Università di Genova

Michele Cea

Associate Professor of Hematology

Department of Internal Medicine and Medical Specialties (DIMI) – University of Genoa

EDUCATION AND TRAINING

2002
Degree in Medicine and Surgery
University of Bari

2006
Residency in Medical Oncology
University of Bari

2010
Residency in Internal Medicine
University of Genoa

2010-2013
Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship, American-Italian Cancer Foundation e FIRC
Translational and preclinical research on multiple myeloma, with focus on therapeutic targets, drug resistance mechanisms, and modulation of the tumor microenvironment
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston (USA)

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

2018- present
Associate Professor of Hematology (SSD MED 06/D3)
University of Genoa

2013- 2018
Assistant Professor of Hematology (SSD MED 06/D3)
University of Genoa

2010- 2015
Research Scientist
Conducting translational and preclinical research on multiple myeloma, aimed at identifying novel therapeutic targets and predictive biomarkers of response. Investigating mechanisms of drug resistance and developing innovative strategies to enhance therapeutic efficacy, including through modulation of the tumor microenvironment. Collaborating with international clinical and laboratory groups to facilitate the transfer of research findings into clinical practice
Department of Medical Oncology, Jerome Lipper Multiple Myeloma Center Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Harvard Medical School, Boston (USA)

Università di Genova

2010
Visiting Researcher
Experimental research in the field of molecular biology and cell signaling mechanisms, with a particular focus on innovative models applicable to the study of hematologic malignancies.
École Polytechnique Fédérale de Lausanne (EPFL), Switzerland.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2025-present
Member of the Department Board, DIMI
Participation in the governance and strategic planning of the Department, contributing to the definition of scientific, educational, and organizational strategies.
University of Genoa

2025-present
Quality Assurance Officer, DIMI
Coordination of monitoring and continuous improvement activities for teaching and research quality within the Department, in compliance with University guidelines and national regulations.
University of Genoa

2024- present
Member of the Council of the School of Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences
Contribution to the planning and management of the School's academic and educational activities, participating in decision-making processes regarding the organization of study programs and teaching activities.
University of Genoa

2017-present
Course Lecturer, Degree Programs (Medicine, Podiatry, etc.)
Teaching (lectures and practical sessions), tutoring, and supervision of undergraduate and PhD students, with a strong commitment to clinical and translational training.
University of Genoa

2015- present
Faculty Member, School of Specialization in Hematology
Teaching and training within the School of Specialization in Hematology, with responsibility for theoretical and practical instruction, clinical tutoring, and supervision of thesis projects, aimed at the advanced education of young hematologists
University of Genoa

MAIN LECTURES AND INVITED TALKS

Invited speaker at more than 50 national and international congresses, including:"

2023–2025 Scientific Director, "Multiple Myeloma Updates: from Bench to Clinic"
Biennial congress gathering national and international experts in multiple myeloma. As Scientific Director, I coordinated the program, selected speakers, and oversaw the integration of basic research, translational approaches, and clinical innovations.
Genoa, Italy

September 2025 MYELOMA2025 – The Road to the Next Generation (Invited Lecture)
Lecture delivered at the national congress on multiple myeloma, focusing on the metabolic landscape and interactions with the immune system.
Palermo, Italy

2019–2025 European Myeloma Network (EMN) Master in Multiple Myeloma Management
Faculty member and invited speaker at several editions of the EMN Master, dedicated to the clinical and therapeutic management of multiple myeloma, with contributions on tumor metabolism, innovative approaches, and personalized treatment strategies.
Turin, Italy

2012–2024 American Society of Hematology (ASH) Annual Meeting
Presenter of multiple oral contributions across various editions of the ASH Annual Meeting, focusing on novel therapeutic targets, NAD^+ metabolism, tumor microenvironment, and innovative treatment strategies in multiple myeloma.
USA

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL RESEARCH PROJECTS AWARDED FUNDING THROUGH COMPETITIVE PEER-REVIEWED CALLS

2019–present AIRC Investigator Grant
Principal Investigator of the project "Investigating the role of e-Nampt in acquisition of Epithelial-Mesenchymal-Transition-like features of Multiple Myeloma" (Code: IG 23438; funding: €425,000). The study aims to elucidate the role of the enzyme e-Nampt in the epithelial-mesenchymal transition processes of multiple myeloma and to define its potential as an innovative therapeutic target.
AIRC – Italian Association for Cancer Research

