

Curriculum Vitae

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- 1976 Medical Doctor, University of Milan, Italy
- 1978 Board in Hematology, University of Milan
- 1978-1983 Fogarty Fellow, National Cancer Institute,
- 1983 – 1987 Assistant Professor, Department of Pathology,
New York University School of Medicine
- 1987 – 1989 Associate Professor, Department of Pathology,
New York University School of Medicine
- 1989 – 1991 Associate Professor of Pathology, Columbia University
- 1991 – Professor of Pathology, Columbia University
- 1992 – 1998 Director, Division of Experimental Oncology,
Department of Pathology, Columbia University
- 1992- Professor of Genetics & Development, Columbia University
- 1992- Joanne and Percy Uris Professor, Columbia University
- 1992 – 1997 Deputy Director, Comprehensive Cancer Center,
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- 1999 – Director, Institute for Cancer Genetics, Columbia University

Molecular pathogenesis of B cell lymphoma

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Non-Hodgkin lymphoma (NHL) derive from mature B cells (85% of cases), and, in a minority of cases, from T cells. Most B-NHL types derive from the germinal center (GC), the structure where naïve B cells encounter the antigen, and undergo Immunoglobulin (Ig) V region somatic hypermutation (SH) and isotype switching (S) and are selected to become memory B cells or plasma cells. SH and S mechanisms are involved in the generation of specific chromosomal translocations, which contribute to the pathogenesis of NHL by deregulating the expression of oncogenes like BCL2, c-MYC, BCL1, and BCL6. Recent progress will be presented in three areas: i) analysis of the signaling pathways controlling normal and neoplastic GC formation by gene expression profiling; ii) evidence that the somatic hypermutation mechanism is aberrantly activated in a subset of NHL to the targeting of multiple loci and, possibly, to the generation of chromosomal translocations; iii) evidence that the function of BCL6, the transcription factor controlling GC formation and expressed in most NHL, is controlled by three distinct pathways which can be modulated for therapeutic purposes.