

CURRICULUM VITAE

Ronca Roberto, PhD

*Associate Professor in General pathology
University of Brescia*

Personal data

born on July 30, 1975 in Desenzano del Garda (Brescia), Italy. Italian.

Work address: Section of Experimental Oncology and Immunology, Dept. of Molecular and Translational medicine, University of Brescia, Viale Europa 11 – 25123 Brescia.

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Education

2003: PhD in Cellular and molecular biotechnologies applied to the biomedical field. School of Medicine, University of Brescia.

1999: Master degree in Biology, University of Padua.

Research experience

04/2019- to date: Associate Professor in General Pathology, University of Brescia.

12/2010-03/2019: Researcher/Assistant Professor in General Pathology, University of Brescia. Targeting FGF/FGFR system for anti-angiogenic/anti-tumor therapies

2008-2010 post-doc fellow in General Pathology Dept. of Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology.

2005: three years FIRC fellow; generation of anti-FGFR1 scFv antibodies for anti-angiogenic/anti-tumor therapy.

2004-2005: post-doc fellow in General Pathology Dept. of Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology, University of Brescia;
04/2003-11/2003: attended the Dept. of Chemistry and applied Biosciences, Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (ETH) of Zurich to develop monoclonal antibodies for tumor immunotherapy;

10/2000-12/2003: PhD at Dept. of Biomedical Sciences and Biotechnology, University of Brescia to study the role of FGF/FGFR1 in tumor angiogenesis and in cardiovascular development;

09/1999-09/2000 post-graduate training Molecular Medicine Dept (R&D) of GlaxoSmithKline (Verona). Focus: generation of transgenic mouse models.

1998-1999: Surgical and Oncological Sciences Dept. University of Padua. Tumor immunology and antitumor DNA vaccination.

Technical skills and competences

Field of research: various aspects of general pathology and experimental oncology including tumor immunotherapy, DNA vaccines for tumor therapy; FGF/FGFR1 system in tumor angiogenesis and in cardiovascular development; monoclonal antibodies as anti-neoplastic agents.

Skills: Molecular biology and cellular biology, in vitro and in vivo angiogenesis and tumorigenesis assays, production and characterization of recombinant protein, animal handling in general (injection, colony breeding...), phage display.

Narrative Biosketch

Dr. Roberto Ronca, University Researcher and Assistant Professor in General Pathology at the Department of Molecular and Translational Medicine at the University of Brescia has a long-lasting experience in experimental oncology, including the study in vitro and in vivo of tumor growth and tumor angiogenesis.

I started my research activity in tumor immunotherapy at the Surgical and Oncological Sciences Dept. at the University of Padua developing anti-tumor vaccines and studying tumor immunology and suppressor cells. From 2001, I approached tumor angiogenesis in Prof. Marco Presta's laboratory in Brescia where I studied the role of pro-angiogenic factors in vascular biology and in tumor angiogenesis, focusing on the role of FGF/FGFR system. During this period I took part to the identification of the non-redundant role of FGFR1 for cardiomyocytes differentiation. Relevant to cancer research I took part to projects aimed to identify the gene expression profile of endothelial cells after stimulation with FGF2 and also to identification of small heparin-like molecules for anti-FGF therapies. In 2003 in Zurich (Prof. Dario Neri's

laboratory) I approached phage display technology for the realization of humanized antibodies for cancer therapy and took part to the realization of therapeutic anti-tumor/anti-angiogenic antibodies fused with cytokines (i.e. IFN γ). Also, in 2003 I was awarded by the Italian Foundation for Cancer Research with a 3 years fellowship and in the frame of this FIRC fellowship I realized a human scFv antibody neutralizing the FGFR1 biological activity in vitro and in vivo. In the last years I deepened the study of tumor-stroma interactions and tumor growth to develop therapeutic approaches based both on decoy molecules and antibodies as anti-cancer and anti-angiogenetic agents. Recently I studied the capacity of the protein long pentraxin 3 (PTX3) to bind FGF2 (and other FGFs) and antagonize its biological activities in vitro and in vivo. These studies were published so far and report the anti-tumor role of PTX3 in different cancer types, and the possibility to use PTX3 to develop anti-FGF/FGFR system therapeutics.

