CoV-2 con uno spray antivirale



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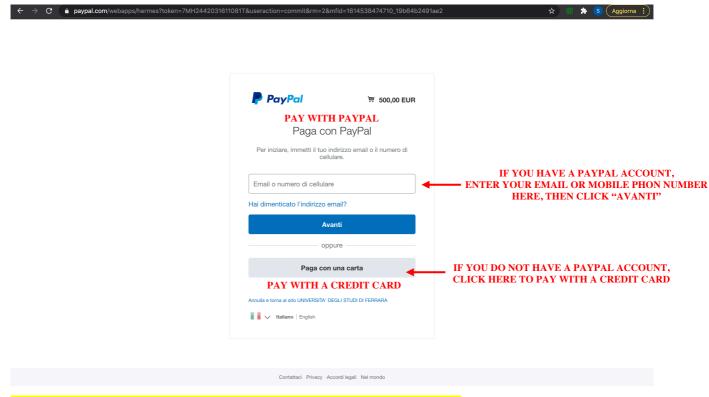
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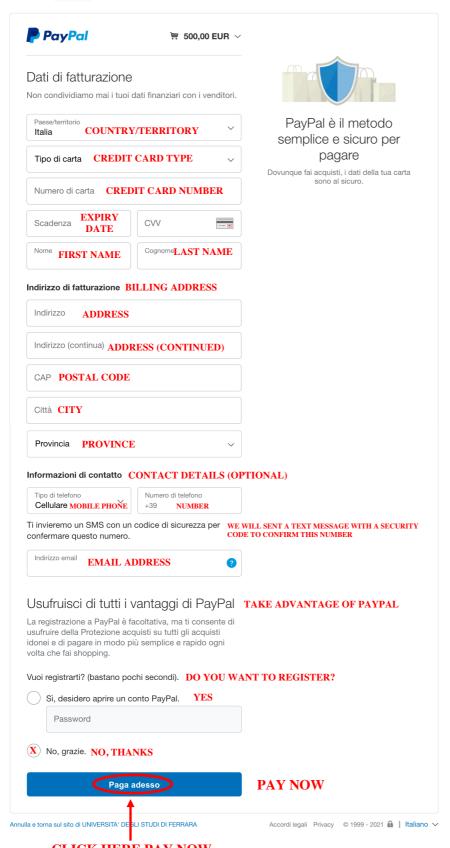
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