
BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH

Davide Melisi, MD, PhD

Date of birth: October 29th, 1976

Marital status: Married, three children – Lorenzo, Miriam, Stefano

Associate Professor of Medical Oncology
Digestive Molecular Clinical Oncology Research Unit, Head
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Brief profile

Dr. Melisi has been directly involved in laboratory and clinical research since his internship as MD student and as fellow in Medical Oncology at the Division of Medical Oncology and the Laboratory of Molecular Cancer Therapy of the University of Naples "Federico II" Medical School.

In 2005, he joined the Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology at the MD Anderson Cancer Center Houston, TX. Here, he was involved in different translational research projects on the role of targeting signal transduction molecules on the development, growth, and metastatization of pancreatic cancer. In particular, he focused his work on the inhibition of the Smad-dependent and Smad-independent pathways driven by the Transforming Growth Factor β as therapeutic strategies in pancreatic cancer. In the same period, he was engaged in the clinical design and pharmacodynamic analyses of several phase I and II clinical trials in pancreatic and biliary cancers. During his postdoctoral training, Dr. Melisi was supported by several competitive fellowships through the Italian Foundation for Cancer Research, the American-Italian Cancer Foundation, and the SASS Foundation for Medical Research, and selected to attend several competitive courses, including the 2007 NCI-AACR Cancer Research Imaging Camp at the Center for In Vivo Microscopy, Duke University, Durham, NC, and the 2008 Methods in Clinical Cancer Research AACR/ASCO Workshop, Vail, CO.

In 2009, Dr. Melisi was recruited as Clinical and Experimental Tenure Lecturer at the National Cancer Institute – Fondazione G. Pascale in Naples, Italy. In 2010, he received his PhD degree in Molecular Oncology and Endocrinology, University of Naples "Federico II", Italy.

In December 2011, he joined the University of Verona, Italy, as Assistant Professor of Medical Oncology.

In 2011, Dr. Melisi was awarded one of the prestigious and highly competitive Start-Up program grants, the largest funding for cancer research "*to foster the birth and growth of new research units under the leadership of talented young scientists seeking the opportunity of becoming independent investigators in Italy after a successful research experience abroad*" through the Italian Association for Cancer Research (AIRC).

Thanks to this 5-years research grant, Dr. Melisi established the Digestive Molecular Clinical Oncology (DMCO) Research Unit. In his research unit, he coordinates and supervises the work of postdoctoral fellows, one graduated PhD student, one research assistant, one research nurse, and four students. The main projects in his group are aimed to define the tumor cell-autonomous and tumor microenvironment- related molecular mechanisms responsible for the resistance of digestive cancers to the classic chemotherapeutic agents and to the most novel targeted drugs.

At the Verona University Hospital, Dr. Melisi is responsible of the gastrointestinal tumor patients' clinic. In particular, he participates as medical oncologist to the *Pancreas Centre*, the most important multidisciplinary team in the country for the diagnosis, treatment and research of the diseases of the

pancreas. At the early phase clinical trials unit “Centro di Ricerche Cliniche (CRC)”, he is responsible for the cancer therapeutics’ early phase clinical development program.

Dr. Melisi is teacher of Medical Oncology for the University of Verona’s Medical School, and the Schools of Specialty in Oncology, Surgery, and Gastroenterology. Here, he directly supervises the clinical and research work of five fellows. He is also member of the board of the PhD program in Molecular Pathology, Immunology, and Oncology.

Beside the AIRC Start-Up grant, Dr. Melisi has been awarded as principal investigator or co-investigator several national and international competitive research grants from private charities and pharmaceutical industries. Dr. Melisi received several prestigious awards, including the 2003 “Prof. Piero Trivella” award from Italian Cancer Society, the 2007 “The Marion D. Edwards” award in Hepatic Oncology, and the 2008 “Nunzio Pascale” International award for cancer research. Dr. Melisi has been member of the editorial board of the journal of the European Society of Medical Oncology *Annals of Oncology*, and he routinely serve as reviewer for several other peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Melisi served as reviewer at the European Commission for the Horizon 2020 funding. Since 2013, Dr. Melisi is member of the Board of Directors of the Italian Cancer Society (SIC) and chaired the 2016 Annual Meeting of this society.

