



Fondazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro

IFOM – Istituto FIRC di Oncologia Molecolare

Publicazioni IFOM 2009

Nel 2009 gli scienziati IFOM hanno pubblicato **123** articoli di ricerca su riviste scientifiche internazionali, con un **impact factor medio pari a 7.864** (calcolato sugli articoli pubblicati nelle riviste provviste di impact factor) .

Tra le pubblicazioni del 2009, segnaliamo:

- una ricerca condotta da **Marina Mione**, il cui risultato è stato pubblicato a febbraio sulla rivista Disease Models & Mechanisms.

La ricerca, condotta sull'organismo modello Zebrafish, individua i meccanismi molecolari che stanno alla base del legame tra il gene Ras (la cui alterazione è individuata nel 20% dei tumori) e la Sindrome di Costello, una malattia genetica che colpisce in età infantile e induce le cellule staminali del cuore e del cervello alla senescenza, accorciando notevolmente la vita degli individui affetti da questa malattia. Le prospettive di questa ricerca sono, oltre alla cura dei malati di sindrome di Costello, lo sviluppo di nuove cure contro i tumori, che sfruttino il meccanismo di senescenza attivato da Ras per bloccare la proliferazione delle cellule tumorali.

La ricerca è stata sostenuta da un finanziamento AIRC.

- Una ricerca condotta da **Ugo Cavallaro** pubblicata a marzo sulla rivista Journal of Experimental Medicine.

Lo studio individua un ruolo inedito della molecola di adesione neurale L1 nella regolazione del sistema immunitario.

Il ruolo di questa molecola era infatti ben noto nello sviluppo cerebrale, ed era stata dimostrata la connessione tra sue mutazioni e la sindrome neurologica CRASH (Corpus callosum genesis, Retardation, Adducted thumbs, Spastic paraplegia, Hydrocephalus). Lo studio di Ugo Cavallaro rivela che la molecola L1 gioca un ruolo chiave anche nel sistema immunitario, aprendo interessanti prospettive terapeutiche contro le metastasi correlate a tumore del colon, melanomi e carcinoma ovarico.

La ricerca è stata sostenuta da un finanziamento AIRC.

- Una ricerca condotta da **Marco Foiani** pubblicata ad aprile sulla rivista Cell, che ha dedicato allo studio anche la copertina.

La ricerca rivela i meccanismi di formazione del tumore nei pazienti affetti da Ataxia-Telangiectasia (AT) e da Ataxia-Telangiectasia Like Disorder (ATLD), patologie ereditarie che predispongono all'insorgenza tumorale. La ricerca apre la strada a metodologie di diagnosi precoce e a cure personalizzate.

La ricerca è stata sostenuta da un finanziamento AIRC.

- Una ricerca condotta da **Marco Foiani** pubblicata a settembre su Cell.

Grazie a un approccio sperimentale innovativo la ricerca consente di visualizzare per la prima volta nella sua complessità tridimensionale il processo regolato dalla proteina Top2 per tutelare la stabilità del DNA, difendendo l'organismo dall'insorgenza spontanea di mutazioni e quindi di tumori. La ricerca contribuisce a chiarire le basi molecolari del meccanismo di formazione del cancro e apre la strada allo sviluppo di cure anticancro mirate.

La ricerca è stata sostenuta da un finanziamento AIRC.

- Una ricerca condotta da **Pier Paolo Di Fiore** pubblicata a dicembre sulla rivista PNAS.

Lo studio dimostra che più di un terzo dei tumori polmonari presentano un'alterazione funzionale nel gene NOTCH, gene già noto per il suo coinvolgimento nella formazione e nello sviluppo dei tumori e in particolare di alcuni tipi di leucemia. Lo studio del Prof. Di Fiore ha dimostrato il coinvolgimento di questo gene anche nella formazione e nello sviluppo dei tumori solidi che costituiscono il gruppo più frequente di neoplasie umane e ha già individuato la strategia terapeutica per invertire il potenziale di crescita tumorale determinata da NOTCH, utilizzando cellule tumorali isolate da tessuti di pazienti affetti da cancro polmonare. Questo studio apre quindi promettenti prospettive di applicazione clinica per combattere il tumore polmonare, che è la prima causa di morte nei paesi industrializzati.

La ricerca è stata sostenuta da un finanziamento AIRC.

Riconoscimenti scientifici

- Da gennaio 2009 Marco Foiani (attuale Direttore Scientifico di IFOM) e Pier Paolo Di Fiore (precedente Direttore Scientifico di IFOM), sono entrati a far parte dell'Editorial Board di Cell.

Foiani e Di Fiore sono gli unici due ricercatori italiani operanti in istituti di ricerca italiani, sui 113 membri dell'Editorial Board della prestigiosa rivista.

- Nel gennaio 2009 è stato assegnato il prestigioso Premio Sapio a Fabrizio D'Adda di Fagagna, group leader di IFOM, per i suoi studi sulla proliferazione cellulare nei tumori e senescenza.

Il Premio Sapio è attribuito ad un ricercatore i cui studi abbiano portato risultati innovativi e determinanti per il miglioramento delle condizioni di vita dell'uomo.

- Nel mese di settembre l'EARC (European Association for Cancer Research) ha assegnato a Fabrizio D'Adda di Fagagna il prestigioso premio Young Cancer Researcher Award. Il premio viene annualmente destinato a un giovane scienziato i cui studi abbiano portato un contributo straordinario nella ricerca di base sul cancro.

- Nel novembre 2009 l'EMBO (European Molecular Biology Organisation) ha inserito la group leader IFOM Simona Polo nel programma EMBO Young Investigator. Si tratta del gruppo di ricercatori europei di maggior talento che EMBO segnala all'attenzione della

comunità scientifica internazionale. Simona Polo è l'unica scienziata italiana tra i 17 giovani scienziati selezionati nel 2009.

Elenco delle pubblicazioni IFOM 2008 **(in ordine alfabetico per rivista scientifica)**

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