2023–present IMS & Paula and Rodger Riney Foundation Translational Research Award
Principal Investigator of the project "Targeting the metabolic switch of Multiple Myeloma for eradication of high-risk disease: towards the design of an exploratory approach for an unmet clinical need" (Funding: €210,000). The project aims to characterize the mechanisms of metabolic reprogramming in high-risk multiple myeloma and to develop innovative therapeutic approaches for the eradication of refractory disease.
IMS – International Myeloma Society

2016–2018 My First AIRC Grant
Principal Investigator of the project "Investigating the functional and clinical relevance of RNA splicing dysregulation in Multiple Myeloma" (Code: 18491; Funding: €223,956).
The study explored RNA splicing alterations in multiple myeloma, aiming to define their functional and clinical significance and to assess their implications as potential therapeutic targets.
AIRC – Italian Association for Cancer Research

2015–2021 Italian Ministry of Health (5x1000 and RF Projects)
Coordinator and head of research unit in several projects funded by the Ministry of Health through 5x1000 and Ricerca Finalizzata programs, focused on novel therapeutic vulnerabilities and innovative strategies for the treatment of multiple myeloma (Total funding: €885,400).
MoH – Italian Ministry of Health

2021–2024 Sanofi Research Award

Università di Genova

Principal Investigator of the project “An integrated biochemistry and functional genomic approach to study CD38 role in Multiple Myeloma cells: a novel strategy to identify innovative drug actionable targets” (SGZ-2021-13430; Funding: €100,000). The project aimed to characterize the role of CD38 in multiple myeloma cells through biochemical and functional genomic approaches, with the goal of identifying novel druggable targets and translational therapeutic strategies.
Sanofi Genzyme – Scientific Review Committee

TEACHING AND RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS (FELLOWSHIPS) AT LEADING INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITIES AND RESEARCH INSTITUTES

2010–2015 Research Scientist
Translational and preclinical research on multiple myeloma, with a specific focus on the identification of novel therapeutic targets, investigation of drug resistance mechanisms, and the development of innovative strategies to modulate the tumor microenvironment. Engaged in close collaboration with international clinical and laboratory groups to foster the transfer of discoveries from basic research to clinical practice.
Dana-Farber Cancer Institute, Boston

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERSHIPS AND SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEES

2024- present Associate Editor – Clinical and Experimental Medicine

Editorial responsibilities including supervision and evaluation of submitted manuscripts, with a particular focus on hematology and oncology, contributing to ensuring the scientific quality and international impact of the journal.
Springer Nature

2022- present Editorial Board – Biology (MDPI), Cancer Biology section

Member of the Editorial Board for the Cancer Biology section, involved in scientific review and strategic support for the selection of high-impact articles in oncology and hematologic diseases.
MDPI

2021- present Editorial Board – Stem Cell Research

Editorial activities as a member of the scientific board, including critical review, manuscript evaluation, and promotion of innovative studies in stem cell biology and their applications in oncology and hematology.
Frontiers

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS FOR SCIENTIFIC ACTIVITY, INCLUDING MEMBERSHIP IN PRESTIGIOUS ACADEMIES

2009 Best Communication Award – SIMI
Award for the best scientific communication presented at the national SIMI congress, recognizing innovative studies in the field of hematology.
Italian Society of Internal Medicine (SIMI)

2012, 2013 ASH Travel Award
Competitive fellowships awarded by ASH for the presentation of scientific contributions at the Annual Meeting, in recognition of excellence in research on multiple myeloma.
American Society of Hematology (ASH)

2010–2012 Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship
Preclinical and translational research on multiple myeloma, focusing on the identification of novel therapeutic targets and on molecular mechanisms underlying disease progression and drug resistance.
American-Italian Cancer Foundation (AICF)

2012- 2013 Post-Doctoral Research Fellowship
Research project aimed at investigating drug resistance mechanisms in multiple myeloma and developing innovative therapeutic approaches, in collaboration with international clinical and laboratory groups.
Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC)

2014, 2016, 2017 University of Genoa Research Award
Awards conferred by the University for excellence in scientific research in hematology, with a particular focus on translational studies in multiple myeloma.
University of Genoa

2017 Fondazione Carige Research Award
Competitive funding awarded for innovative research projects in hematology, supporting translational studies on multiple myeloma and the development of new therapeutic strategies.
Fondazione Carige, Genoa

2018 Celgene Research Grant
Competitive funding for translational research projects in multiple myeloma, focusing on novel therapeutic approaches and predictive biomarkers of treatment response.
Celgene srl

OTHER TITLES

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR OF THE FOLLOWING CLINICAL RESEARCH PROJECTS (SELECTION)

2024 – present CC-220-MM-002 – EXCALIBER-RRMM
International multicenter clinical trial in patients with relapsed/refractory multiple myeloma.