Prof. Melisi has been awarded several prestigious prizes, including the honor of Knight Officer of the Order of Merit of the Italian Republic from the Italian President Sergio Mattarella.

Education and degrees awarded

2001	MD Degree, Summa cum Laude, University of Naples “Federico II” Medical School, Italy
2005	Specialty Degree in Medical Oncology, Summa cum Laude, University of Naples “Federico II”, Italy
2009	PhD Degree, International Doctorate Program in Molecular Oncology and Endocrinology, University of Naples “Federico II”, Italy

Positions and Employment

2001-2005	Resident/Fellow, Internal Medicine/Medical Oncology, Division of Medical Oncology, University of Naples “Federico II” Medical School, Italy
2005-2009	Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Gastrointestinal Medical Oncology, MD Anderson Cancer Center – University of Texas, Houston, TX, US
2009-2011	Clinical and Experimental Tenure Lecturer, National Cancer Institute – Fondazione G. Pascale, Naples, Italy
2011-2018	Assistant Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Verona, Italy
2011-	Head, Digestive Molecular Clinical Oncology Research Unit, University of Verona, Italy
2018-	Associate Professor, Department of Medicine, University of Verona, Italy

Scientific Awards, Honors, and Fellowships

2003	“Prof. Piero Trivella” award, Italian Cancer Society (SIC), Italy
2005	“Leonino Fontana e Maria Lionello” award, Italian Foundation for Cancer Research (FIRC), Italy
2007	“The Marion D. Edwards” award in Hepatic Oncology, MD Anderson Cancer Center, Houston, TX, US
2007	Fellow at the NCI-AACR Cancer Research Imaging Camp, Duke University, Center for In Vivo Microscopy, Durham, NC
2008	“Nunzio Pascale” International award for cancer research – “Nunzio Pascale” Foundation, Italy
2008	The SASS Foundation for Medical Research Postdoctoral Research Fellowship, Roslyn, NY, US
2008	American-Italian Cancer Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship, New York, NY, US
2008	Fellow at the Methods in Clinical Cancer Research AACR/ASCO Workshop, Vail, CO

Ongoing Research Support

AIRC Investigator Grant n. 23719, 2020-2025

Mechanistic basis for improving the efficacy of targeting TGF β pathway in poor prognosis pancreatic cancer patients – Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro

Role: PI – Budget: 826 000 euro

AIRC Special Program Molecular Clinical Oncology 5 per mille Extension Program n. 12182, 2018-2020

Clinically applicable biomarkers to early diagnosis, patient risk stratification and therapy response in pancreas cancer

Role: participating unit – Budget: 120 000 euro

Incyte corporation

A phase II trial of the FGFR inhibitor INCB54828 in patients with HER2-positive advanced EGJ/Gastric cancer Trastuzumab Resistant: the FiGhTeR trial

Role: PI – Budget: 394 740 euro

Shire Baxalta US Inc.

A Phase II Study of Liposomal Irinotecan (nal-IRI) with 5 Fluorouracil, Leucovorin, and Oxaliplatin in Patients With Resectable Pancreatic Cancer: the nITRo trial

Role: PI – Budget: 720 200 euro

AIRC Investigator Grant n. 19111, 2017-2020

Dissecting Smad-dependent and Smad-independent TGF β signaling pathways for the treatment of pancreatic cancer – Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro

Role: PI – Budget: 554 040 euro

Ministero della Salute – Ricerca Finalizzata 2016

A Biomarker-driven Therapeutic Strategy for Esophageal Cancer, the BoRgES trial: a multicenter randomized phase II study of BIRC3-expression directed preoperative chemoradiotherapy in patients with Resectable adenocarcinoma of the Esophagus