Publications

1. Morigi R, Locatelli A, Leoni A, Rambaldi M, Bortolozzi R, Mattiuzzo E, **Ronca R**, Maccarinelli F, Hamel E, Bai R, Brancale A, Viola G. Synthesis, in vitro and in vivo biological evaluation of substituted 3-(5-imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolylmethylene)-2-indolinones as new potent anticancer agents. *Eur J Med Chem*. 2019 Mar 15;166:514-530. doi: 10.1016/j.ejmech.2019.01.049
2. Codenotti S, Faggi F, **Ronca R**, Chiodelli P, Grillo E, Guescini M, Megiorni F, Marampon F, Fanzani A. Caveolin-1 enhances metastasis formation in a human model of embryonal rhabdomyosarcoma through Erk signaling cooperation. *Cancer Lett*. 2019 Feb 13;449:135-144. doi: 10.1016/j.canlet.2019.02.013
3. Vrijens P, Noppen S, Boogaerts T, Vanstreels E, **Ronca R**, Chiodelli P, Laporte M, Vanderlinden E, Liekens S, Stevaert A, Naesens L. Influenza virus entry via the GM3 ganglioside-mediated platelet-derived growth factor receptor β signalling pathway. *J Gen Virol*. 2019 Feb 14. doi: 10.1099/jgv.0.001235.
4. Romagnoli R, Prencipe F, Oliva P, Baraldi S, Baraldi PG, Schiaffino Ortega S, Chayah M, Kimatrai Salvador M, Lopez-Cara LC, Brancale A, Ferla S, Hamel E, **Ronca R**, Bortolozzi R, Mariotto E, Mattiuzzo E, Viola G. Design, Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 6-Substituted Thieno[3,2-d]pyrimidine Analogues as Dual Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Kinase and Microtubule Inhibitors. *J Med Chem*. 2019 Jan 11. doi: 10.1021/acs.jmedchem.8b01391
5. Rodrigues PF, Matarazzo S, Maccarinelli F, Foglio E, Giacomini A, Silva Nunes JP, Presta M, Dias AAM, **Ronca R**. Long Pentraxin 3-Mediated Fibroblast Growth Factor Trapping Impairs Fibrosarcoma Growth. *Front Oncol*. 2018 Nov 1;8:472. doi: 10.3389/fonc.2018.00472.
6. Mariotto E, Viola G, **Ronca R**, Persano L, Aveic S, Bhujwalla ZM, Mori N, Accordi B, Serafin V, López-Cara LC, Bortolozzi R. Choline Kinase Alpha Inhibition by EB-3D Triggers Cellular Senescence, Reduces Tumor Growth and Metastatic Dissemination in Breast Cancer. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2018 Oct 22;10(10). pii: E391. doi: 10.3390/cancers10100391.
7. Presta M, Foglio E, Churruca Schuind A, **Ronca R**. Long Pentraxin-3 Modulates the Angiogenic Activity of Fibroblast Growth Factor-2. *Front Immunol*. 2018 Oct 8;9:2327. doi: 10.3389/fimmu.2018.02327
8. Roncato F, Rruga F, Porcù E, Casarin E, **Ronca R**, Maccarinelli F, Realdon N, Basso G, Alon R, Viola G, Morpurgo M. Improvement and extension of anti-EGFR targeting in breast cancer therapy by integration with the Avidin-Nucleic-Acid-Nano-Assemblies. *Nat Commun*. 2018 Oct 4;9(1):4070. doi: 10.1038/s41467-018-06602-6.
9. Ghedini GC, **Ronca R**, Presta M, Giacomini A. Future applications of FGF/FGFR inhibitors in cancer. *Expert Rev Anticancer Ther*. 2018 Sep;18(9):861-872.
10. Bosisio D, **Ronca R***, Salvi V, Presta M, Sozzani S. Dendritic cells in inflammatory angiogenesis and lymphangiogenesis. *Curr Opin Immunol*. 2018 Jun 4;53:180-186. *Equal contribution
11. Busatto S, Giacomini A, Montis C, **Ronca R**, Bergese P. Uptake Profiles of Human Serum Exosomes by Murine and Human Tumor Cells through Combined Use of Colloidal Nanoplasmonics and Flow Cytofluorimetric Analysis. *Anal Chem*. 2018 Jun 15. doi: 10.1021/acs.analchem.7b04374.
12. Giacomini A, Ghedini GC, Presta M, **Ronca R**. Long pentraxin 3: A novel multifaceted player in cancer. *BBA Rev on cancer*. 2018 Jan;1869(1):53-63.
13. **Ronca R**, Van Ginderachter JA, Turtoi A. Paracrine interactions of cancer-associated fibroblasts, macrophages and endothelial cells: tumor allies and foes. *Curr Opin Oncol*. 2018 Jan; 30(1):45-53.
14. Chiodelli P, Rezzola S, Urbinati C, Federici Signori F, Monti E, **Ronca R**, Presta M, Rusnati M.

Contribution of vascular endothelial growth factor receptor-2 sialylation to the process of angiogenesis. *Oncogene*. 2017 Aug 7. doi: 10.1038/onc.2017.243

