Franco Fais

Associate professor

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Education and training

2001
Specialty in Clinical Immunology and Allergology
University of Genoa - Genoa - IT

1995
Ph.D. in Immunological Sciences
University of Genoa - Genova - IT

1989
Degree in Biological Sciences
University of Genoa - Genova - IT

Academic experience

2005 - ONGOING
Associate Professor
University of Genoa - Genoa - IT

Work experience

2015 - ONGOING
Head of the Molecular Pathology
IRCCS San Martino Hospital - Genoa - IT

Language skills

English
Independent

Research interests

I have a longstanding experience in studies on CLL pathogenesis and on the role of antigen-selection in lymphoid malignancies.
Most of my scientific studies have been (and are) related to lymphoproliferative disorders and more specifically on the role of antigen stimulation in B-cell derived lymphoma/leukemias (Burkitt Lymphoma, Primary Effusion Lymphoma and Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia).
I believe that the my most important study is the one describing, for the

first time, that CLL IGHV regions are composed of somatically mutated and unmutated in similar proportion [PMID: 9788964]. This notion has been widely confirmed and its relevance has been reinforced by the finding that IGHV mutational status is an important and independent prognostic factor [PMID: 10477712]. These studies have also provided the first evidence that CLL IGHV repertoire is non-random.
More recently, his group focused on studies that evaluated the effects of some drugs (Metformin and Fenretinide) on CLL cells observing a diverse sensitivity between resting/activated and proliferating CLL cells [PMID: 22475870 and 26265439]. In addition, he has been actively involved in studies related to the use of small non coding RNA to induce CLL cells cycle arrest and apoptosis [PMID: 28053325]. These studies are being developed in CLL patient-derived xenografts. Indeed, we have achieved great confidence with this animal model [PMID: 27430522] that can be used to investigate several CLL disease related aspects and for drug testing.
We have maintained a stable and productive collaboration with dr. Nicholas Chiorazzi (Feinstein Institute for Medical Research, Manhasset, NY).