

FIAMMETTA FALCONE,

MBA, Ph.D. in Medicine, M.Sc. in Molecular Biology, Grant Manager MSCA-DN

Email: fiammetta.falcone@gmail.com

Citizenship: **Italian, British** (since 2022)

LinkedIn: www.linkedin.com/in/falconefiammetta

Tel: **+39 3715487989**

+44 (0) 7549881390

Location: Monza (Italy)

Profile:

Proactive and adaptable biomedical professional with a **PhD in Medicine** and an **MBA** (March 2025), combining strong research expertise with project coordination, cross-functional collaboration, and data-driven decision-making. Skilled in scientific communication, stakeholder engagement, and continuous learning. Experienced in both independent work and multidisciplinary team environments. A background in improvisation theatre further enhances my ability to think on my feet, communicate with clarity, and adapt confidently to dynamic situations.

CV Highlights:

- **10 years of experience in colorectal cancer research**, starting in Italy with a European Research and Training Fellowship and continuing through PhD and Research Assistant roles in leading UK centre.
- Deep expertise in molecular biology, functional genomics, CRISPR screening, and RNASeq.
- Managed financial monitoring for six grants, procurement, and laboratory operations.
- Supervised MSc, PhD students, and postdocs in genomic experiments.
- **Co-authored peer-reviewed publications**, including in PNAS and Cancer Research, with one manuscript submitted to Nature Metabolism (05/2026).
- **MBA** with research-based thesis focused on innovative startups, integrating scientific and business management skills.
- Awarded **European Research Fellowship** in Functional Genomics.
- Awarded Eamon Murphy Scholarship.
- Master's degree in **Molecular Biology, 110/110 cum laude**
- Bachelor's degree in **Biological Science, 110/110 cum laude**

Career History:

04/2026 – present: Università degli Studi di Milano-Bicocca

Grant Manager for MSCA-DN: EVADERE project

Coordination and project management support within Prof. Peri's MSCA-DN EVADERE project, with a focus on document management, deadline tracking, communication with national and international partners, updates on the European Commission Funding & Tenders Portal, and administrative support for project activities, kick-off meeting organization.

09/2025 – 03/2026: TELUS Digital

Generative AI Expert (Freelance – Independent contractor)

I collaborate as a Generative AI Expert, focusing on model evaluation and prompt design.

07/2025 – present: Smart Ecosystems, Inc in collaboration with Outlier

Advanced Biology Expert for AI-training projects (Freelance – Independent contractor)

Collaborating as an independent contractor with Outlier, via Smart Ecosystem Inc, to provide advanced biology expertise for AI-training projects. Providing advanced expertise in Biology, Molecular Biology, and Medical Knowledge for AI-training datasets for Outlier project. Skills licensed: Biology, Medical Knowledge, Molecular Biology, Proficient Italian.

01/2024 – 03/2025 Career Break - Master in Business Administration: I decided to invest in myself and pursue a **MBA**, aiming to gain the skills necessary to integrate my two main passions: oncology research and project management (see education section below).

04/2022 – 12/2023 Career Break: full-time parenting, relocation from UK; remote collaboration with FGG's research group (scientific publication - submitted 05/2025 to Nature Metabolism).

07/2018 – 03/2022 Queen's University Belfast (QUB), PG Johnston Centre for Cancer Research (PGJCCR)
Research Assistant | Cancer Research UK funded, Colorectal Research group | Functional Genomics Group (FGG). Laboratories of Prof Daniel B. Longley and Prof Simon S. McDade.

Scientific role:

- Optimization and execution of protocol for automatization of Lexogen RNASeq library (QuantSeq 3'mRNA) generation for FXP and NXP Beckman liquid handler and CRISPR libraries.
- Review, draft, and comply with Work Instructions (WI) and lab protocols.
- Data Analysis: CRISPR screening analysis (MAGECK tools), R-based and Python.
- Support the maintenance of group specific files and databases for genomics experiments.
- Supervision of post-doctoral, Ph.D. student and master students for genomic experiments.
- Collaboration with Genomic Core Technology Unite (CTU) of QUB regarding several projects.
- Collaboration with medical doctors on genomic experiments within clinical trials.

Managing role:

- Monitoring financial aspects: 6 grants spending management, materials orders.
- Review, draft, and comply with Control of Substances Hazardous to Health (COSHH) regulations.
- Review, draft, and comply with Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
- Management of duties for laboratory ordinary maintenance.
- Manage relationships with external scientific distributor companies.
- Develop networking and communication channels between SME and University (PGJCCR), including the organization of company presentations.