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Fibroblast growth factor modulates mast cell recruitment in a murine model of prostate cancer. *Oncotarget*. 2017 Aug. doi: 10.18632/oncotarget.19773.
16. **Ronca R.**, Benkheil M, Mitola S, Struyf S, Liekens S.
Tumor angiogenesis revisited: Regulators and clinical implications. *Med Res Rev*. 2017 Jun 23. doi: 10.1002/med.21452.
17. Presta M, Chiodelli P, Giacomini A, Rusnati M, **Ronca R.**
Fibroblast growth factors (FGFs) in cancer: FGF traps as a new therapeutic approach. *Pharmacol Ther*. 2017 May 28.
18. Caccuri F, **Ronca R***, Laimbacher AS, Berenzi A, Steimberg N, Campilongo F, Mazzuca P, Giacomini A, Mazzoleni G, Benetti A, Caselli E, Presta M, Di Luca D, Fraefel C, Caruso A.
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***Co-First author**
19. Romagnoli R, Baraldi PG, Prencipe F, Oliva P, Baraldi S, Salvador MK, Lopez-Cara LC, Brancale A, Ferla S, Hamel E, **Ronca R**, Bortolozzi R, Mariotto E, Porcù E, Basso G, Viola G.
Synthesis and Biological Evaluation of 2-Methyl-4,5-Disubstituted Oxazoles as a Novel Class of Highly Potent Antitubulin Agents. *Sci Rep*. 2017 Apr 13;7:46356. doi: 10.1038/srep46356.
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Inflammation and N-formyl peptide receptors mediate the angiogenic activity of human vitreous humour in proliferative diabetic retinopathy. *Diabetologia*. 2017 Apr;60(4):719-728.
21. Porcù E, Persano L, **Ronca R**, Mitola S, Bortolozzi R, Romagnoli R, Oliva P, Basso G, Viola G.
The Novel Antitubulin Agent TR-764 Strongly Reduces Tumor Vasculature and Inhibits HIF-1 α Activation. *Sci Rep*. 2016 Jun 13;6:27886. doi: 10.1038/srep27886.
22. Porcù E, Salvador A, Primac I, Mitola S, **Ronca R**, Ravelli C, Bortolozzi R, Vedaldi D, Romagnoli R, Basso G, Viola G.
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Synthesis, Structural Elucidation, and Biological Evaluation of NSC12, an Orally Available Fibroblast Growth Factor (FGF) Ligand Trap for the Treatment of FGF-Dependent Lung Tumors. *J Med Chem*. 2016 May 26;59(10):4651-63
26. Giacomini A, Chiodelli P, Matarazzo S, Rusnati M, Presta M, **Ronca R.**
Blocking the FGF/FGFR system as a "two-compartment" antiangiogenic/antitumor approach in cancer therapy. *Pharmacol Res*. 2016 May;107:172-85.
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The potential of fibroblast growth factor/fibroblast growth factor receptor signaling as a therapeutic target in tumor angiogenesis. *Expert Opin Ther Targets*. 2015 Jun 30;1-17.

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32. Romagnoli R, Baraldi PG, Salvador MK, Prencipe F, Lopez-Cara C, Schiaffino Ortega S, Brancale A, Hamel E, Castagliuolo I, Mitola S, **Ronca R**, Bortolozzi R, Porcù E, Basso G, Viola G. Design, synthesis, in vitro, and in vivo anticancer and antiangiogenic activity of novel 3-arylamino-benzofuran derivatives targeting the colchicine site on tubulin. *J Med Chem*. 2015 Apr 9;58(7):3209-22.
33. Liekens S, Noppen S, Gijssbers S, Sienaert R, **Ronca R**, Tobia C, Presta M. The broad-spectrum anti-DNA virus agent cidofovir inhibits lung metastasis of virus-independent, FGF2-driven tumors. *Oncotarget*. 2015 Mar 10;6(7):4633-48.
34. Zizioli D, Guarienti M, Tobia C, Gariano G, Borsani G, Bresciani R, **Ronca R**, Giacomuzzi E, Preti A, Gaudenzi G, Belleri M, Di Salle E, Fabrias G, Casas J, Ribatti D, Monti E, Presta M. Molecular cloning and knockdown of galactocerebrosidase in zebrafish: new insights into the pathogenesis of Krabbe's disease. *Biochim Biophys Acta*. 2014 Apr;1842(4):665-75.
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36. **Ronca R**, Di Salle E, Giacomini A, Leali D, Alessi P, Coltrini D, Ravelli C, Matarazzo S, Ribatti D, Vermi W, Presta M. Long pentraxin-3 inhibits epithelial-mesenchymal transition in melanoma cells. *Mol Cancer Ther*. 2013 Dec;12(12):2760-71.
37. Belleri M, **Ronca R**, Coltrini D, Nico B, Ribatti D, Poliani PL, Giacomini A, Alessi P, Marchesini S, Santos MB, Bongarzone ER, Presta M. Inhibition of angiogenesis by β -galactosylceramidase deficiency in globoid cell leukodystrophy. *Brain*. 2013 Sep;136(Pt 9):2859-75.
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42. Leali D, Inforzato A, **Ronca R**, Bianchi R, Belleri M, Coltrini D, Di Salle E, Sironi M, Norata GD, Bottazzi B, Garlanda C, Day AJ, Presta M. Long pentraxin 3/tumor necrosis factor-stimulated gene-6 interaction: a biological rheostat for fibroblast growth factor 2-mediated angiogenesis. *Arterioscler Thromb Vasc Biol*. 2012 Mar;32(3):696-703.
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- Antiangiogenic activity of a neutralizing human single-chain antibody fragment against fibroblast growth factor receptor 1. *Mol Cancer Ther.* 2010 Dec;9(12):3244-53.
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Impact of VEGF-dependent tumor microenvironment on EDB fibronectin expression by subcutaneous human tumor xenografts in nude mice *Journal of Pathology*, 2009 Sep 17. ***Co-first author**
 46. **R. Ronca**, S. Sozzani, M. Presta, P. Alessi.
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