Role: PI – Budget: 450 000 euro

Basic Research Project 2015, 2016-2018

Identification of the paracrine molecular networks linking obesity and pancreatic cancer progression
University of Verona

Role: PI – Budget: 58 000 euro

AIRC Special Program Molecular Clinical Oncology 5 per mille n. 10016, 2013-2016

Molecular basis for triple negative breast cancer metastasis: new tools for diagnosis and therapy – Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro

Role: participating unit – Budget: 60 000 euro

Associazione Nastro Viola ed altre donazioni da associazioni di pazienti.

Studio di biomarcatori prognostico/predittivi nei pazienti affetti da adenocarcinoma pancreatico

Role: PI – Budget: 200 000 euro

AIRC Start-Up Grant n. 10129, 2010-2016

Mechanisms of resistance to chemotherapeutic and antiangiogenic drugs as targets for pancreatic cancer therapy – Associazione Italiana per la Ricerca sul Cancro

Role: PI – Budget: 740 000 euro

Clinical trials conducted as Principal Investigator

A phase 1/randomized phase 2, double-blind study to evaluate the efficacy and safety of galunisertib+gemcitabine or gemcitabine+placebo in patients with advanced or metastatic unresectable pancreatic cancer. Sponsor: Eli Lilly and Company. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT01373164

A phase 1 Study of Galunisertib (LY2157299) and Durvalumab (MEDI4736) in Participants With Metastatic Pancreatic Cancer. Sponsor: Eli Lilly and Company. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02734160

A Phase 2, Open-Label, Single-Arm, Multicenter Study to Evaluate the Efficacy and Safety of INCB054828 in Subjects With Advanced/Metastatic or Surgically Unresectable Cholangiocarcinoma Including FGFR2 Translocations Who Failed Previous Therapy. ClinicalTrials.gov Identifier: NCT02924376

A phase II trial of the FGFR inhibitor INCB54828 in patients with HER2-positive advanced EGJ/Gastric cancer Trastuzumab Resistant: the FiGhTeR trial

A Phase II Study of Liposomal Irinotecan (nal-IRI) with 5 Fluorouracil, Leucovorin, and Oxaliplatin in Patients With Resectable Pancreatic Cancer: the nITRo trial

A Biomarker-driven Therapeutic Strategy for Esophageal Cancer, the BoRgES trial: a multicenter randomized phase II study of BIRC3-expression directed preoperative chemoradiotherapy in patients with Resectable adenocarcinoma of the Esophagus