10/2017 – 01/2018 Queen's University Belfast (QUB), P.G. Johnston Centre for Cancer Research (PGJCCR)
Research Assistant | Cancer Research UK funded, Colorectal Research group | Functional Genomics Group. Laboratories of Prof Daniel B. Longley and Prof Simon S. McDade.

Junior role with similar scope to later position, focused on foundational experience in management tasks.

09/2014 – 03/2019 Queen's University Belfast (QUB) | P. G. Johnston Centre for Cancer Research (PGJCCR)
Doctoral researcher | E. Murphy Scholarship | Colorectal Research group | Functional Genomics Group of Prof Simon S. McDade, Prof. D.B. Longley and Prof. P.G. Johnston.

Research focused on the underlying mechanism of 5-fluorouracil resistance mechanisms based on p53-status in colorectal cancer using molecular biology, biochemistry and genomics techniques.

12/2012 – 07/2014 Università "Magna Grecia" di Catanzaro, Ita

Junior-stage researcher: EU Fellow in Techniques of Functional Genomics | EU-funded PON-project "BIOMEDPARK@UMG" (PONA3_00435 Scope n. 5). Laboratory of Oncology Molecular and Functional Genomics laboratory of Prof. G. Viglietto.

- Hands-on training in Next Generation Sequencing (Illumina, Life Technologies) and single-cell isolation technologies (CellSearch, DEParry).
- Technical support for the identification, characterization, and enumeration of circulating tumour cells (CTCs) in clinical samples, as service.
- Co-authored two research proposals for submission to the Ethical Commission of Catanzaro Hospital, focused on CTC-based colorectal and thyroid cancer investigations.

10/2011–10/2012 Institute of Neurological Science National Research Council (CNR), actually IRIB, Mangone Ita
Early-stage researcher | Under the supervision of Francesca Cavalcanti, Md. Dr.
Research and diagnostic test for the characterization of mutational profile of recessive ataxia.

Education/Qualification:

01/2024-03/2025 **Master's in Business Administration** eCampus University | Italy
Second Level

Research-based thesis "*Innovative Startups: Science Becomes Business. Strategic Positioning and Case Study*". Supervisor Prof. Domenico Maesano. Case Study: D-ART S.r.L, startup from "La Sapienza

University”.

10/2014-07/2019 **Ph.D. Medicine** Queen's University Belfast | UK
Thesis “5-fluorouracil: mechanism of action (or resistance) in p53-proficient and -deficient colorectal cancer”.
Supervisors: Prof. Simon S. McDade (first supervisor), Prof. Daniel B. Longley, Prof. Patrick G. Johnston.
ViVa examiners: Dr Jean-Christophe Bourdon, Prof. Vicky Coyle (27/03/2019)

12/2012-07/2014 **EU- funded Training Fellow in** University “Magna Grecia” | Italy
 Functional Genomics

10/2009-10/2012 **Master of Science (M.Sc.)** University “Studi della Calabria” | Italy
 Molecular Biology ID: LM-6.
 Grade: 110/110 cum laude
Thesis “Genetic and molecular analysis of recessive ataxia cases”
Supervisors: Prof. Giuseppe Passarino (Unical), Dr Md Francesca Cavalcanti (CNR)

10/2006-09/2009 **Bachelor of Science (B.Sc.)** University “Studi della Calabria” | Italy
 Biological Science ID: 12.
 Grade: 110/110 cum laude
Thesis: “The Disappearance of Mnemosyne: Dysregulation of Cerebral Blood Flow in Alzheimer’s Disease.
The Role of SRF and Myocardin.”
Supervisors: Prof. Bruno Tota, Prof. Tommaso Angelone

Relevant skills

Scientific Skills: Genome editing – *Excellent*; Sequencing – *Excellent*; Molecular biology – *Excellent*;
Biochemistry – *Excellent*; Biophysics – *Proficient*; Histology – *Working knowledge*
Detailed list of techniques available upon request

Managing Skills: Monitoring finance – *Excellent*; Order Materials– *Excellent*; Laboratory duties rota – *Excellent*;
COSHH form – *Excellent*; SOP and WI – *Excellent*; **CAPM-PMI – exam preparation ongoing (course Nov-Dec 2025)**

Computer Skills:

