

The Department of Biomedical Science at the **University of Cagliari** is a leading Italian institution for basic and clinical pharmacology research. Unit of Child and Adolescent Neuropsychiatry at the Cagliari University Hospital ("Microcitemico"-Paediatric site), is specialized in top-level clinical care and research in neuropsychiatric disorders such as ADHD, Conduct Disorder, Autism Spectrum Disorders, Mood and, more recently, Eating Disorders. Research into clinical phenotypes characterization and efficacy and safety of medication treatment for psychiatric disorders in children and adolescents is the main mission.

Overview of projects developed so far:

The Unit (formerly denominated as "Centre for Pharmacological therapies in Child & Adolescent Neuropsychiatry") has participated in several international multisite clinical trials on a continuous basis since 2000, with prof. Zuddas as principal Investigator; the Unit is a partner in three recently founded FP-7 projects: ADDUCE (*Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder Drugs Use Chronic Effects*), STOP (*Suicidality: Treatment Occurring in Paediatrics*), PERS (*Paediatric European Risperidone Studies*) and MATRICS (*Multidisciplinary Approaches to Translational Research In Conduct Syndromes*), in which it lead (or co-lead, as in MATRICS) specific work packages (adverse effects on growth and pubertal maturation, ethics, and relapse prevention clinical study, medications and neuropsychology, respectively).

Clinical capabilities:

- Number of patients seen by year: 1200 patents per year (700 **new** patient per year);
- Availability of patients and volunteer databases: databases for ADHD, ASD, Antipsychotics, Tourette* , Eating Disorders * (* in construction).
- Easy access to particular patient or volunteer groups through affiliated clinics, consortia :
 - Sardinian Regional Network for antipsychotic pharmacovigilance
 - Multiregional Network for ADHD (Italian sites for ADDUCE)
- Capability of performing clinical trials: type of patients, ages, possibility of placebo-controlled trials:
 - Children and adolescent (3-18 y)
 - Out-patients and in-patient (both regular bed and DH units)
 - Possibility of performing placebo-controlled trials
 - In house Ethical Committee, which can provide national authorization (although sites need also local EC approval)

***Technical capabilities:**

- Neuropsychology
- Electrophysiology (EEG)
- Genetics (at department level)
- Neuroimaging (currently structural MRI for clinical care; University is organizing a MRI facility for research).