Peer-reviewed publications

1. Tortora G, Caputo R, Damiano V, Fontanini G, **Melisi D**, Veneziani BM, Zunino F, Bianco AR, Ciardiello F. Oral administration of a novel taxane, an antisense oligonucleotide targeting protein kinase A, and the epidermal growth factor receptor inhibitor Iressa causes cooperative antitumor and antiangiogenic activity. Clin Cancer Res. 2001 7(12): 4156-63.
2. Tortora G, Caputo R, Damiano V, **Melisi D**, Bianco R, Fontanini G, Veneziani BM, De Placido S, Bianco AR, Ciardiello F. Combination of a selective cyclooxygenase-2 inhibitor with epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor ZD1839 and protein kinase A antisense causes cooperative antitumor and antiangiogenic effect. Clin Cancer Res. 2003 9(4): 1566-72.
3. Ciardiello F, Bianco R, Caputo R, Caputo R, Damiano V, Troiani T, **Melisi D**, De Vita F, De Placido S, Bianco AR, Tortora G. Antitumor Activity of ZD6474, a VEGFR Tyrosine Kinase Inhibitor, in Human Cancer Cells with Acquired Resistance to Anti-EGFR Therapy. Clin Cancer Res. 2004 10(2): 784-793.
4. Tortora G, **Melisi D** and Ciardiello F. Angiogenesis: A Target for Cancer Therapy. Curr Pharm Des. 2004 10(1): 11-26.
5. Raben D, Bianco C, Damiano V, Bianco R, **Melisi D**, Mignogna C, D'Armiento FP, Cionini L, Bianco AR, Tortora G, Ciardiello F, Bunn P. Antitumor activity of ZD6126, a novel vascular-targeting agent, is enhanced when combined with ZD1839, an epidermal growth factor receptor tyrosine kinase inhibitor, and potentiates the effects of radiation in a human non-small cell lung cancer xenograft model. Mol Cancer Ther. 2004 3(8): 977-83.
6. **Melisi D**, Troiani T, Damiano V, Tortora G and Ciardiello F. Therapeutic integration of signal transduction targeting agents and conventional anti- cancer treatments. Endocr Relat Cancer. 2004 11(1): 51-68.
7. Damiano V, **Melisi D**, Bianco C, Raben D, Caputo R, Fontanini G, Bianco R, Ryan A, Bianco AR, De Placido S, Ciardiello F, Tortora G. Cooperative antitumor effect of multitargeted kinase inhibitor ZD6474 and ionizing radiation in glioblastoma. Clin Cancer Res. 2005 11(15): 5639-44.

8. **Melisi D**, Caputo R, Damiano V, Bianco R, Veneziani BM, Bianco AR, De Placido S, Ciardiello F and Tortora G. Zoledronic acid cooperates with a COX-2 inhibitor and gefitinib in inhibiting breast and prostate cancer. *Endocr Relat Cancer*. 2005 12(4):1051-8.
9. Bianco R, **Melisi D**, Ciardiello F, Tortora G. Key cancer cell signal transduction pathways as therapeutic targets. *Eur J Cancer*. 2006 42(3):290
10. **Melisi D**, Chiao PJ. NF-kappaB as a target for cancer therapy. *Expert Opin Ther Targets*. 2007 Feb;11(2):133-44.
11. **Melisi D**, Ishiyama S, Scwabas GM, Fleming JB, Xia Q, Tortora G, Abbruzzese JL, Chiao PJ. LY2109761, a Novel Transforming Growth Factor β Receptor type I and II dual inhibitor, as a Therapeutic Approach to Suppressing Pancreatic Cancer Metastasis. *Mol Cancer Ther*. 2008 Apr;7(4):829-40.
