
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

NAME: PELLEGATTA Serena

POSITION TITLE: Head of Unit

EDUCATION/TRAINING PhD - Prof

INSTITUTION AND LOCATION	DEGREE (if applicable)	Completion Date MM/YYYY	FIELD OF STUDY
University of Milan-Bicocca, Milan, Italy	PhD	2008	Translational and Molecular Medicine translational medicine
University of Milan, Milan, Italy	Specialization	2005	Biotechnological Applications
University of Milan, Milan, Italy	Master degree	1999	physiopathology and immunopharmacology

A. Personal Statement

Serena Pellegatta is head of Unit of Immunotherapy of Brain Tumors at FINCB in Milan. Since 2004 she has been working on DC Immunotherapy first gained extensive experience in preclinical investigations, then she set up the protocol for DC preparation in GMP condition and helped to create the cell factory currently active at Besta. She was involved in the immunotherapy clinical studies DENDR1, NCT04801147; DENDR2, NCT04002804; DENDR-STEM, NCT02820584), as responsible for the immunological monitoring. She has been working on glioma-stem like cells (GSCs) as a specific target for immunotherapy, providing a proof of principle that GSCs for DC loading increases anti-glioma immunotherapy efficacy. This approach is patented (US8129183B2). She has gained experience working on CAR-T cells for glioblastoma as visiting professor at Lineberger Cancer Center-UNC-NC, USA. With the support of AIRC, a pivotal clinical study is underway to treat recurrent glioblastoma patients with ex vivo expanded and activated TILs. She is Adjunct Professor at degree program in Neurobiology, Department of Biology and Biotechnology, University of Pavia (Course of Neuroimmunology). Professor at the PhD program in "Translational and Molecular Medicine", University of Milan Bicocca.

B. Positions, Scientific Appointments, and Honors

- 2018-2023 Head of Unit of Immunotherapy of Brain Tumors, Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta Milan, Italy
- 2021-2023 Head of Laboratory of Neuro- Oncological Genetics, Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta Milan, Italy
- 2015-2016 Visiting Professor UNC Lineberger Comprehensive Cancer Center Department of Microbiology and Immunology North Carolina USA
- 2010-2018 First level biology director (permanent position) Unit of Molecular Neuro- Oncology Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta Milan, Italy
- 2008-2014 Visiting Senior Scientist Campus IFOM-IEO Experimental Oncology Milan, Italy
- 2008-2010 PostDoc Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta Unit of Molecular Neuro- Oncology Milan, Italy Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta
- 2005-2008 Ph.D. student Unit of Molecular Neuro- Oncology Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta Milan, Italy
- 2002-2005 Research Fellow (specialization student) Unit of Neuro-Oncology and Gene Therapy Fondazione Istituto Neurologico Carlo Besta Milan, Italy
- 2000-2001 Research fellow Unit of Immunobiology of human tumors Istituto Nazionale dei Tumori Milan, Italy

C. Contributions to Science

She was a proponent of the bench-to-bedside translation of dendritic cell immunotherapy, which facilitated the initiation of Italy's first clinical trials involving dendritic cells in glioblastoma patients. She has developed a methodological approach for the isolation, activation, and expansion of tumor-reactive tumor infiltrating lymphocytes starting from cavitron ultrasonic aspirator emulsion. With the support of AIRC, a pivotal clinical study is underway to treat recurrent glioblastoma patients with TIL therapy.

D. Relevant publications

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/myncbi/serena.pellegatta.1/bibliography/public/>