

Speakers CVs



Dr Licia Rivoltini

*Director, Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori, Milano, Italy;
Head of Immunotherapy of Human Tumors.*

Licia Rivoltini, MD, is Head of the Unit of Immunotherapy of Human Tumors at the Fondazione IRCCS Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori (INT), Milan. She was awarded her medical degree by the University of Milan in 1986, and went on to complete board certification in medical oncology at the same institution. For 4 years (1992-1996) she joined as Research Fogarty Fellow the Lab of Steve Rosenberg at NIH/NCI in Bethesda, USA where she contributed to the discovery of the first tumor antigens recognized by T cells, and set up protocols for the generation of antigen-specific T cell effectors from peripheral blood for adoptive cell transfer. She then returned to INT as staff scientist responsible for the Immunomonitoring and Vaccine Laboratory. Since 2007, she is covering the position of Head of the Immunotherapy of Human Tumors Unit.

Dr Rivoltini's research focuses on translational studies on the cellular and molecular characterization of tumor/immune cell interactions and dysfunction in human setting. Her work is also aimed at designing and monitoring of clinical trials based on immunomodulation, including cancer vaccines, immune-checkpoint inhibitors and novel drug or metabolic intervention. The studies are performed in melanoma, lung cancer, colon cancer, hepatocellular carcinoma, prostate carcinoma and others. Her group has been the first one to describe the phenotypic and functional/prognostic features of myeloid-derived suppressor cells in cancer patients and the impact that metabolic dysfunctions in tumor microenvironment, such as local acidity, play on specific immunity. Major interest of the team involves tumor exosomes and their protein/genetic content, as conveyor of immunomodulation and potential diagnostic/prognostic markers and therapeutic tool. Dr Rivoltini is committed to understand why the immune system fails in controlling tumor growth and how effective therapies exploiting T cell immunity can be identified for cancer patients. The group is also involved in setting-up standard operating procedures for the harmonized immunomonitoring of cancer patients, through the participation to international proficiency panels, and the development of guidelines for immunity assessment (MIATA).

Dr Rivoltini holds research grants from the Italian Association for Cancer Research, the Italian Ministry of Health, the European Community and US-based Private Foundations, has authored over 170 publications in peer-reviewed journals, and serves as regular reviewer for Cancer Research, the Journal of Immunology, Blood and others. She is Associated Editor of the Journal of Immunotherapy and the Journal for Immunotherapy of Cancer, and member of the Scientific Board of the NIBIT (Italian Network for Tumor Bioimmunotherapy) and IMI (Italian Melanoma Intergroup).

Dr Rivoltini is also active member of several scientific societies, including the International Melanoma Working Group, the Society for Melanoma Research, and Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC). She is also involved in Advisory Boards and in teaching in the field of ImmunOncology.