12. Bianco R, Rosa R, Damiano V, Daniele G, Gelardi T, Garofalo S, Tarallo V, De Falco S, **Melisi D**, Benelli R, Albini A, Ryan A, Ciardiello F, Tortora G. Vascular Endothelial Growth Factor Receptor-1 Contributes to Resistance to Anti-Epidermal Growth Factor Receptor Drugs in Human Cancer Cells. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2008 Aug 15;14(16):5069-80.
13. **Melisi D**, Niu J, Chang Z, Ishiyama S, Peng B, Xia Q, Evans DB, and Chiao PJ. Secreted Interleukin-1 α Induces a Metastatic Phenotype in Pancreatic Cancer by Sustaining a Constitutive Activation of NF- κ B. *Mol Cancer Res*. 2009 May;7(5):624-33.
14. **Melisi D**, Ossovskaya V, Zhu C, Rosa R, Ling J, Dougherty PM, Sherman BM, Abbruzzese JL, Chiao PJ. Oral poly(ADP-ribose) polymerase-1 inhibitor BSI-401 has antitumor activity and synergizes with oxaliplatin against pancreatic cancer, preventing acute neurotoxicity. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2009 Oct 5;15(20):6367-77.
15. **Melisi D**, Xia Q, Paradiso G, Ling J, Moccia T, Carbone C, Budillon A, Abbruzzese JL, Chiao PJ. Modulation of Pancreatic Cancer Chemoresistance by Inhibition of TAK1. *J Natl Cancer Inst*. 2011 Aug 3;103(15):1190-204.
16. Carbone C, Moccia T, Zhu C, Paradiso G, Budillon A, Chiao P, Abbruzzese JL, and **Melisi D**. Anti-VEGF Treatment Resistant Pancreatic Cancers Secrete Proinflammatory Factors that Contribute to Malignant Progression by Inducing an EMT cell phenotype. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2011 Sep 1;17(17):5822-32.
17. Vaccaro V*, **Melisi D***, Bria E, Cuppone F, Ciuffreda L, Pino MS, Gelibter A, Tortora G, Cognetti F, Milella M. Emerging pathways and future targets for the molecular therapy of pancreatic cancer. *Expert Opin Ther Targets*. 2011 Oct;15(10):1183-96. *CFA
18. Rosa R, **Melisi D**, Damiano V, Bianco R, Garofalo S, Gelardi T, Agrawal S, Di Nicolantonio F, Scarpa A, Bardelli A, Tortora G. Toll-like receptor 9 agonist IMO cooperates with cetuximab in K-Ras mutant colorectal and pancreatic cancers. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2011 Oct 15;17(20):6531-41.
19. Carbone C, and **Melisi D**. NF-kappaB as a target for pancreatic cancer therapy. *Expert Opin Ther Targets*. *Expert Opin Ther Targets*. 2012 Apr;16 Suppl 2:S1-10.
20. **Melisi D**, Budillon A. Editorial: pancreatic cancer: between bench and bedside. *Curr Drug Targets*. 2012 Jun 1;13(6):729-30.
21. Tamburrino A, Piro G, Carbone C, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. Mechanisms of resistance to chemotherapeutic and anti-angiogenic drugs as novel targets for pancreatic cancer therapy. *Front Pharmacol*. 2013 Apr 30;4:56.
22. **Melisi D**, Piro G, Tamburrino A, Carbone C, Tortora G. Rationale and clinical use of multitargeting anticancer agents. *Curr Opin Pharmacol*. 2013 Aug;13(4):536-42.
23. **Melisi D**, Calvetti L, Frizziero M, Tortora G. Pancreatic cancer: systemic combination therapies for a heterogeneous disease. *Curr Pharm Des*. 2014;20(42):6660-9.
24. Lucchini E, Pilotto S, Spada E, **Melisi D**, Bria E, Tortora G. Targeting the epidermal growth

