

# 3<sup>RD</sup> INTERNATIONAL WORKSHOP ON TUMOR EVOLUTION

**DISCOVERING AND TARGETING THERAPEUTIC VULNERABILITIES  
IN THE TUMOR MICROENVIRONMENT**

**March 30<sup>TH</sup>-31<sup>ST</sup>, 2021**

**IRCCS Regina Elena National Cancer Institute**



**TO ATTEND THE MEETING PLEASE CLICK THE LINK BELOW THROUGHOUT ANY DEVICE**

**<https://studiovisio.zoom.us/j/96500224177>** 

*It is now widely accepted that the tumor microenvironment plays a critical role in tumor progression and metastasis as well as in the development of therapeutic resistance. Understanding the complex, dynamic bidirectional interaction between cancer cells and their microenvironment is currently under intense investigation. Recent studies suggest that tumor-promoting immune cells also establish pre-metastatic niches which suppress anti-tumor immunity while promoting disseminated tumor cell survival. This indicates that malignant cancer cells induce a dynamic stromal reaction, which restrains and promotes tumor progression.*

*It is currently unknown how the stromal equilibrium is established and how the ratios of different stromal cell types affect tumor progression and response to therapy. This workshop will bring together an outstanding faculty of translational and clinical oncologists who will debate the following issues 1) the molecular understanding of the reciprocal interaction between tumor cells and their microenvironment; 2) the identification of factors that influence the cross-talk between tumor and infiltrated cells; 3) the balance between anti-tumor immunity and immunosuppression; 4) novel therapeutic approaches.*

#### SCIENTIFIC COMMITTEE

Gennaro Ciliberto    Giovanni Blandino  
Rita Falcioni        Paola Nisticò

#### ORGANISATIONAL CONTACTS

Tania Merlino  
Carmela Matrascia

## PROGRAMME

### Tuesday, March 30<sup>TH</sup>

- 14.00 **Welcome address**  
Francesco Ripa di Meana (General Director IFO)  
Gennaro Ciliberto (Scientific Director, IRCCS Regina Elena National Cancer Institute)

#### PRECLINICAL SESSION

Chairs: Mario Colombo, Paola Nisticò

- 14.30 **Cancer as wound that never heals: insights from YAP/TAZ biology**  
Stefano Piccolo (Dept. Molecular Medicine, University of Padova, IT)
- 15.00 **Novel Mechanisms of Tumor Stroma Crosstalk**  
Erik Sahai (Crick Institute, London, UK)
- 15.30 **System biology approaches to dissect tumor-host interactions dictating cancer progression**  
Davide Bedognetti (Tumor Biology, Immunology and Therapy, Division of Translational Medicine, Research Branch, Sidra Medical and Research Center, Doha, QA)
- 16.00 **Break**
- 16.30 **The microbiota in cancer progression**  
Maria Rescigno (Mucosal Immunology and Microbiota Unit, Humanitas Research Hospital, Rozzano, IT)
- 17.00 **Role of CAF heterogeneity in immunosuppression and resistance to immunotherapy in breast cancer**  
Fatima Mechta-Grigoriou (Institute Curie and Inserm, Paris, FR)
- 17.30 **The Matrix Connection Between Tumor and Immunity**  
Mario Colombo (IRCCS National Cancer Institute, Milan, IT)

### Wednesday, March 31<sup>ST</sup>

#### CLINICAL SESSION

Chairs: Federico Cappuzzo, Antonio Maria Grimaldi

- 09.00 **The immunotherapy revolution: lessons from melanoma and perspectives across multiple tumor types**  
Alexander M.M. Eggermont (Erasmus University of Rotterdam, NL)
- 09.40 **Deconstructing and reconstructing the ovarian cancer microenvironment**  
Frances Balkwill (Queen Mary University of London, UK)
- 10.10 **Tumor microenvironment and immune cell exclusion in breast cancer**  
Emanuela Romano (Center for Cancer Immunotherapy, Institute Curie, Paris, FR)
- 10.40 **The role of CDX2 and inflammation-associated cytokines in localized colon cancer**  
Andres Cervantes (University of Valencia, ES)
- 11.10 **Break**
- 11.40 **Targeting tumor microenvironment to increase the efficacy of radiotherapy**  
Eric Deutsch (Gustave Roussy, Paris, FR)
- 12.10 **New Combination Strategies**  
Paolo Antonio Ascierto (Division of Oncology, IRCCS National Cancer Institute "Fondazione G. Pascale" Naples, IT)
- 12.40 **Increasing knowledge on tumor microenvironment through clinical trials**  
Anna Spreafico (Division of Oncology and Dermatology, The Princess Margaret Hospital, Toronto, CA)
- 13.10 **Closing Remarks**  
Gennaro Ciliberto

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