2023 – present BMS IM048-022 – Iberdomide vs lenalidomide maintenance post-transplant
Randomized trial evaluating the efficacy of Iberdomide versus Lenalidomide as maintenance therapy after autologous stem cell transplantation.

2024 – present MONUMENTAL-6 – Talquetamab combos vs standard
Late-phase clinical trial testing Talquetamab-based combinations compared to standard therapies in patients with multiple myeloma.

2018–2024 UNITO-MM-01/FORTE
Multicenter clinical study evaluating Carfilzomib-based regimens, with or without transplantation, in newly diagnosed multiple myeloma patients.

TEACHING ACTIVITY AND ROLE IN PHD PROGRAMS

Università di Genova

2017 – present (Cycles XXXIII–XL)
Member of the Doctoral Board, PhD Program in Translational Medicine in Oncology and Hematology
University of Genoa

SELECTED RECENT PUBLICATIONS (TOP 10)

1. Cea M, Cagnetta A, Adamia S, Acharya C, Tai YT, Fulciniti M, Ohguchi H, Munshi A, Acharya P, Bhasin MK, Zhong L, Carrasco R, Monacelli F, Ballestrero A, Richardson P, Gobbi M, Lemoli RM, Munshi N, Hideshima T, Nencioni A, Chauhan D, Anderson KC. Evidence for a role of the histone deacetylase SIRT6 in DNA damage response of multiple myeloma cells. Blood. 2016 Mar 3;127(9):1138-50. doi: 10.1182/blood-2015-06-649970. Epub 2015 Dec 16. PMID: 26675349
2. Ohguchi H, Hideshima T, Bhasin MK, Gorgun GT, Santo L, Cea M, Samur MK, Mimura N, Suzuki R, Tai YT, Carrasco RD, Raje N, Richardson PG, Munshi NC, Harigae H, Sanda T, Sakai J, Anderson KC. The KDM3A-KLF2-IRF4 axis maintains myeloma cell survival. Nat Commun. 2016 Jan 5;7:10258. doi: 10.1038/ncomms10258. PMID: 26728187
3. Cagnetta A, Soncini D, Orecchioni S, Talarico G, Minetto P, Guolo F, Retali V, Colombo N, Carminati E, Clavio M, Miglino M, Bergamaschi M, Nahimana A, Duchosal M, Todoerti K, Neri A, Passalacqua M, Bruzzone S, Nencioni A, Bertolini F, Gobbi M, Lemoli RM, Cea M. Depletion of SIRT6 enzymatic activity increases acute myeloid leukemia cells' vulnerability to DNA-damaging agents. Haematologica. 2018 Jan;103(1):80-90. doi: 10.3324/haematol.2017.176248. Epub 2017 Oct 12. PMID: 29025907
4. Caffa I, Spagnolo V, Vernieri C, Valdemarin F, Becherini P, Wei M, Brandhorst S, Zucal C, Driehuis E, Ferrando L, Piacente F, Tagliafico A, Cilli M, Mastracci L, Vellone VG, Piazza S, Cremonini AL, Gradaschi R, Mantero C, Passalacqua M, Ballestrero A, Zoppoli G, Cea M, Arrighi A, Odetti P, Monacelli F, Salvadori G, Cortellino S, Clevers H, De Braud F, Sukkar SG, Provenzani A, Longo VD, Nencioni A. Fasting-mimicking diet and hormone therapy induce breast cancer regression. Nature. 2020 Jul;583(7817):620-624. doi: 10.1038/s41586-020-2502-7. Epub 2020 Jul 15. PMID: 32669709
5. Gay F, Musto P, Rota-Scalabrini D, Bertamini L, Belotti A, Galli M, Offidani M, Zamagni E, Ledda A, Grasso M, Ballanti S, Spadano A, Cea M, Patriarca F, D'Agostino M, Capra A, Giuliani N, de Fabritiis P, Aquino S, Palmas A, Gamberi B, Zambello R, Petrucci MT, Corradini P, Cavo M, Boccadoro M. Carfilzomib with cyclophosphamide and dexamethasone or lenalidomide and dexamethasone plus autologous transplantation or carfilzomib plus lenalidomide and dexamethasone, followed by maintenance with carfilzomib plus lenalidomide or lenalidomide alone for patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma (FORTE): a randomised, open-label, phase 2 trial. Lancet Oncol. 2021 Dec;22(12):1705-1720. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(21)00535-0. Epub 2021 Nov 11. PMID: 34774221
6. Soncini D, Martinuzzi C, Becherini P, Gelli E, Ruberti S, Todoerti K, Mastracci L, Contini P, Cagnetta A, Laudisi A, Guolo F, Minetto P, Miglino M, Aquino S, Varaldo R, Reverberi D, Formica M, Passalacqua M, Nencioni A, Neri A, Samur MK, Munshi NC, Fulciniti M, Lemoli RM, Cea M. Apoptosis reprogramming triggered by splicing inhibitors sensitizes multiple myeloma cells to Venetoclax treatment. Haematologica. 2022 Jun 1;107(6):1410-1426. doi: 10.3324/haematol.2021.279276. PMID: 34670358
7. Mina R, Musto P, Rota-Scalabrini D, Paris L, Gamberi B, Palmas A, Aquino S, de Fabritiis P, Giuliani N, De Rosa L, Gozzetti A, Cellini C, Bertamini L, Capra A, Oddolo D, Vincelli ID,