factor receptor in solid tumors: focus on safety. *Expert Opin Drug Saf.* 2014 May;13(5):535-49.

25. Simbolo M, Fassan M, Ruzzenente A, Mafficini A, Wood LD, Corbo V, **Melisi D**, Malleo G, Vicentini C, Malpeli G, Antonello D, Sperandio N, Capelli P, Tomezzoli A, Iacono C, Lawlor RT, Bassi C, Hruban RH, Guglielmi A, Tortora G, de Braud F, Scarpa A. Multigene mutational profiling of cholangiocarcinomas identifies actionable molecular subgroups. *Oncotarget.* 2014 May 15;5(9):2839-52.
26. **Melisi D**, Frizziero M, Tamburrino A, Zanotto M, Carbone C, Piro G, Tortora G. Toll-Like Receptor 9 Agonists for Cancer Therapy. *Biomedicines.* 2014 Aug 4;2(3):211-228.
27. Simionato F, Frizziero M, Carbone C, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. Current strategies to overcome resistance to ALK-inhibitor agents. *Curr Drug Metab.* 2015;16(7):585-96.
28. Dalla Pozza E, Dando I, Biondani G, Brandi J, Costanzo C, Zoratti E, Fassan M, Boschi F, **Melisi D**, Cecconi D, Scupoli MT, Scarpa A, Palmieri M. Pancreatic ductal adenocarcinoma cell lines display a plastic ability to bi-directionally convert into cancer stem cells. *Int J Oncol.* 2015 Mar;46(3):1099-108.
29. Vaccaro V, Sperduti I, Vari S, Bria E, **Melisi D**, Garufi C, Nuzzo C, Scarpa A, Tortora G, Cognetti F, Reni M, Milella M. Metastatic pancreatic cancer: Is there a light at the end of the tunnel? *World J Gastroenterol.* 2015 Apr 28;21(16):4788-801.
30. Carbone C, Piro G, Fassan M, Tamburrino A, Mina MM, Zanotto M, Chiao PJ, Bassi C, Scarpa A, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. An angiopoietin-like protein 2 autocrine signaling promotes EMT during pancreatic ductal carcinogenesis. *Oncotarget.* 2014 Oct 24. pii: 2635.
31. Piro G, Giacomuzzi S, Bencivenga M, Carbone C, Verlato G, Frizziero M, Zanotto M, Mina MM, Merz V, Santoro R, Zanon A, De Manzoni G, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. TAK1-regulated expression of BIRC3 predicts resistance to preoperative chemoradiotherapy in oesophageal adenocarcinoma patients. *Br J Cancer.* 2015 Sep 15;113(6):878-85.
32. Carbone C, Tamburrino A, Piro G, Boschi F, Cataldo I, Zanotto M, Mina MM, Zanini S, Sbarbati A, Scarpa A, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. Combined inhibition of IL1, CXCR1/2, and TGF β signaling pathways modulates in vivo resistance to anti-VEGF treatment. *Anticancer Drugs.* 2015 Oct 15
33. Brannon AR, Frizziero M, Chen D, Hummel J, Gallo J, Riester M, Patel P, Cheung W, Morrissey M, Carbone C, Cottini S, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. Biomarker analysis of a male breast cancer patient with prolonged stable disease under mTOR/PI3K inhibitors BEZ235/RAD001. *Cold Spring Harb Mol Case Stud.* 2016 Mar;2(2):a000620.
34. Zhuang Z, Ju H, Aguilar M, Gocho T, Li H, Iida T, Lee H, Fan X, Zhou H, Ling J, Li Z, Fu J, Wu M, Li M, **Melisi D**, Iwakura Y, Xu K, Fleming JB, Chiao PJ. IL-1 Receptor Antagonist Inhibits Pancreatic Cancer Growth by Abrogating NF- κ B Activation. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2016 Mar 15;22(6):1432-44.
35. Pietrantonio F, Caporale M, Morano F, Scartozzi M, Gloghini A, De Vita F, Giommoni E, Fornaro L, Aprile G, **Melisi D**, Berenato R, Mennitto A, Volpi CC, Laterza MM, Pusceddu V, Antonuzzo L, Vasile E, Ongaro E, Simionato F, de Braud F, Torri V, Di Bartolomeo M. HER2 loss in HER2-positive gastric or gastroesophageal cancer after trastuzumab therapy: Implication for further clinical research. *Int J Cancer.* 2016 Dec 15;139(12):2859-2864.
36. Piro G, Carbone C, Cataldo I, Di Nicolantonio F, Giacomuzzi S, Aprile G, Simionato F, Boschi F, Zanotto M, Mina MM, Santoro R, Merz V, Sbarbati A, de Manzoni G, Scarpa A, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. An FGFR3 autocrine loop sustains acquired resistance to trastuzumab in gastric cancer patients. *Clin Cancer Res.* 2016 Jun 7.
37. Piro G, Simionato F, Carbone C, Frizziero M, Malleo G, Zanini S, Casolino R, Santoro R, Mina MM, Zecchetto C, Merz V, Scarpa A, Bassi C, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. A circulating TH2 cytokines profile predicts survival in patients with resectable pancreatic adenocarcinoma. *Oncoimmunology.* 2017 Apr 28;6(9):e1322242.