- **Statistic software:** GraphPad – *Excellent*; R-base – *Proficient*, SPSS – *Basic knowledge*
- **Programming Languages:** R-base – *Proficient*; Python – *Basic knowledge*
- **Bioinformatics Tools:** MAGeCK, Ensembl, NCBI, STRING, cBioPortal - *Excellent*
- **Image elaboration:** ImageJ – *Excellent*, Photoshop - *Working knowledge*
- **Data Managing tools:** Open Refine – *Working knowledge*; SQL – *Basic knowledge*
- **Operating Systems and packages:** Windows – Microsoft Office 365, Mac/OSX – Mac/Office – *Excellent*; Linux/ LibreOffice - *Proficient*
- **AI tools:** ChatGPT – *Excellent*; Gemini - *Proficient*
- **Networking:** Microsoft Teams, Zoom – *Excellent*; Slack, Share Point - *Proficient*
- **Digital Whiteboarding:** Mirò – *Excellent*; Mural – *Proficient*

Communication Skills: Scientific presentations – *Excellent*; Scientific writing – *Excellent*; Public engagement – *Excellent*; Collaboration with SMEs – *Excellent*; Oral English – *Excellent*; Write English – *Excellent*

Examples of additional training

**Horizon Europe – MSCA-DN 2026Call info day (EU) – LeadHer 11/06/2026 (FIDAPA-BPW Italy, Monza)-
CAMP-PMI course 2025 (Elis) - Fundamentalals of Good Clinical Practice: Prep and Personnel
(Novartis - Coursera) - Introduction to Good Clinical Practice (Novartis -Coursera) - ICH Good Clinical
Practice E6 (R2) (Global Health Training Centre) - Introduction To Clinical Research (Global Health Training
Centre) - Introduction of PRINCE2 (SPOCE) - COSHH risk assessments (QUB) - An Introduction to
Research Data Management (QUB)**

Detailed list of techniques available upon request

Scientific Publication

- "Mitochondrial metabolism is a key determinant of chemotherapy sensitivity in Colorectal Cancer" **submitted** 05/2026 to Nature Metabolism.
- "The pseudo-caspase FLIP(L) regulates cell fate following p53 activation. The pseudo-caspase FLIP(L) regulates cell fate following p53 activation". PNAS · Jul 28, 2020. DOI: **10.1073/pnas.2001520117**
- "Transcription Factor Activities Enhance Markers of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer" *Transcription Factor Activities Enhance Markers of Drug Sensitivity in Cancer*. Cancer Research · Feb 1, 2018. DOI: **10.1158/0008-5472.CAN-17-1679**

Conference

I participated in more than **10 international conferences**, where I always presented a poster and give 4 talks in the Postgraduate Symposium at QUB, selected list follows (full list available upon request):

- EACR: European Association for Cancer Research Conference. 06/2020 Virtual
- IACR: Irish Association for Cancer Research Conference. 02/2019 Belfast (UK).
Shortlisted as best poster
- IACR: Irish Association for Cancer Research Conference. 02/2017 Kilkenny (Republic of Ireland)
- NCRI: National Cancer Research Institute Cancer Conference. 11/2016 Liverpool (UK)
- EACR: European Association for Cancer Research Conference. 07/2016 Manchester (UK)

Additional information

- 2 years as member of **public engagement** committee, 6 years as volunteer (PGJCCR, QUB)
- 5 years of **improvisation theater** (Belfast Improv, Coach: Paul Mone)
- Since 2020 **Licensed for Italian National Order of Biologist** (Università Salento)
- Since 04/2022 – present: **volunteer project on parental supports** (data analysis, organization, fundraising).

Referees' information

Name and contact	Why ask him/her
- Prof. Francesco Peri Professor of Organic Chemistry University "Studi di Milano-Bicocca"	EVADERE MSCA-DN coordinator
- Prof Simon McDade, Professor of Functional Genomics PGJCCR, QUB S.McDade@qub.ac.uk	Ph.D. first supervisor and last employer
- Miss Kirsty McLaughlin, Technical Manager, PGJCCR, QUB Kirsty.mclaughlin@qub.ac.uk	Line manager for my managing duties
- Dr Julia (Gorski) Miskelly, Global Strategic Account Manager Illumina, Remote Northern Ireland, Honorary post at QUB Ex Manager of Genomic CTU, QUB juliamiskelly@gmail.com	Line manager for project managing duties and for collaboration with Genomic CTU

More referees on request.

I authorize the processing of my personal data in accordance with EU Regulation 2016/679 (GDPR).

Fiammetta Folino