Ilaria Ottonelli graduated with top honors in Medicinal Chemistry at the University of Modena and Reggio Emilia, Italy, in 2018. During her thesis, she spent six months at Ulm University, Germany, where she gained experience with animal models and learned how to manipulate animal tissues. She entered the PhD Program of Clinical and Experimental Medicine as a member of the Nanotech Lab (UniMoRe) in 2019. As a PhD student, Ilaria Ottonelli's research is focused on the optimization of polymeric nanoparticles loaded with different therapeutic molecules, focusing on retinal delivery, brain targeting, neurodegenerative diseases, and trafficking of nanoparticles via tunneling nanotubes.