38. Pelzer U, Blanc JF, **Melisi D**, Cubillo A, Von Hoff DD, Wang-Gillam A, Chen LT, Siveke JT, Wan Y, Solem CT, Botteman MF, Yang Y, de Jong FA, Hubner RA. Quality-adjusted survival with combination nal-IRI+5-FU/LV vs 5-FU/LV alone in metastatic pancreatic cancer patients previously treated with gemcitabine-based therapy: a Q-TWiST analysis. *Br J Cancer*. 2017 May 9;116(10):1247-1253.
39. Humphries MP, Sundara Rajan S, Droop A, Suleman C, Carbone C, Nilsson C, Honarpisheh H, Cserni G, Dent J, Fulford L, Jordan LB, Jones JL, Kanthan R, Litwiniuk M, Di Benedetto A, Mottolese M, Provenzano E, Shousha S, Stephens M, Walker RA, Kulka J, Ellis IO, Jeffery M, Thygesen HH, Cappelletti V, Daidone MG, Hedenfalk IA, Fjällskog ML, **Melisi D**, Stead L, Shaaban A, Speirs V. A Case Matched Gender Comparison Transcriptomic Screen Identifies eIF4E and eIF5 as Potential Prognostic and Tractable Biomarkers in Male Breast Cancer. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2017 May 15;23(10):2575-2583.
40. Aprile G, Negri FV, Giuliani F, De Carlo E, **Melisi D**, Francesca Simionatoe, Nicola Silvestris, Oronzo Brunetti, Francesco Leonef, Donatella Marinof, Daniele Santinig, Emanuela Dell'Aquilag, Tea Zeppola, Marco Puzzone, Mario Scartozzi. Second-line chemotherapy for advanced pancreatic cancer: Which is the best option? *Crit Rev Oncol Hematol*. 2017 Jul;115:1-12.
41. Carbone C, Piro G, Simionato F, Ligorio F, Cremolini C, Loupakis F, Alì G, Rossini D, Merz V, Santoro R, Zecchetto C, Zanotto M, Di Nicolantonio F, Bardelli A, Fontanini G, Tortora G, and **Melisi D**. Homeobox B9 mediates resistance to anti-VEGF therapy in colorectal cancer patients. *Clin Cancer Res*. 2017 Aug 1;23(15):4312-4322.
42. Fanotto V, Cordio S, Pasquini G, Fontanella C, Rimassa L, Leone F, Rosati G, Santini D, Giampieri R, Di Donato S, Tomasello G, Silvestris N, Pietrantonio F, Battaglin F, Avallone A, Scartozzi M, Lutrino ES, **Melisi D**, Antonuzzo L, Pellegrino A, Torri V, Aprile G. Prognostic factors in 868 advanced gastric cancer patients treated with second-line chemotherapy in the real world. *Gastric Cancer*. 2017 Sep;20(5):825-833.
43. Gaianigo N, **Melisi D**, Carbone C. EMT and Treatment Resistance in Pancreatic Cancer. *Cancers (Basel)*. 2017 Sep 12;9(9).
44. Fornaro L, Fanotto V, Musettini G, Uccello M, Rimassa L, Vivaldi C, Fontanella C, Leone F, Giampieri R, Rosati G, Lencioni M, Santini D, Donato SD, Tomasello G, Brunetti O, Pietrantonio F, Bergamo F, Scartozzi M, Avallone A, Lutrino SE, **Melisi D**, Antonuzzo L, Pellegrino A, Gerratana L, Cordio S, Vasile E, Aprile G. Selecting patients for gastrectomy in metastatic esophago-gastric cancer: clinics and pathology are not enough. *Future Oncol*. 2017 Oct;13(25):2265-2275.
45. Federti E, Matte' A, Ghigo A, Andolfo I, James C, Siciliano A, Leboeuf C, Janin A, Manna F, Choi SY, Iolascon A, Beneduce E, **Melisi D**, Kim DW, Levi S, De Franceschi L. Peroxiredoxin-2 plays a pivotal role as multimodal cytoprotector in the early phase of pulmonary hypertension. *Free Radic Biol Med*. 2017 Nov;112:376-386.
46. Federti E, Matte A, Ghigo A, Andolfo I, James C, Siciliano A, Leboeuf C, Janin A, Manna F, Choi SY, Iolascon A, Beneduce E, **Melisi D**, Kim DW, Levi S, De Franceschi L. Data demonstrating the role of peroxiredoxin 2 as important anti-oxidant system in lung homeostasis. *Data Brief*. 2017 Sep 30;15:376-381
47. Santoro R, Carbone C, Piro G, Chiao PJ, **Melisi D**. TAK-ing aim at chemoresistance: The emerging role of MAP3K7 as a target for cancer therapy. *Drug Resist Updat*. 2017 Nov;33-35:36-42.
48. Matte A, De Falco L, Federti E, Cozzi A, Iolascon A, Levi S, Mohandas N, Zamo A, Bruno M, Leboeuf C, Janin A, Siciliano A, Ganz T, Federico G, Carlomagno F, Mueller S, Silva I, Carbone C, **Melisi D**, Kim DW, Choi SY, DE Franceschi L. Peroxiredoxin-2: a novel regulator of iron homeostasis in ineffective erythropoiesis. *Antioxid Redox Signal*. 2018 Jan 1;28(1):1-14.
49. Fanotto V, Uccello M, Pecora I, Rimassa L, Leone F, Rosati G, Santini D, Giampieri R, Di Donato S, Tomasello G, Silvestris N, Pietrantonio F, Battaglin F, Avallone A, Scartozzi M, Lutrino ES, **Melisi D**, Antonuzzo L, Pellegrino A, Ferrari L, Bordonaro R, Vivaldi C, Gerratana L, Bozzarelli