Ronconi S, Pavone V, Pescosta N, Cea M, Fioritoni F, Ballanti S, Grasso M, Zamagni E, Belotti A, Boccadoro M, Gay F. Carfilzomib induction, consolidation, and maintenance with or without autologous stem-cell transplantation in patients with newly diagnosed multiple myeloma: pre-planned cytogenetic subgroup analysis of the randomised, phase 2 FORTE trial. Lancet Oncol. 2023 Jan;24(1):64-76. doi: 10.1016/S1470-2045(22)00693-3. Epub 2022 Dec 14. PMID: 36528035

8. Gelli E, Soncini D, Becherini P, Martinuzzi C, Todoerti K, Cagnetta A, Aquino S, Guolo F, Miglino M, Bruzzone S, Nencioni A, Neri A, Lemoli RM, Cea M. Targeting the deacetylase SIRT6 unveils spliceosome deregulation as exploitable vulnerability for aggressive myeloma. Blood Adv. 2023 Jul 25;7(14):3472-3478. doi: 10.1182/bloodadvances.2022009035. PMID: 36897214
9. Giorgetti G, Maroto-Martin E, Soncini D, Fenoglio D, Becherini P, Benzi A, Ravera S, Traverso I, Ladisa F, Lai F, Rivoli G, Truffelli D, Nahimana A, Cagnetta A, Guolo F, Uras CRM, Schavgoulidze A, Fong Ng J, Nencioni A, Bruzzone S, Munshi NC, Lemoli RM, Fulciniti M, Cea M. CD56 expression modulates NAD+ metabolic landscape and predicts sensitivity to anti-CD38 therapies in multiple myeloma. Blood Cancer J. 2025 May 2;15(1):83. doi: 10.1038/s41408-025-01284-y. PMID: 40316562
10. Soncini D, Becherini P, Ladisa F, Ravera S, Chedere A, Gelli E, Giorgetti G, Martinuzzi C, Piacente F, Mastracci L, Veneziano C, Santamaria G, Monacelli F, Ghanem MS, Cagnetta A, Guolo F, Garibotto M, Aquino S, Passalaqua M, Bruzzone S, Bellotti A, Duchosal MA, Nahimana A, Angelucci E, Nagasuma C, Nencioni A, Lemoli RM, Cea M. NAD+ metabolism restriction boosts high-dose melphalan efficacy in patients with multiple myeloma. Blood Adv. 2025 Mar 11;9(5):1024-1039. doi: 10.1182/bloodadvances.2024013425. PMID: 39661983

MEMBERSHIP IN SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES

American Society of Hematology (ASH)
European Hematology Association (EHA)
Italian Society of Experimental Hematology (SIES)