



# Dynamic Interactive Nanosystems

Marie Curie Initial Training Network

## Interview with Luca Unione ESR - CIBC-SIQ - Madrid, Spain



Luca Unione

*I come from Napoli, Italy. Where I have studied chemistry and I was specialized in organic chemistry with a master degree thesis on the synthesis and characterization of glyco-conjugate with potential activity against the virus of HIV. Even more important at the time to evaluate the importance of the present experience, during my studies I worked in different fields, from restaurant waiter to commercial agent. I believe that maybe this was the most formative experience before start the Ph.D.*

**What is your PhD project about? What objectives do you have to reach?**

The project is related to the study of ligand/receptor interaction, mainly focused on sugars as ligand and Proteins or Enzymes as receptors. The field of carbohydrates is really wide and complex, our aim is the elucidation of key interactions in sugar/protein binding, the conformation, energy and dynamic aspects of the recognition.

**What is the best thing about taking a PhD in the framework of an ITN European Project? What is challenging?**

**The best thing is maybe share your research carrier with several co-workers.** From the beginning you understand that is not possible to do the work alone. **The ITN is not only an international framework but also a platform for your career roots.**

The challenging is to invest this opportunity in the right way.



DYNANO received funding from the European Union's 7<sup>th</sup> framework programme under grant agreement n° 289033.



# Dynamic Interactive Nanosystems

## Marie Curie Initial Training Network

### Could you tell us something about your secondments and what did you learn there?

I had three secondments experiences, the first in Madrid at the CEU University in a group of computational chemistry, the second one in Namur, the group of Prof. Stephane Vincent, and the third in CIC Biogune in Bilbao.

The best thing I learned is: if it is a Belgian Beer... Drink only one.

### What did you learn from your participation to national/international events during your PhD?

The more important thing is that science is continuously in evolution, this means that it is only in attending and sharing international scientific events that it is possible to follow the recent successes.

Also, believe in your ideas. If you had the audacity to express them in an international framework, maybe there were not so stupid.

### Do you have some advice to master/engineer students considering taking a PhD?

**Believe in it and do not lose the enthusiasm.**

### Do you have any plans after completing the PhD?

I'm just looking for a post-doc position in the field of glyco-science.

But before I will give a big party.

---

*Thank you Luca  
and all the best for DYNANO.*

*Interviewed by Laurence Bosch*

#### DYNANO in brief

Starting date: 1st November 2011

Project duration: 48 months

Number of partners: 15

Project Coordinator: Dr. Mihai BARBOIU,

European Membrane Institute -IEM, Montpellier, France.

FP7-PEOPLE-2011-ITN

Grant agreement n°: PITN-GA-2011-289033

EC funding: 3 825 000 €.

[www.dynano.eu](http://www.dynano.eu)