- S, Filippi R, Bilancia D, Russano M, Aprile G. Outcomes of Advanced Gastric Cancer Patients Treated with at Least Three Lines of Systemic Chemotherapy. *Oncologist*. 2017 Dec;22(12):1463-1469.
50. Carbone C, Piro G, Merz V, Simionato F, Santoro R, Zecchetto C, Tortora G, **Melisi D**. Angiopoietin-Like Proteins in Angiogenesis, Inflammation and Cancer. *Int J Mol Sci*. 2018 Feb 1;19(2).
 51. Ferrara R, Simionato F, Ciccarese C, Grego E, Cingarlini S, Iacovelli R, Bria E, Tortora G, **Melisi D**. The development of PARP as a successful target for cancer therapy. *Expert Rev Anticancer Ther*. 2018 Feb;18(2):161-175.
 52. Carbone C, Piro G, Gaianigo N, Ligorio F, Santoro R, Merz V, Simionato F, Zecchetto C, Falco G, Conti G, Kamga PT, Krampera M, Di Nicolantonio F, De Franceschi L, Scarpa A, Tortora G, **Melisi D**. Adipocytes sustain pancreatic cancer progression through a non-canonical WNT paracrine network inducing ROR2 nuclear shuttling. *Int J Obes (Lond)*. 2018 Mar;42(3):334-343.
 53. Innamorati G, Wilkie TM, Kantheti HS, Valenti MT, Dalle Carbonare L, Giacomello L, Parenti M, **Melisi D**, Bassi C. The curious case of Gcs gain-of-function in neoplasia. *BMC Cancer*. 2018 Mar 15;18(1):293.
 54. Piro G, Carbone C, Santoro R, Tortora G, **Melisi D**. Predictive biomarkers for the treatment of resectable esophageal and esophago-gastric junction adenocarcinoma: from hypothesis generation to clinical validation. *Expert Rev Mol Diagn*. 2018 Mar 16.
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